

### *From Smuggler to Saint*

Saint Macarius the Great was born in Upper Egypt. A later tradition places his birthplace in the village of Shabsheer (Shanshour), in Al Minufiyah Governorate, Egypt around 300 A.D. At some point before his pursuit of asceticism, it is said that Macarius made his living smuggling potassium nitrate in the vicinity of Nitria, a life which taught him how to survive in and travel across the wasteland in that area. At a young age, Macarius was forced to get married against his will. Thus, he pretended to be sick and ask for his parents' permission to go to the wilderness to recoup. At his return, he found that his wife had died, and shortly after, his parents departed as well. Macarius subsequently distributed all his money among the poor and needy.

Seeing his virtues, the people of his village brought him to the bishop of Ashmoun who ordained him priest. Falsely accused of defiling a woman, the woman recanted and confessed Macarius' innocence. A multitude of people then came asking for his forgiveness, but he fled to the Nitrian Desert to escape all mundane glory. While at the desert, he visited St. Anthony the Great and learned from him the laws and rules of monasticism. When he returned to the Scetic Desert at the age of forty, he presided over its monastic community for the rest of his life. Macarius died in the year 391. Today, the body of Saint Macarius is found in his monastery, the Monastery of Saint Macarius the Great in Scetes, Egypt.

## THIRTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



*Icon of Saint Macarius and Saint Mark -- January 19th*



## 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 19, 2025 35th Sunday After Pentecost Schedule of Services

<b>Sunday</b>	19	<b><u>35th Sunday After Pentecost</u></b> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
<b>Thursday</b>	23	7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +Alex Soley by The Forkal Family
<b>Saturday</b>	25	8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +Skip & +Gloria Paulson by Greg Lukas 5:00 PM Vespers
<b>Sunday</b>	26	<b><u>36th Sunday After Pentecost</u></b> 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
Francis Hughes	Gary Dorencz	Michele Lewis	Kim Hughes
Frank Miko	Ken Hrusosky	Fr. Bernard Danber	Mike Sheedy
Bob Home	Linda Tkach		

### 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:karl.busam.77@gmail.com)  
419-626-6811

Brochures are available in the Narthex  
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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



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](https://bit.ly/4g2xsjW) or scan QR code:



#### Email

Email photos to Lea at [la.rod Barry@yahoo.com](mailto:la.rod Barry@yahoo.com). Include the info listed above.

#### Other

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