

Knowledge of the True God Nurtures Us to Eternal Life

Are we saying that knowledge is eternal life? Are we saying that to know the one true and living God will suffice to give us complete security for the future without need of anything else? Then how is "faith apart from works dead?" When we speak of faith, we mean the true knowledge of God and nothing else, since knowledge comes by faith. The prophet Isaiah tells us this: "If you do not believe, neither shall you understand." But he is not talking about a knowledge that consists in barren speculations, which is entirely worthless. For one of the holy disciples said, "You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder." What then shall we say to this? How is it that Christ speaks the truth when He says that eternal life is the knowledge of God the Father, the one true God, and with Him of the Son? I think, indeed, we must answer that the saying of the Savior is completely true. For this knowledge is life, laboring as it were in birth of the whole meaning of the mystery and

granting to us participation in the mystery of the Eucharist, whereby we are joined to the living and life-giving Word. And for this reason, I think, Paul says that the Gentiles are made fellow members of the body and fellow partakers of Christ, inasmuch as they partake in His Blessed Body and Blood. And our members may in this sense be conceived of as being members of Christ. This knowledge, then, which also brings to us the Eucharist by the Spirit, is life. For it dwells in our hearts, reshaping those who receive it into son-ship with Him and molding them into incorruption and piety toward God through life, according to the Gospel. Our Lord Jesus Christ, then, knowing that the knowledge of the one true God brings to us and promotes our union with the blessings of which we have spoken, says that it is eternal life. It is the mother and nurse of eternal life, being in its power and nature pregnant with those things that cause life and lead to life.

St. Cyril of Alexandria

SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS OF THE FIRST COUNCIL



Icon of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea



Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Parish

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

Deacon: J. Timothy Tkach

May 17, 2026

Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council Schedule of Services

Sunday	17	<u>Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council</u> 9:00 AM Matins 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy - Health & Salvation of Parishioners
Thursday	21	7:00 PM Divine Liturgy - +George & +Irene Foley by Martha I. Loya
Friday	22	<u>Vigil-5th All Souls Saturday</u> 7:00 PM Divine Liturgy with Panachida - For deceased members of our parish families
Saturday	23	5:00 PM Vespers
Sunday	24	<u>Pentecost Sunday</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
Gary Dorencz
James Forkal

Mary Ann Baran
Michele Lewis
Fran Zeimetz

Mary Ann Horne
Kim Hughes
Carrie Thompson

Francis Hughes
Joel Super
Bonnie Hughes-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.



**Join the Fool's Hope Farm
CSA at Annunciation Parish!**

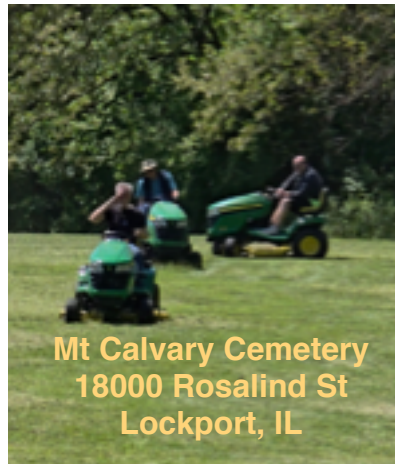
Get a weekly share of a variety
of garden vegetables, all grown
by a fellow parishioner, Dan
Popek.



If you are interested, text me at 779-279-9895 or email at
danielpopek12@gmail.com.

This coming Saturday, the Church honors all of the
people who came before us with the commoration of the
5th All Souls Saturday. One way we can pay homage to
the people who laid the way for Annunciation is to
beautify their final resting place at our parish cemetery.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who mowed
and spruced up the Mt Calvary Cemetery last weekend.
Thank you to Jack Pawchak, Bill Gulas, Maria Gulas,
John Senko, Jim Baran, and Vince Banas for a job well
done. If you have time to volunteer in the future, let
Jack Pawchak know of your interest. Your help would
be greatly appreciated.



**Mt Calvary Cemetery
18000 Rosalind St
Lockport, IL**



Help us reach our parish goal by making
a pledge today. The bishop is asking for
each household to make a pledge of
\$175 in hopes to increase the number of
participants for this appeal. Please see
the inside spread to learn more about
how this money is used throughout the
Eparchy and the importance of this
appeal. With your help and support,
we can reach our goal.

*"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey
My voice and keep My covenant, you
shall be My treasured possession."
-Exodus 19:5*

True stewardship flows from obedience
to God's call. When we listen and
respond, our lives bear fruit in
abundance. Obedience transforms
giving into worship.

Parish Goal - \$21,000
Current Total Pledged
\$15,399

Appeal Ends on May 31st
There is still time to make your
donation count!

Eternal Memory Vichnaya Pamyat

This week we lay to rest, long-time parishioner, James Forkal.
Visitation will be held on Thursday, May 21st at Tezak's Funeral Home
in Joliet from 3PM - 8PM with a Parastas Service at 7PM. A Rite of
Christian Burial will be held on Friday, May 22nd at 10AM. **Due to the
Parastas, Divine Liturgy on Thursday will be cancelled.**

Please keep James and the Forkal family in thoughts and prayers
during this time.

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

Active & Retired Clergy

- \$113,000 in grants to pay for the healthcare for retired clergy
- \$20,000 grant to support the Clergy Pension fund
- \$26,000 in emergency aid for clergy and their families during hardship

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



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

“The Lord will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to bless all the work of your hands.”

-Deuteronomy 28:12

When we live as good stewards, God blesses our work with fruitfulness and peace. Every generous act becomes a seed of grace. A life lived for God always multiplies blessings.

