

Hymn of the Month: March 25,

The Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos

Troparion, tone 4:

Today is the beginning of our salvation,
the revelation of the eternal mystery!
The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin
as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace.

Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos:

Rejoice, O Full of Grace,
the Lord is with you.

Kontakion, tone 8:

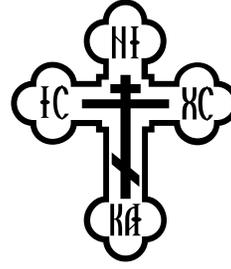
To you, the Champion Leader,
I offer thanks of victory;

O Theotokos,

who has delivered me from terror;
as you have that power invincible;

O Theotokos, you alone can set me free:
from all forms of danger,
free me and deliver me;
that I may cry out to you:

Rejoice, O Bride without Bridegroom.



PARISH NEWSLETTER

HOLY RESURRECTION

ORTHODOX CHURCH

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The Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos

The feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary comes exactly nine months before Christmas on the twenty-fifth of March. It is the celebration of the announcing of the birth of Christ to the Virgin Mary as recorded in the Gospel of Saint Luke.

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 he came to her and said, "Hail, full of grace, 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 forever; and of His kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have no husband?" 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

Lenten Asceticism *Continued*

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 (Luke 1.26-38).

This year the feast falls on Sunday, March 25. Please make every effort to come to Vespers on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. and also join us for festal Matins, which begins at a later time than usual, 9:00 a.m. The services of the feast of the Annunciation, the Vespers, Matins and the Divine Liturgy, stress again and again the joyous news of the salvation of men in the birth of the Savior.

A special feature of this feast is the Matins Canon which has the character of a dialogue between the Archangel Gabriel and the Virgin Mary. In our parish we distribute these Matins texts and sing the entire Canon, the

men chant the hymns assigned to the Archangel, and the women respond with those to the Virgin Mary. Also, among the more popular elements of the feast is the Magnification which has the form of our own salutation to the Virgin Mother with the words of the archangel:

With the voice of the archangel we cry to Thee, O Pure One: Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee!

The celebration of the Annunciation, therefore, is the feast of our own reception of the glad tidings of salvation, and our own glorification of the maiden Mary who becomes the Mother of God in the flesh.

Annunciation Liturgy will be followed by a special potluck: The Myrrhbearers Sisterhood will have wild caught cod ready to go (and a collection basket) - you bring the extras: salads, starches, sweets & drinks (remember - Lenten dishes!). Wine and olive oil are allowed along with fish.

In And Around Our Parish

Sunday Lenten Vespers

The Washington Orthodox Clergy Association (WOCA) invites you to Vespers on Sunday evenings during Lent at 5:00 p.m. February 25th: Sunday of Orthodoxy at Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, 1804 13th Avenue, Seattle 98122. Homilist: Fr. Jeremiah Vollman. March 4th: Three Hierarchs Romanian Orthodox Church, 6402 226th St SW, Mountlake Terrace 98043. Homilist: Fr. Daniel Triant. March 11th: St. Katherine OCA, 14216 132nd Ave NE, Kirkland, WA 98034. Homilist: Fr. James Robinson. March 18th: St. Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church, 21236 Poplar Way Brier (Lynnwood), WA 98036. Homilist: Fr. Michael Tervo. March 25th: Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church, 19421 Ashworth Avenue N, Shoreline, WA 98133. Homilist: Fr. David Hovik.

Fifth Thursday "Liturgical Retreat"

On the Fifth Thursday of Great Lent (March 22nd this year), a special Matins is appointed to be served that includes the entire Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, and reading the Life of St. Mary of Egypt in two parts.



An extra Presanctified Liturgy is also appointed to be served. We have combined these services into a liturgical retreat, with a period of silence between the two services, and a Lenten soup supper following the Pre-

In And Around Our Parish *Continued*

sanctified Liturgy. Matins begins at 9:30 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy at 2:00 p.m.

