

### *Accompanying Christ*

Let us go together to meet Christ on the Mount of Olives. Today He returns from Bethany and proceeds of His own free will toward His holy and blessed passion, to consummate the mystery of our salvation. He who came down from heaven to raise us from the depths of sin, to raise us with Himself, we are told in Scripture, above every sovereignty, authority and power, and every other name that can be named, now comes of His own free will to make His journey to Jerusalem.

Let us run to accompany Him as He hastens toward His passion, and imitate those who met Him then, not by covering His path with garments, olive branches or palms, but by doing all we can to prostrate ourselves before Him by being humble and by trying to live as He would wish. Then we shall be able to receive the Word at His coming, and God, whom no limits can contain, will be within us.

In His humility Christ entered the dark regions of our fallen world and He is glad that He became so humble for our sake, glad that He came and lived among us and shared in our nature in order to raise

us up again to Himself. And even though we are told that He has now ascended above the highest heavens – the proof, surely, of His power and godhead – His love for man will never rest until He has raised our earthbound nature from glory to glory, and made it one with His own in heaven.

So let us spread before His feet, not garments or soulless olive branches, which delight the eye for a few hours and then wither, but ourselves, clothed in His grace, or rather, clothed completely in Him. We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be the garments that we spread before Him. Now that the crimson stains of our sins have been washed away in the saving waters of baptism and we have become white as pure wool, let us present the conqueror of death, not with mere branches of palms but with the real rewards of His victory. Let our souls take the place of the welcoming branches as we join today in the children's holy song: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the king of Israel.

*St. Andrew of Crete*

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

## ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM (PALM SUNDAY)



*Icon of the Entrance into Jerusalem*





## Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

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Email: AnnuncByzChurch@aol.com  
Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA  
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Bruce Riebe  
Deacons: J. Timothy Tkach John Evancho

**March 24, 2024**

### **Palm Sunday - Flowery Sunday Schedule of Services**

|               |    |   |
|---------------|----|---|
| <b>Sunday</b> | 24 | <b><u>Palm Sunday-Flowery Sunday</u></b><br>9:00 AM Matins<br>10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners  |
| <b>Monday</b> | 25 | <b><u>Annunciation of the Theotokos</u></b><br><i>(Due to the importance of this Feast Day, it supersedes Great and Holy Monday)</i><br>7:00 PM Vespers with Divine Liturgy -<br>Health & Salvation of Parishioners |

**Please see the insert for complete  
Holy Week Schedule**

|               |    |  |
|---------------|----|--|
| <b>Sunday</b> | 31 | <b><u>Resurrection of our Lord - Pascha</u></b><br>9:00 AM Resurrection Matins with Procession<br>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  | Jean Rusnak        | Frank Miko     | Fr. Bernard Danber | Gloria Selvy  |
| Ken Hrusosky   | Kim & Sally Hughes |                |                    |               |

### **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.

## Eparchy of Parma Stewardship Appeal



How are we using our gifts to build up the Kingdom of God? What treasure do we have stored here on earth that could be offered for the Kingdom? Thankfully, we have an opportunity this Holy Week to help build that Kingdom of God in a particular way: by supporting the Eparchy's Stewardship Appeal.

The Stewardship Appeal provides critical support for God's Church in four ways: 1) supporting parishes and missions; 2) evangelization and ministries; 3) caring for retired priests; and 4) vocations and seminarian education.

Visit [parma.org](http://parma.org) for more information and to make a one-time or monthly secure donation through our website. Thank you for your past support and for your continued generosity with this year's campaign.

**Let's make our Stewardship Goal! \$16,500**

**Amount pledged so far from our parish: \$5,706**

## The Myrrh-Bearers Adventure Hunt

Sunday, April 14th  
Following Divine Liturgy

See the sign-up sheet in the Narthex



Sponsored by  
GCU

A **BIG** thank you to our cleaning crews (*especially our youth & young adults*) who helped get the church ready for the Feast of Feasts!

