

### *Confession, the Forgiveness of Sins*

"On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. [Jesus] said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.'" (John 20:19-23)

There, the risen Christ gives to His disciples the power of binding and loosing sins – a juridical power. This task of binding and loosing was transmitted from the apostles to their successors, the bishops. In the early church, the

administration of penance was something public; it didn't involve the private giving of counsel or advice. It was something exceptional. You hoped, by God's mercy, that you wouldn't have to be involved in penance. Indeed, the penances that were imposed were by our standards extremely severe. It often requires a leap of the imagination on our part to think of how life was in the ancient church. For example, for fornication – I mean, sex outside of marriage – St. Gregory of Nyssa assigns a penance of nine years without communion. St. Basil is a little more merciful, he says seven years without communion. Finally, in the sixth and seventh century, in the canonical legislation of St. John the Faster, it's been reduced to two years. Even so, by our standard, that may well seem severe.

*Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware)*

## SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



*Icon of the Birth of the Theotokos -- September 8th*



## Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

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Email: AnnuncByzChurch@aol.com  
Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA  
Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

### September 7, 2025 Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross Schedule of Services

Sunday	7	<b><u>Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</u></b> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Monday	8	<b><u>Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God</u></b> 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +Matthew & +Mary Baran by Mary Ann Baran
Thursday	11	7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +John Ballak by +Mary Ann & Shirley Ballak
Saturday	13	<b><u>Saturday Before the Exaltation of the Holy Cross</u></b> 8:00 AM Divine Liturgy - +George Gulas & +Charles Brown by Maria Gulas 5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	14	<b><u>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross</u></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 Home	Francis Hughes
Gary Dorencz	Michele Lewis	Kim Hughes	Ken Hrusosky
Mitchell Stachnik	Abbie Sheedy-wc	Jim Forkal	Jim Sima

### 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.

# Grand Raffle Update

**1st Early Bird Drawing - Sunday, October 5th**

**2nd Early Bird Drawing - Sunday, November 16th**

**Grand Drawing - Sunday, December 14th**

**Countdown - 97 Days**

**Grand Prize - \$5,000**

## RAFFLE TICKET SALES UPDATE

**Keep up the good efforts...**

**Dont' stop now!**

	<u># of Tickets</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>%</u>
Goal	350	\$35,000	100%
Sold	(66)	(6,600)	18.86%
Unsold	284	\$28,400	81.14%

**NEED MORE TICKETS?...SEE ROBERT PALASZ**

**“TICKET WARRIORS” - Parishioners who have already SOLD tickets**

Larry & Lisa Bergman, David & Anne Bzdill, Mary Cimbalista, Dennis & Gerry Davis, Jim Forkal, Linda Gaydos, Bob & Sheila Horne, MaryAnn Horne, Marianne Horvath, Marilyn Lopez, Dennis Mrowca, Cecelia Okonski, Richard Palasz, Robert & Jean Palasz, Jack & Jamila Pawchak, Joseph & Jean Schudt, Matthew & Abbie Sheedy, Michael Sheedy, Bill & Nancy Withers, Daryl & Mary Jean Wuske

## Saint Carlo Acutis

The First Millennial Saint

Carlo Acutis died at the age of 15 due to a short battle with Leukemia, leaving in the memory of all those who knew him a great void and a deep admiration for what was his brief but intense testimony of an authentic Christian life. Since he received his First Communion at 7 years old, he never missed an appointment with daily Mass. Carlo's modernity combines perfectly with his deep Eucharistic life and Marian devotion, which have helped to make him the most special teen who is admired and loved by everyone.

To quote Carlo's words: "Our aim has to be the infinite and not the finite. The Infinite is our homeland. We have always been expected in Heaven." His famous quote is: "All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies." To move towards this destination and not "die as photocopies" Carlo said that our compass has to be the Word of God, that we have to face constantly. But extreme means are required to reach such a lofty destination: the sacraments and prayer. In particular Carlo put the Sacrament of the Eucharist at the center of his life and he called it "my highway to heaven".

Carlo was gifted at anything related to computes so that his friends, and the adults with computer engineering degrees considered him a genius. Everyone was amazed by his ability to understand the computer secrets that are normally accessible only to those who have completed university. Carlo's interests included computer programming, film editing, website creation, editing and layout of comics, and volunteering for those most in need - children and the elderly.

**“When we face the Sun we get a tan...but when we stand before Jesus in the Eucharist we become Saints.”**



## Mary's Helpers - Afternoon of Prayer

**Monday, September 15th**

11:30AM

Join us as we pray for the sick of our parish,  
especially Michele Lewis  
A lite lunch will follow.



Life Chain



LIFE CHAIN SUNDAY

**Sunday, October 5**

2:00pm - 3:30pm

Tinley / Orland Park

Our spot is on the North side of 159th St  
by Home Depot, west of the stop light

LIFE CHAIN is an annual, nationwide, peaceful, prayerful hour of silence on public sidewalks supporting the dignity of and right to life. Many thousands of churches participate each year in this annual event of prayer and witness to the sanctity of unborn life.



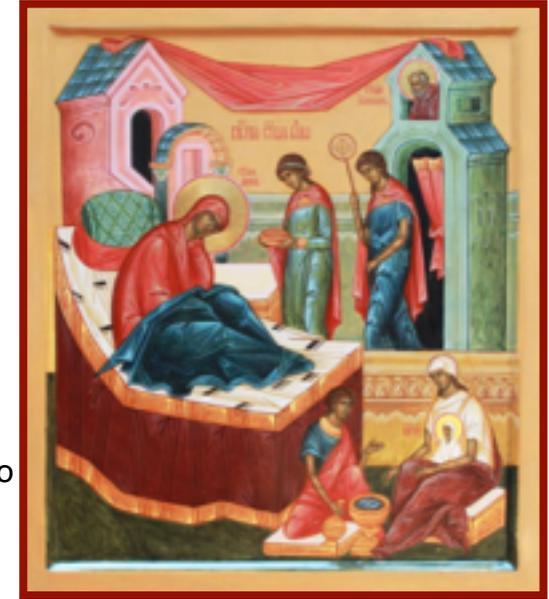
## The Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos September 8th

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

According to the story found in this book, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherd and their flocks.

As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

The liturgical texts of the feast acknowledge the joy that was felt by Joachim and Anna and confirm the special role of Mary as the Mother of the Incarnate God, Jesus Christ. In this event, another step is made in sacred history in preparation for the entrance of Christ into the world. The feast also acknowledges a transition from barrenness to life. This was but another foreshadowing of what would be offered through Christ, the transformation from death to eternal life.



## THE WAY OF A PILGRIM A Silent Retreat

Friday, Oct 17th @ 5:30PM

Sunday, Oct 19th @ 4:30

The Jesus prayer is an ancient form of prayer that teaches us how to pray always. On this silent retreat, we will be putting into practice the ancient tradition of walking while praying this simple and powerful prayer. There will be conferences, eucharistic adoration, Mass, confession as well as time for private prayer, reflection and walking.

For more information about this retreat, contact Christ's Peace House of Prayer:

<https://archkck.org/cpp/retreats/preached-retreats/> OR Call 913-773-8255

## Saturday, September 20th

As we begin the new Liturgical Year, the church and the grounds could use a little sprucing up. Join us on Saturday, Sept 20th starting at 10AM, for a little parish family time cleaning the church and some problem spots on the grounds. We will have a few different crews working some of the problem areas.

A BBQ lunch will also be provided for all attending!

**SAVE THE DATE!**

