

CHICAGO CHURCHES TOUR

Tuesday, March 24th

- 8:45AM - Depart from Annunciation
- 10:00AM - St Therese Chinese Catholic Church
- 11:00AM - Lunch at Manny's Delicatessen
- 12:30PM - Monastery of the Holy Cross
Prayer of Sext
- 1:30PM - St Barbara Catholic Church
- 3:00PM - Return to Annunciation

Tour Cost is \$35

(lunch will be on your own)

Transportation for this trip will be provided via the parish bus. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

The Annual Cleaning of the Pews

Join us as we prepare the church for Pascha

**Saturday
March 28th**

starting at
10:00AM



Pascha Bread Sale Returns!

We will once again be taking orders for our special Pascha Bread. All loaves of this sweet dense bread will be decorated and ready for pickup on Good Friday. We will only be making a limited number of loaves, so sign up early before they are all accounted for. See order form in the Narthex.

Cost: \$25 (limit 2 per household)

Feast of the Annunciation of the Mother of God

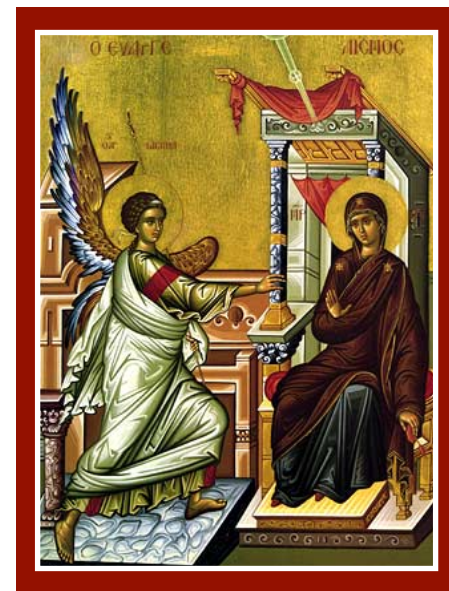
**Parish Feast Day
Tuesday, March 25th
Divine Liturgy - 7:00PM**

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."



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