### FASTING "REGULATIONS"

The law of strict abstinence forbids the use of meat, eggs and dairy products or any of their byproducts. *All adults faithful, who receive Eucharist, are obliged to observe strict abstinence on Great and Holy Friday and all day Holy Saturday, until midnight.*

## A DOUBLE Blessing!!

### Feast of the Annunciation of the Mother of God and Holy Monday

*"Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery."*

When discussing the Annunciation, we must make a clear distinction between the mystery and its liturgical celebration as the feast of the Annunciation. The mystery of the Annunciation concentrates on the incarnation of the Word of God when, by the "power of the Holy Spirit," the Word "became flesh" (In. 1:14) in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as described in the Gospel of St. Luke. (LK 1:26-38)



According to time computation, the annunciation preceded the nativity of our Lord by nine months and was to be celebrated on March 25. However, there were some liturgical difficulties in celebrating the feast on that day. Ordinarily, March 25 coincided with the Lenten season, during which all festive celebrations were forbidden by the Council of Laodicea (can. 51). Therefore, the feast of the Annunciation was celebrated during Advent as a liturgical preparation for Christmas, placing the emphasis on the feast of the incarnation of our Lord.

After the recognition of the Blessed Virgin as the Mother of God by the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD, Mary's role in the work of salvation began to come to the foreground. By the sixth century the emphasis shifted to Mary and the feast of the Annunciation was recognized as the Marian feast to be celebrated without any exception, on March 25. Thus, the Council of Trullo, celebrated in 692 AD, overrode the previous prohibition and decreed the solemn celebration of the feast of Annunciation with the Divine Liturgy on March 25, even if it coincided with Holy Week (can. 52).

The Paschal Chronicle of Constantinople, written at the beginning of the seventh century, clearly states that the entire Byzantine Church by "the tradition of the holy teachers" celebrates the feast of Annunciation of the Most Holy Mother of God on March 25. Therefore, today, according to the Byzantine disciples, we celebrate the Holy Liturgy even on Good Friday if it happens to fall on March 25. It was Pope Sergius (687-701), of Oriental descent, that introduced the feast of the Annunciation in Rome, from where it gradually passed to the entire West as part of "Roman tradition."



# 2024 Schedule for the Week of the Bridegroom

(also called Holy Week or Great Week)

## Annunciation of the Theotokos

March 25

7:00pm Vespers with Divine Liturgy

*Due to the importance of this Feast Day, it supercedes Great and Holy Monday with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy.*

## Great and Holy Tuesday — March 26

**Theme:** Parable of the Ten Virgins (Mt 24:36-26:2) and our readiness for Judgment Day.

8:00am Bridegroom Matins

7:00pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

## Great and Holy Wednesday — March 27

**Theme:** The repentant woman who anointed Christ's feet is contrasted with the agreement by Judas to betray Christ. The anointing at the evening service is for the healing of our soul and body in preparation for the commemoration of the Mystical Supper the next day.

8:00am Bridegroom Matins

7:00pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

## Great and Holy Thursday — March 28

**Theme:** Four events: Jesus washes the feet of His disciples; the Institution of the Holy Eucharist; Christ's agony in the garden and the betrayal of Christ by Judas.

8:00am Bridegroom Matins

7:00pm Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil

*(Teen retreat begins. Church remains open until 2:00pm. Tours of the church are provided by the teens.)*



## Great and Holy Friday — March 29

*This is a day of Strict Fast*

**Theme:** Christ's suffering and death on the Cross and His burial in a tomb.

9:00am Matins with reading of 12 passion Gospels

1:00pm Royal Hours

7:00pm Vespers with Procession of Burial Shroud

*(Confession available after Vespers. Church remains open throughout the night for prayer)*

## Great and Holy Saturday — March 30

**Theme:** At the Jerusalem Matins we commemorate Christ's descent into Hades anticipating the moment when Christ will conquer Satan's power of death and rise out of Hades taking fallen humanity with Him. There is a baptismal theme to this service because throughout Church history this evening was the primary time for people to be baptized into Christ.

9:00am Jerusalem Matins with Procession of Shroud

7:00pm Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil

## Resurrection Sunday (Pascha!) — March 31

**Theme:** "Christ comes forth from the tomb like a bridegroom from the bridal chamber and fills the women with joy!"  
-Resurrection Matins

9:00am Resurrection Matins with Procession

10:00am Divine Liturgy