

The Cross, Our Victory

Have you seen the wonderful victory? Have you seen the splendid deeds of the Cross? ... Who can tell the Lord's mighty deeds? By death we were made immortal: these are the glorious deeds of the Cross.

Have you understood the victory? Have you grasped how it was wrought? Learn now, how this victory was gained without any sweat or toil of ours. No weapons of ours were stained with blood; our feet did not stand in the front line of battle; we suffered no wounds; witnessed no tumults; and yet we obtained the victory.

The battle was the Lord's, the crown is ours. Since then victory is ours, let us imitate the soldiers, and with joyful voices sing the songs of victory.

Let us praise the Lord and say, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?"

The Cross did all these wonderful things for us: the Cross is a war memorial erected against the demons, a sword against sin, the sword with which Christ slew the serpent.

The Cross is the Father's will, the glory of the Only-begotten, the Spirit's exultation, the beauty of the angels, the guardian of the Church. Paul glories in the Cross; it is the rampart of the saints, it is the light of the whole world.

St. John Chrysostom

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www.ecpubs.com

THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Sunday of the Holy Cross



Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491

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Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA

Deacons: J. Timothy Tkach John Evancho

March 3, 2024

3rd Sunday of The Great Fast - Veneration of the Holy Cross Schedule of Services

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
Wednesday	6	7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Terry Trend by Chris Thompson
Friday	8	7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - +Mary Kenes by Deacon Tim & Linda Tkach
Saturday	9	8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +Fr. Frank Korba by Paul Kaderabek 5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	10	<u>4th Sunday of The Great Fast-St. John Climacus</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	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.

Last Call for the men's retreat...



The Third Annual Men's Retreat

*From Fallen Passions to Apathia:
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.*

The Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross Third Sunday of Great Lent

On this the Third Sunday of the Great Fast, we observe the Veneration of the Precious and Life-giving Cross and for this reason: Inasmuch as in the forty days of fasting we in a way crucify ourselves and become bitter, despondent, and failing, the Life-giving Cross is presented to us for spiritual refreshment and assurance, for remembrance of our Lord's Passion and for comfort. Like those who are following a long and tedious path are tired, see a beautiful tree with many leaves, they would sit in its shade and rest for a while and then, as if rejuvenated, they will continue their journey. Likewise, today, in the time of fasting and difficult journey and effort, the Life-giving Cross was planted in its midst by the Holy Fathers of the Church to give rest and spiritual refreshment, to make us light and courageous for the remaining task.



Christ comforts us who are, as it were, in a desert until He will lead us up to the spiritual Jerusalem by His Resurrection. Just as the Precious Cross, which is also called the Tree of Life, was planted in the middle of Paradise, so our Holy Fathers planted the Cross in the middle of holy and Great Lent, as a sacred reminder of both Adam's bliss and how he was deprived of it. Remembering also that by partaking of this Tree of Life, the Precious and Life-giving Cross, we no longer die but are kept alive.

Jesus extends His invitation to us once again to "deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him." Our Church gives us this Third Sunday of Lent - Mid-point to Golgotha - to pause with Jesus, to refresh ourselves spiritually, to assess our Lenten journey and to continue with greater determination. But the initiative is still ours. There is no way into spring but that we endure the rigors of winter. There is no way we can arrive to Easter Sunday if we do not live the agonies of all our Good Fridays. There is no way we can achieve eternal life with God unless we deny ourselves utterly and totally in Christ. This we do when we endure and sustain our own personal crosses and follow Him.



ByzanTEENS

Sundays, March 10th
11:30am to 1:00pm

Family Catechesis

Sunday, March 17th
Noon - 1:30pm

Integrating the Cross in Prayer and Life

from Sr Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM

1. Give frequent thanks to God for the gift of salvation through praise and song.
2. Pray the Liturgy well - it re-presents for us the grace and reality of our salvation in Christ. Receive the Mysteries fervently, attentively.
3. Commemorate the Holy Cross along with the liturgical practice of our Church.
4. Bless yourself often - on awakening, beginning any important work or travel, when you desire protection, etc. Honor the Cross by making a poper sign of the cross - every time!
5. Intercede through the power of the Holy Cross, pray at the foot of the Cross physically or mentally at least some of the time - especially in times of repentance or when interceding for blessings on someone.
6. Display a Cross at home, perhaps in your vehicle, in your workspace.

Prayer of Saint Ephrem (the official Byzantine Lenten Prayer)

O Lord and Master of my life, spare me from the spirit of indifference, despair, lust for power, and idle chatter.

