

### *The Power of Christ's Blood*

If we wish to understand the power of Christ's blood, we should go back to the ancient account of its prefiguration in Egypt. Sacrifice a lamb without blemish, commanded Moses, and sprinkle its blood on your doors. If we were to ask him what he meant, and how the blood of an irrational beast could possibly save men endowed with reason, his answer would be that the saving power lies not in the blood itself, but in the fact that it is a sign of the Lord's blood. In those days, when the destroying angel saw the blood on the doors he did not dare to enter, so how much less will the devil approach now when he sees, not that figurative blood on the doors, but the true blood on the lips of believers, the doors of the temple of Christ.

If you desire further proof of the power of this blood, remember where it came from, how it ran down from the cross, flowing from the Master's side. The gospel records that when Christ was dead, but still hung on the cross, a soldier came and pierced His side with a lance and immediately there poured

out water and blood. Now the water was a symbol of Baptism and the blood, of the Holy Eucharist. The soldier pierced the Lord's side, he breached the wall of the sacred temple, and I have found the treasure and made it my own. So also with the lamb: the Jews sacrificed the victim and I have been saved by it.

There flowed from His side water and blood. Beloved, do not pass over this mystery without thought; it has yet another hidden meaning, which I will explain to you. I said that water and blood symbolized Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. From these two sacraments the Church is born: from Baptism, the cleansing water that gives rebirth and renewal through the Holy Spirit, and from the Holy Eucharist. Since the symbols of Baptism and the Eucharist flowed from His side, it was from His side that Christ fashioned the Church, as He had fashioned Eve from the side of Adam.

*St. John Chrysostom*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



*Icon of the Veneration of the Holy Cross*



## Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

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Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA  
Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

**March 23, 2025**

### 3rd Sunday of the Great Fast - **Veneration of the Holy Cross** Schedule of Services

<b>Sunday</b>	23	<b>3rd Sunday of the Great Fast - Veneration of the Holy Cross</b> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
<b>Tuesday</b>	25	<b>Feast of the Annunciation of the Mother of God</b> Parish Patronal Feast Day 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +Gloria Paulson by Ned & Lynn Grabavoy
<b>Wednesday</b>	26	<b>Mid-Lent - Feast of Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel</b> 7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - +Alex Soley by the Forkal family
<b>Friday</b>	28	<b>Vigil-4th All Souls Saturday</b> 7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy with Panachida - For the deceased members of our parish families
<b>Saturday</b>	29	5:00 PM Vespers
<b>Sunday</b>	30	<b>4th Sunday of the Great Fast - St. John Climacus</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 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
Jim Forkal			

## 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*

**Feast of the Annunciation  
 of the Mother of God**

**Parish Feast Day  
 Tuesday, March 25th  
 Divine Liturgy - 7:00PM**



When discussing the Annunciation, we must make a clear distinction between the mystery and its liturgical celebration as the feast of the Annunciation. The mystery of the Annunciation concentrates on the incarnation of the Word of God when, by the "power of the Holy Spirit," the Word "became flesh" (In. 1:14) in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, as described in the Gospel of St. Luke. (LK 1:26-38)

According to time computation, the annunciation preceded the nativity of our Lord by nine months and was to be celebrated on March 25. However, there were some liturgical difficulties in celebrating the feast on that day. Ordinarily, March 25 coincided with the Lenten season, during which all festive celebrations were forbidden by the Council of Laodicea (can. 51). Therefore, the feast of the Annunciation was celebrated during Advent as a liturgical preparation for Christmas, placing the emphasis on the feast of the incarnation of our Lord.

After the recognition of the Blessed Virgin as the Mother of God by the Council of Ephesus in 431 AD, Mary's role in the work of salvation began to come to the foreground. By the sixth century the emphasis shifted to Mary and the feast of the Annunciation was recognized as the Marian feast to be celebrated without any exception, on March 25. Thus, the Council of Trullo, celebrated in 692 AD, overrode the previous prohibition and decreed the solemn celebration of the feast of Annunciation with the Divine Liturgy on March 25, even if it coincided with Holy Week (can. 52).

The Paschal Chronicle of Constantinople, written at the beginning of the seventh century, clearly states that the entire Byzantine Church by "the tradition of the holy teachers" celebrates the feast of Annunciation of the Most Holy Mother of God on March 25. Therefore, today, according to the Byzantine disciples, we celebrate the Holy Liturgy even on Good Friday if it happens to fall on March 25. It was Pope Sergius (687-701), of Oriental descent, that introduced the feast of the Annunciation in Rome, from where it gradually passed to the entire West as part of "Roman tradition."

## 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](mailto:horne_sheila@msn.com) or you can drop them off in the Business Office.

## Chocolate Cross Sale

The teens will again be selling Byzantine Chocolate Crosses for Pascha. The crosses will be available in White, Milk and Dark chocolate. Please see the sign up sheet in the narthex to place your order.

Crosses will be available starting on Palm Sunday

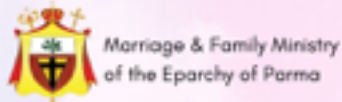


## Remembrance Liturgy For Pregnancy and Infant Loss

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](http://stmarywhiting.org)



## Mary's Helpers Trip St. Michael's Pirohi/Fish Fry & Albanese Factory Store

Friday, April 11th  
Depart - 2:00PM

Join us for the Sweet and Savory trip to Indiana. We will leave church at 2PM and head to the Albanese Gummy Factory Store in Merrillville. Once we have satisfied our sweet tooth, we will venture over to St. Michael's for their savory Pirohi & Fish Fry that starts at 4PM. After dinner, we will head back to Annunciation, hopefully, to return in time for Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 7PM.

If you plan on purchasing a carry out order, please fill out an order form.

**All pre-orders must be in by April 5th!**

## Eparchy of Parma Stewardship Appeal



How are we using our gifts to build up the Kingdom of God? What treasure do we have stored here on earth that could be offered for the Kingdom? Thankfully, we have an opportunity this Lent to help build that Kingdom of God in a particular way: by supporting the Eparchy's Stewardship Appeal.

The Stewardship Appeal provides critical support for God's Church in four ways:

- 1) supporting parishes and missions;
- 2) evangelization and ministries;
- 3) caring for retired priests; and
- 4) vocations and seminarian education.

Visit [parma.org](http://parma.org) for more information and to make a one-time or monthly secure donation through their website. Thank you for your past support and for your continued generosity with this year's campaign.

**Let's make our Stewardship Goal! \$20,400**  
**You can an Appeal Pledge until May 15th**