

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church
Celebrating 125 years witnessing to the Apostolic Faith

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***Holy Assumption Orthodox Church is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America,
Diocese of the Midwest***

MARCH 22, 2026

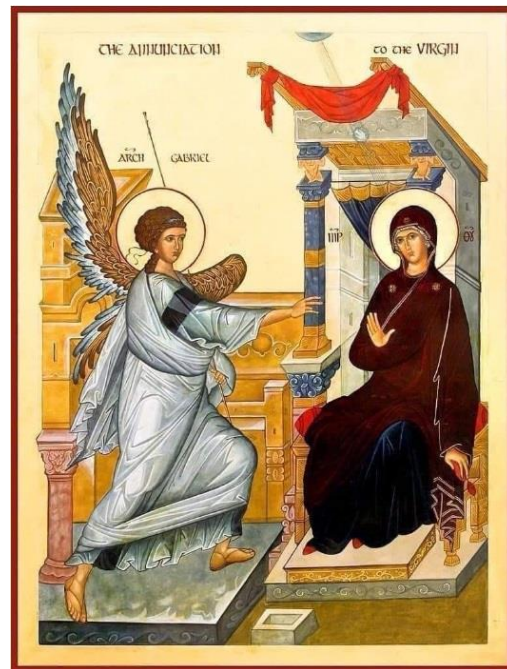
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT LENT
*ST. JOHN CLIMACUS***

EPISTLE: Hebrews 6:13-20

Bretheren: When God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself, saying, "Surely blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply you." And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men indeed swear by the greater, and an oath for confirmation is for them an end of all dispute. Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil, where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

EPISTLE: Ephesians 5:9-19

Brethren: The fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth, finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose



**Annunciation
Feast Day - March 25th**

them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light. Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

GOSPEL: Mk 9:17-31

At that time, there came to Jesus a certain man, kneeling down to Him, and saying, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So, I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So, He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So, He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting." Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day."

GOSPEL: Mt 4:25-5:12

At that time a great multitude followed Jesus – from Galilee, and from Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea, and beyond the Jordan. And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him. Then He opened His mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My

sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

MON. Mar 23	Martyr Nikon and 199 disciples with him; Gen 13:12-18, Prov 14:27-15:4
TUE. Mar 24	Venerable Zachariah the Recluse; Gen 15:1-15, Prov 15:7-19
WED. Mar 25	THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS Heb 2:11-18, Lk 1:24-38
9:10 AM	HOURS
9:30 AM	VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM
THU. Mar 26	Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel; Gen 18:20-33, Prov 16:17-17:17
FRI. Mar 27	Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica; Gen 22:1-18, Prov 17:17-18:5
6:00 PM	AKATHIST HYMN FOR REPENTANCE, Followed by Book Club
SAT. Mar 28	5th Saturday of Great Lent: of the Akathist to the Theotokos Heb 9:24-28, Mk. 8:27-31
9:10 AM	HOURS
9:30 AM	DIVINE LITURGY
4:00 PM	VESPERS
SUN. Mar 29	5th SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT – Tone 1, Mary of Egypt
9:10 AM	HOURS
9:30 AM	DIVINE LITURGY Followed by Coffee hour



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Tina Rindfleisch & Tony Monastra, 524 Woodshire Ln., Apt. E11, Naples, FL 34105; **Greg Twarek**, 117 Lucien Drive, Marblehead, OH 43440 **Patti Owens**, 311 Woodbridge Road Vermilion, OH 44089; **Irene Vangeloff**, 3580 Shaw Ave., Apt. 305, Cincinnati, OH 45208 Tel.: (513) 376-9693

