



While overall a solemn, somber season, Great Lent is also marked by days of great joy and celebration. One such day is March 25th, the holyday of the Annunciation to the Mother of God. This day, exactly nine months before Christmas, commemorates the announcement of the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. We read about this event in Luke 1:26-38. Since it is the day of the Incarnation of Christ, it is so important that the Church always celebrates this feast with a Divine Liturgy – even during Lent, and even if it were to coincide with Good Friday. We will observe this holyday with Vespers on March 24th at 6:00 PM and Divine Liturgy on March 25th at 9:00 AM.

BULLETIN FOR MARCH 20-APRIL 2, 2022

Saint John's Orthodox Church

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Clergy:

Rev. Father David Mastroberte

Rev. Deacon John Anderson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pirohi Making and Sale on April 1st! Order form and information are found on the last page. Deadline is Sunday, March 27th.

Lenten Pot-Luck Dinner on Wednesday, March 23rd following our Wednesday evening Presanctified Liturgy. You are invited to bring a Lenten (*meatless*) dish, baked good, or a beverage to share with those assembled. (*No Pot-Luck after Presanctified Liturgy on March 30th.*)

The first Deanery Lenten Mission will take place on Sunday, March 27th at St. Nicholas Church, 2053 North Road NE, in Warren, Ohio. Our dean, Fr. Ken Bachofsky and the parishioners of St. Nicholas are looking forward to welcoming us after the two-year hiatus of Mission Services. Vespers will be at 4:00 PM, followed by a Lenten meal.

Reminder About the Eucharistic Fast: Those receiving Communion at an evening Liturgy are to fast for a minimum of 3 hours prior to the service. (*Ideally, we should not eat after lunch.*) Fasting from midnight is still observed before receiving Communion at any morning Liturgy.

Confessions are heard before evening services, from 5:25 PM to 5:55 PM, and before Divine Liturgy on Sunday mornings, from 8:25 to 8:55 AM. Confessions will end 5 minutes prior to the start of services.

If you would like to schedule an appointment for Confession at a time other than those listed above, please call/text/e-mail Fr. David (724-813-3172, father.david@stjohnacroc.org).

Willow Watch: Please keep an eye out for pussy willows for Palm Sunday! Cut them as soon as they are ready and bring them to the church. We do have ONE request: do not put them in plastic bags. Please use paper bags.

Easter Egg Hunt Donations: We are looking forward to our annual Easter Egg Hunt after Liturgy on Pascha (Sunday, April 24th)! This year, we are asking our parishioners for donations of small, individually-wrapped candy, as well as plastic eggs. Thank you in advance for your gifts! If you have any questions, please speak with Pani Vikkie.

Possible Youth Event on Friday, April 15th? Given that kids have off of school on Western Good Friday, Fr. David is considering putting together a morning-lunchtime activity for our parish youth to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. *Parents, please let Fr. David know soon if you would be interested!*

Our Parish Lenten Mission

Saturday, April 9, 2022

Confessions at 2:30 PM

Vespers at 4:00 PM

Lenten Fish Dinner to Follow

Communion Breakfast

Sunday, April 10, 2022

Following Divine Liturgy



Please plan on attending our 2022 Parish Lenten Mission! A “mission service”—involving visiting clergy and faithful from our Deanery—is a great opportunity for spiritual renewal and fellowship. Several Deanery priests will be available to hear Confessions, and one of the clergy will be offering a homily. Enjoy food and fellowship at our Lenten Fish Dinner after the Vespers service. And don’t forget to attend our Communion Breakfast on the following day!

Where Is Our Church’s “Traveling Icon” This Week?

Our Parish’s New “Traveling Icon” was blessed on the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 13th, and immediately began its travels! Fr. David & Pani Vikkie and family had the icon this past week. Going forward, we will include the upcoming schedule for the icon in our bulletin.

March 20: Ed & Francine Fabian
March 27: Deacon John & Deb Anderson
April 3: Bob & Lorraine Amos

We thank all those who signed up to take the icon home. So far, several months (through early September) are filled! Great job!

