

Athanasius and Cyril, Champions and Models

Saint Athanasius (Athanasios) is one of the great figures of Christianity. He is called the “champion of orthodoxy” as he resolutely opposed Arianism. Five times Athanasius was exiled for his defense of the doctrine of Christ’s divinity. During one period of his life, he enjoyed 10 years of relative peace – reading, writing and promoting the Christian life along the lines of the monastic ideal to which he was greatly devoted. His dogmatic and historical writings are almost all polemic, directed against every aspect of Arianism. Athanasius suffered many trials while he was bishop of Alexandria. He was given the grace to remain strong against what probably seemed at times to be insurmountable opposition. He defended the true faith for his flock, regardless of the cost to himself. In today’s world we are experiencing this same call to remain true to our faith, no matter what.

Saint Cyril’s importance for theology and Church history lies in his championing the cause of orthodoxy against the heresy of Nestorius. Nestorianism

implied that the humanity of Christ was a mere disguise. At the Council of Ephesus (431), Cyril condemned Nestorianism and proclaimed Mary truly the “God-bearer” – “Theotokos” (the mother of the one Person who is truly God and truly human). In the confusion that followed, Cyril was deposed and imprisoned for three months, after which he was welcomed back to Alexandria as a second Athanasius (the champion against Arianism).

Lives of the saints are valuable not only for the virtue they reveal but also for the less admirable qualities that also appear. Holiness is a gift of God to us as human beings. Life is a process. We respond to God’s gift, but sometimes with a lot of zigzagging. If Cyril had been more patient and diplomatic, the Nestorian Church might not have risen and maintained power so long. But even saints must grow out of immaturity, narrowness and selfishness. It is because they – and we – do grow, that we are truly saints, persons who live the life of God.

SUNDAY OF ZACCHEUS



Icon of the Holy Fathers Athanasius and Cyril -- January 18th



Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491

Office: (708) 645-0241 Fax:(708) 645-0243

Email: AnnuncByzChurch@aol.com

Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA

Deacons: J. Timothy Tkach John Evancho

January 14, 2024 - Sunday of Zaccheus Schedule of Services

Sunday	14	<u>Sunday of Zaccheus</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Wednesday	17	<u>Feast of St. Anthony the Great</u> 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Teddy McManigal by Annunciation Children
Thursday	18	7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Debby Lattuca by Ken & Karen Krown
Saturday	20	8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Joseph Schudt III by Joe & Jean Schudt 5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	21	<u>Sunday of the Publican & Pharisee</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners

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

Dot Wochok	Mary Ann Baran	Mary Ann Horne	Mary Ellen Haber	Bob Zavada
Francis Hughes	Gloria Paulson	John Oreluk	Abbie Sheedy-wc	Michele Lewis
William Davis	Linda Tkach	Sally Hughes	Fr. Bernard Danber	Frank Miko
Kim Hughes	Ken Hrusosky	Jean Rusnak	Steve Bieniek	Gloria Selvy
Debby Lattuca	Teddy McManigal	John Super	Martha Loya	

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.

Help us shower Teddy and the McManigal family with some LOVE!

Here are the few ways you can help:

1. Participate in the small raffle we will be holding for the next couple of weeks in the narthex.
2. Sign up to be a part of the Meal Train that will provide meals for the family. A link for this on-line app will be provided via email and on our Facebook page.
3. Give to his personal GoFundMe page. A link for this will also be available on our Facebook page and parish website.
4. Pray for this beautiful family as they face some very tough days ahead and put their trust in the One who makes all things possible!
5. Participate in one or both of the Super Bowl fundraisers listed below.



Souper Bowl Luncheon Sunday, Feb 11th

All you can eat
Soup & Salad Lunch

Adults: \$20
Children: \$5
(10 & under)

Hosted by:
The ByzanTEENS

Super Bowl Watch Party Sunday, Feb 11th

6:00 PM

Watch the BIG game
on our 85" BIG screen
TV while enjoying
game-time food.

Cost: \$30

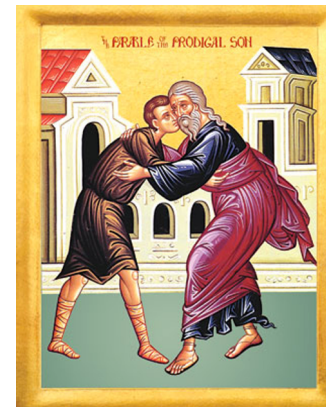
Preparation for the Great Fast



The Church seldom starts us on a path without providing some preliminary orientation and preparation; and the Great Fast is no exception. The four weeks leading up to the Fast remind us of our need for a "Lenten springtime," and of the spiritual pitfalls that can divert us from our goal of communion with God.

