

ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH

OLYPHANT, PENNSYLVANIA

The Annunciation of the Most Holy Mother of God;

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: St. John Climacus (of *The Ladder*).

MARCH 25, 2012



Hebrews 2:11-18 (Epistle): For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: "I will declare Your name to My brethren; In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You." And again: "I will put My trust in Him." And again: "Here am I and the children whom God has given Me." Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

Luke 1:24-38 (Gospel): Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among people. Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then 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 bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give 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. Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also

conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible. Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

ALL SAINTS ORTHODOX CHURCH
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Services & Activities

Sunday, March 25 *The Annunciation of the Most Holy Mother of God*

9:00 am **Divine Liturgy**

Mission Vespers: **4:00 pm Holy Annunciation,**
Berwick

Tuesday, March 27 **7:00 pm Parish Council Meeting**

Wednesday, March 28 **3:00 pm Akathist**

5:00 pm Confession

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Lenten Pot Luck

Thursday, March 29 **6:30 pm Great Canon St.**
Andrew Crete

Friday, March 30 **6:00 pm Confession**

7:00 pm Akathist

Saturday, March 31 **5:00 pm Confession**

6:00 pm Great Vespers

6:30 pm **Choir Practice

Sunday, April 1 Fifth Sunday of Great Lent: St. Mary of Egypt

9:00 am Divine Liturgy

*****Mission Vespers: 4:00 pm All Saints, Olyphant**

***** We will be hosting Mission Vespers, Sunday April 1, 4:00 pm**

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please remember in your prayers all of the parishioners of All Saints, their families, neighbors, and friends, especially Laura, Michael, Justin, Liam, Andrew, Allen, Cory Joseph, Michael, George, Gregory, Patricia, all those serving in the Armed Forces, including Michael, all missionaries (especially Christina), all clergy, monastics, and seminarians, the sick and suffering, those in nursing homes, hospitals and prisons, especially for those for whom we have been asked to pray, **and all the departed members and family members and friends of All Saints, the newly departed:** (among them Ann Peregrin, Olga Paulishak , Lieutenant General John Yeosock, Susan Scochin, Matushka Natalie Kiryluk Breyan, John Sanko). If you would like Fr. Gabriel to remember the living or the departed at the Divine Liturgy, please give the names to Fr. Gabriel to remember at the Proskomedia.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED MAKE THE LENTEN FOOD SALE A GREAT SUCCESS. THANK YOU FOR THE \$250 ANONYMOUS DONATION FOR THE FOOD SALE.

CLAM CHOWDER QUARTS \$7.00 & CABBAGE & NOODLES QUARTS \$5.00 & BAKED GOODS AVAILABLE--LIMITED QUANTITIES.

PUSSY WILLOWS: Please gather pussy willows FOR PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 8.

WHITE ALTAR COVERS NEEDED. Please give your donations to Joni

Rezanka.

PLEASE HELP WITH COFFEE HOUR! PLEASE FORM A NEW COFFEE HOUR TEAM OR JOIN A COFFEE HOUR TEAM! This is an important part of our parish outreach. See Julie Cohen. Thank you to the Brzuchalski & Hudanish families for coffee hour today and to the Puthorosky & Specht families for coffee hour next week.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST IN NANTICOKE RELIEF FUND: A dedicated checking account has been established and checks should be made out to "St John the Baptist in Nanticoke Relief Fund." His Grace further encourages the clergy and the faithful of the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania to be generous in their support of this cause. Thank you to those who donated last Sunday. Donations are still being accepted. (Cupcake fundraiser www.facebook.com/conspicuouscupcakes).

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH, WILKES-BARRE: LENTEN FOOD SALE (TAKE-OUT ONLY) FRIDAY MARCH 30: 11AM-6PM. Call Fr. David @ 835-6540 or Deborah Mills @822-5975 or e-mail dmilz9@ptd.net.

T SHIRTS (ALL SAINTS) AVAILABLE \$10 EACH & RECONSECRATION ORNAMENTS AVAILABLE \$3 OR 2 FOR \$5.

LOTTERY DRAWING every two weeks: \$100 to church, \$50 each Friday and Saturday.

SPONSORSHIPS: Bulletin (\$30): Ruth & Brian Brown , Web-Site (\$25): George & Mary Ann Scochin, Shut-in mailings (\$25): Linda Stuchlak --Thank you to all of our Donors and Sponsors!

SAMPLE PLEDGE CARDS: Please prayerfully consider handing in your pledge card as soon as possible to help us with budgeting for 2012.

WEEKLY COLLECTION: 3/18/12: \$785.00; LOOSE COLLECTION: \$89.00. Donation in memory of Bill Lapotofsky by George & Mary Ann Scochin \$20.

PENNIES TO CASH: \$80.94: PLEASE CONTINUE TO BRING IN YOUR PENNIES!

THANK YOU TO VERA PAULISHAK FOR HER \$1,000 DONATION TO THE CHURCH IN MEMORY OF THE DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE PAULISHAK FAMILY: PARENTS: EMIL & JULIA, BROTHERS: JOSEPH, WILLIAM, EUGENE & THEOFAN, SISTER: OLGA. WE PRAY THEIR MEMORY TO BE ETERNAL

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 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.

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 favoured, 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)."

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. 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). From: www.oca.org

Traditional Orthodox Fasting Rules for Great Lent until Pascha, April 15, 2012)

Weekdays: Fasting from Meat, Poultry, Dairy, Eggs, Fish, Olive Oil, Wine.

Saturdays & Sundays (also March 26, 28,29,30, & Holy Thursday, April 12): Wine & Olive Oil permitted **Annunciation, March 25 & Palm Sunday, April 8:** Fish, Wine & Olive Oil Permitted