PRAYER LIST

Parishioners & Family: Greg Twarek / Amber Twarek / Richard Williams / Christine Twarek / Tony Monastra / Alvin Foland / Delaine Ward (Ron Royhab's sister) / Rachel and her newborn baby / Danielle and her unborn baby / Nikki and her unborn baby / Kristen Cassell / Laura DeKemper / Tom Hileman / Cliff & Kathy Ruggles / Sandra / Renee Haynal / Sharon Shaheen (Patti Owen's sister) / Heidi Golob / Ron & Bobbie Royhab / Rodney Clevenger / Jennifer Heffernan / Pam / Jim Twarek / Ed Garrity / Patti Owens / Barbara Wroblewski / Michal Tomáš / Helena Tomášová / Ruth Sheller / Carol / David Martin / Fred Soski / Irene Vangeloff / Sonja Rose / James Bargdill / Carole Conaway / Gary Conaway / Sharon Dietrich / Michael Glovinsky / Shirley Gresh / Betty Kovach / Child Stella Miller / William Pipenur / Helen Jean Rofkar / George Royhab / Marianne Royhab / Kathy Jacob / the child Bodhi Cassell / Gleice, Sophie & Chloe / Carol / Nora.

Other Requests: Maureen / Bob Stephenson / Jim Rinaldo / Roy / Greg / Patty Wandover / Russ M. / Suzeann / Laura Engler / Robin (Niece of Kathy Ruggles) / Catechumen Sessely / Catechumen Daniel

/ Catechumen Adam / Catechumen Joshua / Catechumen Stephanie / Catechumen Max / Catechumen Michael / Catechumen Sharon / Steve Rohweder / Nicole Williams / John Couture / Ann Turinsky / Marcia / Catechumen Blake Shoemaker / Linkoln Paull / Matushka Melania / Sharyn Osborne / Amy / Bill Byrnes / Susanne / Charles Schlett / Kathy Debevits / Anthony / Archpriest Ján Čizmár / Archpriest David Lis / Archpriest Emilian & Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan / Donald Gresh / Mark Ludvik / Robert Piznar / William / Rick Rowe / Chris.

Military: Craig Cassell / Jake Ellithorpe / Jordon Fulton / Justin Issler / Tikhon / Nicholas / & All Military



MARCH REPOSED

Michael Elchisko (1909) No date provided; Helen Millie (1910) No date provided; George Danchisen (1912) No date provided; **1-** George Danchisen (2018); **3-** Anna Stoyka (2018); **4-** Andrew Mazur (2001); **4-** Maria Pitts (2025); **6-** Frank Guzy (2002); **6-** Robert Haynal (2022); **6** – Teresa M. Alber (2015); **8-** Mat. Sonya Tutko (2021); **11-** Ella Mazur (1918); **13-** Richard Michael Benya (1983); **17-** Frank Holodnak (1961); **23-** Eva Pondillo (2001); **23-** Ella Mazurik (1985); **23-** Francis Mitchell (2008); **23-** Barbara Ann Wasylenko (2017); **25** – Anna Kobylar (2008); **29-** Todd Pollack (2019); **29-** Carolyn Woodward (2000); **30-** John Rofkar (2019)



VIGILS FOR March 15

Susan Guzy 1 For health of Gary, Russ & Heidi

Laura Kovach 3 For health and/or healing of Heidi G., Lindsay & Janet, Jerry Z., Patti O., Deb F., Tony M., Russ M, Burt K., Bobbie & Ron R., Peggy S., Brenda T., Betty K., Margaret M., Mark M., Dana M., Bodi C.

In loving memory of Russ
Safe travels for family

Sandy Martin 2 In loving memory of dear friend Penny, Special Intentions

Roddie & David Mazurik 2 Special Intentions

Natalie Twarek 10 For the health and recovery of Roddie's parents Rodney and Carol, For the health and recovery of Bob Stephenson, For the health of Nikki and unborn baby, Health and recovery of Greg, Amber, Tina and Dina , For the health of Fr Peter & Matushka Michelle, For the health of Matushka Melania, For the health and recovery of Richard, Patty, Cathy, Patti, Laura, Kathy & Cliff, Irene, Ron & Bobbie, Rodney, Betty, Carol, Kayla, Heidi, Wayne, Peggy, Marcia, Health and healing for Father's parents Michal & Helena and Matushka's mom Barbara, and Walter, For the health of Mimi ,Elaine, Christine, Jen, Tony, Father David, Carole, Gary, Sharon, Sonya, Margi & Joe, MaryAnn & Bob, Bodhi, Stella, Jake, Pat, Special Intentions



