

MEATFARE SUNDAY

The Twofold Coming of Christ

We do not preach only one coming of Christ, but a second as well, much more glorious than the first. The first coming was marked by patience; the second will bring the crown of a divine kingdom.

In general, whatever relates to our Lord Jesus Christ has two aspects. There is a birth from God before the ages, and a birth from a virgin at the fullness of time. There is a hidden coming, like that of rain on fleece, and a coming before all eyes, still in the future.

At the first coming He was wrapped in swaddling clothes in a manger. At His second coming He will be clothed in light as in a garment. In the first coming He endured

the cross, despising the shame; in the second coming He will be in glory, escorted by an army of angels.

We look then beyond the first coming and await the second. At the first coming we said: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. At the second we shall say it again; we shall go out with the angels to meet the Lord and cry out in adoration: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem



Icon of the Last Judgment



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 23, 2025 Sunday of Meat-Fare Schedule of Services

Sunday	23	<u>Sunday of Meat-Fare</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Monday	24	<u>Feast of the 1st & 2nd Findings of the Head of John the Baptist</u> 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - Special Intention for our local & federal civil authorities
Thursday	27	7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +John Oreluk by Lynn & Ned Grabavoy
Saturday	1	<u>Feast of All Holy Ascetical Fathers & Mothers</u> 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +Jim & +LaVerne Sima by Jim Sima 5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	2	<u>Sunday of Cheese-Fare</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	Mike Sheedy
Francis Hughes	Gary Dorencz	Michele Lewis	Kim Hughes
Frank Miko	Ken Hrusosky	Fr. Bernard Danber	Linda Tkach
Gary Paczkowski	Aida McManigal-wc	Anna Chagnon-wc	Mitchell Stachnik

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.



Sunday, February 23rd - Meat Fare Sunday - The Last Judgment

Today we eat meat products for the last time as we approach Lent. The theme today is also the Last Judgment when Christ will come again to judge the living and the dead. The criterion for our judgment will be the rule of love. Did we love as God loved? Did we forgive others as God forgave us?

Sunday, March 2nd - Cheesefare Sunday

Having given up meat products last week, today we eat dairy products for the last time as we enter the "Great Fast" (Lent) in stages.

At the start of the Great Fast, the Church reminds us of Adam's expulsion from Paradise. God commanded Adam to fast (Gen 2:16), but he did not obey. Because of their disobedience, Adam and Eve were cast out of Eden and lost the life of blessedness, knowledge of God, and communion with Him, for which they were created. Both they and their descendants became heirs of death and corruption. On this Sunday, we should consider the benefits of fasting, the consequences of disobedience, and recall our fallen state. Above all we focus on forgiveness and officially begin Lent with the Forgiveness Vespers, which includes a ceremony of mutual forgiveness.

Our fasting should not be a negative thing, a mere abstention from certain foods. It is an opportunity to free ourselves from the sinful desires and urges of our fallen nature, to restore a more sacramental vision and approach to physical things (food, etc.), and to nourish our souls with prayer, repentance, Confession, participation in church services, and partaking of the life-giving Mysteries of Christ.



Forgiveness Vespers
Sunday, March 2nd
1:30pm

Clean Week

The First Week of Great and Holy Lent has been traditionally called Clean Week in the Byzantine Catholic and Orthodox Churches. It is a time for us to "kick start" our Lenten Journey where we fast from foods and from sin in order to prepare ourselves to fully enter into Christ's saving death and resurrection. Join us this week as we begin our Lenten Journey with some communal penitential prayer. For the first three evenings of Clean Week, starting at 7pm, we will pray a portion of the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, which will set the tone for the rest of our Lenten Journey. This service will be done again but in its entirety on the Thursday of the 5th week of Lent. The services each evening during this first week of Lent will last about an hour.

Monday, March 3rd - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (Part 1)
Tuesday, March 4th - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (Part 2)
Wednesday, March 5th - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (Part 3)

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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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.rodbarry@yahoo.com. Include the info listed above.

Other

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



Forgiveness Vespers

Sunday, March 2nd

1:30PM

This service marks the beginning of the Great Fast where we commemorate the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise, entering into the Lenten fast in remembrance of mankind's separation from God through disobeying his commandment to fast from the fruit of the tree.

Before we enter the Lenten fast, we are reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another. A fast without mutual love is a fast of demons. We do not travel the road of Lent as isolated individuals but as members of a family.

The Great Fast as Our Annual Renewal Renewing our understanding of the Old Testament

During the forty days before baptism, the catechumens received daily instruction in the Faith - particularly readings from the Old Testament, with an explanation of God's works among the Jewish people, their expectation of a Messiah, and how this expectation was fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ. They were taught how to pray, and how to conduct themselves according to Christian ideals. The rest of the faithful were encouraged to take part in these spiritual exercises as well.

This is why the Great Fast is not only a renewal of our respect for baptism, but also of our connection with the Old Testament. Each day, at Vespers, we hear lessons from the historical and wisdom books of the Old Testament (particularly Genesis, Exodus, and Proverbs). At the Sixth Hour (noonday prayer), we listen to prophecies of the Messiah (from Isaiah and Job) and his suffering and eventual glorification.

You can find the readings for each day of the Great Fast on your Byzantine calendar or consider purchasing the book "Journey Through the Great Fast" from Eastern Christian Publications for daily reflections on the readings and prayers for each day of the Great Fast.