

### *Feast of the Presentation of the Lord*

Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendor of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of His eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ. The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin, carried the true light in her arms and brought Him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet Him.

The true light has come, the light that enlightens everyone who is born into this world. Let all of us, my brethren, be enlightened and made radiant by this light. Let all of us share in its splendor, and be so filled with it that no one remains in the darkness. Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a

hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the light, who sent the true light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in His splendor.

Through Simeon's eyes we too have seen the salvation of God which He prepared for all the nations and revealed as the glory of the new Israel, which is ourselves. As Simeon was released from the bonds of this life when he had seen Christ, so we too were at once freed from our old state of sinfulness.

By faith we too embraced Christ, the salvation of God the Father, as He came to us from Bethlehem. Gentiles before, we have now become the people of God. Our eyes have seen God incarnate, and because we have seen Him present among us and have mentally received Him into our arms, we are called the new Israel. Never shall we forget this presence; every year we keep a feast in His honor.

*St. Sophronius*

## SUNDAY OF ZACCHAEUS PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD IN THE TEMPLE



*Icon of the Presentation of Our Lord -- February 2nd*



## 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

### February 2, 2025 Sunday of Zacchaeus and The Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon and Anna Schedule of Services

<b>Sunday</b>	2	<b>Sunday of Zacchaeus and The Encounter of Our Lord with Simeon and Anna</b> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
<b>Monday</b>	3	<b>Synaxis of the Holy Prophets Simeon &amp; Anna</b> 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +James Srock by Reba Lyon & Family
<b>Thursday</b>	6	7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +Stephen DiBiase by Augustine DiBiase & Family
<b>Saturday</b>	8	8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +Rudolph & Francis Ballak by +MaryAnn & Shirley Ballak 5:00 PM Vespers
<b>Sunday</b>	9	<b>Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee</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
Linda Tkach	Gary Paczkowski	Aida McManigal-wc	

## 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 BIG thank you for everyone who helped with the Blessing Bag project!**

With all of your donations, we were able to make over 150 bags that will be passed out this month to the homeless and those in need in the Chicagoland area.



**A GCU sponsored event!**



## The Meeting of Our Lord with Simeon and Anna

The Presentation of the Lord is celebrated on February 2nd by both Catholics and Orthodox. In the East it is called the Meeting of the Lord because of Jesus' coming to meet his people Israel in the persons of Anna and Simeon. It celebrates the end of the time required by the Law for Mary's purification and Jesus' presentation into the temple, so it comes 40 days after Christmas. In the Old Testament, God demands, "Consecrate to me all the first-born; whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel...is mine" (Exodus 13:2).

Joseph and Mary, in their obedience to the Law, come to present Jesus to the temple despite the fact that the birth and conception were sinless. We see in this action great obedience.

We see in the icon Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Anna, and Simeon at the temple. The architectural structures in the background show that this takes place inside. Joseph, on the far right holds two doves, which will be the sacrifice that will redeem Jesus. This also shows Mary and Joseph's poverty and the background that Jesus chose to grow up in. Joseph holds the two turtledoves in his hands, showing that he had overcome his previous doubts and had reconciled with his beloved, recognizing Jesus to the Son of God.

Next to Joseph stands Anna with a scroll, symbolizing her prophetic office. The scroll is unfurled and reads, "This child holds heaven and earth." Her other hand points to the Christ child. Anna alone of all the people gathered here is looking toward us, the viewers, so this message is for us to take and ponder. The Mother of God stands next to Anna, her arm outstretched in a gesture of offering Jesus as well as supplication.

Jesus is shown as a "little man," which symbolizes his divinity. He acts as God, blessing all those present. Simeon holds Jesus with the hems of his garment, showing his veneration. Joseph, on the other side of the icon, does the same and we see the connection between the two turtledoves to be sacrificed and Jesus. In the Eastern Tradition, Simeon was at this time over 200 years old and was one of the seventy translators of the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament). He questioned the translation "a virgin shall conceive" in Isaiah and now asks God that he "depart in peace."

We see in this icon the passing from the Old Testament to the New with the Incarnation of Jesus. The temple of the Old Covenant becomes the Church of the New Covenant. In this context, it is no wonder that Jesus seems to have been handed *over* the altar to Simeon, to whom the true Bread of Life and not the manna from the desert is given. We do not see in this icon that Jesus needed to come to be presented but to usher in the New Covenant and the true and perfect worship of God. He came not be purified but to purify those present - Simeon, Joseph, Anna, and us.

# A Mary's Helpers Valentine Luncheon

Tuesday, Feb 11th  
NOON

Join us for an afternoon of food, fellowship and fun. We will meet in the Narthex/Agape Room for lunch and will enjoy the afternoon together working on a special craft project.

See Georgia for more information



**Family Catechesis**  
Sunday, February 16th  
Noon - 1:30pm



## Painted Prairie Studios

Pastel art guided by the hand of artist Fr. Thomas J. Loya

### Special Valentine Art/Wine Event

Wednesday, February 12, 2025 - 7pm - 9pm

For more information:  
Call 708-645-0241  
or use the QR Code  
to register online



**RUBI AGAVE**

LATIN KITCHEN - TEQUILA - WHISKEY BAR

12622 W 159th St - Homer Glen, IL

Cost: \$35/person + 1 drink minimum

[www.byzantinecatholic.com/events/painted-prairie](http://www.byzantinecatholic.com/events/painted-prairie)

## 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/14g2x5fW](https://bit.ly/14g2x5fW) or scan QR code:



#### Email

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

#### Other

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