

Icons Show the Human Face of God

In recent months my Sunday reflections have frequently focused on our Christian brothers and sisters of the East. Wishing as it were to embrace their rich tradition of faith in a single glance, today I would like to refer once again to the sense of mystery which is apparent in their icons. The East and the West vie with each other to put their art at the service of the faith.

But from the East, where icons had to be defended with bloodshed in the iconoclast crisis of the eighth and ninth centuries, comes a particular call jealously to preserve the religious nature of this art. It is based on the mystery of the Incarnation, in which God chose to assume a human face. In the last analysis, sacred art seeks to transmit something of the mystery of that face.

This is why the East firmly insists on the spiritual qualities which must characterize the artist,

to whom Simeon of Thessalonica, the great defender of Tradition, addresses this important exhortation: "Teach with words, write with letters, paint with colors, in conformity with Tradition; the painting is true, as is the writing of books; and the grace of God is present in them, because what is represented there is holy."

By contemplating icons in the whole context of liturgical and ecclesial life, the Christian community is called to grow in its experience of God, and to become more and more a living icon of the communion of life between the Three Divine Persons.

Pope John Paul II

For publications on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY



Icon of the Holy Images



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

February 18, 2024 - 1st Sunday of The Great Fast Schedule of Services

Sunday	18	<u>1st Sunday of The Great Fast</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Wednesday	21	7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - +Alex Soley, Jr. by Bonnie Soley
Friday	23	7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - +Helen Jadwisiak by +Casimer Jadwisiak
Saturday	24	<u>First & Second Findings of the Head of St. John the Baptist</u> <u>2nd All Souls Saturday</u> 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy with Panachida - For the deceased members of our parish families 5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	25	<u>2nd Sunday of The Great Fast</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
Francis Hughes
William Davis
Kim Hughes

Mary Ann Baran
Gloria Paulson
Jean Rusnak
Ken Hrusosky

Mary Ann Horne
John Oreluk
Sally Hughes
Gloria Selvy

Mary Ellen Haber
Abbie Sheedy-wc
Fr. Bernard Danber

Bob Zavada
Michele Lewis
Frank Miko

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.



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

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

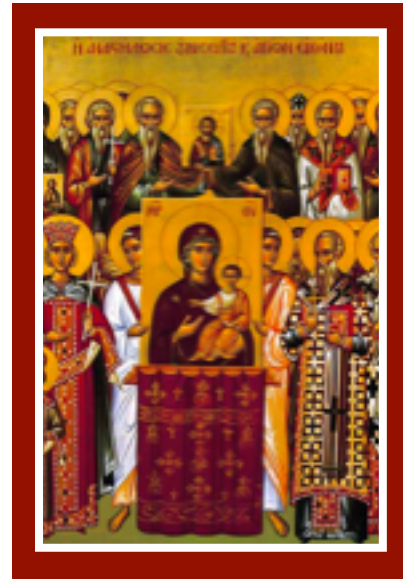


Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first Sunday of Great Lent. The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent. Ever since, this Sunday has been commemorated as the “Triumph of Orthodoxy.”

The name of this Sunday reflects the great significance which icons possess for the Byzantine Church. They are not optional devotional extras, but an integral part of the Byzantine faith and devotion. They are held to be a necessary consequence of Christian faith in the incarnation of the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, in Jesus Christ. They have a sacramental character, making present to the believer the person or event depicted on them. So the interior of Byzantine churches is often covered with icons painted on walls and domed roofs, and there is always an icon screen, or iconostasis, separating the sanctuary from the nave, often with several rows of icons. No Byzantine home is complete without an icon corner, where the family prays.

The theme of the victory of the icons, by its emphasis on the incarnation, points us to the basic Christian truth that the one whose death and resurrection we celebrate at Easter was none other than the Word of God who became human in Jesus Christ.



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.*



May God bless all of you from our parish who came together so generously in prayer and support for little Teddy and his family. Your efforts were touching, inspiring and exemplary.

May God also bless the people whom we do not even know from social media who also joined with us in sincere prayer, thoughtfulness, and condolences.

— Fr. Thomas J. Loya, Pastor

Hymns of Farewell from the Funeral of a Child

Who would not lament, O my Child, your mournful departure from this life? As an infant you have left your mother's embrace; like a fledgling you have now swiftly flown away and have returned to the Creator of All. O Child, who would not weep at the sight of your countenance, once like a beautiful lily?

Who would not lament, O my Child, and tearfully not regret the loss of the loveliness and the beauty of your life? For you have quickly vanished from sight like a ship which leaves no trace. Come, my friends, relatives, and neighbors, and, with me, bid farewell to the one whom we are committing to the grave.

Death is a release to children, for, being free from the evils of life, and having attained rest, they exult with heavenly joy in the bosom of Abraham. Having joined the heavenly choirs of holy children, now they rejoice and constantly exult with them, for they have escaped untouched by the corrupt attachment to sin.

O blessed and ever-to-be-remembered child,
Theodore "Teddy", you are remembered forever.

Eternal Memory
Vičnaja, pamjat'

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!

PREPARING OUR HEARTS FOR JUBILEE WITH PRAYER, OFFERING, AND SERVICE

Lenten Mission

Reflections offered by
Sr Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM
Program Director, Mount St. Macrina House of Prayer



St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church
2011 Clark St., Whiting, IN 46394

MARCH 2, 2024 | 9AM - 2PM

Retreat begins with Divine Liturgy
Lunch included | Free will offering

Scan QR code to register
info: stmarywhiting@parma.org