Combined Meeting

A combined meeting of the Parish Council with the Wilkeson Holy Trinity Committee will take place in Wilkeson after Liturgy on March 11th. We'll carpool over from Tacoma after coffee hour.

Looking Ahead to Holy Week & Pascha

A special guide to Holy Week and Pascha in English and Russian will be available in the back of the church, and sent to our email lists.

Confessions: Make arrangements to go to confession before Holy Wednesday Unction Service. Don't wait until the last minute! Confessions will be heard after Presanctified Liturgies during Holy Week, and after Bridegroom Matins.

Lazarus Saturday: March 31st. Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. followed by a simple lenten potluck, then choir and acolyte rehearsal, palm & willow tying, church decorating.

Palm Sunday: March 31st/ April 1st: Come to Vespers on Saturday at 6:30 p.m. Matins begins later than usual on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Come and be a part of this beautiful service. A potluck follows Liturgy, like that on Annunciation, with the Sisterhood serving fish.

Holy Week: April 1st-7th Please take time from work and school to be present at as many services as possible.

Pascha: Begins at midnight, April 8th (between Saturday and Sunday) with Paschal Matins & Divine Liturgy, followed by blessing baskets of special foods and a simple potluck. We gather at 1:30 p.m. for Agape Vespers and a feast. The Sisterhood will provide roast lamb & pork, you bring the rest!

Bright Monday: April 9th. Some advice: after

the exhausting Holy Week and Paschal celebrations, you may want to take Monday off and join us for a quiet Paschal Divine Liturgy at our historic Holy Trinity Chapel in Wilkeson at 10:00 a.m. After Liturgy we'll go to lunch at the Buttered Biscuit restaurant in Sumner. Then an afternoon nap.

Bookstore: Our Holy Trinity Bookstore has service books and other materials for your holiday needs, check it out! It is located in the Parish House, downstairs and to the right.

Charities Committee

The Charities Committee will hold its next meeting during coffee hour on Sunday, March 11th. This month's Charities include the following:

Diocesan Lenten Charity: During Great lent we will be collecting funds for the Gobezie-Goshu Home in Ethiopia. The Home was founded and is directed by Tsige-Roman Gobezie, a parishioner of Holy Annunciation Church (OCA) in Santa Maria, California. The Home is a ministry that helps the abandoned and destitute elderly, the disabled, and the children of Adwa, Ethiopia. Please give, and learn more about this ministry at www.gghe.org

Food Drive: Non perishable items may be donated weekly and will be collected each Sunday to be delivered to Pacific Pediatrics on 16th and Pacific Ave.

The doctor has a small food bank for low income patients. They prefer non-perishable food items. Breakfast items: cereal, pancake mix & syrup, instant oatmeal, etc. Dinner items: pasta, pasta sauce, Mac & cheese, canned soups, canned veggies, box potatoes, tuna, peanut butter, etc. Anything you would purchase for your own pantry. Please no expired or near expiration foods.

Feed the Hungry: We need help preparing the Fifth Friday meal for the hungry on March 30th. We'll need someone with strong arms at 5:30 p.m. to help transfer the food from our



In And Around Our Parish *Continued*

Parish House to the Puyallup Armory, 622 4th Avenue SE, Puyallup WA (on the corner at 7th St. SE). We begin serving at 6:00 p.m. Afterwards, we'll need someone to bring the pots back to the church and clean them.

March 17th, Parish Buildings & Grounds Spring Clean

We've scheduled Saturday, March 17th, for a spring clean day. It begins at 10:00 a.m., and there's always lots of work to do. We'll



break for dinner at 4:00 p.m. A work list has been posted in the Parish House. Can't make it on the 17th? Check the list and speak to Fr. John about doing some of the work when you have the time.

