

A Sacrifice to God is a Contrite Spirit

I acknowledge my transgression, says David. If I admit my fault, then you will pardon it. Let us never assume that if we live good lives we will be without sin; our lives should be praised only when we continue to beg for pardon. But men are hopeless creatures, and the less they concentrate on their own sins, the more interested they become in the sins of others. They seek to criticize, not to correct. Unable to excuse themselves, they are ready to accuse others. This was not the way that David showed us how to pray and make amends to God, when he said: I acknowledge my transgression, and my sin is ever before me. He did not concentrate on others' sins; he turned his thoughts on himself. He did not merely stroke the surface, but he plunged inside and went deep down within himself. He did not spare himself, and therefore was not impudent in asking to be spared.

Do you want God to be appeased? Learn what you are to do that God may be pleased with you. Consider the psalm again: If you wanted sacrifice,

I would indeed have given it; in burnt offerings you will take no delight. Are you then to be without sacrifice? Are you to offer nothing? Will you please God without an offering? Consider what you read in the same psalm: If you wanted sacrifice, I would indeed have given it; in burnt offerings you will take no delight. But continue to listen, and say with David: A sacrifice to God is a contrite spirit; God does not despise a contrite and humble heart. Cast aside your former offerings, for now you have found out what you are to offer. In the days of your fathers you would have made offerings of cattle – these were the sacrifices. If you wanted sacrifice, I would indeed have given it. These then, Lord, you do not want, and yet you do want sacrifice.

A sacrifice to God is a contrite spirit; God does not despise a contrite and humble heart. You now have the offering you are to make.

St. Augustine of Hippo

CHEESEFARE SUNDAY



Icon of Christ the Teacher



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

March 2, 2025 Sunday of Cheese-Fare Schedule of Services

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| Sunday | 2 | <u>Sunday of Cheese-Fare</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners 1:30 PM Forgiveness Vespers (Lent begins) |
| Monday | 3 | <u>Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (Part 1)</u> - 7:00 PM First Day of Lent: Strict Fast - No Meat or Dairy Today |
| Tuesday | 4 | <u>Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (Part 2)</u> - 7:00 PM |
| Wednesday | 5 | <u>Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (Part 3)</u> - 7:00 PM |
| Friday | 7 | 7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - +James Meseke by the Thompson Family |
| Saturday | 8 | <u>Feast of Commemoration of the Miracle of the Great Martyr Theodore</u> 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +Michaeleen Forkal by Jim Forkal & Family 5:00 PM Vespers |
| Sunday | 9 | 1st Sunday of the Great Fast - Forty Holy Martyrs of Sabaste <u>Sunday of Holy Images</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:

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|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 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.

The Stomach's Hypocrisy

I doubt if anyone will achieve freedom from gluttony this side of the grave.

Gluttony is the hypocrisy of the stomach which complains of being empty when it is well fed, and bellows that it is hungry when it is full almost to bursting.

If a person swallows too much food, he is inviting impure thoughts. If he mortifies the stomach, he is creating pure thought.

Often a lion if it is caressed becomes domesticated, whereas the more you coddle the body, the more it goes wild.

Master gluttony before it masters you!

John Clemacus

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, Ethic, 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.

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

Other

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

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.

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.

Mon, Mar 3rd - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (Part 1)

Tue, Mar 4th - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (Part 2)

Wed, Mar 5th - Canon of St. Andrew of Crete (Part 3)

**Forgiveness Vespers
Today at 1:00pm**



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 Pipta
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