

Upcoming Services

- Mon. Mar. 25** **Feast Day of the Annunciation**
- Wed. Mar. 27** **Akathist to the Theotokos 6 p.m.**
- Fri. Mar. 29** **Presanctified Liturgy 6 p.m. (Fr. Vjekoslav)**
- Sat. Mar. 30** **No Reader's Vespers (Lenten Retreat in Berwick)**
- Sun. Mar. 31** **Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m.**

Welcome! Everyone is invited after today's service, for light refreshments and fellowship in the church hall.

Parish News

Confessions - During Great Lent, Fr. Tim will hear confessions, before and after Sunday Liturgies.

Akathist (prayer service) – will be held every Wednesday during Great Lent at 6 p.m. Following the service there will be light refreshments and discussions on different topics of the Orthodox Faith.

Almsgiving – There will be an almsgiving can on the center table throughout the season of Lent. Everyone is encouraged to put their spare change and / or bills in the can. At the end of Lent, the money collected will be given to the family of Lynne Sinko's niece, Laykin Ryan, who is in rehab following a severe car accident. Please be a cheerful giver! Let's help those who are less fortunate than us!

Parish Charity Project – We are going to continue giving to the charity: Birthright. Birthright is a nonprofit group with a branch in Frackville, that helps mothers and their babies throughout pregnancy and afterwards. A list of items needed is posted on the bulletin board in the back of the church. Please help in donating some of these items. There is a basket in the back of the church, by the desk, to put the donated items.

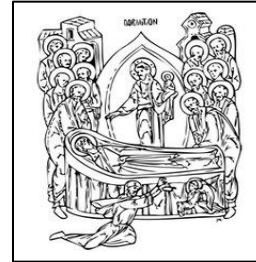
Lenten Retreat – This Sat. Mar. 30 - 10 a.m.-3p.m. at Holy Annunciation Orthodox Church in Berwick. Topic – *A Day with St. John Chrysostom* by Dr. David Ford. This event is open to everyone in the diocese and beyond. There is no charge and a Lenten lunch will be provided.

Pierogi / Crab Cake Sale – This Fri. Mar. 29. Contact Ann Cook with any questions and to place an order. (570) 640 – 0726.

Birthday Wishes

Amy Sagan – March 18; Sandy Gawley – March 25; Phoebe Sagan – March 26. May God grant them many years!

ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX CHURCH



47 S. NICHOLAS STREET
P.O. Box 85
ST. CLAIR, PA. 17970

www.stmaryssaintclair.com

*Orthodox Church in America (OCA)
Diocese of Eastern PA*

March 24, 2024

**First Sunday of Great Lent
Orthodox Sunday**

Forefeast of the Annunciation

Fr. Timothy Hasenecz, serving priest

(610) 997 – 5459 (home)

Fr. Vjekoslav Jovicic , Administrator

(224) 814 – 9969 (cell)

Tone 1 Troparion (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,/ while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,/ Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, / granting life to the world./ The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:/ "Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!/ Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

Tone 2 Troparion (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

We venerate Thy most pure image, O Good One;/ and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ our God./ Of Thine own will Thou wast pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh/ and deliver Thy creatures from bondage to the Enemy./ Therefore with thankfulness we cry aloud to Thee:/ "Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior,/by coming to save the world."

Tone 4 Troparion (Forefeast)

Today is the prelude of joy for the universe! Let us anticipate the feast and celebrate with exultation! Gabriel is on his way to announce the glad tidings to the Virgin; he is ready to cry out in fear and wonder! "Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee!"

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Tone 8 Kontakion (Sunday of Orthodoxy)

No one could describe the Word of the Father; but when He took flesh from thee, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described, and restored the fallen image to its former state by uniting it to divine beauty. We confess and proclaim our salvation in words and images.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Tone 8 Kontakion (Forefeast)

Thou art the beginning of salvation for all of us on earth, Virgin Mother of God. For the great Archangel Gabriel, God's minister, was sent from heaven to stand before thee to bring thee joy! Therefore, we all cry to thee: "Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!"

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, / and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever!

V. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us!

Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 (Epistle)

Brethren: By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented – of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith,

who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. Moses and Aaron were among His priests; Samuel also was among those who called on His Name.

V. They called to the Lord and He answered them.

John 1:43-51 (Gospel)

Now Jesus went to Galilee, and He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote – Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." And Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no deceit!" Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered and said to Him, "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,' do you believe? You will see greater things than these." And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace; the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child; our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and thy womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you!

Communion Hymn

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! // Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Sundays of Great Lent

Each of the Sundays of Great Lent has its own special theme. The first Sunday is called the Feast of the Triumph of Orthodoxy. It is a historical feast commemorating the return of the icons to the churches in the year 843 after the heresy of iconoclasm was overcome. The spiritual theme of the day is first of all the victory of the True Faith. "This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith" (1 John 5:4). Secondly, the icons of the saints bear witness that man, "created in the image and likeness of God" (Genesis 1:26), becomes holy and godlike through the purification of himself as God's living image. (www.oca.org)