Paschal Flowers, Easter Treat Hunt

This year Orthodox Pascha falls the week after Western Easter. That means we will have our usual discount on flowers and candy. Please

consider a donation for flowers for the Lord's Tomb on Holy Friday; you can memo "Flowers" on a check in the Sunday morning offering. Also, a bin will be placed in the Parish House for candy and other gift items that will be used in the Easter Treat Hunt on Pascha af-



ternoon. Remember, we have a grown-up section, so nicer gifts are appreciated! Larger gifts are numbered, with the numbers hidden inside special eggs.

Pacific Northwest Orthodox Youth Camp

Dates: June 25th-28th, 2018. Location: All Saints Camp, 205 Camp Rd. NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335. Information: A webpage with registration and other forms will be put up shortly on the St. Katherine, Kirkland website: stkatherine.org -- "Summer Camp." Contact camp director: Fr. Barnabas Powell at (425) 623-3653, or email the camp at: pnwoyc@gmail.com. Please let Fr. John know as soon as possible if you would like to help as a counselor or in the kitchen so background checks may be made in time.

Parish Camping Trip

Last year was such a wonderful experience, we're scheduling again – bigger and better!



Mark your calendars! We have reserved two group sites at the Cougar Rock campground in Mount Rainier National Park for August 19th-22nd! For the most up to date information, visit our parish website, www.OrthodoxTacoma.com, and click on the "Our Parish" tab. Registration for the camping trip will open around Pascha. Information for those who will not be using the group tent sites, and would rather reserve their own site is available on our camping page.

Bookstore Report *by Susan Noel Reynolds*



Well, I have certainly had a lovely day, looking at new book arrivals and watching the snow drift down!

I recently received the St. Vladimir's Seminary Press Club shipment, and there were some real gems in it. I was most excited about the book Exodus: 'St. John Maximovitch Leads His Flock Out of Shanghai'. His story has always intrigued me, especially since we were blessed to visit the Cathedral in San Francisco where his relics lie. This book starts with his early life up to his exile from Russia and follows the dramatic events that took him to Shanghai, through his bringing refugees to San Francisco. It is a detailed account, as the reader follows him through his trials and tribulations. One thing which I did not know, and which is especially pertinent today, is his struggle with the American political system to allow his people to immigrate. Congress had passed the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, under which his people did not qualify for immigration. Therefore St. John had to travel to Washington D.C. to attempt to get an amendment to this Act put forward for consideration. There was a long and frustrating struggle to get this passed, and finally he was able to bring his people to the United States. Good read!

'Christianity and the Roman Empire: From Nero to Theodosius' looks at the persecution of Christians through three centuries of rule by Roman emperors, and one century in which the same imperial power to eventually establish a Christian state. So many of the sainted Martyrs lived during this time and died maintaining their belief in Christ and His Church. This book fleshes out that period, and provides insights into the personalities and times. The point is made that we Christians of today are facing another kind of test in the face of the secularism that dominates our culture.

This theme is also taken up in the book 'After God'. Written by a bioethicist, he maintains that 'once God is not recognized as the anchor for morality', it is impossible to come up with a canonical, rational morality. What we are left with is the chaos of moral choices having become nothing more than life-style choices. The book examines in

great detail how the progression of moral thought throughout history, especially since the Enlightenment, has led to our secularised society. He discusses the implications of this for current and future morality, especially as it applies to bioethics.

Churchianity vs. Christianity is a transcription of a series of talks by Metropolitan Anthony Bloom. The word 'Churchianity' is one originated by C.S. Lewis, referring to the parable of the fig tree, full of leaves, but barren of fruit. Or it is like the Pharisee, who took pride in all he did, but was bereft of humility and love. The theme of the book is 'the difference between being a churchgoer, loving the church, serving the church, proclaiming the gospel - and being a Christian.' He says that if we are honest, there is a dimension within ourselves 'that is mean, that is small . . . the fig tree covered with leaves and barren.' This is said, not to spread gloom about our condition, but to dispel the darkness in order to be able to see and to heal. In what follows, he shows us ways to be truly a Christian, and not in appearance only. It is a marvelous little book.

