

### *Faith, Cleansing and Gratitude*

Once, as Jesus was passing through Samaria on His way to Jerusalem, ten lepers met Him. They stood afar off and cried: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" Jesus saw them and said: "Go, show yourselves to the priest." So in this case He did not touch them. Instead, He tested their faith to see whether they would obey and go to the priests to get a certificate of healing even before they had been healed. They obeyed and were healed.

And one of them returned and with a loud voice glorified God and fell at His feet, giving Him thanks. He was a Samaritan. And Jesus said: "Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Were there not any found to give glory to God except this for-

eigner?" And Jesus said to him: "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well." The Samaritans accepted Christ as the Messiah and became Christians, while the Jews rejected Him.

The Fathers of the Church see a lesson in this for us. The ten lepers signify mankind. We are all leprous, but only one in ten give thanks to God for the salvation He has brought to us. In the same way, only some of the seed sown by God (in the Parable of the Sower) brings forth good fruit. We can all be cleansed by Him, but if we do not return to Him in gratitude and to glorify Him, we cannot be saved.

### THIRTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST



*Icon of the Cure of the Ten Lepers – Luke 17:12-19*



## Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491  
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Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA  
Deacons: J. Timothy Tkach John Evancho

### December 10, 2023 - 28th Sunday after Pentecost Schedule of Services

<b>Sunday</b>	10	<b>28th Sunday after Pentecost</b> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
<b>Thursday</b>	14	7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +Robert Foley by family
<b>Saturday</b>	16	8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Judith Feltner by Connie Purcell 5:00 PM Vespers
<b>Sunday</b>	17	<b>Sunday of The Forefathers</b> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners

#### We pray for the sick and homebound of our parish, especially:

Kim Hughes	Ken Hrusosky	Jean Rusnak
Dot Wochok	Mary Ann Baran	Mary Ann Horne
Francis Hughes	Gloria Paulson	John Oreluk
Fr. Bernard Danber	Frank Miko	Sally Hughes
Bob Zavada	William Davis	Marianne Horvath
Gary Paczkowski	Gloria Selvy	Steve Bieniek
Abbie Sheedy-wc	Teddy McManigal	Mary Ellen Haber
Michele Lewis		

### Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine Catholic Parish

*In all decisions regarding parish membership and Sacramental life, the pastor exercises the final decision and the confidentiality of the persons involved must be respected.*

**Parish Membership** is determined by three things:

1. Being registered in the parish for a sufficient amount of time
2. Faithful and consistent participation in the liturgical life of the parish especially on Sundays and Holy days.
3. Regular financial support of the parish. Use of offertory envelopes by parish members is required for weekly donations

**The Sacred Mysteries of Baptism, Chrismation and Matrimony** are available only to those persons who comply with the above requirements of parish membership.

**A Biblically based stewardship** is part of the vision of Annunciation parish. Parishioners are encouraged to practicing tithing and also to consider Annunciation parish in planned giving such as trust funds, etc.

**Couples who are planning to be married** at Annunciation parish must be free to be married in the Church and must contact the pastor at least six months prior to their proposed wedding date. Persons applying for annulments of a previous marriage should not set a Church wedding date unless their annulment has been granted.

**Couples who are cohabitating or involved in same sex civil unions or so-called same sex "marriages,"** as well as couples who are contracepting are asked to seek the pastor's help in understanding the Church's teaching and in conforming their lives to the moral teaching of the Church. Such persons **cannot receive Holy Communion** until their lives are reconciled with the Church.

**Parish members entering the hospital or who are home-bound** should contact the pastor or parish business office.

**Prior to undergoing surgery or going under anesthesia** parish members should contact the pastor.

**No eulogies** or public addresses by laity are permitted during funeral services.

**Cremation is permitted but not encouraged.** Ashes are not permitted in the church. Funeral services with the body of the deceased in the church must take place prior to cremation. Ashes are to be buried according to the burial rite of the Church. Ashes cannot be scattered or kept in homes.

**Appropriate behavior and dress** are required for all liturgical services. No audible conversations, or waving across the church. Electronic devices must be turned off. No food, candy, or gum chewing. Dress code is formal and modest for all services.

**Abstinence from meat is to be observed every Friday.** If this is not possible an equivalent penitential practice is to be observed.

