

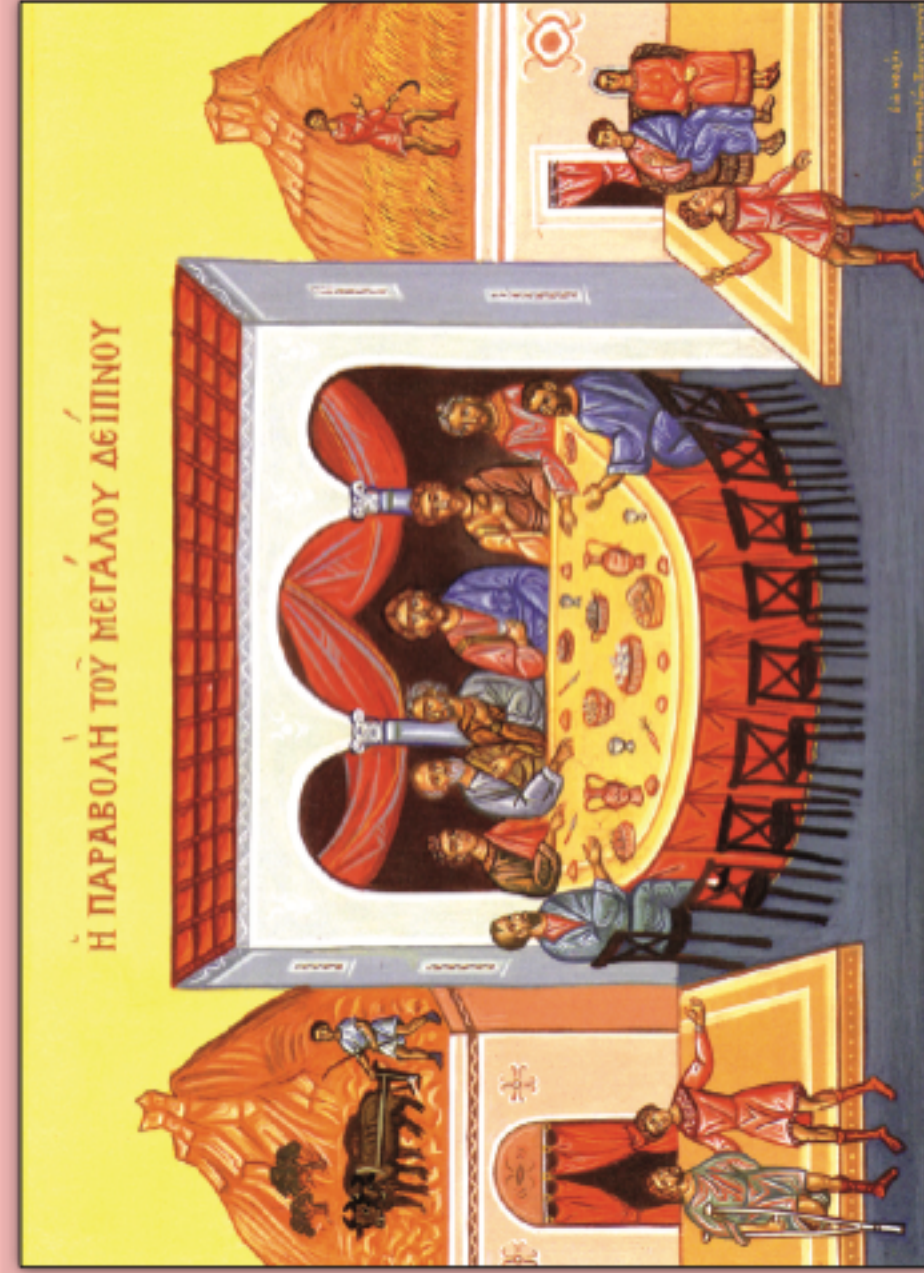
### *The Great Feast*

This familiar parable is read in the Church each year just two Sundays before the feast of our Lord's Nativity. In it we are reminded of the great care with which God prepared the way of His incarnation. All of the Law and the Prophets look forward to this moment, the moment when the God-man Jesus Christ comes into the world. He is, in fact, the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets – the goal towards which they were all aiming. The whole world was prepared by them for this great event. As the parable tells us the King – that is God – has prepared a great feast for us and has invited us to come and enter into the joy that He has prepared for us.

Today we begin in earnest to move toward the

feast of the birth of our Incarnate Savior Jesus Christ. Today we are called to see the great preparation that has gone into this event, to marvel at the great love and care of God for us that He would labor so long and with such great care for us. Today we look back at the whole of the history of the people of God and see that it is the history of God's preparation all leading to the moment when He would take flesh, become incarnate and enter the world as a child. We have been given an invitation to come and join the feast, to abandon the world and enter the Kingdom of God, to leave our own life and receive instead the Life of Christ. We have been invited, chosen by God – will we then accept the invitation and choose Him?