Somewhat the same idea is discussed in 'Metaphysics as a Personal Adventure', which consists of a transcription of conversations between the fascinating theologian Christos Yannaris and his primary translator Norman Russell. This book has a decidedly more philosophical bent than the above, the author being Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the Panteion University in Athens. The word he uses that is comparable to 'Churchianity', is 'Religionization'. He makes a contrast 'between what usually passes for spirituality ('a mirror in which we admire ourselves') and true spirituality (the essential regeneration of man by the Spirit of God . . . inaccessible to human criteria and documentary verification)'. The book begins with Yannaris' background and what were the primary influences on the development of his thought. Then by means of probing questions, he sets out his ideas on many topics relevant to an authentically Christian life.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Spring Clean Work Day
 Saturday, March 17, begins at 10:00 a.m.
 Come & help or sign up for a project
 on the Parish House bulletin board!

<p>1 Vespers 6:30 pm</p>							<p>2 Presanctified 6:30 pm Soup Supper & Talk</p>							<p>3 <i>Memorial Sat In Wilkeson:</i> Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Inquirers 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm</p>																																		
<p>4 <i>St Gregory Palamas</i> Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am 1st Sun collection & potluck choir</p>							<p>5 ← Sunday Vespers, 5:00 pm. Three Hierarchs Church, 6402 226th St SW, Mountlake Terrace, 98043.</p>							<p>6 Vespers 6:30 pm</p>							<p>7 Presanctified 6:30 pm</p>							<p>8 Vespers 6:30 pm</p>							<p>9 Presanctified 6:30 pm Soup Supper & Talk</p>							<p>10 <i>Memorial Sat Slavonic Liturgy</i> 10:00 am potluck Inquirers 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm</p>						
<p>11 <i>Cross</i> Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am charities/choir PC & HTW meeting in Wilkeson</p>							<p>12 ← Sunday Vespers, 5:00 pm. St. Katherine Church, 14216 132nd Ave NE, Kirkland, 98034.</p>							<p>13  Bible Study potluck 9:30 am Vespers 6:30 pm</p>							<p>14 Presanctified 6:30 pm</p>							<p>15 Vespers 6:30 pm</p>							<p>16 Presanctified 6:30 pm Soup Supper & Talk</p>							<p>17 Spring Clean Work Day begins at 10:00 am Vespers 6:30 pm</p>						
<p>18 <i>St John Climacus</i> Matins 8:15 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am choir</p>							<p>19 ← Sunday Vespers, 5:00 pm. St. Paul Church, 21236 Poplar Way, Brier (Lynnwood) 98036.</p>							<p>20 Vespers 6:30 pm</p>							<p>21 Presanctified 6:30 pm</p>							<p>22 LITURGICAL RETREAT Matins 9:30 am "Great Canon & Life of St. Mary" Presanctified 2:00 pm Soup Supper <i>No Evening Service</i></p>							<p>23 Presanctified 6:30 pm Soup Supper & Talk</p>							<p>24 Inquirers 5:00 pm Vespers 6:30 pm</p>						
<p>Great Feast of the Annunciation Matins 9:00 am <i>followed by</i> Divine Liturgy fish/potluck dinner</p>							<p>26 ← Sunday Vespers, 5:00 pm. Holy Apostles Church, 19421 Ashworth Ave. N, Shoreline, 98133.</p>							<p>27  Bible Study no potluck 9:30 am Vespers 6:30 pm</p>							<p>28 Presanctified 6:30 pm</p>							<p>29 Vespers 6:30 pm</p>							<p>30 Presanctified 6:30 pm Soup Supper & Talk</p>							<p>31 <i>Lazarus Sat</i> Divine Liturgy 10:00 am potluck & choir Vespers 6:30 pm</p>						