Instead, bestow on me, your servant, the spirit of integrity, humility, patience, and love.

Yes, O Lord and King, let me see my own sins and not judge my brother and sisters; for you are blessed forever and ever. **Amen**

Explanation of Lenten practices in the Byzantine Church

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Since the Divine Liturgy has a Resurrectional element, the Byzantine tradition abstains from celebrating the Divine Liturgy during the weekdays of Lent. But since the Eucharist is essential to our spirituality, the Byzantine tradition celebrates the Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified Gifts where we receive the Eucharist that has already been consecrated during the prior Saturday or Sunday Divine Liturgies.

Prostration

The posture of repentance with our entire body bowing to the ground.

Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

This is a Matins service but usually celebrated in the evenings during Lent. Through poetic and poignant verses the Great Canon takes us through the entire Bible denoting instances of sin, repentance and redemption. When this service is celebrated in its entirety on the Thursday of the fifth week of Lent, the story of St. Mary of Egypt is read.

FASTING "REGULATIONS"

STRICT ABSTINENCE

The law of strict abstinence forbids the use of meat, eggs and dairy products or any of their byproducts. *All faithful adults, who receive Eucharist, are obliged to observe strict abstinence on the first day of the Great Fast (Monday 2/12), on Great and Holy Friday as well as all day Holy Saturday, until midnight.*

SIMPLE ABSTINENCE

The law of simple abstinence forbids the use of meat or meat byproducts, permitting the use of eggs and dairy products. *Abstinence is to be observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays during the Great Fast.*



A Lenten journey into Bright Sadness

*The Great Canon of
St. Andrew of Crete*

Thur. March 14, 2024
Begins at 7:00PM

Annunciation Byzantine
Catholic Parish
14610 S Will Cook Rd
Homer Glen, IL 60491

In the profoundly moving Byzantine Catholic service of St. Andrew of Crete, Biblical accounts of sin and redemption are chanted in hauntingly beautiful melodies as we immerse ourselves into the *bright sadness* of repentance through the gesture of full body prostrations.

The service will continue until about 11:00PM but we invite you to experience any part of its duration. The Sacrament of Confession will be available throughout the service. If 'giving up candy' for Lent just does not seem like enough then make your Lent a real conversion.

For more information visit: www.byzantinecatholic.com
Visit us on Facebook: Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish
or Call: 708-645-0241

MARCH

The Great Fast Calendar of Lenten Services

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
25	26	27	28 Pre-Sanctified 7pm	29	1 Pre-Sanctified 7pm	2 Communion Bread Class All Souls Liturgy 8am
3 TEENS	4	5 Chotki Knotting 7pm	6 Pre-Sanctified 7pm	7 Mary's Helpers Trip	8 Pre-Sanctified 7pm	9 Divine Liturgy 8am Pysanky Class
10 TEENS	11	12	13 Pre-Sanctified 7pm	14 Andrew of Crete 7pm	15 Pre-Sanctified 7pm	16 Divine Liturgy w/ Akathistos 8am
17 Family Catechesis	18	19 Chotki Knotting 7pm	20 Pre-Sanctified 7pm	21	22 Pre-Sanctified 7pm	23 Divine Liturgy LAZARUS 8am
24 Palm Sunday	25 Divine Liturgy Annunciation 7pm	26	27	28	29	30
GREAT AND HOLY WEEK <i>There will be a separate schedule for this week</i>						
31 PASCHA	<div style="border: 2px solid purple; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <h3 style="color: purple;">True Fasting</h3> <p style="color: purple;"><i>As found in the prayer of the Byzantine Church</i></p> <p>“O my soul, if you do not turn away from evil, if you do not separate yourself from seducing pleasures, what merit is there in boasting of your fast? For such a fast is not pleasing to the Lord, who only desires our change of heart.”</p> <p>From Thursday Matins of the Third Week of the Great Fast</p> </div>					

Pysanky Classes

Learn the venerable art of Easter egg decorating

No experience required. You are welcome to come any time but do plan to stay for a couple of hours. Please also bring a lunch.



Sat. Mar 16th

10am to 5pm

(Rectory lower level)

Chotki Knotting

Learn the basic knot used to make your own chotki (prayer rope). Classes are limited to 3 people due to the complexity of the knot. Please see sign-up sheet in the narthex.



Wed. Mar 6th

Tue. Mar 19th

7pm - 9pm

The Annual Cleaning of the Pews

Join us as we prepare the church for Pascha

**Saturday
March 23rd**

starting at
10:00AM

