

Let Your Prayer Come from a Humble Heart

When we pray, our words should be calm, modest and disciplined. Let us reflect that we are standing before God. We should please Him both by our bodily posture and the manner of our speech. It is characteristic of the vulgar to shout and make a noise, not those who are modest. On the contrary, they should employ a quiet tone in their prayer.

Moreover, in the course of His teaching, the Lord instructed us to pray in secret. Hidden and secluded places, even our own rooms, give witness to our belief that God is present everywhere; that He sees and hears all; that in the fullness of His majesty, He penetrates hidden and secret places. This is the teaching of Jeremiah: Am I God when I am near, and not God when I am far away? Can anyone hide in a dark corner without my seeing Him? Do I not fill heaven and earth? Another passage of Scrip-

ture says: The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, observing both good and wicked men.

The same modesty and discipline should characterize our liturgical prayer as well. When we gather to celebrate the divine mysteries with God's priest, we should not express our prayer in unruly words; the petition that should be made to God with moderation is not to be shouted out noisily and verbosely. For God hears our heart not our voice. He sees our thoughts; He is not to be shouted at. The Lord showed us this when He asked: Why do you think evil in your hearts? The Book of Revelation testifies to this also: And all the churches shall know that I am the one who searches the heart and the desires.

St. Cyprian of Carthage

FIRST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY MEMORY OF THE HOLY PROPHETS



Icon of the Holy Images



Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

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Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA
Parochial Vicar: Fr. Bruce Riebe
Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

March 9, 2025

1st Sunday of the Great Fast-Forty Holy Martyrs of Sabaste Sunday of Holy Images Schedule of Services

Sunday	9	<u>1st Sunday of the Great Fast - Forty Holy Martyrs of Sabaste Sunday of Holy Images</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Wednesday	12	7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - +Skip & +Gloria Paulson by Greg Lukas
Friday	14	<u>Vigil-2nd All Souls Saturday</u> 7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy with Panachida - For the deceased members of our parish families
Saturday	15	5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	16	<u>2nd Sunday of the Great Fast</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 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
Gloria Selvy			

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 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



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.

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.

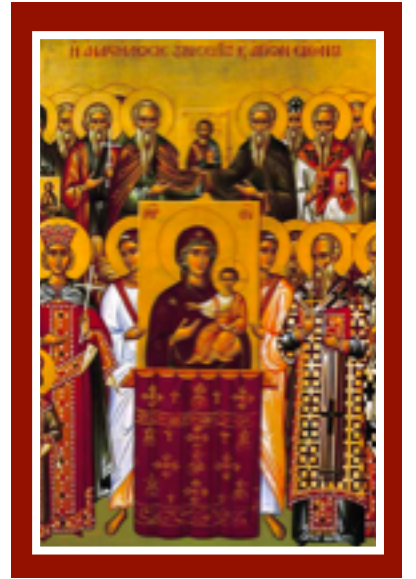


Sunday of Orthodoxy

The Sunday of Orthodoxy is the first Sunday of Great Lent. The dominant theme of this Sunday since 843 has been that of the victory of the icons. In that year the iconoclastic controversy, which had raged on and off since 726, was finally laid to rest, and icons and their veneration were restored on the first Sunday in Lent. Ever since, this Sunday has been commemorated as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy."

The name of this Sunday reflects the great significance which icons possess for the Byzantine Church. They are not optional devotional extras, but an integral part of the Byzantine faith and devotion. They are held to be a necessary consequence of Christian faith in the incarnation of the Word of God, the Second Person of the Trinity, in Jesus Christ. They have a sacramental character, making present to the believer the person or event depicted on them. So the interior of Byzantine churches is often covered with icons painted on walls and domed roofs, and there is always an icon screen, or iconostasis, separating the sanctuary from the nave, often with several rows of icons. No Byzantine home is complete without an icon corner, where the family prays.

The theme of the victory of the icons, by its emphasis on the incarnation, points us to the basic Christian truth that the one whose death and resurrection we celebrate at Easter was none other than the Word of God who became human in Jesus Christ.



Adult/Family Catechesis

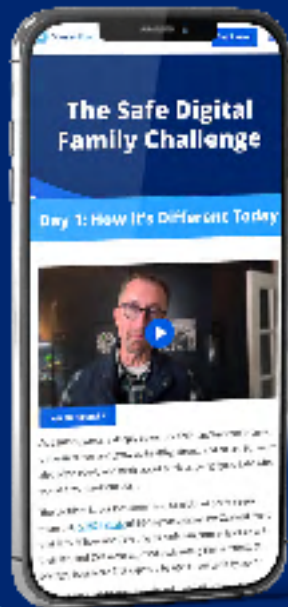
Sunday, March 16th
Noon - 1:30pm

Potluck following Liturgy in lower level activity room.

All are welcome to attend these sessions!

Safe Haven Sunday

Safe Digital Family Challenge 7 Days of Helpful Digital Parenting Tips!



Text **SECURE** to **66866** and you'll be automatically enrolled into seven days of helpful digital tips featuring:

- the importance of accountability
- preparing kids for social media
- how to have critical conversations
- and so much more!

Text or sign up at learn.covenanteyes.com/challenge-equipped.



A Prayer for Individuals and Families

Loving Father,

Thank you for the gift of marriage and family life. We entrust to you our home, where our marriage and family lives and grows. We ask you to make it a safe haven for all who live and enter these walls. May our home truly be a holy place for both young and old to be formed in the truth regarding life, love, sex, and marriage. May each of our members be protected from and guided in seeking to avoid pornography, while embracing the freedom and purity of life in Christ.

If there are past wounds that have occurred due to the availability of pornography on our family's devices, lack of awareness of parents, or because of indifference, we ask you to send forth your Spirit to heal, bless, renew, and consecrate this home as a safe haven with your son Jesus Christ at the center of our lives, today, tomorrow, and always.

We ask this through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth, and Saints Joachim and Anne, for you are holy our God and we render glory to you Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

St. John Cassian (360AD - 435AD) - The Struggle with Lust and Anger

St John Cassian writes this on the struggle with a spirit of lust: The struggle with a spirit of lust is a fierce struggle, longer than others, a daily struggle, and only a small number of people come to total victory. This struggle begins with the first ripe growth and does not finish until all the other passions have been mastered. In this struggle, it is necessary to use two weapons. For the achievement of a perfect and pure chastity, bodily fasting is not enough (though it is of the utmost necessity). On top of that, compunction of soul and unremitting prayer against that most unclean spirit; then, constant study of the Scriptures together with prudent works, physical labor and hand-work. These things keep the heart from unchastity and bring it back to itself. Above all, deep and true humility is needed, without which one will never attain victory over any passion. Victory over this passion is a freeing for the perfect purifying of the heart, from which, according to the words of the Lord, flow forth poison and grave ills: 'For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, ... adulteries, fornications' and so forth (Matt. 15:19). One must have patience and constant humility of heart, and keep oneself carefully during each day from anger and other passions. For as far as the first of anger penetrated into us, so afterwards there penetrated more easily the live coals of lust. 'It is interesting that many other spiritual guides link causally the passion of anger and the passion of unchaste lust, from which it follows that those prone to anger are the most prone to lust.'