



Sunday Bulletin March 19, 2023 *Greek Orthodox Church of the* *Annunciation*

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**Rev. Dr. Michael Bahlatzis, Presiding Priest-
Proistamenos**

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### **Epistle Reading**

**Prokeimenon. Plagal Second Mode. Psalm 27.9,1.**  
**O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.**  
**Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.**

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6**

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

### **Gospel Reading                      Mark 8:34-38; 9:1**

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

***Message from Fr. Michael....***

Dearly Beloved Faithful in the Lord:

Today on this third Sunday of Great Lent, we celebrate the Adoration or Veneration of our Lord's life-giving Cross. The Cross is the tree of incorruption. Through its veneration, we attain everlasting glory while preparing us for life eternal with our creator.

As we proceed along the difficult and austere path of Great Lent, we turn to the symbol of sacrifice. The Holy Cross is the symbol of our Lord's sacrifice. When our Lord Jesus, walked on this earth, He subjected Himself to crucifixion. He gave His life for the ransom of the many. Here is God, who walked amongst us, in the form of a man. The Lord had indicated, in scripture, that if we wish to be saved, we are to take up our cross and follow Him.

The Cross of our Lord is a weapon against evil. Its veneration protects us against the influence of demons. It is the invincible trophy by which we may be saved. As we venerate the Holy Cross of our Lord, we share the Lord's Holy Passion so that we may draw near to His Holy Resurrection. The Holy Cross of our Lord is the tree of life...eternal life. May we see the glory of our Lord through the descent of the Heavenly hosts, which fill our church today, as we venerate the precious symbol of our faith. We embrace this ornament of the saving Passion of our Lord in the hope that we will be saved.

May our Lord grant us His mercy and save us. May we view the Lord's Cross with adoration and may we spiritually ascend on it with our Lord for everlasting salvation. This we pray in His holy name. Amen.

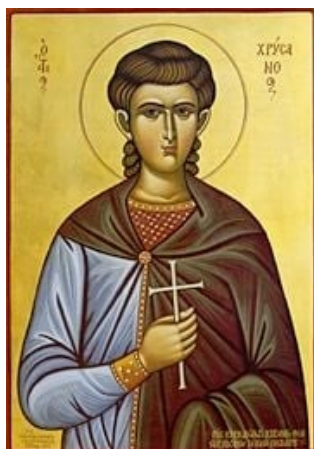
Worshipping our Lord's precious Cross, I remain

Yours, in His service,

+Fr. Michael

## **Saints and Feasts Commemorated**

### **The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus and Daria**



Saint Chrysanthus, who was from Alexandria, had been instructed in the Faith of Christ by a certain bishop. His father, who was a senator by rank and a pagan, had him shut up in prison for many days; then, seeing the unchanging disposition of his mind, he commanded that a certain young woman named Daria be brought from Athens. She was a very beautiful and learned maiden, and also an idolater, and Chrysanthus' father wedded him to her so that he might be drawn away from the Faith of Christ because of his love for her. Instead of this however, Chrysanthus drew Daria unto piety, and both of them

boldly proclaimed Christ and received the crown of martyrdom in 283, during the reign of Numerian, when they were buried alive in a pit of mire.

### **Demetrios the New Martyr**

### **Sunday of the Holy Cross**

With the help of God, we have almost reached the middle of the course of the Fast, where our strength has been worn down through abstinence, and the full difficulty of the labour set before us becomes apparent. Therefore our holy Mother, the Church of Christ, now brings to our help the all-holy Cross, the joy of the world, the strength of the faithful, the staff of the just, and the hope of sinners, so that by venerating it reverently, we might receive strength and grace to complete the divine struggle of the Fast.

### **40 Day Blessing and Churching Today**

Prior to the distribution of Holy Communion today, we will have a 40 day blessing for Elaine (Papastrat) Miller and the churching of James Michael Miller, Jr., son of Elaine and James Michael Miller, Sr., who was born on February 4, 2023. Our congratulations, prayers, and best wishes go out to the Papastrat and Miller families.

### **Calling on all Ladies (and Gentlemen) to bring Food Items**

On the Eve of the feast of the Annunciation on Friday, March 24, 2023, following the Vespers service we will have a fellowship hour in the Church Hall. We are requesting that everyone bring a Lenten dish to pass.

