

Our Second Invitation

"I'm counting on you," said a man to his best friend. The man had used his own good name and reputation to get a job for his friend who had been out of work. But, on the day the man was supposed to start his new job, he was late. After several days of arriving late, the man got fired from the job he had only one week: the job that his best friend had vouched for.

There are few things more disappointing than when our friends let us down. We see this in today's Gospel reading. A certain king invited his friends to a banquet, but when all was ready his friends declined to attend. More than being disappointed, the king was downright angry! His friends, who had accepted the initial invitation to attend, now made excuses when the banquet was

about to begin. In the culture in which Jesus lived declining an invitation after first accepting it was among the gravest of insults.

Our Lord extends a similar invitation to us. He says to each of us personally, "Follow Me." At our Baptism, our godparents accepted this invitation in our behalf. Throughout our life however, we have many opportunities to personally accept this invitation again and again. Each time we face a critical decision, each time we have a choice of good over evil, each occasion of trial or temptation, is an opportunity to accept or decline Christ's invitation to follow Him. Unlike the guests in today's Gospel reading, let us be among those who make right choices, not excuses.

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Parable of the Wedding Banquet (Matthew 22:1-14)



Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491
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 Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA
 Parochial Vicar: Fr. Bruce Riebe
 Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

August 25, 2024 14th Sunday After Pentecost- Schedule of Services

Sunday	25	<u>14th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Thursday	29	<u>Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist</u> 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +John Oreluk by Bill & Nancy Withers
Saturday	31	8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +Andrew Baranko III by Catherine Baranko 5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	1	<u>15th Sunday After Pentecost</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
Reba Lyon-wc	Angela LaBanca-wc	Francis Hughes	Gary Dorencz
Michele Lewis	Jean Rusnak	Frank Miko	Ken Hrusosky
Fr. Bernard Danber	Kim Hughes	George Gulas	Michaleen Forkal
Mike Sheedy			

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.

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 Ierski & Fr. Andrew Summerson



RETREAT LEADER
Fr. Thomas J. Loya

*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
(212) 594-8787, ext. 250



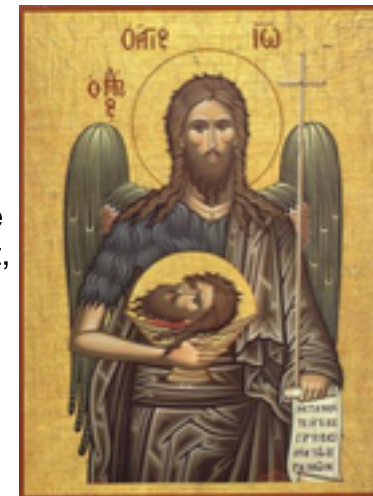
The Beheading of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John

The liturgy describes this tragic end of the Forerunner. St. John Damascene in his sticheras tells in brief the story of the feast: "As the birthday of the impudent Herod was being kept, the object of the dissolute dancer's oath was achieved: first, the head of the Forerunner was cut off and offered on a platter as food for those reclining. What a loathsome banquet, replete with wickedness and horrible murder!"

According to a creditable tradition, the body of St. John was buried by his disciples in Samaria, outside the borders of Herod's tetrarchy and under the jurisdiction of the Roman governor. In 362 A.D., pagans desecrated the grave and burned his remains. Only a small portion of his relics was saved by monks and carried to Alexandria, where St. Athanasius deposited the remains in his church. The saint's head, however, is venerated at various places.

With regard to the head, in fact, there are two quite different accounts. According to the one, given by Sozomen, it is said to have been found in Jerusalem in the possession of monks belonging to a Macedonian sect. They guarded the holy relic until the reign of Theodosius, (379-395) who brought it to Hebdomen, a suburb of Constantinople, where he ordered a church to be erected in honor of the saint. The paschal chronicle makes mention of this translation of the relic in 391 A.D. According to another tradition of which Rufinus speaks in his Ecclesiastical History, the head was brought from Machaerus to Jerusalem and there buried. In the time of Constantine, it was taken to Emesa and hidden in a cave. Here it was discovered by a priest named Marcellus, the superior of a local monastery, who was acting in a response to a series of dreams. Marcellus informed Bishop Uranius of Emesa of his discovery and the bishop solemnly removed the relic on February 24, 452 A.D., and placed it in his cathedral. There are actually three separate findings of the head of St. John recorded in various traditions and each of these is commemorated in the Byzantine rite by a special holy day. These precious relics were lost more times. Apart from the Mother of God, there is no saint who is honored by more feasts than St. John the Baptist.

Red vestments are worn on August 29th, in honor of this feast day. By tradition, a strict fast is observed. Local traditions also include such practices as not eating food from a plate or anything in the form of a head, such as cabbage, lettuce, apples, etc.



Happy 50th Anniversary Bill & Nancy Withers



O my most good God, I entreat You to listen to my humble prayer: may I always feel that the married state is holy, and that I must keep it holy. Grant me your grace, that I may never sin against faithfulness and love in this marriage. Foster in me the spirit of understanding and of peace, so that no strife, quarrel or misunderstanding may arise between us. Grant us our daily bread whereby we may serve You evermore. Amen
Byzantine Prayer for the Married

September 1st The Beginning of the Church's Year!

The First Ecumenical Council decreed that the Church's year should begin on September 1st. The month of September was, for the Jews, the beginning of the civil year (see Exodus 12:2), the month of the gathering of fruits and the bringing to God of sacrifices of thanksgiving. It was at the time of this feast that the Lord Jesus went into the synagogue in Nazareth, opened the Book of the Prophet Isaiah and read the words: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me; because He hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance' (Is. 61:1-2; cf. Luke 4:16-21). This month of September is also noted in the history of Christianity because it was during September that Constantine the Great was victorious over Maxentius, the enemy of the Christian faith, a victory followed by the granting of freedom of confession of the Christian faith throughout the whole Roman Empire. For a long time, the civil year in the Christian world was reckoned in the same way as the Church's year, from September 1st, but it was later changed to January 1st, first in western Europe and then also in Russia in the time of Peter the Great.



Annunciation's 2024 Raffle

Sunday, December 15th

Grand Prize: \$5,000

Early Bird Drawings

Sundays, October 6th & November 10th

Raffle Tickets have been mailed out. If you did not get any or need more, please see the business office.

90th Annual Pilgrimage
In honor of
Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Sat, Aug 31st &
Sun, Sept 1st



Theotokos:
Our Rock, Our Refuge,
and Our Strength
Celebrating 90 Years of Grace

Mount Saint Macrina
Uniontown, PA
www.sistersofstbasil.org