

## SUNDAY OF CHEESEFARE



*Icon of the the Ladder of Divine Ascent*

### *Readiness to Forgive*

Nothing makes us so like God as our readiness to forgive the wicked and wrongdoer. For it is God who has made “the sun to shine on the evil and on the good.”

For this same reason again in every one of the clauses Jesus commands us to make our prayers together in one voice, saying, “Our Father,” and “thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven,” and “give us the bread, and forgive us our debts,” and “lead us not into temptation,” and “deliver us.” So everywhere he is teaching us to use this plural word that we may not retain so much as a vestige of resentment against our neighbor.

How great a reproof then must they de-

serve, who, after all this, still do not forgive and even ask God’s vengeance on their enemies. In doing so, they diametrically transgress this command. Meanwhile Christ is seeking in every way possible to hinder our conflicts with one another. For since love is the root of all that is good, by removing from all quarters whatever mars it he brings us together and cements us to each other. For there is not one, not a single one, whether father or mother or friend, who loves us as much as the God who created us.

*St. John Chrysostom*

For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit  
[www.mytheosis.com](http://www.mytheosis.com)



## Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

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Email: AnnuncByzChurch@aol.com

### February 11, 2024 - Sunday of Cheese-Fare Schedule of Services

<b>Sunday</b>	11	<b>Sunday of Cheese-Fare</b> <i>(Last day to eat cheese or dairy products)</i> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners 1:30 PM Forgiveness Vespers <i>(Lent begins)</i>
<b>Monday</b>	12	<b>First Day of Lent: Strict Fast - No meat or dairy today</b> <b>Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (Part 1)</b> 7:00 PM
<b>Tuesday</b>	13	<b>Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (Part 2)</b> 7:00 PM
<b>Wednesday</b>	14	<b>Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (Part 3)</b> 7:00 PM
<b>Friday</b>	16	7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - +Stephen DiBiase by Denise DiBiase
<b>Saturday</b>	17	<b>Feast of the Death of Cyril Apostle to the Slavs &amp; Commemoration of the Miracle of the Great Martyr Theodore</b> 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Judith Feltner by Connie Purcell 5:00 PM Vespers
<b>Sunday</b>	18	<b>1st Sunday of The Great Fast</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:

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	Teddy McManigal	Sally Hughes	Fr. Bernard Danber	Frank Miko
Kim Hughes	Ken Hrusosky	Jean Rusnak	Gloria Selvy	

### 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.



## For Consideration

Take on yourself some penance for the sin of others. If you have condemned or punished another, take some penance on yourself. Suffer a little, voluntarily, for the sins of sinners. That is pleasing to God. The saints knew this mystery when they condemned themselves for the sins of others. Even non-Christian peoples have some grasp of this: in China, for instance, there is the following custom: when the executioner beheads a criminal condemned to death, he goes to the judge and reports that the sentence has been carried out. The judge gives him a silver piece for killing the criminal, and orders that he receive forty strokes of the lash for killing a man. The Christian saints had a profound understanding of the mystery of sin and the unrighteousness of man. Each human sin had for them a history as long as that stretching back from us to Adam.

### The Prologue from Ochrid - February 4th



## Sunday, February 11th - Cheesefare Sunday



Having given up meat products last week, today we eat dairy products for the last time as we enter the "Great Fast" (Lent) in stages.

At the start of the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption. On this Sunday, we should consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Above all we focus on forgiveness and officially begin Lent with the Forgiveness Vespers, which includes a ceremony of mutual forgiveness.

Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, to restore a more sacramental vision and approach to physical things (food, etc.), and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, Confession, participation in church services, and partaking of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.

## Clean Week

The First Week of Great and Holy Lent has been traditionally called Clean Week in the Byzantine Catholic and Orthodox Churches. It is a time for us to "kick start" our Lenten Journey where we fast from foods and from sin in order to prepare ourselves to fully enter into Christ's saving death and resurrection. Join us this week as we begin our Lenten Journey with some communal penitential prayer. For the first three evenings of Clean Week, starting at 7pm, we will pray a portion of the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, which will set the tone for the rest of our Lenten Journey. This service will be done again but in its entirety on the Thursday of the 5th week of Lent. The services each evening during this first week of Lent will last about an hour.

**Monday** - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (Part 1)

**Tuesday** - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (Part 2)

**Wednesday** - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (Part 3)

**Forgiveness Vespers  
Today at 1:30pm**



## 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

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

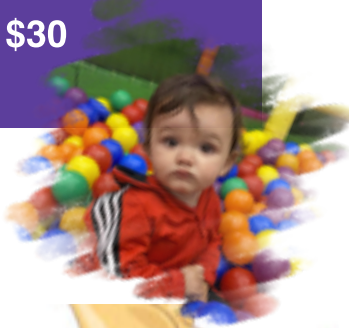




## Super Bowl Watch Party Today @ 5:00 PM

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

Cost: \$30



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

## Mary's Helpers Trip St. Michael's Pirohi and Fish Fry Friday, February 23rd Depart - 3:00PM

We will leave church at 3:00PM and head to St. Michael's for their Friday Pirohi and Fish Fry. If you plan on purchasing a carry out order, please fill out a form today.

**Be sure to sign up!**



## Family Catechesis Sunday, February 18th Noon - 1:30pm

**ByzanTEENS**  
Sundays, March 3rd & 10th  
11:30am to 1:00pm

## Directives for Lent Regarding Fasting

The fast of the liturgical year are to be kept in accordance with the *Norms of Particular Law of the Byzantine Metropolitan Church sui iuris of Pittsburgh*.

**Canon 880: 2.** **Strict abstinence** is to be observed on the first day of the Great Fast and on Great Friday. **Simple abstinence** is to be observed on Wednesdays and Fridays of the Great Fast.

**Strict abstinence** forbids the use of meat and dairy products, including eggs. **Simple abstinence** forbids the use of meat and meat products. The laws of strict and simple abstinence bind all the faithful of the Eparchy of Parma.

Expectant and nursing mothers, infants, those with serious health conditions, and those under physician's orders are exempt from the laws of strict abstinence.

Parish priests and monastic superiors, for a just cause, may grant to individuals and families a dispensation of the prescribed strict abstinence or simple abstinence or a commutation to another equivalent penance.

Clerics, catechists, and parents are to see to it that minors are educated in the authentic sense of penance.

## The Stomach's Hypocrisy

I doubt if anyone will achieve freedom from gluttony this side of the grave.

Gluttony is the hypocrisy of the stomach which complains of being empty when it is well fed, and bellows that it is hungry when it is full almost to bursting.

If a person swallows too much food, he is inviting impure thoughts. If he mortifies the stomach, he is creating pure thought.

Often a lion if it is caressed becomes domesticated, whereas the more you coddle the body, the more it goes wild.

***Master gluttony before it masters you!***

**John Clemacus**