

Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Christian Church

A Parish of the Diocese of New England of the Orthodox Church in America

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Schedule of Services

- 3/25 Sunday— 5th Sunday of Great Lent**
Commemoration of St. Mary of Egypt
Feast of the Annunciation
 9:15 AM – Festal Divine Liturgy
 4:00 PM – Holy Unction Service,
 Hosted by Three Saints Church,
 Ansonia, CT
- 3/26 Monday**
Leave-taking of the
Feast of the Annunciation
 9:15 AM – Akathist to the Theotokos
- 3/28 Wednesday**
 6:15 PM – Divine Liturgy of the Pre-sanctified
 Gifts, followed by a Lenten "Bring-and-Share"
 Supper
-
- 3/29 Thursday**
In the Waterbury Parish!
 6:15 PM – Lenten Vespers
 --Fr. John H., presiding
-
- 3/30 Friday**
 7:00 PM – Vespers marking the end of Great
 Lent, followed by Choir Rehearsal
- 3/31 Saturday**
Lazarus Saturday
 9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
 6:00 PM – Vigil of Palm Sunday
- 4/1 Sunday**
Palm Sunday
Entrance into Jerusalem
 9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
 4:00 PM – Bridegroom Matins,
 Hosted by All Saints Church,
 Hartford, CT
- 4/2 Monday**
Great and Holy Monday
 7:00 PM – Bridegroom Matins
- 4/3 Tuesday**
Great and Holy Tuesday
 7:00 PM – Bridegroom Matins

Sunday, March 25, 2018

Feast of the Annunciation
 The 5th Sunday in Great Lent – Tone 1
 Commemoration of Saint Mary of Egypt

The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos
 and Ever-Virgin Mary
Commemorated each year on March 25

The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the earliest Christian feasts, and was already being celebrated in the fourth century. There is a painting of the Annunciation in the catacomb of Priscilla in Rome dating from the second century. The Council of Toledo in 656 mentions the Feast, and the Council in Trullo in 692 says that the Annunciation was celebrated during Great Lent.

The Greek and Slavonic names for the Feast may be translated as "good tidings." This, of course, refers to the Incarnation of the Son of God and the salvation He brings. The background of the Annunciation is found in the Gospel of St Luke (1:26-38). The troparion [the chief festal hymn] describes this as the "beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the eternal mystery," for on this day the Son of God became the Son of Man.

There are two main components to the Annunciation: the message itself, and the response of the Virgin. The message fulfills God's promise to send a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15): "I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed; he shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for his heel." The Fathers of the Church understand "her seed" to refer to Christ. The prophets hinted at His coming, which they saw dimly, but the Archangel Gabriel now proclaims that the promise is about to be fulfilled.

We see this echoed in the Liturgy of St Basil, as well: "When man disobeyed Thee, the only true God who had created him, and was deceived by the guile of the serpent, becoming subject to death by his own transgressions, Thou, O God, in Thy righteous judgment, didst send him forth from Paradise into this world, returning him to the earth from which he was taken, yet providing for him the salvation of regeneration in Thy Christ Himself."

The Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth in Galilee. There he spoke to the undefiled Virgin who was betrothed to St Joseph: "Hail, thou who art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

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PARISH PRAYER LIST

Please pray for all victims of disaster, difficulty and senseless violence throughout the world.

+ THOSE WHO HAVE DEPARTED THIS LIFE: *Memory Eternal!*

Newly Departed

Melanie (Zapotocky) Loose—Fr. John's great-aunt	d. 3/22/18
Julia Speraw—parishioner in the Waterbury Parish	d. 3/7/18
Michael ("Mickey")—a friend of Marilou Petroff	d. 2/18/18
Matushka Barbara Kucynda	d. 2/16/18
Mildred Stack—parishioner in Waterbury Parish	d. 2/16/18

Anniversaries of Repose – Memory Eternal!

Joanna Cefaratti	3/25/2012
Maria Hubchik	3/26/1946
Nicholas Maichak	3/26/1961
Martha Grabchuk	3/26/1965
Arlene Osuch	3/27/2011
Theodore Kozar	3/28/1936
Michael Kandybaik	3/28/1961
Paraskeva Glowa	3/30/1932
Lou Plasko	3/30/1961
Anna Shewchuk	3/30/1982

THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S MERCY AND HELP

Persons captive and suffering for the Faith

Metropolitan Paul and Archbishop John—hostages in Syria

Those who are sick and suffering

Fyodor (Frank) Guba—increasing sufferings from Multiple Sclerosis (MS)
Dolores Twombly—permanent colon malfunction following colon cancer treatment
Karen—Mary Fomenko's niece; unwell and in need of prayers
child Drew—grandson of friends of the Nimcheks; ongoing treatment for eye cancer
child Matthew—son of friends of M. Osuch; genetic disorder with medical complications
child Ava—young daughter of friends of Melanie Osuch; suffering seizures
Alexander—acquaintance of M. Osuch; suffering and in need of God's mercy and help
Michele—very close friend of M. Osuch; troubled and in need of God's mercy and help
Anna Osuch—suffering in ill health
Jadwiga ["Yahd-vee-gah"]—mother of an acquaintance of E. Watras; cancer
Steven Belonick—Cynthia Belonick's father; unwell
Archpriest Steven Belonick—Cynthia Belonick's brother; chronic illness
Phyllis George—Donna Kriniske's cousin; battling breast cancer
Alex—John Dubnansky's brother, suffering permanent effects of stroke

Darlyne—facing health challenges; daughter of Bob and Vera Martin
Gregory Shesko—long-time laborer in the Diocese of New England; lung cancer
child Asa—great-grandson of friend of E. Watras; child with developmental challenges
Barbara—Arlene Osuch's sister; epilepsy with complications
William "Bill" Markovich—recently unwell
Samantha—extremely ill child for whom we have been asked to pray
Eugene—Tania Bouteneff's uncle; battling cancer
Donna—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease
Dayrl—Ann Sovyrda's niece; kidney disease
JoAnn—acquaintance of Jeanne Moore; ovarian cancer
MaryEllen—Louine King's daughter-in-law; declining due to Huntington's Disease
Zachary—nephew of acquaintances of Nimcheks; recent double lung transplant
Virginia ("Gina")—Elena Watras' sister; unwell and in need of prayers
Dawn—friend of Joan Markovich; Stage Four lung cancer
Vera Bouteneff—Tania Bouteneff's mother; presently unwell
Galina—Svetlana Shorey's sister-in-law; suffering with cancer
Joan Spencer—has asked for our prayers
Bachloan—friend of Jeanne Moore; recent open heart surgery
Jerry Grasso—Jayne Grasso's husband; unwell and in need of prayers
Michael—nephew of Joan Markovich; in need of prayerful support
Michael Liverman—Waterbury Parish member; recently unwell
Steve Panasuk—our fellow parishioner; recently very unwell—hospitalized

Shut-ins and those resident in long-term Care Facilities

Eva Kopcha—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol
Sonya Petroff—at Sheriden Woods in Bristol
Irene Kiehart—Jayne Grasso's mother; now resident in Connecticut
Mary Fomenko

Expectant Mothers and the Children to be born of them

Abigail and the twins she is carrying—M. and K. Orelup's daughter and grandchildren
Matushka Brenda (Barbara) and the child to be born of her

Those from among us serving in the Armed Forces

Joel Orelup—U.S. Navy, hospital corpsman ("medic") serving with the Marines
Joseph Bellmay—a Terryville neighbor; U.S. Marine Corps

Travelers, those soon to be traveling, and those away from us

Douglas Henrick—O. Petroff's great-grandson; in China until April 3, 2018
(Douglas is coming to the end of his two-year sojourn in China)
Peter and Chezelle Serev
John "Jack" Kriniske

Birthdays

Vera Wegh 3/28

This article, "Feast of the Annunciation," is continued here from page one of this bulletin

In contrast to Eve, who was readily deceived by the serpent, the Virgin did not immediately accept the Angel's message. In her humility, she did not think she was deserving of such words, but was actually troubled by them. The fact that she asked for an explanation reveals her sobriety and prudence. She did not disbelieve the words of the angel, but could not understand how they would be fulfilled, for they spoke of something which was beyond nature.

"Then said Mary unto the angel, 'How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?'" (Luke 1:34).

"And the angel answered and said unto her, 'The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee; therefore also that which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.' And Mary said, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.' And the angel departed from her" (Luke 1: 35-38)."

In his Sermon 23 on the day of the Annunciation, St Philaret of Moscow boldly stated that "the word of the creature brought the Creator down into the world." He explains that salvation is not merely an act of God's will, but also involves the Virgin's free will. She could have refused, but she accepted God's will and chose to cooperate without complaint or further questions.

The icon of the Feast shows the Archangel with a staff in his left hand, indicating his role as a messenger. Sometimes one wing is upraised, as if to show his swift descent from heaven. His right hand is stretched toward the holy Virgin as he delivers his message. The Virgin is depicted standing or sitting, usually holding yarn in her left hand. Sometimes she is shown holding a scroll. Her right hand may be raised to indicate her surprise at the message she is hearing. Her head is bowed, showing her consent and obedience. The descent of the Holy Spirit upon her is depicted by a ray of light issuing from a small sphere at the top of the icon, which symbolizes heaven. In a famous icon from Sinai, a white dove is shown in the ray of light.

The Annunciation falls during Lent, but it is always celebrated with great joy. The Liturgy of St Basil or St John Chrysostom is served, even on the weekdays of Lent. It is one of the two days of Great Lent on which the fast is relaxed and fish is permitted (Palm Sunday is the other).