MARCH CANDLE SPONSORS

Altar Candles: Fr. Peter and Mat. Michelle, For Health and God's Blessings for Barbara Wroblewski, and Michal & Helena Tomáš (\$50); **Chandelier:** Ryan, Natalia & Sebastian, 1 year Anniversary of William Stamp passing (\$50); **Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** Jean Hileman, In memory of infant Henry Dunlap (\$25); **Candles at the Cross:** Laura Kovach, Birthday blessings to Greg and in memory of Russ (\$20); **Candles at St. Tikhon Icon:** Available (\$20)



READERS LIST

Sunday Mar 22 – Tim
Sunday Mar 29 – Joe



ATTENDANCE

03/14 Vespers, **9** attending; **03/15** Divine Liturgy, **28** attending (9 guests); **03/18** Presanctified Liturgy, **16** attending (1 guest); **03/20** Akathist to the Holy Cross **12** attending; **03/21** Divine Liturgy, **9** attending



MARCH BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

23 – Wrenley Paull (3); **27** – Josh & Danielle Paull Anniversary; **29** – Donna Schoonmaker; **30** – Bobbie Royhab; **30** – Fred Cassell; **31** – Greg Mazur



CHARITY OF THE MONTH

“Danbury Food Pantry” is the charity we donate to for the month of March



SUNDAY OFFERING

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Tithe	\$1,477.00
Donations	\$ 70.00
Candles	\$ 69.00
Vigils	\$ 125.00
Holy Day Donation	\$ 150.00
Chandelier	\$ 50.00
Flowers Donations	\$ 145.00
Danbury Food Pantry (Mar)	\$ 80.00
Candles at the Cross	\$ 25.00
Total:	\$2,191.00

May the Lord reward you for your financial and spiritual support!

UP-COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH – MARK YOUR CALENDAR



- Mar 21st** Memorial Saturday (*Saturday*)
- Apr 5th** Palm Sunday (*Sunday*)
- Apr 12th** HOLY PASCHA (*Sunday*)
- Apr 25th** Visit from St. Tikhon Seminary (*Saturday*)



CLEANING SCHEDULE

- Mar 23, Stephanie
- Mar 30, Tim
- Apr 6, Greg
- Apr 13, Roddie & David



COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR LIST

- Mar 22 – Danielle & Josh (Wren’s 3rd Birthday)
- Mar 29 – Available
- Apr 5 - Available
- Apr 12 - Holy Pascha

Please sign up to host coffee hour. Signup sheet is located in the Social Hall



FLOWERS DONATIONS - THANK YOU

We would like to express our sincere thank you to the following parishioners for their generous donations for the flowers for the Holy Cross and the feast of the Annunciation:

- 1. Holy Cross:** Jean Hileman For the cross, for the health of Tom Hileman
- 2. Annunciation:** Jean Hileman in memory of Elaine Hileman; Sue Guzy in memory of Guzy, Felenchak, Szoldra, Gulla families, for health of Gary; Roddie & David Mazurik Special intentions; Natalie Twarek Special intentions. *May our Lord and God reward them abundantly for their care and generosity!*



FLOWERS DONATIONS FOR PASCHA

We would like to offer you an opportunity to sponsor the lilies and other flowers which will beautify our church for the Paschal Season. We also kindly ask for your prayerful consideration to sponsor liturgical wine, incense, and charcoal that we use during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The forms for sponsoring are located in the vestibule of the church. Thank you in advance for your generosity and care!