### **Philoptochos News**

Thank you so much for the recent successful fundraiser to help families in Turkey and Syria affected by the earthquakes. We appreciate your generous and thoughtful donations! Thank you and God Bless, The Ladies of Philoptochos

### **Salutation Services/Akathysts to the Theotokos:**

- Friday, March 24, 2023 Vespers on the Eve of the Annunciation at 6:30 pm
- Friday, March 31, 2023 at 6:30 pm 5th Friday of Lent Service of The Akathyst Hymn

### **TRISAGION SERVICE TODAY**

At the conclusion of Divine Services today we will have an 11 year anniversary Trisagion service for Elias Koutsaris, beloved son of John and Karyn Koutsaris and beloved brother of Easton Yanni and Evangelos. May his memory be eternal! Our prayers and best wishes go out to the entire Koutsaris family and their extended family as well as Karyn's wonderful family.

### **March 25th Celebration Weekend (patronal feast weekend of our Church):**

- Friday, March 24th: Great Vespers on the Eve of the feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos at 6:30 pm
- Saturday, March 25th: Feast of the Annunciation: Orthros at 9 am Divine Liturgy at 10 am
- Sunday, March 26th: Orthros at 9 am and Divine Liturgy at 10 am
- March 25th Poems and Speeches will be conducted by our children on Sunday, March 26th during the Coffee Hour

### **ATTENTION ALL YOUTH WORKERS**

Whether it be teaching our youth to Greek dance or conducting Sunday School or Greek lessons or working with our Youth of our Parish IN ANY CAPACITY, The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America and the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Detroit have mandated that everyone working with the Youth must complete a background check and online Youth Safety training through Sterling. Please contact the Metropolis of Detroit and speak with the Metropolis Youth Director about details at (248) 823-2411. Please go on the YouthSafetyPlatform.goarch.org website and register.

## **2023 Church Schedule of Special Services and Holy Week Schedule for the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation**

- Saturday of Lazarus, April 8, 2023: (Holy Trinity Church Binghamton)  
Divine Liturgy 10 am
- The making of Palm crosses will be at the Annunciation Church at 12 noon in Vestal
- Palm Sunday, April 9, 2023: Orthros 9 am and Divine Liturgy 10 am
- Palm Sunday evening, April 9, 2023: Service of the Nymphios/Bridegroom matins 6:00 pm
- Holy Monday, April 10, 2023: Service of the Bridegroom matins 7:00 pm
- Holy Tuesday, April 11, 2023: Service of the Nymphios/Bridegroom matins 6:30 pm
- Holy Wednesday, April 12, 2023: Service of the Sacrament of Holy Unction 6:30 pm
- Holy Thursday morning, April 13, 2023: Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 9:30 am
- Holy Thursday evening, April 13, 2023: Service of the Holy Passions of our Lord and the 12 Gospels 6:00 pm
- Holy Friday morning, April 14, 2023: Service of the Royal Hours 9:00 am  
All are invited to assist in the flower decoration of the Epitaphios at the conclusion of this service. Fr. Michael will provide written excuses for school absences for those children who spend the day at the church.
- Holy Friday afternoon, April 14, 2023: Service of Great Vespers of the Apokathelosis (The un-nailing of our Lord from the cross) 3 pm
- Holy Friday evening, April 14, 2023: Service of the Lamentations matins 6:30 pm
- Holy Saturday morning, April 15, 2023: Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (The First Resurrection of our Lord raising Adam and eve from the dead) 9:30 am
- Holy Saturday night, April 15/16, 2023: Matins of the Pascha 11:00 pm  
'O Come and Receive Ye the Light...' 11:45 pm  
Reading of the Gospel of the Resurrection of our Lord 12 am midnight followed by the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
- Easter Sunday (Pascha), April 16, 2023: Vespers service of Agape (The Gospel will be read in multiple languages. Please see Fr. Michael if you are interested in reading the Gospel in ANY other language besides Greek and English) 11 am

## **Wisdom of the Fathers**

The key to knowledge is the humility of Christ. The door of the Kingdom of Heaven is open, not to those who only know in their learned minds the mysteries of faith and the commandments of their Creator, but to those who have progressed far enough to live by them.

### **St. Bede the Venerable**

Unknown, 8th century

To deny oneself means to give up one's bad habits; to root out of the heart all that ties us to the world; not to cherish bad thoughts and desires; to suppress every evil thought; to avoid occasions of sin; not to desire or to do anything out of self-love, but to do everything out of love for God. To deny oneself, according to St. Paul means "to be dead to sin. . . but alive to God."

### **St. Innocent of Alaska**

The Lenten Spring, SVS Press, p. 147, 19th Century

*Whether you are an Orthodox Christian, or this is your first visit to an Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us. Although Holy Communion is reserved for baptized and chrismated (confirmed) Orthodox Christians, all are invited to receive the "ANTIDORON" (blessed bread) which is not a sacrament, but is a reminder of the "agape feast" that followed worship in the early Church. After the Divine Liturgy this morning, please join us in the Church Hall for fellowship and refreshments. We hope that you will return often to worship with us.*