

You are Forgiven and Healed

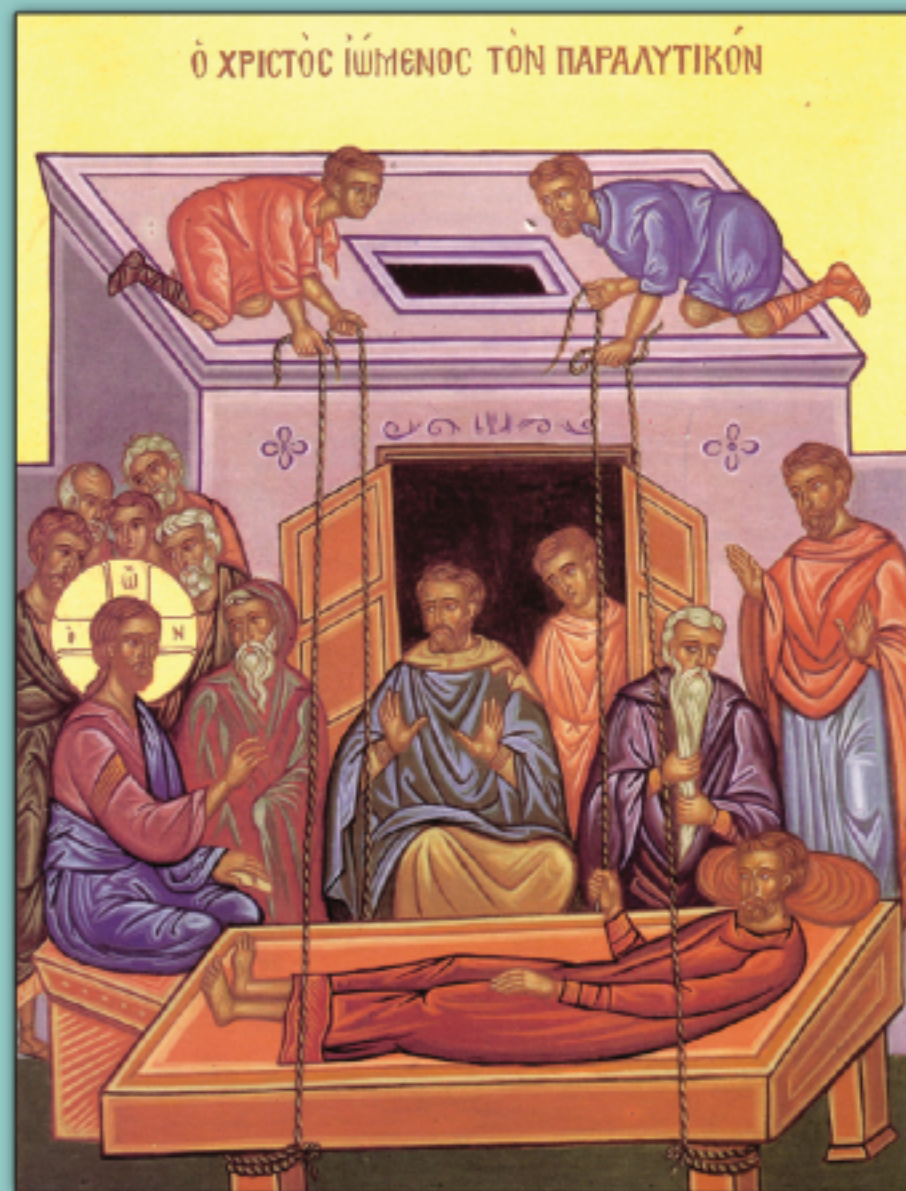
In Capernaum Jesus is surrounded by great numbers of people. As He preaches to the crowd, four friends of a paralyzed man lower him on his mat through the roof so that he can be close enough for Jesus to see him and cure him. Jesus responds to this act of faith, not by healing the man immediately, but by touching off the first of a series of controversial dialogues with the Scribes and Pharisees. When Jesus says, "Child, your sins are forgiven," He is as much as saying, "It is God whom you approach." In the Old Testament, only God is capable of forgiving sins; and it was expected that He would do so only at the end of time. It becomes clear why the Scribes murmur "he is blaspheming" and why Jesus brings it all out in the open. His claim to be able to forgive sins better reveals His identity as Son of God than do the miracles He performs.

Aware of the silent censure His forgiving word has caused in the crowd, Jesus proceeds to prove that "the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins on earth" by commanding the man to rise and walk in the sight of everyone. In concluding this miracle, Mark asks his readers to praise God for His presence in their midst as the forgiver-healer, just as the crowd did, even in the face of those who did not believe.

