

Christ and the Law

When Christ says to him, "if you would enter life, keep the commandments," the man expects him to add immediately, "My commandments." "Which ones?" he asks. He was quite deceived in his expectation. For Christ did not answer him as he expected, but simply pointed him to the law.

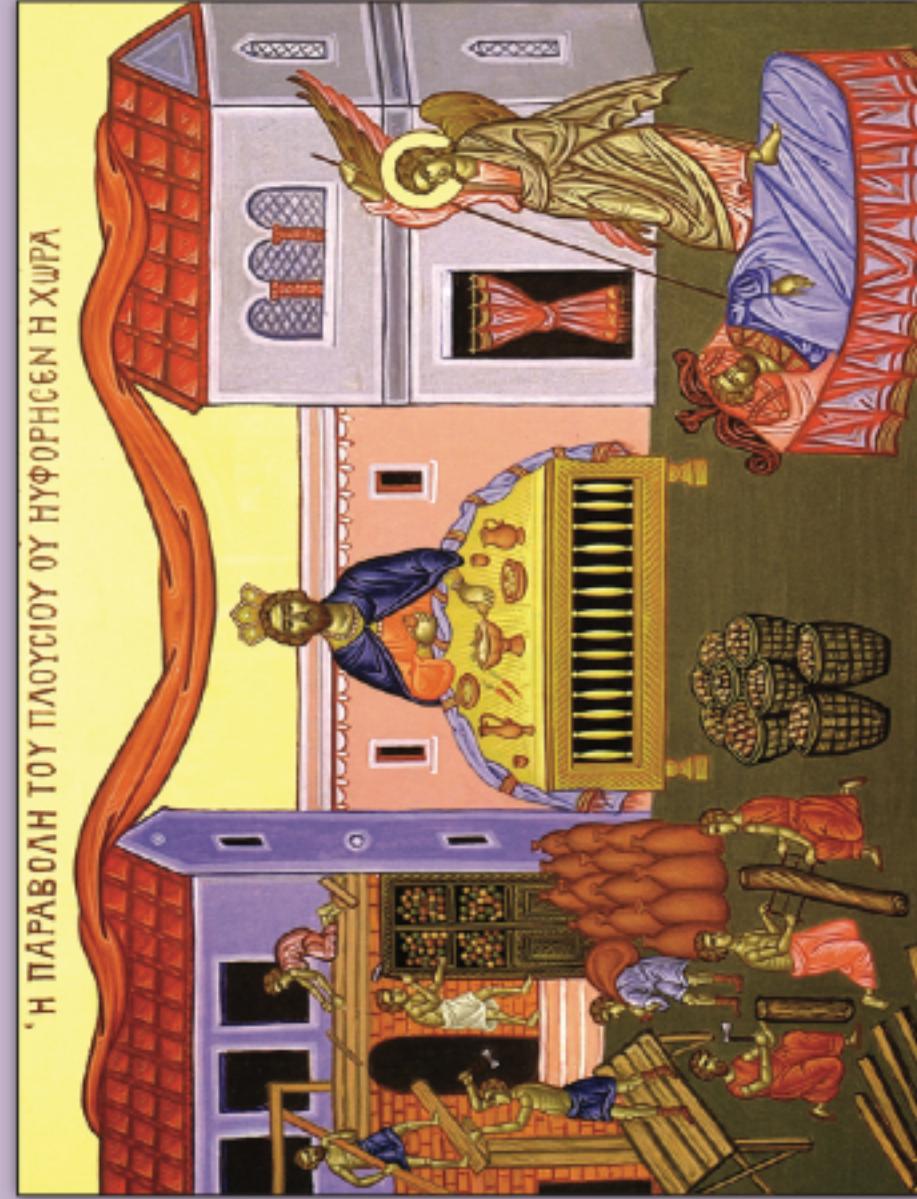
This is not because the law is perfection, for "no one is justified by the law," as it is written, but because the life lived according to the law is a kind of introduction to the eternal life, briefly acquainting trainees to the things above. "For the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ."

