

### *A Link to Baptism*

The cure of the blind man also symbolizes mankind's means for its recovery from its blindness. It symbolizes the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is called holy enlightenment. Those who have been recently baptized are called the newly enlightened. This gospel from Saint John was read in the ancient Church on Holy Saturday when Catechumens were baptized. As this man is cured of his blindness when he washes in the waters of the pool of Siloam, as Jesus tells him to do, so are we brought out of darkness into a new life when we are baptized as Christ instructed us to be. Jesus restores His creation, mankind, with the potential to become what it was meant to be before the fall of Adam.

We also hear in the reading that after this man was cured many of those who knew him before did not recognize him. He is still the same man but something has significantly changed about

him. He is no longer blind. So when we are illuminated we are also new persons, though our outward appearance might be the same. To symbolize this newness a white garment is put on us to show the purity with which we start this new existence. We must, however, become different and unrecognizable in our inward and outward actions also. We must manifest our new existence to those around us through these actions. We must radiate this new found light to others by the way we live our lives. We must say to the world, "I am he who was blind but now my eyes are opened." Credit must be given to Him who has cured us of our darkness by living our lives according to the lessons of the illumination we have received and the continued guidance we get with the reception of the Holy Spirit.

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

## SUNDAY OF THE MAN BORN BLIND



*Icon of the Gospel of the Man Born Blind*



## 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  
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Bruce Riebe  
Deacons: J. Timothy Tkach John Evancho

### May 5, 2024 Sunday of the Man Born Blind Schedule of Services

Sunday	5	<u>Sunday of the Man Born Blind</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Thursday	9	<u>Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord</u> 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +Mary K. Kenes by Georgia Peceniak
Saturday	11	<u>Feast of Ss. Cyril &amp; Methodius Apostles to the Slavs</u> 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +Stephen DiBiase by Denise DiBiase 5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	12	<u>Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council</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	Reba Lyon-wc
Francis Hughes	Gloria Paulson	John Oreluk	Michele Lewis	William Davis
Jean Rusnak	Frank Miko	Gloria Selvy	Ken Hrusosky	Fr. Bernard Danber
Ken Hrusosky	Kim Hughes	Sally Hughes	Lois Greybar	George Gulas
Dcn. John Evancho	Michaleen Forkal			

### 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.

# ByzanTEEN Yard Sale

June 14th & 15th  
8am - 3pm

*Spring is in the air!* A perfect time to do some spring cleaning and collect items we can sell during our Summer Fundraiser. The POD is now available for all donations!



 **Choir Practice**  
Tuesday evenings  
7pm to 9pm



## Eparchy of Parma Stewardship Appeal

Payments and donations for the Stewardship Appeal may continue to be made through the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2024. We will have an update on our pledge amount next week.

Visit [parma.org](http://parma.org) for more information and to make a secure one-time or monthly donations through our website.

## LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

We are looking for a couple of people to help with the weekly church cleaning and to organize and prepare Agape (cake/coffee) following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Please contact the parish office for more information.

## A BYZANTINE CATHOLIC RETREAT & PILGRIMAGE TO GUADALUPE, MEXICO

NEW DATES  
& PRICE

NOVEMBER 9-15, 2024

### JOIN US

*We are celebrating the 125th anniversary of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Whiting, Indiana, with a seven-day retreat & pilgrimage to Mexico in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe.*

**\$2,950 per person  
double occupancy**

*Book by September 15, 2024*

### INCLUDES:

- Round-trip airfare from Chicago
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner daily
- Entrance fees as per scheduled visits
- Private Divine Liturgies and services
- Four-star hotels in historic districts
- Professional English-speaking guide
- Land travel in air-conditioned motor coach
- Pilgrim prayer pack
- All tips and gratuities

*Journey and pray with:*



**PILGRIMAGE LEADERS**  
Laura Iersci & Fr. Andrew Summerson



**RETREAT LEADER**  
Fr. Thomas J. Lays

*Fr. Andrew and Laura have been serving at St. Mary Church in Whiting since 2018 and have led three other pilgrimages. Fr. Tom is a renowned speaker and host of Light of the East.*

*Regina  
Tours*

**CONTACT:**  
Regina Tours  
1-800-CATHOLIC (228-4654)  
or Angelica Villegas  
[avillegas@groupist.com](mailto:avillegas@groupist.com)  
(212) 594-8787, ext. 250





## Mount Calvary All Souls Picnic Sat, May 18th

Join us for the 5th All Souls Saturday on May 18th.

Liturgy at Annunciation followed by a Panachida at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Joliet. This will also be an ECF Family Outing and Picnic to mark the close of our ECF Year.

Learn some of the history of our parish community while also enjoying the grounds and some family activities.

**The service times are TBA**

## St. Philomena Mother/Daughter Retreat

Fri, July 26 - Sun, July 28th

**The Spritual Center of Maria Stein**  
2365 St. Johns Road  
Maria Stein, OH 45860



Grow closer to Christ and one another while exploring God's gift of femininity! Based on biblical wisdom, Catholic teaching, and St. Pope JP II's Theology of the Body, the retreat offers talks and activities geared towards girls ages 11-14 with plenty of one-on-one mother daughter time. Participants will reflect on the gift of their female identity, the gift of friendship, the gifts of marital intimacy and holy chastity, the gift of the Holy Spirit and most importantly the precious gifts they are created to be.

**Cost: \$399 per mother/daughter pair**

*Includes 2 nights lodging, 4 meals and all retreat materials*

**Registration: [www.philomenaretreat.org](http://www.philomenaretreat.org)**

Information or questions: [admin@philomenaretreat.org](mailto:admin@philomenaretreat.org)

Local facilitator: Jodie Blindauer - [jblindauer@sacredheartohio.org](mailto:jblindauer@sacredheartohio.org)

## Can You Walk the Walk?

4th Annual Byzantine Young Adults Retreat

**Thurs, July 25th - Sun, July 28th**

St Mary's Byzantine Church  
Marblehead, OH

Open to young adults between 18-35 years of age. Brochures are available in the office. Transportation will be provided by the parish bus and registration fee will be covered for parishioners. [byzantineyoungadults.com](http://byzantineyoungadults.com)

**"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, \* and I will give you rest"**

Matthew 11:28



**Annual Byzantine Eparchial Women's Renewal**

**October 25-27, 2024**

St. Francis Spirituality Center  
Tiffin, OH 44883

**Cost: \$200**

*Brochures are available in the Business Office*



The Eparchy of Parma will be hosting another Family Camp this summer. It will be held in nearby Cedar Lake, IN.

Please stay tuned for more information but make the dates as this is a great way to meet other Byzantine Catholic families from within our Eparchy!