### SUNDAY OF THE FOREFATHERS



*Icon of the Parable of the Great Feast*



## Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491  
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Email: AnnuncByzChurch@aol.com  
Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA

### December 17, 2023 - Sunday of the Forefathers Schedule of Services

<b>Sunday</b>	17	<b>Sunday of the Forefathers</b> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
<b>Thursday</b>	21	7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +Helen Jadwisiak by Casimer Jadwisiak
<b>Friday</b>	22	7:00 PM Royal Hours
<b>Saturday</b>	23	<b>SATURDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS</b> 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +Elftherios "Ted" Tsigolis by the Lewis Family 5:00 PM Vespers
<b>Sunday</b>	24	<b>SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS- GENEALOGY OF CHRIST</b> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 9:30 PM Caroling 10:00 PM Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil - +(Pani) Elizabeth Loya by Fr. Thomas Loya
<b>Monday</b>	25	<b>NATIVITY OF OUR LORD &amp; SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST</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	Steve Bieniek	Gloria Selvy
Dot Wocho	Mary Ann Baran	Mary Ann Home	Mary Ellen Haber	Gary Paczkowski
Francis Hughes	Gloria Paulson	John Oreluk	Abbie Sheedy-wc	
Fr. Bernard Danber	Frank Miko	Sally Hughes	Teddy McManigal	
Bob Zavada	William Davis	Marianne Horvath	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)

## Schedule of Services for the Nativity of Our Lord

### Friday, December 22nd

7:00PM Royal Hours

*\*Confessions available before & after*

### Saturday, December 23rd

8:00AM Divine Liturgy

5:00PM Vespers

*\*Confessions available before & after*



### Sunday, December 24th

#### Sunday Before Christmas - Genealogy of Christ

*Day of Strict Fast - No Meat or Dairy Products*

9:00AM Matins

10:00AM Divine Liturgy

*\*Confessions available before Liturgy*

#### Christmas Eve

9:30PM Caroling

10:00PM Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St. Basil

*\*Confessions available 9:00pm - 9:45pm*

#### Christmas Day

### Monday, December 25th

9:00AM Matins

10:00AM Divine Liturgy

*\* Confessions available as listed above or by appointment*



# Congratulations

2023 Raffle Winners

**\$5,000**

**Mari Ruzich**

**\$3,000**

**Mark & Mary Ellen Ayers**

**\$2,000**

**Bernice Schopf**

**\$1,000**

**Mike Triggs**

\$750 - Susan Galloy

\$200 - Barbara Triggs-Smith

\$500 - Omar Kadan

\$200 - John Krakowsky

\$250 - Mary Ann Horne

\$200 - John Oreluk

\$250 - Brian & Donna Rusnak

\$200 - Dcn Tim & Linda Tkach

\$250 - Cecelia Okonski

\$200 - Jim Dorencz

### Early Bird Winners!

\$250 - Matthew & Abbie Sheedy / Richard Palasz

\$150 - Withers Family / Keith Landovitz

\$100 - Jason & Courtney Smee / Rick Adamowski



# Break free from your Pharaohs.

Our culture today has no shortage of 'modern Pharaohs' that hold us back from true unity with God. If we're ruled by these Pharaohs, how can we truly be free to become the men God made us to be? Exodus 90 gives you the tools to take control of your life.



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.

We will focus on three core pillars: prayer, asceticism, and fraternity – a model witnessed to us centuries ago by the desert fathers in the early Church.

We start  
Jan. 1, 2024:



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

[MenOfExodus.com](http://MenOfExodus.com)

## 11th Annual Women's Retreat SAVE THE DATE

*The Beatitudes: The Way of Life*

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center  
Fremont, Ohio

**February 16 - 18, 2024**

Retreat Master: Fr. Lukas Mitro

Contact Susan A. Gallagher for further information  
[womenretreat2024@yahoo.com](mailto:womenretreat2024@yahoo.com)  
419-626-0375

Further details will follow

Sponsored by:  
St Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

## The Third Annual Men's Retreat SAVE THE DATE

*From Fallen Passions to Apatheia:  
Pursuing the Virtuous Life*

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center  
Fremont, Ohio

**March 15 - 17, 2024**

Retreat Master  
Fr. Thomas J Loya, STB, MA

Contact Karl Busam for further information  
[karl.busam.77@gmail.com](mailto:karl.busam.77@gmail.com)  
419-626-6811

Further details will follow

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