

tions of Herod, ordering him to flee into Egypt with the Divine-Infant and the Mother of God. When the Lord before His Passion prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane to the extent of sweating blood, according to Church tradition, to strengthen Him there was sent from Heaven the Archangel Gabriel, whose very name signifies "Strength of God" (Lk. 22: 43).

The Myrrh-Bearing Women heard from the Archangel the joyous news about the Resurrection of Christ.

Icon Meditation

The icon for the feast of the Annunciation depicts Our Most-Holy Lady and the Chief Commander of the Heavenly Hosts, the Archangel Gabriel together in her dwelling as we know from the account of this event in the New Testament (Luke 1:24-38). The Ever-Virgin is depicted as being startled by the appearance of the Archangel. A legend about this event which we have received via the liturgy, art, and writings of the Church is that Mary, was spinning and dropped her ball of thread when Gabriel appeared and proclaimed the divine message: *The Holy Spirit has come upon you and the Power of the Most-High will overshadow you!* The beam of light emanating from the concentric sphere at the top of the icon directed towards the Birthgiver-of-God. This beam symbolizes that she will be carrying the Light of the World Who is Light of Light of the Father and the Holy Spirit. The Annunciation is a Trinitarian Mystery: It is the Will of the Father that the Son be Incarnate of the Ever-Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit. The Ever-Virgin Mary is the ultimate example of humanity co-operating with the Grace and Will of God, thus participating in the work of personal and universal salvation!

Mary is depicted as seated on a throne. This is an artistic meditation by the Church of the role that she would eventually assume in God's Kingdom because of her willing submission to the Will of God, and her vital role and cooperation in God's saving work. The figures are represented in an open space surrounded by an undefined edifices which have a cloth hanging in the midst of them. This indicates that the event took place inside a structure, but since the structure is unimportant to the Church's meditation on this event and personages, it is not included. The fact that this event took place inside Mary's domicile is unimportant, especially when compared to the ineffable significance of this event for True-Believing Christians. Mary is depicted in red and blue clothing: Red stands for motherhood, and blue for virginity.

'The Incarnation', it has been rightly said, 'was not only the work of the Father, of His Power and His Spirit: it was also the work of the will and the faith of the Virgin.' (Nicholas Cabasilas, *On the Annunciation*). On the feast of the Annunciation, therefore, Orthodoxy commemorates not only the divine initiative, whereby God in His loving-kindness took flesh from a Virgin, it also commemorates the human response, in which Mary freely accepted the vocation set before her. God always respects human liberty; and so, when He elected to become human, He desired to do so with the willing agreement of the one whom He chose as His mother. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." (Luke 1:38).



The Wonderworker

Monthly Bulletin for
St. Nicholas Pro-Cathedral
Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA

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Dean: V. Rev. Father Dennis Kristof
Council President: Reader Joseph Stolitzal



Welcome to our parish. We invite you to worship with us again.

April, 2023

**Glory to Jesus Christ!
Slava Isusu Khristu!**

**Glory Forever!
Slava na v'iki!**

Schedule of Services

(March 25—May 7, 2023)

Saturday, March 25

The Annunciation of Our Most-Holy Lady, the Birthgiver-of-God and Ever-Virgin Mary

10:00 a.m.—The Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth
Fortieth Day for +John Kachuba, Archpriest
Holy Anointing Мирowanie

Sunday, March 26

The Fourth Sunday of the Great Fast in which Our Venerable Father, John, "Author of the Ladder," is commemorated, Resurrectional Tone 7; The Final Day of the Annunciation, Gathering for the Archangel Gabriel

10:00 a.m.— The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Sunday, April 2

The Fifth and Final Sunday of the Great Fast in which Our Venerable Mother, Mary of Egypt, is Commemorated, Resurrectional Tone 8; Our Venerable Father Titus the Wonderworker (9th c.); The Holy Venerable Martyr Paul, the Rusyn Captive

9:30 a.m. - The Public Chanting of the Prayers of Preparation for the Holy Mystery of Repentance Followed by an Examination of Conscience and Concluded by Individual Absolutions

10:00 a.m. - The Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth

Saturday, April 8

Lazarus Saturday; The Holy Apostles of the Seventy: Herodion, Agabus, Asynkritus, Rufus, Phlegon, Hermes, and those with them (1st c.); Our Holy Father-Among-the-

Saints, Celestine, Pope of Rome (432).

10:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth
5:00 p.m.—Great Vespers with Lity for Willow Sunday
Holy Anointing Мировані

Sunday, April 9

Flowery (Willow) Sunday, the Entrance of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ into Jerusalem

10:00 a.m. - Blessing of the Willow Branches
The Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth
Holy Anointing Мированіе

Thursday, April 13

Holy and Great Thursday of Passion Week

7:00 p.m. - Passion Matins with the Reading of the 12 Passion Gospel Accounts (Страсти)

Friday, April 14

Holy and Great Friday of Passion Week

7:45 p.m. - Burial Vespers Procession with the Holy Shroud (Плащаниця)

Saturday, April 15

Holy and Great Saturday of Passion Week

10:00 a.m. - Great Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
Changing of the Altar Covers from burgundy to white
9:00 p.m. - Nocturns - Removal of the Shroud
Cross Procession
Resurrection Matins
Blessing of Paschal Foods

Great Day, April 16

Holy Pascha, Great Day, the Feast of Feasts, Holy Day of Holy Days, the Third-Day Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ from the Tomb

10:00 a.m. - Paschal Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth
Blessing of the Artos
Blessing of Paschal Foods

Sunday, April 23

The Second Sunday of Pascha, Anti-Pascha, the Eighth Day, Sunday of St. Thomas; The Holy Glorious Great-Martyr, Victory-Bearer and Wonderworker George (303).

10:00 a.m. - Final Blessing and Cutting of the Artos
10:00 a.m. - Paschal Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth

Sunday, April 30

The Third Sunday of Pascha, Commemoration of the Holy Ointment-Bearing Women, Joseph of Arimathea, & the Righteous Nicodemus, Resurrectional Tone 2; The Holy Apostle James, the Brother of St. John the Theologian (44)

10:00 a.m. - Paschal Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth

Sunday, May 7

The Fourth Sunday of Pascha, the Sunday of the Paralyzed Man, Resurrectional Tone 3; The Holy Confessor and

Defender of Orthodoxy in America, Alexis Toth of Wilkes-Barre (1909)

10:00 a.m. - Paschal Divine Liturgy of St. John the Golden-Mouth

April Milestones - Birthdays: 4, Alyona Kristof; 10, Ilarion Jula; 13, Nickolas Rolin; 16, Gerald Largent. May our Good God grant them and their families peace, health, salvation, and longevity for many blessed years, на многая і благая літа!

TODAY'S FEAST: Gathering for the Archangel Gabriel who was chosen by the Lord to make the blest-announcement to the Virgin Mary about the Incarnation of the Son of God from Her, to the great rejoicing of all humankind. Therefore, on the day after the feast of the Annunciation, the day itself on which the All-Pure Virgin Herself is glorified, we give thanks to the Lord and we venerate His messenger Gabriel, who contributed to the mystery of our salvation.

The Holy Chief Commander of the Heavenly Hosts Gabriel acted in service to the Almighty God. He announced in Old Testament times about the future Incarnation of the Son of God; he inspired the Prophet Moses during the writing of the Pentateuch books of the Bible, he announced to the Prophet Daniel about the coming tribulations of the Hebrew People (Dan. 8: 16, 9: 21-24); he appeared to Righteous Anna with the news of the birth from her of the Ever-Blessed Virgin Mary. The Holy Archangel Gabriel stayed constantly with the Holy Virgin Mary when she was a child in the Jerusalem Temple and afterwards watched over her throughout all her earthly life. He appeared to the Priest Zachariah, foretelling the birth of the Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptizer. The Lord dispatched him to St. Joseph the Betrothed appearing to him in a dream, to reveal to him the mystery of the Incarnation of the Son of God from the All-Pure Virgin Mary, and warned him of the wicked inten-

THE IOCC CLEVELAND METROPOLITAN COMMITTEE

invites you to the

31st Annual Banquet

Monday, May 8, 2023

Dinner 6:00 pm

WOODSIDE EVENT CENTER

AT ST. MICHAEL'S

5025 E. Mill Rd. | Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Learn how your support is helping families in places like Ukraine, Greece, Syria, Ethiopia, and right here in the US.

Questions? Contact Diane Hastings at dianeastings3@gmail.com or 440.364.6045