The law is the starting point for social justice. Christ is the perfection. For the beginning of good is to act justly, He says. Just action then is shown by the law, but goodness is shown by Christ. The law taught us to repay those who wish to harm us, as in "eye for eye, tooth for tooth."

But Christ taught us to let go such balanced vengeance, with the view to the greater good, teaching that "if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also; and if anyone would sue you and take your coat, let him have your cloak as well."

St. Cyril of Alexandria

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:16-21)



Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491
Office: (708) 645-0241 Fax:(708) 645-0243
Email: AnnuncByzChurch@aol.com
Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA
Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

November 23, 2025 24th Sunday After Pentecost Schedule of Services

Sunday	23	<u>24th Sunday After Pentecost</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Thursday	27	<u>Thanksgiving Day</u> 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy - In Thanksgiving for Blessings for our Nation 
Saturday	29	No Services
Sunday	30	<u>25th Sunday After Pentecost</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 Home	Francis Hughes
Gary Dorencz	Michele Lewis	Kim Hughes	Ken Hrusosky
James Forkal	Richard Adamowski	Katelyn Fuentes-wc	

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

Grand Drawing - Sunday, December 14th

Grand Prize - \$5,000

RAFFLE TICKET SALES UPDATE

Keep up the good efforts...Don't stop now!

	# of Tickets	Amount	%
Goal	350	\$35,000	100%
Sold	(262)	(26,200)	74.86%
Unsold	88	\$8,800	25.14%

NEED MORE TICKETS?...SEE ROBERT PALASZ



Congratulations to all of our Early Bird Winners!

\$250 - Bob Horne / Julian Jankowski

\$150 - Mary Orelus / Niko Paris

\$100 - Kathleen Reinhardt / Geroge & Kim Gulas

“TICKET WARRIORS” - Parishioners who have already SOLD tickets

Richard & Bonnie Adamowski, Kathleen Andrews, Catherine Baranko, Larry & Lisa Bergman, Steve & Roberta Bieniek, David & Anne Bzdill, Anna & Mark Chagnon, Mary Cimbalista, Bill & Sandy Davis, Dennis & Gerry Davis, Dennis Dombrowski, Tim Dominick, Gary & Sharon Dorencz, Audrey Doshi, Jim Forkal, Linda Gaydos, Anne Gazzolo, Catherine Gazzolo, Ned & Lynn Grabavoy, Drs. Nicholas & Cynthia Grabavoy, Jim & Lois Greybar, Bill Gulas, George & Kim Gulas, Maria Gulas, Mary Ellen Haber, Bil & Mary Horne, Bob & Sheila Horne, MaryAnn Horne, Marianne Horvath, Ken & Donna Hrusosky, Bill & Susan Izquierdo, Paul Kaderabek, Laura Kizior, Shirley Kotek, Ken & Karen Krown, Keith Landovitz, Larry & Debby Lattuca, Jeremy & Michele Lewis, Deborah Loftus-Errthum, Marilyn Lopez, Thomas Mega, Lisa Melnik, John Meseke, Maria Meseke, Cathy Miller, Dennis & Cynthia Mrowca, Angelica Nolan, Cecelia Okonski, Johnny & Hazel Oreluk, Mary Oreluk, Gary & Diane Paczkowski, Richard Palasz, Robert & Jean Palasz, Jack & Jamila Pawchak, Sonny Pawchak, Betty Pawlowski, Georgia Peceniak, Dan & Lea Popek, Frank & Kathy Reinhardt, Joseph & Jean Schudt, Joan Senko, John Senko, Matthew & Abbie Sheedy, Michael Sheedy, Georgia Smee, Jason & Courtney Smee, Joel & Madeleine Super, Catharine Thelen, Easter Thomas, Mike Triggs, Larry & Mary Ventrella, Bill & Nancy Withers, Andrew Wood, Daryl & Mary Jean Wuske, Robert Zavada



Special Almsgiving during the Philip's Fast

2024-2025 Impact

The purpose of the Eparchy of Parma Foundation is:

- To make gifts, contributions and grants in support of the Eparchy of Parma, its parishes, agencies, departments and programs, and the Byzantine Catholic Church as a whole;
- To benefit and support charitable purposes and activities of the Eparchy of Parma, its parishes, agencies, departments and programs.

