

John the Baptist and Forerunner

For the Church, John was a prophetic and tragic figure. He is called the 'Baptist' because he baptized those who came to him; he is called the 'Forerunner' because he went before Christ and prepared His way, making His paths straight, in accordance with the words of the prophet: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness ... make his paths straight (Mark 1:3). In the Old Testament, he is prophesied as "the voice of him that cries in the wilderness," in the passage from Isaiah quoted above. In other texts, he is referred to as 'the voice of the Word', 'the lamp of the Light', 'the friend of the Bridegroom', 'the morning star before the Sun'.

John began his work at the age of 30, in the fifteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Tiberius (27 or 29 AD). To begin, he journeyed

around the southern part of Judah, near the river Jordan, preaching and prophesying. The central theme of his preaching was repentance: he called upon men to repent and to change their ways of thinking, so that they would be ready to receive the teaching of Christ, their Savior – "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matthew 3:2).

At the same time, he was severe in his rebuking of evil and sin. Another element of his teaching was that of the practical form – how each of us should love our fellow brothers and sisters.

As we anticipate the coming Great Fast in a few weeks, are we prepared to repent and change our ways, and rebuke evil and sin as Saint John taught?

SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD



Icon of Saint John the Baptist



Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

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

January 12, 2025 Sunday After Theophany Schedule of Services

Sunday	12	<u>Sunday After Theophany</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Thursday	16	7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +Domenico Schiano DiCola by Reba Lyon & Family
Saturday	18	8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +Stephen & +Josephine Ballak by MaryAnn & Shirley Ballak 5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	19	<u>Thirty-fifth Sunday After Theophany</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
Francis Hughes	Gary Dorencz	Michele Lewis	Kim Hughes
Frank Miko	Ken Hrusosky	Fr. Bernard Danber	Mike Sheedy
Bob Horne			

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.

Break free from your Pharaohs.

Our culture today has no shortage of 'modern Pharaohs' that hold us back from true unity with God. If we're ruled by these Pharaohs, how can we truly be free to become the men God made us to be? Exodus 90 gives you the tools to take control of your life.

To learn more about this fraternity of men, speak with Jim Brown at 815-919-4453 or Mark Porfirio at 815-981-1670.



Join other men from our parish as we take a 90-day journey through the Book of Exodus, diving deeper into understanding the similarities we share with the ancient Israelites and finding our path to freedom from our own 'Modern Pharaohs' holding us back from true unity with God.

We will focus on three core pillars: prayer, asceticism, and fraternity – a model witnessed to us centuries ago by the desert fathers in the early Church.

We start
Jan. 20, 2025:

Exodus90.com



Blessing Bags

Now that we have had our Christmas celebrations, it is time to focus on those who are in need of our help. On Sunday, Jan 26th the GCU will be hosting a service project in conjunction with our parish. We plan to make about 50 Blessing Bags that will be handed out to the homeless and less fortunate in the Chicago area. Between now and then, we will be taking donations for items we can add to these blessing bags. The GCU has already purchased socks for the bags and will be providing lunch for the volunteers who will be packing the bags.

We will have a box in the Narthex for the month of January to collect other items we can add to these bags. Below is a list of some items that would be helpful. Please make sure to buy travel size or individually packaged items.

- tissue
- band-aids
- deodorant
- mouth wash
- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- shampoo
- body wash
- fruit snacks
- granola bars
- tuna salad/crackers
- trail mix
- small bottle of water
- peanut butter & crackers
- chips
- jerky sticks
- wet ones
- chapstick
- tampons
- wash cloth
- hand/toe warmers
- alcohol swabs
- razors
- hand sanitizer

The 12th Annual Women's Retreat

*Our Lord Jesus Christ:
The Path to the Father*

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center
Fremont, Ohio

March 7, 2025 - March 9, 2025

Retreat Master: Fr. Jan Maturkanic

Contact Joan Washburn for further information
stmarybhdwomensretreat@gmail.com
865-696-7809

Brochures are available in the Narthex
Sponsored by:
St Mary Byzantine Catholic Church

The Fourth Annual Men's Retreat

The Beatitudes: The Way of Life

Our Lady of the Pines Retreat Center
Fremont, Ohio

March 14, 2025-March 16, 2025

Retreat Master: Fr. Lukas Mitro

Contact Karl Busam for further information
karl.busam.77@gmail.com
419-626-6811

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Family Catechesis
Sunday, January 19th
Noon - 1:30pm

Traditionally, at the feast of our Lord's Theophany on January 6th, we consecrate water which is used to sanctify the homes of all the faithful. In bringing the blessed water to our homes, and sprinkling it in each room, we rid our homes of any evil influence, and rededicate it to God in a special way. As we were once renewed by the waters of our own baptism into Christ, so too our home, and our entire lives, are re-dedicated and renewed unto Christ our God each year at this time.



If you are interested in having Fr. Tom bless your house, please fill out the House Blessing Form in the Business Office.

BINGO Sunday, January 19th

Marian Village
15624 Marian Dr - Homer Glen, IL

Doors open at 2:30PM

Bingo begins at 3:00PM

RSVP by Friday, Jan 15th
to Ailish Doherty at 708-226-3786 or
adoherty@franciscancommunities.org

Cost
\$5

Light lunch provided by American Legion Post 2011

Photos from 25 Years of Annunciation

We plan to create a video to celebrate our 25th Anniversary and want to showcase photos of parish life and liturgy over the past 25 years.

Please share your photos from baptisms, weddings, holy days, and events like Prairie Fest and Christmas on the Prairie.

Ways to Share:

Physical Photos

We will scan your photos and get them back to you as soon as possible.

Place multiple photos together in a ziploc bag. Attach a post-it and note:

- Your name
- Phone number or email
- Information about the photos: who is in the photo, about what year it was taken, and any other helpful information (for example, what parish event the photo was taken at)

Online Form

Upload photos to an online form at bit.ly/4g2xsjW or scan QR code:



Email

Email photos to Lea at la.rod Barry@yahoo.com. Include the info listed above.

Other

Call or text Lea (630-589-2069) and we'll arrange something!