

### *The Cross, Our Victory*

Have you seen the wonderful victory? Have you seen the splendid deeds of the Cross? ... Who can tell the Lord's mighty deeds? By death we were made immortal: these are the glorious deeds of the Cross.

Have you understood the victory? Have you grasped how it was wrought? Learn now, how this victory was gained without any sweat or toil of ours. No weapons of ours were stained with blood; our feet did not stand in the front line of battle; we suffered no wounds; witnessed no tumults; and yet we obtained the victory.

The battle was the Lord's, the crown is ours. Since then victory is ours, let us imitate the soldiers, and with joyful voices sing the songs of victory.

Let us praise the Lord and say, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?"

The Cross did all these wonderful things for us: the Cross is a war memorial erected against the demons, a sword against sin, the sword with which Christ slew the serpent.

The Cross is the Father's will, the glory of the Only-begotten, the Spirit's exultation, the beauty of the angels, the guardian of the Church. Paul glories in the Cross; it is the rampart of the saints, it is the light of the whole world.

*St. John Chrysostom*

## THIRD SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



*Icon of the Sunday of the Holy Cross*



## Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

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Pastor: Fr. Thomas J. Loya, STB, MA  
Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

### March 8, 2026 Third Sunday of the Great Fast - Veneration of the Holy Cross Schedule of Services

Sunday	8	<b>3rd Sunday of the Great Fast-Veneration of the Holy Cross</b> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Wednesday	11	<b>Mid-Lent</b> 7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Fr. Thomas J. Loya by Parishioners
Friday	13	<b>Vigil-4th All Souls Saturday</b> 7:00 PM Pre-Sanctified Liturgy with Panachida - For deceased members of our parish families
Saturday	14	5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	15	<b>4th Sunday of the Great Fast-John Climacus Venerable</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	Joel Super
James Forkal	Fran Zeimetz	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.

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




**TIME. TALENT. TREASURE.**  
THE 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.

# Annunciation Parish Visioning Luncheon

*Looking toward the future and setting a vision for the next 25 years of growth as a faith-filled community of true believers*

**Sunday, March 15th**



**Orland Chateau - 14500 LaGrange Rd, Orland Park, IL**  
 Use the signup sheet in the Narthex or call the parish office to register



**THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC  
 EPARCHY OF PARMA**

## 2026 Eparchial Assembly

Join us for a conversation of the Spirit—a time of walking together, listening together, and renewing our shared commitment to vibrant pastoral action and faithful stewardship across the Eparchy.

### Pre-Assembly

October 17-19

All clergy, monastics & faithful of the Eparchy are welcome to participate. Lodging and meals at participants' own expense.

### Assembly

October 20-22

By invitation only.

Further details are forthcoming.  
 Recommendations for additional subjects may be submitted to [bishop@parma.org](mailto:bishop@parma.org)

## Chocolate Cross Sale

The teens will again be selling Byzantine Chocolate Crosses for Pascha. The crosses will be available in Milk and Dark chocolate. Please see the sign up sheet in the narthex to place your order.

**Crosses will be available starting on Palm Sunday**



## Pascha Bread Sale Returns!

We will once again be taking orders for our special Pascha Bread. This bread recipe is slightly different from the bread we sold several years ago under the Pawchak family. 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: \$30** (limit 2 per household)



## Lunch and a Movie

Saturday, March 21 - Noon

This intense psychological thriller has a lot to say about questions of right and wrong, faith against reason, euthanasia and abortion, sin, freedom, and even the question of the existence of good and evil.

Join us for this special matinee viewing where we will unpack this ***gripping and educational film that is ideal for the lenten season.***

Lunch and movie will take place in the downstairs activity room. This is a great teen and young adult activity.

## 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 fo 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 Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross *Third Sunday of Great Lent*

On this the Third Sunday of the Great Fast, we observe the Veneration of the Precious and Life-giving Cross and for this reason: Inasmuch as in the forty days of fasting we in a way crucify ourselves and become bitter, despondent, and failing, the Life-giving Cross is presented to us for spiritual refreshment and assurance, for remembrance of our Lord's Passion and for comfort. Like those who are following a long and tedious path are tired, see a beautiful tree with many leaves, they would sit in its shade and rest for a while and then, as if rejuvenated, they will continue their journey. Likewise, today, in the time of fasting and difficult journey and effort, the Life-giving Cross was planted in its midst by the Holy Fathers of the Church to give rest and spiritual refreshment, to make us light and courageous for the remaining task.

Christ comforts us who are, as it were, in a desert until He will lead us up to the spiritual Jerusalem by His Resurrection. Just as the Precious Cross, which is also called the Tree of Life, was planted in the middle of Paradise, so our Holy Fathers planted the Cross in the middle of holy and Great Lent, as a sacred reminder of both Adam's bliss and how he was deprived of it. Remembering also that by partaking of this Tree of Life, the Precious and Life-giving Cross, we no longer die but are kept alive.

Jesus extends His invitation to us once again to "deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him." Our Church gives us this Third Sunday of Lent - Mid-point to Golgotha - to pause with Jesus, to refresh ourselves spiritually, to assess our Lenten journey and to continue with greater determination. But the initiative is still ours. There is no way into spring but that we endure the rigors of winter. There is no way we can arrive to Easter Sunday if we do not live the agonies of all our Good Fridays. There is no way we can achieve eternal life with God unless we deny ourselves utterly and totally in Christ. This we do when we endure and sustain our own personal crosses and follow Him.

