

Journeying to Pascha

Jesus continues today his work of healing and exorcism, and that is appropriate for this time of Lent, because Lent is a time for healing and exorcism. It is a time for us to heal the wounds of our souls – self-inflicted wounds due to our complacency and laziness and self-indulgence. It is time to get rid of those demons of our own sinful habits and anything that keeps us away from God and from living that abundant life that Christ came to give us.

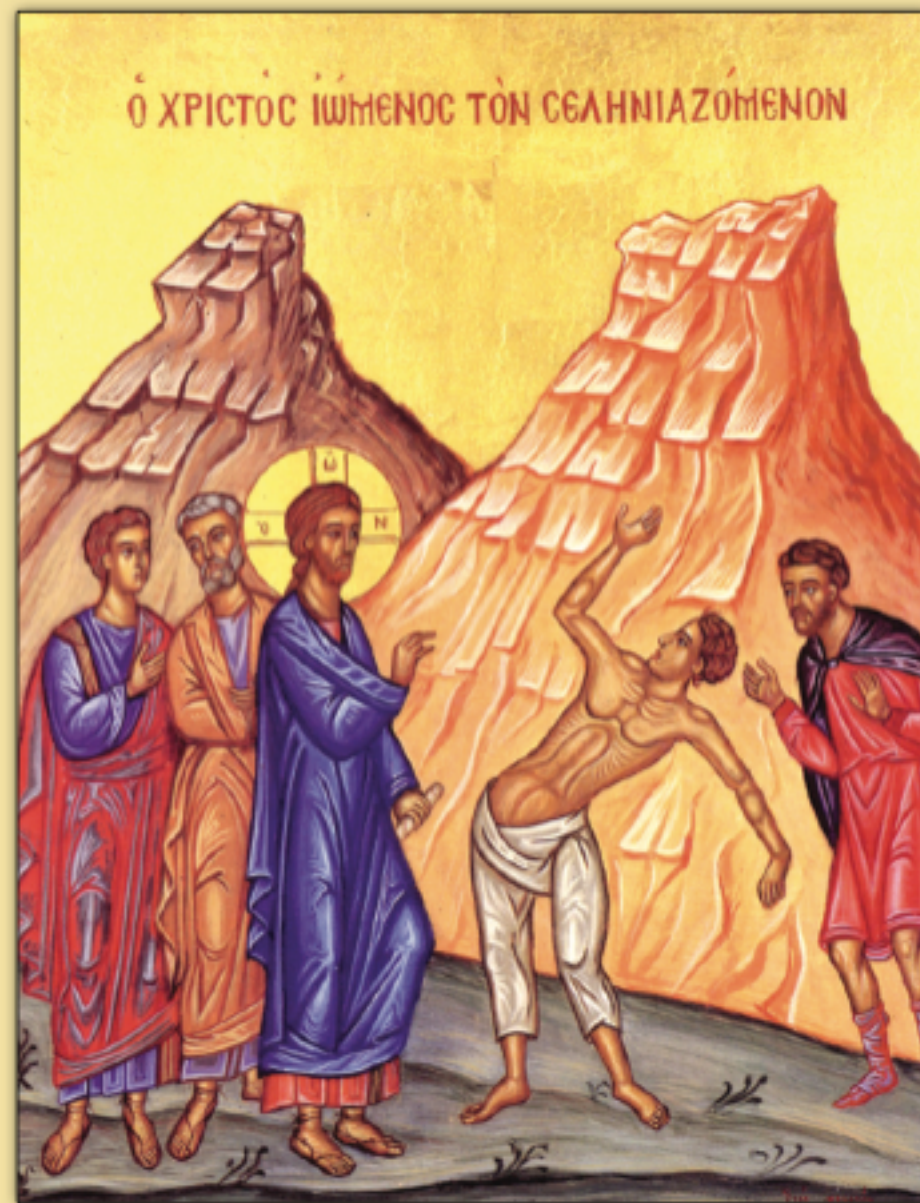
We start to make our way toward Jerusalem. At the end of today's Gospel already there is the prediction of the passion, the death and the resurrection of Christ, giving a little hint in the Gospel that the course of Lent is moving now towards Jerusalem. We have gone through several weeks now of spiritual preparations, Scripture texts, prayers and activities. Now our focus

is starting to turn towards Jerusalem. That will be made more explicit in next Sunday's Gospel, but we are already getting a hint of it now.

There are only three weeks now until Easter, two weeks until Palm Sunday, when we are really liturgically accompanying Christ into the mystery of His Passion.