The pre-Fast preparations begin with the fifth Sunday before the start of the Fast, the **Sunday of Zacchaeus**. On this Sunday, we hear of the tax-collector Zacchaeus, his ardent desire to see Jesus, and how this desire was fulfilled beyond his expectations.

The next Sunday is the **Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee**. This Sunday Gospel reminds us of the dangers of hypocrisy and the need for true humility in order to come close to God.



The following Sunday is the **Sunday of the Prodigal Son**, on which we are shown a story of repentance and acceptance. The Prodigal Son is an image of each of us, as we "remember ourselves" and resolve to break with our sins, return from exile, and start a new life. On this Sunday and the two Sundays that follow, we sign Psalm 137 ("By the waters of Babylon") at Matins. This song of the Israelite captivity expresses our situation as exiles in a foreign land. Unlike the Israelites - but like the prodigal son - we can choose to return home.



With the next Sunday, the **Sunday of the Last Judgment**, we are only eight days from the start of the Great Fast. At the Divine Liturgy, we hear the Gospel account of the second coming of the Lord in glory, and of the final judgment. To prepare us for the rigors of the Fast, the Church's traditional fasting rules call on the faithful to fast from flesh-meats for the final week before the fast. This is why the Sunday of Last Judgment is also called the **Sunday of Meat-fare**.

Finally, on **Cheese-fare Sunday**, we have come to the very brink of the fast. At the Divine Liturgy, our Lord's words in the Gospel speak of forgiveness: "If you forgive men their trespasses, then your heavenly Father will forgive you." For this reason, the day is also called **Forgiveness Sunday**. The service of Vespers on this day is especially solemn, and also followed by a ceremony of mutual forgiveness between priest and people.



Family Catechesis

Sunday, January 21st
Noon - 1:30pm

ByzanTEENS

Sunday, February 4th
11:30am to 1:00pm



The Eleventh Annual Women's Retreat

The Beatitudes: The Way of Life

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center
Fremont, Ohio

February 16, 2024 - February 18, 2024

Retreat Master: Fr. Lukas Mitro

Contact Susan A. Gallagher for further information
womenretreat2024@yahoo.com
419-626-0375

Sponsored by:
St Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

**Full retreat schedule and registration forms
are now available in the business office.**

Last chance to lock in pricing for the Guadalupe Retreat & Pilgrimage is January 17th

A BYZANTINE CATHOLIC RETREAT & PILGRIMAGE TO
GUADALUPE, MEXICO

APRIL 20-27, 2024

JOIN US

*in celebrating the 125th anniversary of
St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in
Whiting, Indiana, with an eight-day retreat
and pilgrimage to Mexico in honor of
Our Lady of Guadalupe.*

**\$3,250 per person
double occupancy**

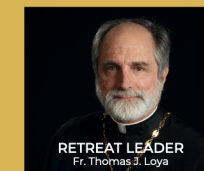
INCLUDES:

- Round-trip airfare from Chicago
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- Entrance fees as per scheduled visits
- Private Divine Liturgies and services
- Four-star hotels in historic districts
- Professional English-speaking guide
- Land travel in air-conditioned motor coach
- Pilgrim prayer pack
- All tips and gratuities

Journey and pray with :



PILGRIMAGE LEADERS
Laura Ieraci & Fr. Andrew Summerson



RETREAT LEADER
Fr. Thomas J. Loya

Fr. Andrew and Laura have been serving at St. Mary Church in Whiting since 2018 and have led three other pilgrimages. Fr. Tom is a renowned speaker and host of Light of the East.

*Regina
Tours*
www.1800CATHOLIC.com

CONTACT:

Fern Ciralo
fciralo@groupist.com
Cell: (516) 509-6060



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The Third Annual Men's Retreat

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

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center
Fremont, Ohio

March 15, 2024-March 17, 2024

Retreat Master: Fr. Thomas J Loya, STB, MA

Contact Karl Busam for further information
karl.busam.77@gmail.com
419-626-6811

Sponsored by:
St Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

**Full retreat schedule and registration forms
are now available in the business office.**

