

November 21, 2021 - TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Entry of the Most-Holy Theotokos into the Temple

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Hebrews 9:1-7 and Galatians 6:11-18

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 and Luke 12:16-21

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Saturday **6:00pm Great Vespers**

Sunday **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17



*The Entry of the Most-holy
Theotokos into the Temple*

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!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

MANY YEARS

Wedding Anniversaries this week:

Thursday – Olga & Richard Pasick

**Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org,
diocesan news by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and
parish news by visiting
www.occa-brick.org.**

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are **Zoran Pejovic, Ingrid Kopec, Ruth Federoff, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Rdr. John Economou, Margaret Makara, Ann Marie and Dennis Gahr, Lidia Zemlanicky, and Dorothy Studier.**

To those who have joined us in-person today for worship, we are happy you have done so. Please join us for coffee hour after the service. Please note that **reception of the Holy Eucharist** is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and recent confession. We encourage you to receive the blessed bread that is **offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.**

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Very Rev. Fr. Gary Joseph Breton, *Rector*

Rev. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Very Rev. Sergius Kuharsky, Very Rev. Paul Kucynda, *Retired Attached Priests*

Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Annunciations

TODAY – Please join us for **Coffee Hour** after the Divine Liturgy. **Team #2** is in charge of today's ministry effort. Everyone is invited to participate.

TODAY – The **parish youth** have undertaken a project to provide **food to a local food pantry**. Grocery bags are now available along with lists of requested items. These bags can be filled and returned to the Parish Hall anytime until **Sunday, December 19**, the last day of the food drive. Questions can be directed to **Nicholas Christos** who is spearheading this effort.

TODAY – **Church School** begins. During Coffee Hour, students will be called to their classrooms when their sessions begin.

TODAY – The **St. Catherine Society** meets in the Parish Hall at the end of Coffee Hour.

TODAY has been designated by the Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops as **IOCC Sunday**. Please visit the website ioccsunday.org for more information on the activity and needs of this organization.

THIS THURSDAY - A **Blessed Thanksgiving** to all! There is no official fasting dispensation from the Church on this secular holiday, but whatever we eat, may we offer it up to God in **true thanksgiving** for all His many blessings!

NEXT SUNDAY – **Team #3** will oversee the Coffee Hour.

Saturday, December 11 – the **Parish Cookie Walk** will return and take place from 9am – 12noon (or earlier if the cookies sell out!). Please promote this event among your family and friends.

Many thanks to those who made donations last week on **Stewards of the OCA Sunday!** The ministries of the Central Church Administration will benefit from your generosity.

Many thanks to those who helped bake **Dessert Rolls** this past Friday. Nut, poppy, prune, and raspberry-filled rolls are available at **\$15 apiece**. Please see Olga Pasick or Cathy Berger to make your purchases.

Confessions – The Nativity Fast is a good and appropriate time for us to approach the Sacrament of Confession. The **best time** to come to Confession is after any evening Vespers service. **Appointments** can also be made directly through Father Gary for other days or times. Please **do not neglect the opportunity** to prepare yourself for the Nativity Feast by approaching God and having Him forgive your sins.

Grocery Gift Cards are available for sale. Please see Cathy Berger or Olga Pasick at Coffee Hour to make purchases.

It continues to be the parish policy that the **wearing of masks in Church** is optional. Those who wish to wear a mask are encouraged to do so. Those who don't should not feel pressured to do so. **Masks are available in the narthex** for those who wish to use them.

“We should give thanks to Him, as it is said: ‘In everything give thanks’ (I Thess. 5:18). Closely linked to this phrase is another of St. Paul’s injunctions: ‘Pray without ceasing’ (I Thess. 5:17), that is, be mindful of God at all times, in all places, and in every circumstance. For no matter what you do, you should keep in mind the Creator of all things. When you see the light, do not forget Him who gave it to you; when you see the sky, the earth, the sea and all that is in them, marvel at these things and glorify their Creator; when you put on clothing, acknowledge whose gift it is and praise Him who in His providence has given you life. In short, if everything you do becomes for you an occasion for glorifying God, you will be praying unceasingly. And in this way your soul will always rejoice, as St. Paul commends (cf. I Thess. 5:16).”

— *St. Peter of Damaskos, “Book I: A Treasury of Divine Knowledge,” The Philokalia: The Complete Text (Vol. 3)*

We are in the midst of the Nativity Fast. It is a time for us to reflect on our God-given gifts, especially His ultimate gift to us - His Only-begotten Son whose entrance into the world we prepare for. Through His Church, God gives us opportunities to know Him and love Him. During this fasting period, Our Lord calls us to abstain from a way of eating that feeds our passions. He calls us to build up our prayer and worship life that draws us closer to Him. And He desires that we perform acts of charity and mercy as proof that we understand the importance of His life-giving call for us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Please take advantage of this gift that is the Nativity Fast. It is offered as a gift to us to help us along the road to salvation. Please receive it and put it to use in your life!