So it is coming soon, and we have to start turning towards Jerusalem. We have to get focused, we have to get recollected, we have to really revive our Lenten prayer and fasting so that we can make the rest of this journey and be fruitful and overcome the demons and find healing for the wounds of our souls – and go with Christ to his Passion and, through the mystery of His Cross, come to that great, transfiguring, glorious celebration of His Resurrection.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN CLIMACUS



Icon of Healing the Boy with a Demon



Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

14610 S. Will-Cook Road Homer Glen, IL 60491

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Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA

Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

March 15, 2026 Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast - John Climacus Venerable Schedule of Services

Sunday	15	<u>4th Sunday of the Great Fast-John Climacus Venerable</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Wednesday	18	7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - +Mary Gaydos by Jim Forkal & family
Thursday	19	<u>Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete</u> 7:00 PM (See insert for explanation) <i>Confession will be available throughout the service</i>
Friday	20	7:00 PM Akathistos to the Mother of God-
Saturday	21	5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	22	<u>5th Sunday of the Great Fast-St. Mary of Egypt</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	Joel Super
James Forkal	Fran Zeimet	Katelyn Fuentes-wc	Baby Claire Chagnon

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.

Encouragement Card for Our Seminarians

During the Great Fast, join the entire Eparchy in supporting our seminarians - **Father Deacon Joseph Hnat, David Varga, James Hartung, and Patrick Kilroy** - as they continue their formation and discernment.

Use the QR code to visit <https://parma.org/seminarian-appreciation> to write a message of prayer, encouragement, or gratitude today!

If you feel moved, you may also speak to your parish priest about sending a modest donation or “pocket money” to help support their daily needs during formation. This is entirely optional but deeply appreciated.

Another option is to donate to the Eparchy’s Society of Blessed Hieromartyr Theodore Romzha which aims to inspire, support, and nurture vocation - <https://parma.org/investinvocations>.

All cards will be sent to the seminarians in time fo Pascha, reminding them that their Eparchy walks with them in faith and love.



The deadline to sign the online card is this Friday, March 20th

EPARCHY OF PARMA FOUNDATION'S
2025-2026
**STEWARDSHIP
APPEAL**



TIME. TALENT. TREASURE.
THIS YEAR'S APPEAL WILL RUN FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2025 TO MAY 31, 2026



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.



A Lenten journey into **Bright Sadness**

*The Great Canon of
St. Andrew of Crete*

**Thur. March 19, 2026
Begins at 7:00PM**

Annunciation Byzantine
Catholic Parish
14610 S Will Cook Rd
Homer Glen, IL 60491

In the profoundly moving Byzantine Catholic service of St. Andrew of Crete, Biblical accounts of sin and redemption are chanted in hauntingly beautiful melodies as we immerse ourselves into the *bright sadness* of repentance through the gesture of full body prostrations.

The service will continue until about 11:00PM but we invite you to experience any part of its duration. The Sacrament of Confession will be available throughout the service. If 'giving up candy' for Lent just does not seem like enough then make your Lent a real conversion.

For more information visit: www.byzantinecatholic.com
Visit us on Facebook: Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish
or Call: 708-645-0241

2026 Schedule for the Week of the Bridegroom

(also called Holy Week or Great Week)

Great and Holy Monday — March 30

Theme: Story of Joseph (Genesis 37) as a pre-figurement of Christ's suffering.

8:00am Bridegroom Matins

7:00pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Great and Holy Tuesday — March 31

Theme: Parable of the Ten Virgins (Mt 24:36-26:2) and our readiness for Judgment Day.

8:00am Bridegroom Matins

7:00pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Great and Holy Wednesday — April 1

Theme: The repentant woman who anointed Christ's feet is contrasted with the agreement by Judas to betray Christ. The anointing at the evening service is for the healing of our soul and body in preparation for the commemoration of the Mystical Supper the next day.

8:00am Bridegroom Matins

7:00pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Great and Holy Thursday — April 2

Theme: Four events: Jesus washes the feet of His disciples; the Institution of the Holy Eucharist; Christ's agony in the garden and the betrayal of Christ by Judas.

8:00am Bridegroom Matins

7:00pm Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil

Church remains open until 1:00am for the 7 churches visits - Tours of the church are provided by the teens



Great and Holy Friday — April 3

This is a day of Strict Fast

Theme: Christ's suffering and death on the Cross and His burial in a tomb.

9:00am Matins with reading of 12 passion Gospels

1:00pm Royal Hours

7:00pm Vespers with Procession of Burial Shroud

Confession available after Vespers.

Church remains open throughout the night for prayer.

Great and Holy Saturday — April 4

Theme: At the Jerusalem Matins we commemorate Christ's descent into Hades anticipating the moment when Christ will conquer Satan's power of death and rise out of Hades taking fallen humanity with Him. There is a baptismal theme to this service because throughout Church history this evening was the primary time for people to be baptized into Christ.

9:00am Jerusalem Matins with Procession of Shroud

7:00pm Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil

Resurrection Sunday (Pascha!) — April 5

Theme: "Christ comes forth from the tomb like a bridegroom from the bridal chamber and fills the women with joy!" -*Resurrection Matins*

9:00am Resurrection Matins with Procession

10:00am Divine Liturgy