The Foundation is led by a Board of Directors, which includes 3-9 lay members of parishes, priests of parishes, the Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma, and CFO of the Eparchy. The Bishop approves all members, besides himself and the CFO. Decisions of what to fund are by majority vote.

Works of the Apostolate

- \$15,000 grant to offset the cost of Family Camp as well as various Eparchial retreats
- \$6,000 for educational outreach
- Matched a grant to pay for extended training for priests on the healthy marriage initiative

Development of Parishes

- \$62,000 in grants to outreaches to help them grow
- \$50,000 grant to assist with the purchase of a rectory

Seminary & Vocations

- Paid for the mentoring of men discerning priesthood
- Restricted funds support five seminarians by easing the \$100,000 cost of formation—a shared burden between them and the Eparchy. Since seminarians cannot work during this time, financial aid is vital.
- \$7,000 in grants to renew visas for priests serving us from Europe

Active & Retired Clergy

- \$115,000 in grants to pay for the healthcare for retired clergy
- \$20,000 grant to support the Clergy Pension fund
- \$25,000 in emergency aid for clergy and their families during hardship

Donations to the Bishop's Stewardship Appeal help to support the activities of parishes, outreaches, missions, and eparchial events.

The goal for this stewardship drive is to increase the number of participants giving to the fund.

The Bishop is therefore suggesting a one-time donation of \$175 per household.



Philip's Fast (Byzantine Advent)

A Penitential Season in preparation for our Lord

In order to properly receive God Incarnate on the Feast of the Nativity, we prepare ourselves through prayer, fasting, charity, and penance for 40 days. We invite you to join us in this time of preparation through personal prayer, Holy Confession, charity, and increased participation in the Liturgical life of our community.

Recommendations:

- Fast—No meat or dairy on Mon, Wed, Fri
- Go to Confession
- Attend Saturday evening vespers (at least once)
- Get rid of junk and clutter in our homes and lives
- Dedicate a few minutes each day to reading a spiritual book or Bible
- Spend less time on computers, phones, etc.

*Charity begins at
HOME*

Confirmation students are holding a
Donation Drive
November 7 – December 8
Fund Raiser
For
Waterleaf
WATERLEAF • 1001 S. WASHINGTON ST. • CHICAGO, IL 60605

Christmas on the Prairie Saturday, December 13th

Calling all bakers...



we are looking for cookies and small breads that we can sell at the cookie sale!

- +Make a couple dozen of your favorite Christmas cookie.
- +Please mark the type of cookie and if they have nuts in them.
- +Cookies can be dropped off in the downstairs kitchen.
- +We will take your cookies and make mixed boxes to sell at the event.



Christmas on the Prairie
Sat. Dec. 13, 2025
2:00pm - 6:00pm
Annunciation Church
14610 Will Cook Rd
Homer Glen, IL 60491

FREE
Indoor and outdoor family event

Pr. Tom Loya

- Homemade Christmas bake sale items
- Frontier era Christmas crafts for children
- Experience the beauty of a Byzantine Church
- Discover the real story of St. Nicholas on the prairie paths

Visit with St. Nicholas and get a ride on his horse drawn carriage
For more details visit the events page at byzantinecatholic.com

Only 20 days until
St. Nicholas Arrives!!

Consider making a donation to the Annunciation Charity Fund. This fund helps to directly support members of our own community in their time of need.