

# Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd, Lansing, NY 14882

HolyApostlesLansing.org

Fr Joel Brady, Rector 570 251 1963

Bill Allard, Senior Warden 607 743 2895

## MARCH 26, 2017

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – Tone 7. Leavetaking of the Annunciation. Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel. St. John Climacus (of *The Ladder*).** Hieromartyr Irenæus, Bishop of Sirmium (304). Martyrs Bathusius and Bercus, Presbyters; Arpilus, Monk; Abibus, Agnus, Reasus, Igatherax, Iscoeus (Iskous), Silas, Signicus, Sonirilus, Suimbalus, Thermus, Phillus (Philgas), laymen; and the women: Anna, Alla, Larissa, Monco (Manca), Uirko (Virko), Animais (Animaida), Gaatha and Duklida, in the Crimea (375). St. Malchus of Chalcis in Syria (4th c.). Ven. Basil the New, Anchorite, near Constantinople (10th c.). Martyr Montanus, Presbyter, of Singidunum, and his wife, Maxima (235).

**EPISTLES: Hebrews 6:13–20:** We have hope in God's promises.

**Hebrews 2:11–18:** Through the incarnation, Christ Himself calls us brethren.

**GOSPELS: Mark 9:17–31:** Christ drives out a demon.

**Luke 1:24–38:** The angel reveals Christ's Incarnation to His Mother.

**COFFEE HOUR:** This week: Casey, Eileen, & Bernice Next week: Potluck

**TONSURING:** On Saturday, April 8, Ivan Bazarov will be tonsured as a reader at Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in Elmira Heights. The tonsuring will be performed by Archbishop Michael, prior to Liturgy at 9 AM. Please inform Fr. Joel if you intend to go, so that we can organize transportation. To free our community for this celebration, there will be no liturgy that day in Lansing.

**CHURCH CLEANING:** In order to have the church building in shape for Pascha, we invite volunteers for a church cleaning day on Saturday, April 1 at 3 PM. Please plan to come and help.

**FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS:** In the Lenten spirit of almsgiving, we've set up a box in the back of church for food pantry donations. During this time of fasting, the Church calls us to use the money that we save by eating a simpler diet in order to help those in need.

**LENTEN RECIPE SHARING:** Do you want to keep the fast as prescribed by the Church, but feel lost about what to cook? Do you have favorite Lenten recipes that you'd like to share with

your parish family? The Lenten recipes sharing email list is up and running, but you can still sign up in the back of the church.

**LENTEN SERVICES:** Services are held throughout the week during the Lenten Season that help us to intensify our prayer life and enter into the spirit of preparation for Our Lord's Resurrection. The mid-week Presanctified Liturgy in particular is an opportunity to receive Christ's Body and Blood to strengthen us in our spiritual struggles. Even one additional service during the week can help maintain the spiritual connection between Sundays.

**PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND:** The oca Dept of Evangelization, along with Abp Michael, announce a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, June 4–17, 2017. For more information or to reserve your spot, please visit the diocesan webpage.

**LENTEN RESOURCES:** Children's lessons for the season of Great Lent are available at <http://www.goarch.org/archdiocese/departments/religious/zines/lentzine> (Greek Archdiocese) and at <http://dce.oca.org/focus/pascha> (OCA Dept. of Christian ed).

**WELCOME VISITORS!** We warmly welcome all of our visitors! Please know that we are glad to have you here praying with us, and we invite you to stay after the service to enjoy a meal and meet everyone in our community.

## PRAYER SCROLL

### LIVING:

Apr Timothy H  
Apr Herman S  
Apr Sergius K  
Apr Thomas E  
Apr Stephen M  
Apr John R  
Apr Patrick C  
Pr Adam S & Angie  
Mother Raphaela  
Mother Christophora  
Mat Joanna B  
Mat Katya  
Mat Mary G  
Joshua  
Brittany  
Gretchen  
Marianne  
Terrence  
Helen  
Judy  
Mary & Susan  
John & Carmine  
Nathan

Leah  
Helen  
Lindsey  
Elizabeth  
Mary  
Joe A  
Daniel  
Andrew & family  
Carol  
Wilhelmina  
Elizabeth  
David  
Shirley  
Christina  
Jim & Kim  
Rachel  
Constantine & Maria  
Gaetan  
Christine  
Samuel  
Lisa  
Lyudmila  
Nickolay  
Anetta

Zachary  
Iconographer Helena  
Natasha, Lena, Vera,  
Sergei  
Caleb  
Danielle  
Larry, Mark, Katie  
Ann  
Dorothy  
Ronald  
Sheryl & Lacey  
Alexander, Angela,  
Anton  
Peter  
Gregory & Ann  
Raymond  
Vincent  
Photini  
Robert  
Steven, Stephanie,  
and family  
Diana  
Elizabeth

