

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

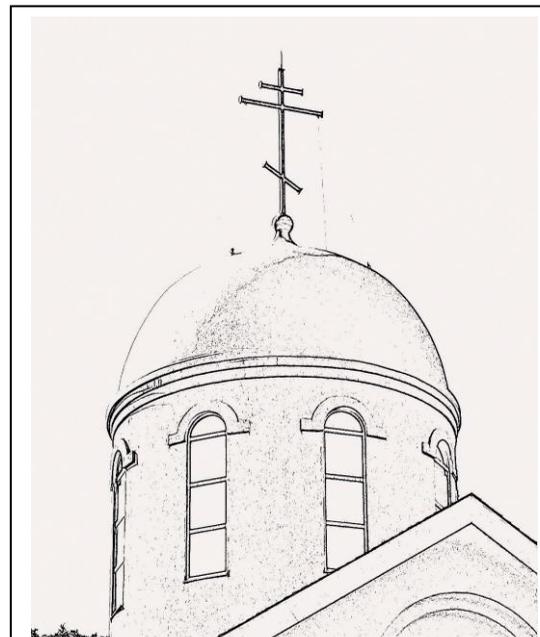
Ephesians 4:1-6 Brethren: I, a prisoner for the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all lowliness and meekness, with patience, forbearing one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Luke 13:10-17 (Gospel) At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And here was a woman who had had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, He called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his ass from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As He said this, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by Him.

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!

The **activity of our diocese** is funded mostly by monies donated by the parish faithful through proportional giving. However, additional funding is necessary to support diocesan activities such as youth retreats, mission building, seminarian scholarships, and more. **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** is the vehicle for collecting additional donations from those who can make them. Please visit the diocesan website or speak with Father Gary or Matushka Mary for more information on supporting the DDB.

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

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

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Fr. Deacon Alexander Smida, *Deacon*

Thomas Berger, *Senior Warden*

Reader Timothy Kozak, *Choir Director*

November 26, 2017

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 8. Ven. Alypius the Stylite of Adrianopolis (7th c.). Dedication of the Church of the Greatmartyr George at Kiev (1051-54). Repose of St. Innocent, First Bishop of Irkutsk (1731). Ven. James the Solitary of Syria (457)

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 4:1-6

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Saturday – 6:15pm Panikhida (*Abp. +Peter, Fr. +Stephen Mack*)

Saturday – 7:00pm Great Vespers w/General Confession

Sunday – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 5:9-19

Gospel: Luke 18:18-27



Ven. Alypius the Stylite

Coffee Hour Teams:

Today – TEAM B (Nilsen, Christos)

Next Sunday – TEAM C (Kozak, Diaz, Price)

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.

*Please pray for those who have willingly chosen to not worship and pray with us this morning.
We pray that those sitting in darkness will see a great light – the light of the Risen Christ!*

Welcome to our visitors who have joined us today for worship and prayer. We invite you to stay with us after today's services for an Agape Coffee Hour in our Parish Hall. Please sign our guest book before you leave, tell your friends and family members about us, and bring back one or two of them on your next visit!

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Dorothy Gornick, Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Kathy Kornafel, Walter Romanofsky, Millie Podolak, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Ron Madensky, Andy Popovchak, Dorothy Studier, Helen Ciurczak, Pauline Barnowsky, Suzanne Hanas, and Catherine Ratushnak.**

Annunciations

TODAY

- We continue the **usual Sunday schedule** with Divine Liturgy served at 10:00am preceded by the Third Hour read at 9:45am.
- **Church School** is held at 8:45am in the Parish Hall.
- **Adult Education Class** takes place in the church at 9:00am.
- **Dessert rolls** are available for sale in the Parish Hall. Rolls of the **usual flavors** are available at **\$14 apiece**. Please see **Cathy Berger or Olga Pasick** to make purchases or for more information.
- **December Parish Calendars** are available in the church narthex and online at our parish website.

THIS SATURDAY- A Panikhida (Memorial Service) will be served at 6:15pm to commemorate the 10 years since the repose of **Archbishop Peter** (L'Huillier) and the 40 days since the falling asleep of **Archpriest +Stephen Mack**. All are invited.

Next Sunday - **Church School classes** and the Adult Education class meet together at 8:45am in the church for a discussion on the Divine Liturgy. **All parishioners and friends** are welcomed and encouraged to participate in this monthly session.

December 9, Saturday – Our **Annual Cookie Walk** to be held at the Parish Hall on this day from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Parishioners are asked to bake cookies to be sold to the public. A **sign-up list** is located in the Parish Hall. **Flyers** are available and can be placed in local businesses and/or distributed to friends and family. This will be the **first major event** in our new Parish Hall. Please help make it a success.

There will be **two Parish Council positions** that will becoming vacant next year. Especially needful is for a person to fill the **Treasurer** position. If you have a desire to serve on the Parish Council and/or need more information, please speak with Father Gary as soon as possible. The formal election of Parish Council members will take place at our **Annual Parish Meeting in January**.

MANY YEARS!

Birthdays this week:

Tuesday – Victorianne Vessio

Saturday – Pani Mary Buletza

OUTREACH

- **Christmas Food Drive** donations will be accepted the next several weeks. Please take a designated paper bag and fill it with some of the items listed on the attached flyer. All donations will be delivered to a local food ministry.