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Annual Appeal, and a gentle reminder for those who appreciate one.

Please consider making a donation of any amount to this appeal. it will be greatly appreciated!



Scan the QR Code
and make your gift today!



Visit Our Website
to give electronically at
parma.org/stewardship-appeal



Mail to
The Byzantine Catholic
Eparchy of Parma Foundation
5000 Rockside Road, #310
Independence, Ohio 44131

If you are interested in attending this year's Family Camp, please register this week. This is a great way to meet other wonderful families from around the Eparchy who hold many similar values. There are many activities for parents and children, it is great way to spend the last days of summer!



THE EPARCHY OF PARMA'S ANNUAL

FAMILY LITURGY & LIFE CAMP

Join families from across the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma for a week of faith-focused, family-friendly fun! This year's camp programming will focus on the four "ships" described in Bishop Robert's teaching, Christ God our Hope: Discipleship, Worship, Fellowship, and Stewardship.

\$250 PER ADULT (18+)
\$60 PER CHILD (4-17)

FREE for children ages 3 & under
Registration fees include the cost of basic lodging & all meals.

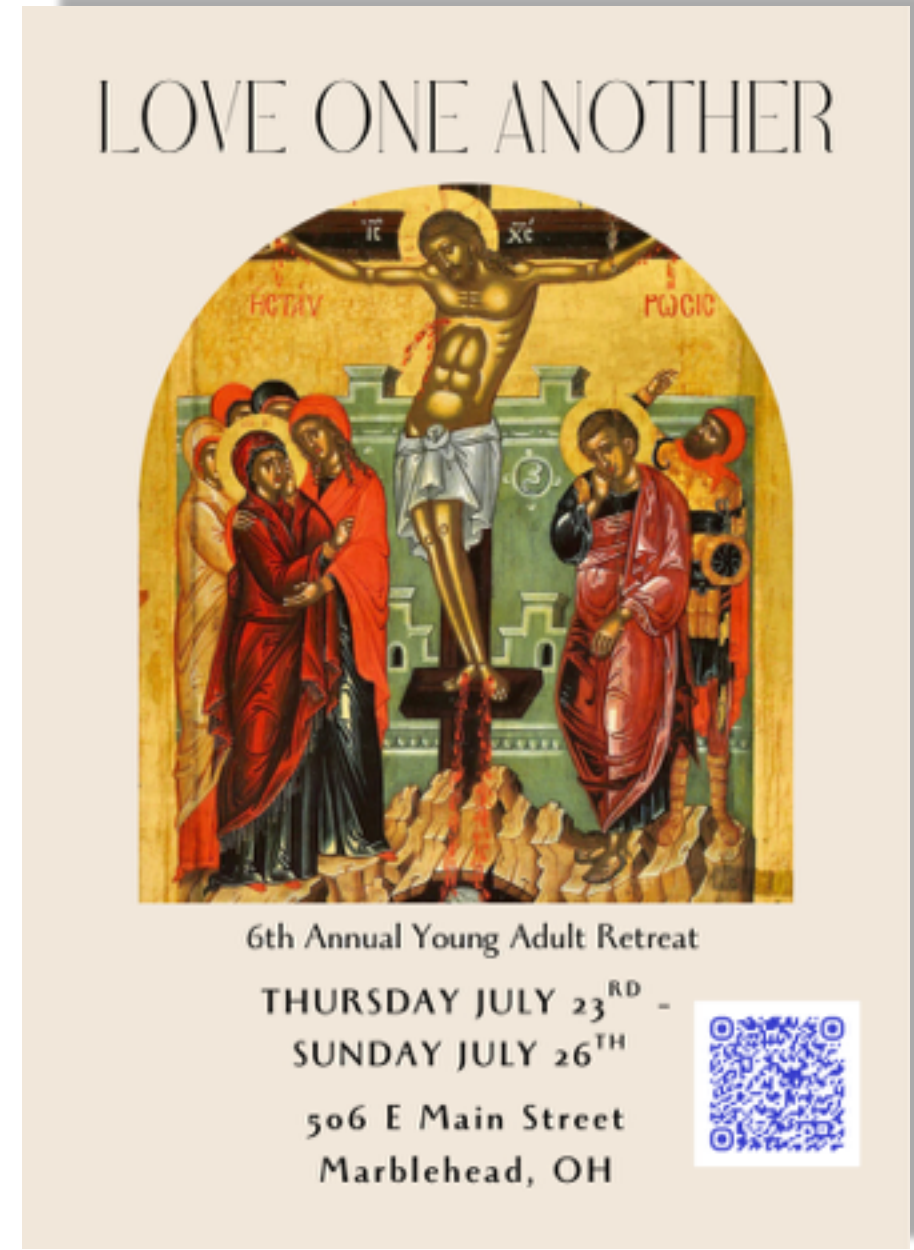
ACTIVITIES	EVENT DATE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Daily Prayer• Age-Specific Programming• Joyful Fellowship• Outdoor Games• Campfire	AUGUST 9-14, 2026 CEDAR LAKE MINISTRIES CEDAR LAKE, IN



<https://parma.org/family-camp>

if you are interested in attending this year's young adult retreat, please see Andrew Wood for more details and to coordinate transportation to Marblehead. Annunciation will cover the registration fees for any active parishioner.

Please note: The QR code below has been updated and is now working for registrations.



LOVE ONE ANOTHER



6th Annual Young Adult Retreat
THURSDAY JULY 23RD -
SUNDAY JULY 26TH
506 E Main Street
Marblehead, OH