It is significant that Mark has chosen to present this miracle and teaching about Jesus' power to forgive sins so early in his Gospel drama. It shows that the need for the experience of God's forgiveness was as important to first-century Christians as it is today. Mark's readers praise God for saying clearly, and even today, "My sons, my daughters, I absolve you from your sins."

For publications on Eastern spirituality, visit
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SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT EAST SUNDAY OF ST. GREGORY PALAMAS



Ὁ ΧΡΙΣΤὸς ἰώμενος τὸν παραλυτικόν

Icon of Healing the Paralytic



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

Deacons: J. Timothy Tkach John Evancho

February 25, 2024 - 2nd Sunday of The Great Fast Schedule of Services

Sunday	25	<u>2nd Sunday of The Great Fast</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Wednesday	28	7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - +Anthony & +Alice Eterovich by Karen Eterovich Maguire
Friday	1	7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - +Edwin Walker II by Anne & Cathy Gazzolo
Saturday	2	<u>3rd All Souls Saturday</u> 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy with Panachida - For the deceased members of our parish families 5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	3	<u>3rd Sunday of The Great Fast-Veneration of the Holy Cross</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 Home	Mary Ellen Haber	Bob Zavada
Francis Hughes	Gloria Paulson	John Oreluk	Abbie Sheedy-wc	Michele Lewis
William Davis	Jean Rusnak	Sally Hughes	Fr. Bernard Danber	Frank Miko
Kim Hughes	Ken Hrusosky	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.



Pascha in Greece

A PILGRIMAGE ON MAY 1 - 11, 2024

JOIN US on a unique pilgrimage to Greece, where you can celebrate Pascha and witness the beautiful liturgical services at the Holy Trinity Greek Catholic Cathedral in Athens, presided by Bishop Manuel Nin, OSB. Our trip also includes sightseeing and visiting different places in Greece where you can immerse yourself in the country's rich traditions and culture.

ATHENS - CORINTH - BOAT CRUISE TO ISLANDS OF POROS, HYDRA AND AEGINA - DELPHI - METEORA MONASTERIES AND CAVES

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St. Gregory Palamas

On the second Sunday of Great Lent the Church commemorates St. Gregory Palamas, archbishop of Thessalonica. This celebration is connected with the burning disputes of the 14th century about whether or not it was possible for man to have direct communion with God. There were theologians who said that this was not possible, that an insurmountable chasm existed between God and man which could not be surmounted by any ways or means. However, there were others who maintained that it was possible for man to have communion with God in His essence.



St. Gregory Palamas, who for many years was an Athonite monk and later became the archbishop of Thessalonica, based on the writings of the Holy Fathers, formulated the teaching that God is unseen and unknowable in His essence but could be seen and known in His actions, or energies. When this teaching triumphed at the Councils in Constantinople, the Church proclaimed that henceforth the memory of St. Gregory Palamas and these Councils would be celebrated on the second Sunday of Great Lent, as if to continue the celebration of the Triumph of Orthodoxy which is celebrated on the first Sunday of the Fast.

St. Gregory Palamas said that the essence of God is inaccessible and that the human heart and mind is unable to understand or comprehend God. God will always be a mystery to man, but nonetheless, through His Divine energies and actions, He in many and various ways (Heb 1:1) reveals Himself to man.

This occurs when man receives the Holy Mysteries of Christ (the Eucharist) and with his entire spiritual and physical being is cognizant that he has received within himself not simply bread and wine but the Body and Blood of the incarnate Son of God. In coming to church and communing in her Mysteries, we commune of the grace of God, we commune of the actions and energies of God, which is what St. Gregory Palamas spoke about. He also said that God's energies are inseparable from His essence, that in communing with the actions and energies of God we also commune with His essence, because the division between essence and energies is not in God Himself but in our mind. This is only one of the attempts to theologially explain the mysterious interaction between man and God, which is expressed in the fact that God is always outside our perception of the mind and intellect, always outside of our understanding, but at the same time he is always there within us, and through the Mysteries of the Church and through prayer we are able to spiritually and physically commune with God.

This is the Triumph of Orthodoxy that we are celebrating again today, we glorify God for the fact that in His Mysteries and ineffable energies and actions He reveals Himself to each of us and because our life is filled with the Divine presence and outpourings of God's grace, which transfigures our entire life, reveals to us the highest heights and allows us, while still living here on this earth, to be communicants of the Kingdom of God.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

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



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.*



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

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