

SUNDAY BEFORE THE
EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross -- September 14th

Glory to You, Lover of Mankind

Master of all, alone without sin, for me the unworthy sinner were given over to death, death on a Cross, that you might free the sinner's soul from the bonds of sins. And what shall I give you in return for this, Master?

Glory to you, Lover of mankind! Glory to you, O Merciful! Glory to you, O Long-suffering! Glory to you, who pardon every fault! Glory to you, who came down to save our souls! Glory to you, incarnate in the Virgin's womb! Glory to you, who were bound! Glory to you, who were scourged! Glory to you, who were crucified! Glory to you, who were buried! Glory to you, who were raised! Glory to you, who were proclaimed! Glory to you, who were believed! Glory to you, who were taken up! Glory to you, who were enthroned with great glory at the Father's right hand, and are coming

again with the glory of the Father and the holy Angels to judge every soul that has despised your holy sufferings in that dread and fearful hour, when the powers of heaven will be shaken; when Angels, Archangels, Cherubim and Seraphim will come all together with fear and trembling before your glory; when all the foundations of the earth will tremble, and everything that has breath will shudder at your great and unendurable glory.

In that hour your hand will hide me under its wings and my soul be delivered from the fearful fire, the gnashing of teeth, the outer darkness and unending weeping, that blessing you, I may say, Glory to the One, who wished to save the sinner through the many acts of pity of His compassion.

St. Ephrem the Syrian



Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

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Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Bruce Riebe
Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

September 8, 2024 Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross Birth of the Theotokos Schedule of Services

Sunday	8	<u>Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross & Birth of the Theotokos</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Thursday	12	<u>Exaltation of the Holy Cross</u> (Transferred from Saturday, Sept 14th) 7:00 PM Vespers w/ Divine Liturgy - +George Gulas & Charles Brown by Maria Gulas
Saturday	14	5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	15	<u>Sunday After the Exaltation 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 Horne	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	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.

Grand Raffle Update

1st Early Bird Drawing - Sunday, October 6th

2nd Early Bird Drawing - Sunday, November 10th

Grand Drawing - Sunday, December 15th

Countdown - 99 Days

Grand Prize - \$5,000

RAFFLE TICKET SALES UPDATE

Keep up the good efforts...

Dont' stop now!

	# of Tickets	Amount	%
Goal	350	\$35,000	100%
Sold	(82)	(8,200)	23.43%
Unsold	268	\$26,800	76.57%

NEED MORE TICKETS?...SEE ROBERT PALASZ

“TICKET WARRIORS” - Parishioners who have already SOLD tickets

Mark & Anna Chagnon, Dennis & Gerry Davis, Dennis Dombrowski, Jim Forkal, Anne Gazzolo, Bill Gulas, Bob & Sheila Horne, MaryAnn Horne, Paul Kaderabek, Marilyn Lopez, John Meseke, Dennis Mrowca, Cecelia Okonski, John & Hazel Oreluk, Mary Oreluk, Richard Palasz, Robert & Jean Palasz, Betty Pawlowski, Joseph & Jean Schudt, Matthew & Abbie Sheedy, Michael Sheedy, Jason & Courtney Mee, Daniel Snidauf, Joel & Madeleine Super, Esther Thomas, Andrew Wood, Daryl & Mary Jean Wuske

Catechetical Sunday

Sunday, September 22nd

“We Are Stewards of God’s Creation”



God, enthroned in glory above creation, has entrusted humanity - made in His image and likeness - with His gifts of creation, reflecting His wisdom, truth, beauty, and goodness as our Creator!

As stewards of all of these gifts, we are called to the royal and priestly task of caring for them and offering them back to God, most especially *through the liturgy*. In Jesus Christ, we are to offer back to God through praise and stewardship both our lives and the gifts of His creation which He loves and sees as very good!

“Catechetical Sunday” is an annual event in our parish that marks the beginning of religious instruction for the new catechetical school year. In two weeks, we will have a special blessing and prayers for our children, and their teachers, during the Divine Liturgy. We ask that all catechists, students and parents be present for this ceremony. These prayers emphasize the importance of learning and teaching the faith of our Church, a responsibility we all have as Christians.

Family/Adult Catechesis

The third Sunday of each month following Divine Liturgy

11:30AM - Family Potluck

12:15PM - Catechesis for Adults and Children

First class will be Sunday, October 20th

ByzanTEENS

The first & third Tuesdays of each month

6:30PM - 8:00PM

First meeting will be Tuesday, October 8th

We are also working on launching several other official ministry programs this year, including...

A Marriage Ministry,
Altar Boy Training Camps,
Young Adult Ministry

The Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos - September 8th



The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

According to the story found in this book, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherds and their flocks.

As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

The liturgical texts of the feast acknowledge the joy that was felt by Joachim and Anna and confirm the special role of Mary as the Mother of the Incarnate God, Jesus Christ. In this event, another step is made in sacred history in preparation for the entrance of Christ into the world. The feast also acknowledges a transition from barrenness to life. This was but another foreshadowing of what would be offered through Christ, the transformation from death to eternal life.

Exaltation of the Cross - September 14th

The Exaltation of the Cross, celebrated on September 14th, commemorates the finding of Christ's Cross by Saint Helen, the mother of the Emperor Constantine in the 4th century; and, after it was taken by the Persians, of its recovery by the Emperor Heraclius in the seventh century at which time it was "elevated" in the Church of the Resurrection in Jerusalem. From this latter event the "universal elevation" of the Cross was celebrated annually in all of the churches of the Christian Empire.

The day of the Exaltation of the Cross became, as it were, the national holiday of the Eastern Christian Empire similar to the Fourth of July in the United States. The Cross, the official emblem of the Empire which was placed on all public buildings and uniforms, was officially elevated on this day by the bishops and priests. They blessed the four directions of the universe with the Cross, while the faithful repeated the chanting of "Lord have mercy." This ritual is still done in the churches today after the solemn presentation and elevation of the Cross at the end of the Vigil service of the holy day following the Great Doxology of Matins.

The troparion of the feast which was, one might say, the "national anthem" sung on all public occasions in the Christian Empires of Byzantium and Russia, originally petitioned God to save the people, to grant victory in war and to preserve the empire "by the virtue of the Cross." Today the troparion, and all the hymns of the day, are "spiritualized" as the "adversaries" become the spiritually wicked and sinful including the devil and his armies, and "Church" replaces the names of ruling officials of the Empire.

The holy day of the Exaltation of the Cross, although it has an obviously "political" origin, has a place of great significance in the Church today. It remains with us as a day of fasting and prayer, a day when we recall that the Cross is the only sign worthy of our total allegiance, and that our salvation comes not by "victories" of any earthly sort but by the only true and lasting victory of the crucifixion of Christ and our co-crucifixion with him.

When we elevate the Cross and bow down before it in veneration and worship to God, we proclaim that we belong to the Kingdom "not of this world," and that our only true and enduring citizenship is with the saints in the "city of God."

Thus, at the Exaltation of the Cross the Christians make their official rededication to the crucified Lord and pledge their undivided allegiance to Him by the adoration of His holy feet nailed to the life-creating Cross. This is the meaning of this holy day of fasting and repentance in the Church today.