# The Tradition of Holy Supper on Christmas Eve



Sharing a special, family meal, different from all other times of the year, has always been an important part of our Christmas celebration. Today many families look back on and cherish childhood memories of the “Holy Supper.” The various foods and customs surrounding this meal differed from village to village, indeed from family to family, and thus became part of each family’s heritage. Yet this custom of

taking time to gather together in joy as a family and to share a special meal is not only something for fond memories but a vital way of reaffirming today God’s love for the world, a vital way of reaffirming the importance of the family where we learn to love and be loved. Beginning our Christmas celebration with “Holy Supper” is just as meaningful today as it was years ago; perhaps it is needed even more now than ever before.

Holy Supper usually begins at twilight when the ‘first star’ appears. The table is covered with a white tablecloth in memory of the swaddling clothes of Christ. Hay or straw is strewn on the table to remind us of the poverty of the cave Jesus was born in. A large loaf of bread is the centerpiece of the table symbolizing Christ the Bread of Life. A candle in the center of this bread recalls the Star of Bethlehem, which led men to worship the true Light of the World. This bread, along with garlic and honey, is shared by all present. Holy Supper begins with prayer in Thanksgiving for all the blessing of the past year and prayer for all good things in the coming year.

Since St. Philip’s Fast culminates with a day of strict fasting on Christmas Eve, the Holy Supper dishes contain no meat and (usually) no dairy products. **The meal consists of seven, nine, or even twelve courses, representing Christ’s twelve Apostles. A wide variety of food may be prepared, depending on the region or village, including:**

**Bobal’ki with Sauerkraut or Poppy Seeds and Honey; Pierogi filled with potatoes, prunes or sauerkraut/mushrooms and onions; Pea or Lima Bean Soup; Stewed and Fresh Fruit; Sauces of Dried Plums or Pears; Lentils; Nuts; Mushroom Soup; Mashed Potatoes; Meatless Stuffed Cabbage; Fish or Herring.**

There are many references on the web, you can Google Traditional Holy Supper to find many of these recipes. This is a good reference - [http://www.wirnowski.com/Carp/Nat\\_Recipes1.html](http://www.wirnowski.com/Carp/Nat_Recipes1.html)



*Eternal  
Memory  
Vechnaya  
Pamyat*

## Funeral Arrangements for Monsignor Frank Korba St. Nicholas Byzantine Church - Munster, IN

**Sunday, Dec 10th**

4:00PM - 8:00PM - Viewing in the Church  
7:00PM - First Evening Services - Office of Readings

**Monday, Dec 11th**

4:00PM - 8:00PM - Viewing in the Church  
7:00PM - Second Evening Services - Parastas

**Tuesday, Dec 12th**

10:00AM - Funeral Divine Liturgy  
Internment St. Nicholas Parish cemetery in Hammond, IN

Monsignor Frank Kroka was a retired priest from the Eparchy of Parma, who was ordained in 1966. He served in my parishes across the Eparchy but was honored to serve in his home parish of St. Nicholas before retiring. Fr. Frank was proud of his heritage and loved serving the Divine Liturgy where he was able to make Christ present for all the faithful. Please keep Fr. Korba in your prayers. ***In blessed repose, grant, O Lord, eternal rest to your departed servant, the priest Monsignor Frank, and remember him forever.***



**Family Catechesis**  
Sunday, December 17th  
Noon - 1:30pm

## Exodus 90

Join other men from our parish as we take a 90-day journey through the Book of Exodus, diving deeper into understanding the similarities we share with the ancient Israelites and finding our path to freedom from our own ‘Modern Pharaohs’ holding us back from true unity with God.

For 90 days, we focus on three core pillars: prayer, asceticism, and fraternity - a model witnessed to us centuries ago by the desert fathers in the early Church.

**The journey begins on January 1st**

To learn more about this fraternity of men, speak with Jim Brown at 815-919-4453.

*Registration information to follow*

# Another Christmas on the Prairie in the Books!

Thank you to everyone who did something for this special day - either big or small - your contribution made a lot of children (big & small) very happy!

**Holy Father, Nicholas!**



**O who loves Nicholas the Saintly!**



**O who serves Nicholas the Saintly!**



**Him will Nicholas receive and give help in time of need.**