UKRAINIAN RELIEF COLLECTION UPDATE

Over the course of two Sundays, our parish collected \$2700 for Ukrainian relief efforts. *(It is notable that a couple local residents called our church searching for a way to help in the current crisis, and added their donations to our collection!)* At our March Board Meeting, it was decided to add \$1300 from our parish "fundraiser tithes" account *(where we earmark 10% of our fundraisers for charitable giving)*, making our total donation **\$4000**. This donation has been sent to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA to support their current relief work.



THANK YOU!

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

By Dan Hromyak

"...He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.'" - Luke 13:7

We can all be like the barren fig tree at times. Do you cling to what you have or do you generously share with others? How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous, we are called to develop and nurture our gifts, and return them with increase. Remember, we are called to be generous with all of us gifts; especially the one that means the most to you.

"No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan." - Joshua 5:12

Over the forty years that the Israelites journeyed through the desert, God provided them with manna to eat. As soon as they were able to enjoy the fruits of the Promised Land that manna ceased. Likewise, God's blessings to us may change over the years but it is important to trust that God will always provide us with all that we need.

Mark Your Calendars!

ACRY Bowling Tournament

Co-Hosted By Camp Nazareth and Our Church

Memorial Day Weekend: May 27-30, 2022

Over the next several bulletins, we will be including information about this event. We will soon be outlining ways in which you can help. However, our parishioners are also invited to participate in the weekend. One does not need to be a member of the ACRY to join in—everyone is welcome!

Copies of the full information packet are available, giving more specific information.

- **Bowling**

Do you want to bowl and/or get a team together? Bowling will take place at 10 Pin Alley on Saturday and Sunday. The entry fee is \$18.00 per bowler.

- **Meals**

The organized meals for the weekend are:

Saturday Night Luau and Pig Roast at Camp Nazareth, including food, activities, live music, and fireworks!

Sunday Brunch at Saint John's Orthodox Church, following Divine Liturgy.

Sunday Grand Banquet at Tiffany's Banquet Center, with choice of beef, chicken or pasta entrée. (Child dinner entrée is chicken tenders.)

The package price for all three meals is:

- * Senior Meal Package: \$85/person
- * Junior Meal Package (13-17): \$70/person
- * Child Meal Package (12 and Under): \$50/person

Individual tickets are available as well:

- * Saturday Night: \$30 Adult, \$25 Junior, \$20 Child
- * Sunday Brunch: \$15 Adult, \$10 Junior, \$8 Child
- * Sunday Grand Banquet: \$50 Adult, \$40 Junior, \$25 Child

Deadline for Meal Tickets and Bowling is April 26, 2022!

Sacramental and Membership Information

Sick Calls can be made at any time. Please phone the rectory (724-346-4457) when a family member is admitted to the hospital, or to request a home visit. Hospitals do *not* call to alert the parish when someone is admitted.

Marriages are solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. Circumstances may require a dispensation from the diocesan bishop. Consult the pastor at least six months in advance and before any plans have been made for the wedding reception. Marriages cannot be celebrated during the fasting seasons of the church, or on Fridays.

Baptisms are usually scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays. Consult the pastor. Two godparents (godfather and godmother) are required, at least one of whom must be a practicing Orthodox Christian in good standing at an Orthodox parish, and the other (at least) a practicing, baptized Christian.

Church Funerals are, under ordinary circumstances, provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and material obligations to the parish; otherwise, the funeral service is conducted at the funeral home. The Church does *not* permit cremation.

Parishioners in "good standing" are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John's Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular church attendance, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (and receive these sacraments no less than once a year); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and financially support the parish (especially through an annual "pledge").

Prospective members and returning members are asked to fill out an application form, copies of which are available in the church office.

April 2022 Pirohi Schedule

Wednesday, March 30
11:00 AM
Potato Prep

Thursday, March 31
6:00 PM
Filling Prep

Friday, April 1
8:00 AM
Pirohi Making and Sale

April 2022 Pirohi Order Form

Order Deadline: March 27, 2022

724-981-0571

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

_____ Potato-Cheese Pirohi @ \$8.00/dozen

_____ Butter Only

_____ Butter and Onions

Total Amount Due: \$ _____

Pick-Up on Friday, April 1, 2022
12:00 Noon—2:00 PM
(Doors Open at Noon)