

Wisdom from St. Gregory Palamas

"If, then, the time of this life is for repentance, the very fact that a sinner still lives is a pledge that God will accept whoever desires to return to Him. Free will is always part and parcel of this present life. And it lies within the power of free will to choose or to reject the road of life or the road of death ... for it can pursue whichever it wishes. Where, then, are the grounds for despair, since all of us can at all times lay hold of eternal life whenever we want to?"

"The passion for popularity brings such injury upon those it masters that it shipwrecks faith itself."

"Natural things are not indictable; for they were created by God who is good, so that through them we can act in ways that are also good. Hence in themselves they do not indi-

cate sickness of soul, but they become evidence of such sickness when we misuse them. When we coddle the flesh in order to foster its desires, then the passion becomes evil and self-indulgence gives rise to the carnal passions and renders the soul diseased."

"We start the imitation of Christ with Holy Baptism, which symbolizes the Lord's Burial and Resurrection. Virtuous living and conduct in accord with the Gospel are its intermediate stage, and its perfection is victory through spiritual struggles against the passions, which procures painless, indestructible, heavenly life."

"It is pointless for someone to say that he has faith in God if he does not have the works which go with faith ... namely, deeds of love and compassion."

SECOND SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST



Icon of Saint Gregory Palamas



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

March 16, 2025 2nd Sunday of the Great Fast Schedule of Services

Sunday	16	2nd Sunday of the Great Fast 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Wednesday	19	7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - +Mercedes Rodriguez by Heladio Kennedy
Friday	21	Vigil-3rd All Souls Saturday 7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy with Panachida - For the deceased members of our parish families
Saturday	22	5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	23	3rd Sunday of the Great Fast - Veneration of the Holy Cross 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	Mike Sheedy
Francis Hughes	Gary Dorencz	Michele Lewis	Kim Hughes
Frank Miko	Ken Hrusosky	Fr. Bernard Danber	Gary Paczkowski
Aida McManigal-wc	Anna Chagnon-wc	Abbie Sheedy-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.

25th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, May 18th 2025

Put Out into the Deep



Join us as we celebrate twenty-five years of Annunciation Parish "putting out into the deep" while also casting our nets further into the deep for the years ahead

10:00AM
Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
Most Reverend Bishop Robert Fieta
Celebrant & Homilist

Noon
Reception & Banquet
Orland Chateau
14500 LaGrange Rd
Orland Park, IL

Cost: \$50/person
Family Style Dinner & Open Bar
Children under 18 are free

Live dinner music provided by:
Peter Oprisko Quartet

Tickets will be available for purchase through our parish website or in the Business Office

Mary's Helper Event - Irish for a Day!



Let the shenanigans begin! May we all enjoy the luck of the Irish as we have lunch at Ashford House in Tinley Park on Tuesday, March 18th. We will leave church at 11:30AM and have lunch at noon. Sign up in the narthex, also please note if you will be driving on your own.

Young Adult Gathering

eat

pray

love

Join us during the Great Fast for the Byzantine version of eat, pray, love....vespers, potluck, agape!



These lenten gatherings will take place on Saturdays during the Great Fast starting with Vespers at 5pm followed by a fasting potluck meal and the chance to practice agape with others on their journey toward Pascha.

These gatherings will be Young Adult sponsored, but anyone journeying closer to Christ are welcome!

March 22nd - April 5th

Annunciation's 25th Anniversary Cookbook

We are collecting family favorite recipes for our very own 25th Anniversary cookbook!

These can be old family favorites, Lenten, Ethnic, Christmas, Pascha, etc. If you like it, I am sure we will too!

Send recipes to Shelia Horne: horne_sheila@msn.com or you can drop them off in the Business Office.



Adult/Family Catechesis

Sunday, March 23rd
Noon - 1:30pm

Potluck following Liturgy in lower level activity room.

All are welcome to attend these sessions!

Remembrance Liturgy

For Pregnancy and Infant Loss

Parents who have lost children through miscarriage, stillbirth or in early infancy are welcome to join us for a Divine Liturgy of healing.

— St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church —

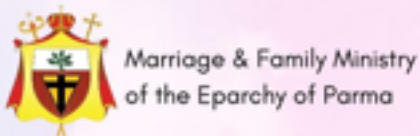
2011 Clark St., Whiting, IN

April 6, 2025 | 3 p.m.

Light reception to follow.

Registration is required.

Register at: stmarywhiting.org



St. Gregory Palamas

On the second Sunday of Great Lent the Church commemorates St. Gregory Palamas, archbishop of Thessalonica. This celebration is connected with the burning disputes of the 14th century about whether or not it was possible for man to have direct communion with God. There were theologians who said that this was not possible, that an insurmountable chasm existed between God and man which could not be surmounted by any ways or means. However, there were others who maintained that it was possible for man to have communion with God in His essence.



St. Gregory Palamas, who for many years was an Athonite monk and later became the archbishop of Thessalonica, based on the writings of the Holy Fathers, formulated the teaching that God is unseen and unknowable in His essence but could be seen and known in His actions, or energies. When this teaching triumphed at the Councils in Constantinople, the Church proclaimed that henceforth the memory of St. Gregory Palamas and these Councils would be celebrated on the second Sunday of Great Lent, as if to continue the celebration of the Triumph of Orthodoxy which is celebrated on the first Sunday of the Fast.

St. Gregory Palamas said that the essence of God is inaccessible and that the human heart and mind is unable to understand or comprehend God. God will always be a mystery to man, but nonetheless, through His Divine energies and actions, He in many and various ways (Heb 1:1) reveals Himself to man.

This occurs when man receives the Holy Mysteries of Christ (the Eucharist) and with his entire spiritual and physical being is cognizant that he has received within himself not simply bread and wine but the Body and Blood of the incarnate Son of God. In coming to church and communing in her Mysteries, we commune of the grace of God, we commune of the actions and energies of God, which is what St. Gregory Palamas spoke about. He also said that God's energies are inseparable from His essence, that in communing with the actions and energies of God we also commune with His essence, because the division between essence and energies is not in God Himself but in our mind. This is only one of the attempts to theologially explain the mysterious interaction between man and God, which is expressed in the fact that God is always outside our perception of the mind and intellect, always outside of our understanding, but at the same time he is always there within us, and through the Mysteries of the Church and through prayer we are able to spiritually and physically commune with God.

This is the Triumph of Orthodoxy that we are celebrating again today, we glorify God for the fact that in His Mysteries and ineffable energies and actions He reveals Himself to each of us and because our life is filled with the Divine presence and outpourings of God's grace, which transfigures our entire life, reveals to us the highest heights and allows us, while still living