FUNERAL PREARRANGING WORKSHOP

Neidecker, Crosser & Priesman Funeral Home is inviting you to their Funeral Prearranging Workshop which will take place on Thursday, April 24th at 6:00 PM at the Catawba Island Club, 4235 E. Beach Club Road, Port Clinton, OH 43452. You will learn the 4 Steps of Essential Planning. Please see the flyer on our bulletin board!



4th Sunday of Great Lent: St John Climacus (of the Ladder) Commemorated on March 22

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is dedicated to Saint John Klimakos, the author of The Ladder of Divine Ascent. In this book the Igoumen of Saint Katherine's Monastery on Mount Sinai bears witness to the great effort which is required for entry into God's Kingdom (Matthew 10:12). The spiritual struggle of the Christian life is difficult since it is "not against flesh and blood, but against ... the rulers of the present darkness ... the hosts of wickedness in heavenly places ..." (Ephesians 6:12). Saint John encourages the faithful in their efforts for, as the Lord has said, only "he who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13).

Saint John was born around the year 525, the son of devout and wealthy parents. He received a very good education, but at the age of sixteen, he forsook the world and went to Mount Sinai, subjecting himself to the spiritual guidance of Elder Martyrios. When he was nineteen years of age, his Elder reposed. Then Saint John entered the arena of hesychasm, visiting the monastic communities of Skété and Tabénnisē in Egypt. For another forty years, he lived in a cell at Thora in the Sinai Desert, which was a two hour (5 mile) walk from the Monastery of Saint Katherine.

Aflame with indescribable longing for God, he ate everything that was permitted by the monastic Rule, but only in very small quantities, and not unto satiety. By so doing, he overcame the vice of pride; and by eating just a little food, he humbled the stomach, which always wants more. He raised his body from death and paralysis by the remembrance of death, and he overcame the tyranny of anger with the sword of obedience.

Who can describe the fountain of his tears, which is now to be seen in very few individuals? He slept only as much as was necessary to prevent his mind from being distracted. Before going to sleep he

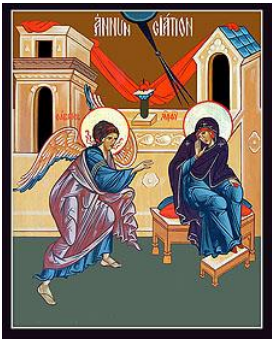
prayed a great deal, and he also wrote books. This was how he subdued despondency. His entire life was spent in unceasing prayer, and incomparable love for God.

After writing *The Ladder* at the request of Igoumen John of Raithu Monastery, and leading a God-pleasing life, Saint John fell asleep in the Lord when he was about seventy-five years old (ca. 603). He is also commemorated on March 30.

The inscription on his icon is from Step 7:2. It reads: "Compunction is a perennial trial of the conscience, which brings about the cooling of the fire of the heart through mental confession. And confession is a forgetfulness of nature, since someone because of this forgot to eat his bread."²

1 This was his monastic age. He was, in fact, thirty-five years old.

2 Psalm 101:5 (Septuagint) "Him that speaks privily against his neighbor, him have I driven from me; he that is proud in look and insatiable in heart - with him I have not eaten."



The Annunciation of our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

Commemorated 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 Saint Luke (1:26-38). The troparion 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 Saint 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 Saint 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 for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

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, Saint 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 either 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.

There are several famous icons of the Annunciation. One is in the Moscow Kremlin in the church of the Annunciation. This icon appeared in connection with the rescue of a prisoner by the Mother of God during the reign of Ivan the Terrible. Another is to be found in the Dormition Cathedral in Moscow (July 8). It was originally located in Ustiug, and was the icon before which Saint Procopius the fool (July 8) prayed to save the city from destruction in 1290. One of the most highly revered icons in Greece is the Tinos icon of the Annunciation (January 30).

The Annunciation falls during Lent, but it is always celebrated with great joy. The Liturgy of Saint Basil or Saint 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).