This article comes to us from the official website of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA), which is www.oca.org

News and Notes

Congratulations, Olena! Congratulations, prayerful best wishes, and blessings are extended to the child of God, Olena Julia, who was baptized on Saturday morning, March 24. Congratulations, prayerful best wishes, and blessings are extended, also, to her Godparents, Anna and Tomasz, and her parents, Greg and Olga, and her brother, Simon. God grant you all many, many, blessed years!

CT Deanery Lenten Mission Services: During Great Lent this year we are again having Sunday afternoon/evening Lenten Mission services here in the Connecticut Deanery of the Diocese of New England. The remaining schedule of services is:

- Sunday, March 25, the Fifth Sunday of Great Lent: Unction Service, Three Saints Orthodox Church, Ansonia, CT, at 4:00 PM
- Sunday, April 1, Palm Sunday: Bridegroom Matins, All Saints Church, Hartford, CT, at 4:00 PM.

Help with Completing Tax Returns: The United Way of West Central CT, serving Bristol, Burlington, Plainville, and Plymouth, is once again offering free tax preparation through their Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). In order to qualify, an individual's (or family's) household income must be less than \$54,000.00. Appointments are required, and may be set up by telephoning (860) 356-2000. Also, the United Way has partnered with H&R Block to bring MyFreeTaxes to households with incomes of less than \$66,000.00. MyFreeTaxes (www.myfreetaxes.com) is a secure and free way to file state and federal taxes online.

Weather Related Cancellations: If we need to cancel parish services and/or other events due to bad weather, those announcements will appear on NBC Connecticut Television and on the NBC Connecticut website. We will also place a notice on our Parish website. Also, you can always call the Parish House (860-582-3631) for further information.

Pertaining to Pascha

- **Volunteers Required:** We need a volunteer (or volunteers) to come to the Church early in Holy Week (Monday or Tuesday) to iron all the black and white covers for use in the Church later in the week for Holy Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Holy Pascha.
- **Paschal Appeals:** Please give generously to our Parish's General Paschal Appeal and to the Easter (Paschal) Flower Offering. We always have lovely flowers in the Church for Pascha and our contributions help cover the cost of these beautiful additions to our Paschal worship. Your support of these two appeals is deeply appreciated.
- **Blessing of Paschal Baskets:** The Blessing of Paschal Baskets will take place at the conclusion of the Paschal Midnight Services in the Church Basement Social Hall, after which time the Parish Paschal "Agape" Meal will take place in the same location.
- **Paschal Agape Meal:** The Parish Paschal "Agape" Meal, which will happen after the Paschal Midnight Divine Liturgy, will take place in the Church Basement Social Hall, immediately following the Blessing of the Paschal Baskets. We will not have a general food table, but will be eating from and sharing the contents of our family Paschal Baskets, while enjoying each other's company. If you are planning to stay for this meal, please bring everything you need with you—your own plates, cups and cutlery, your own beverages and condiments, etc. (P.S. The word "agape," pronounced "ah-GAH-pay," means "love" in the Greek language and is the traditional word used to describe this Paschal meal.)
- **Thomas Sunday Blessing of Graves:** On Sunday, April 15, weather and ground conditions permitting, we will celebrate the Sunday after Pascha, Thomas Sunday. As is the parish's custom for Thomas Sunday, we will bless the graves in the parish cemetery that day beginning at 12:15 PM.

Readings from Holy Scripture

Scripture Readings for the Feast of the Annunciation, which falls each year on March 25, nine months before Christmas

The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (Heb. 2:11-18) (Feast of Annunciation)

Brothers and Sisters: For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim thy name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

The Reading from the Gospel according to Saint Luke (Luke 1:24-38) (Feast of Annunciation)

At that time Elizabeth, the wife of Zachariah, conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have known no man?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

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Holy Week Services in our Parish

April 2 Great and Holy Monday	April 3 Great and Holy Tuesday	April 4 Great and Holy Wednesday	April 5 Great and Holy Thursday	April 6 Great and Holy Friday	April 7 Great and Holy Saturday	April 8 Holy Pascha, The Feast of Feasts
			<i>10:00 AM Vespers and Divine Liturgy, Commemoration of the Last Supper</i>	<i>3:00 PM Vespers with Rite of Entombment</i>	<i>10:00 AM Vespers and Divine Liturgy</i>	START TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED <i>The Vespers of Pascha</i>
<i>7:00 PM Bridegroom Matins</i>	<i>7:00 PM Bridegroom Matins</i>	<i>7:00 PM Matins of Holy Thursday</i>	<i>7:00 PM Matins with 12 Gospels</i>	<i>7:00 PM Matins with Procession</i>	<i>11:30 PM Nocturns followed by the Matins and Divine Liturgy of Pascha</i>	