

Who Art in Heaven

These words I think have a very deep meaning. They remind us of the homeland we have abandoned, of the citizenship we have lost. In the parable of the young man who left his father's house, went off the rails and was reduced to living with pigs, the Word of God shows us human wretchedness. That young man did not find his one-time happiness again until he had realized his moral degradation, had looked into his own heart and had pronounced the words of confession. These words almost agree with the Lord's Prayer, because the prodigal son says: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you." [Luke 15:21] He would not confess himself to be a sinner against heaven

if he were not convinced that the homeland he had left at the time of his going astray were not in actual fact heaven.

By this confession of his he makes himself worthy once again to stand in the presence of his father who runs towards him, embraces him, and kisses him. The conclusion is this. To return to heaven there is only one route and that is to admit one's sinfulness and seek to avoid it. To make the decision to avoid it is already to be perfecting one's likeness to God.

*St. Gregory of Nyssa
On the Lord's Prayer*

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON



Icon of the Prodigal Son



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 28, 2024 - Sunday of the Prodigal Son Schedule of Services

Sunday	28	<u>Sunday of the Prodigal Son</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Tuesday	30	<u>Feast of the Three Holy Hierarchs</u> 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +Helen Jadwisiak by +Casimer Jadwisiak
Friday	2	<u>Feast of the Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon & Anna</u> 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +Isabelle Gulas by Maria Gulas
Saturday	3	<u>1st All Souls Saturday</u> 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - For deceased members of our parish families 5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	4	<u>Sunday of Meat-Fare</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 Milko
Kim Hughes	Ken Hrusosky	Jean Rusnak	Steve Bieniek	Gloria Selvy
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.



The Meeting of Our Lord with Simeon and Anna

The Presentation of the Lord is celebrated on February 2nd by both Catholics and Orthodox. In the East it is called the Meeting of the Lord because of Jesus' coming to meet his people Israel in the persons of Anna and Simeon. It celebrates the end of the time required by the Law for Mary's purification and Jesus' presentation into the temple, so it comes 40 days after Christmas. In the Old Testament, God demands, "Consecrate to me all the first-born; whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel...is mine" (Exodus 13:2).

Joseph and Mary, in their obedience to the Law, come to present Jesus to the temple despite the fact that the birth and conception were sinless. We see in this action great obedience.

We see in the icon Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Anna, and Simeon at the temple. The architectural structures in the background show that this takes place inside. Joseph, on the far right holds two doves, which will be the sacrifice that will redeem Jesus. This also shows Mary and Joseph's poverty and the background that Jesus chose to grow up in. Joseph holds the two turtledoves in his hands, showing that he had overcome his previous doubts and had reconciled with his beloved, recognizing Jesus to the Son of God.

Next to Joseph stands Anna with a scroll, symbolizing her prophetic office. The scroll is unfurled and reads, "This child holds heaven and earth." Her other hand points to the Christ child. Anna alone of all the people gathered here is looking toward us, the viewers, so this message is for us to take and ponder. The Mother of God stands next to Anna, her arm outstretched in a gesture of offering Jesus as well as supplication.

Jesus is shown as a "little man," which symbolizes his divinity. He acts as God, blessing all those present. Simeon holds Jesus with the hems of his garment, showing his veneration. Joseph, on the other side of the icon, does the same and we see the connection between the two turtledoves to be sacrificed and Jesus. In the Eastern Tradition, Simeon was at this time over 200 years old and was one of the seventy translators of the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament). He questioned the translation "a virgin shall conceive" in Isaiah and now asks God that he "depart in peace."

We see in this icon the passing from the Old Testament to the New with the Incarnation of Jesus. The temple of the Old Covenant becomes the Church of the New Covenant. In this context, it is no wonder that Jesus seems to have been handed over the altar to Simeon, to whom the true Bread of Life and not the manna from the desert is given. We do not see in this icon that Jesus needed to come to be presented but to usher in the New Covenant and the true and perfect worship of God. He came not be purified but to purify those present - Simeon, Joseph, Anna, and us.

A Super Day to be Super Generous for a Super Boy & His Family

Sunday, February 11th



Event #1

Souper Bowl Luncheon

All you can eat Soup & Salad Lunch

Adults: \$20

Children: \$5

(10 & under)

Hosted by:
The ByzanTEENS

Event #2

Super Bowl Watch Party

5:00 PM

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

Cost: \$30



All proceeds from both of these events will be given to help the McManigal Family as they continue to care for baby Teddy who remains at Lurie Children's Hospital.



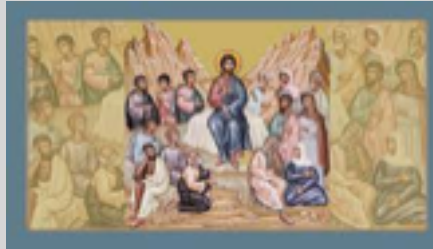


ByzanTEENS

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

Family Catechesis

Sunday, February 18th
Noon - 1:30pm



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.**

A Mary's Helpers Trip Thursday, March 7th



Titanic the Exhibition is an interactive experience that tells the tale of the design, creation, launch, maiden voyage, and tragedy of the largest and most luxurious ship in the world at the time. Step inside vast, beautiful recreations of the ship's interior, hear music from the era, and immerse yourself in the story of the real passenger whose boarding pass you hold. You'll find relics that survived the sinking of the Titanic and items from her sister ships; then prepare to walk above the sea floor complete with sand and broken artifacts at the Discovery Gallery.

Admission Fee \$25

**Please sign up with Georgia this week,
so she can purchase tickets.**

Transportation will be provided via our new Mary's Helpers Bus



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

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