Children: Anthony,  
Mia, Isabel, Bear,  
Victoria, Iva Bell,  
Panagiotis, Ada,  
Grace, Elias, Jack  
Seminarians: Rdr  
Robert & Ivan  
Birthdays:  
Anniversaries:  
Namesdays:

REPOSED:  
Apr John U  
Priest Matthew  
Priest John  
Apr Alexander  
Dn Mark  
Rdr Gregory  
Daniel  
Ada  
Lillian  
Joseph  
Marie  
Joseph

Laura  
Martha  
Stanley  
Taissia  
Stelujta  
Theophan  
Lynda  
Florence  
James  
James R  
Vasily  
Mordecai  
Alexandr  
Ron  
John  
Eleanor  
Harold  
Alfred  
Edward  
Newly Reposed:  
Michael, Mat  
Julianna, Mario,  
Robert

**BY THE NUMBERS:** Last Collection: \$2274.00. Building Fund: \$0.  
Weekly Budget: \$1150. MTD: \$3270.91. Monthly Budget: \$4600

## SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

*Confessions are heard before and after Vespers or by appointment.*

**Sunday, March 26:** 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

**Monday, March 27:** Rector's Sabbath

**Tuesday, March 28:** 8:30 AM Lenten First Hour

**Wednesday, March 29:** 8:30 AM Lenten Daily Matins

6PM Great Canon

**Thursday, March 30:** 8:30 AM Lenten First Hour

**Friday, March 31:** 8:30 AM Lenten First Hour

9:20 AM Cornell ocf Morning Prayers in Anabel Taylor Hall

6 PM Presanctified Liturgy

**Saturday, April 1:** 3 PM Church cleaning

6 PM Great Vespers

**Sunday, April 2:** 9:10 AM hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

**April 8:** Tonsuring of Ivan Bazarov in Elmira Heights.

## PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that Thou wouldst renew us and this parish by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with love and longing for Thee. Grant that we would seek not our own will, but to do Thy will in all things and to be willing to lay down our lives out of love for Thee and for our neighbor. Draw thirsty souls to this place and remove their spiritual blindness, granting them through Thy grace to see the beauty of Thy Holy Glory in this place. Fill this community with new life, spiritual vigor, and an insatiable desire to live godly and holy lives. Forgive us all of our sins as we fall down before Thee. Bring us all to a greater repentance and to an amendment of our lives as we look to Thee, the only merciful and loving Lord, Who calls all to salvation. We beg Thee, our merciful Lord, hear us, grant all of these petitions and all of our requests unto salvation: we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

## FROM THE TRIODION

Having passed beyond the middle point in the time of the fast, let us manifest in ourselves a beginning of divine glory, and let us hasten eagerly toward our journey's end, the life of holiness, that we may receive the joy that grows not old.

Having passed beyond the middle point in this holy season of the fast, with joy let us go forward to the part that still remains, anointing our souls with the oil of almsgiving. So may we be counted worthy to venerate the divine Passion of Christ our God, and to attain His dread and holy Resurrection.

*Glory to God for all things!*

# HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH LANSING, NEW YORK



SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2017  
LEAVETAKING OF ANNUNCIATION  
SAINT JOHN OF THE LADDER



# A SERMON ON THE ANNUNCIATION

Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

This year\* the Feast of the Annunciation, according to our calendar, falls just at the end of the week when we venerate the Cross. And perhaps is it particularly significant, because you remember the words which were spoken to the Mother of God when She brought Her Child, Jesus, to the Temple: that a sword will pass Her heart, a sword will pierce Her heart. This sword was the death of Christ upon the Cross. And to see at the same time the promise of Salvation given to the whole of mankind, indeed, the promise that one day God will be all in all, and that the whole Creation will become the shining, glorious vestment of God, on that day we see also the Cross above the Annunciation.

Let us reflect on this conjunction of events. The Mother of God received today the greatest promise which mankind can receive. At the same time, in Her perfect surrender: Let it be unto me according to His will! On this perfect surrender She accepts the tragedy that will follow. We are saved by Her faith, we are saved by Her surrender; without Her the Incarnation would have not taken place – but at what cost to Her.

And this is why it could be said once that if the Mother of God can forgive us our unfaithfulness, our betrayal of Christ, a life unworthy of the faith which we proclaim – if She can forgive us, no power in Heaven or earth can reject us. And this is why we pray to Her, and say, All-Holy Mother of God, save us!... Not because She can save us apart from the sacrificial love, the Incarnation, the life, the death, the descent into hell, the Resurrection, the Ascension of Her Son, the Only-Begotten Son of God become the son of man; not because She can plead for us, but She can, in the very words of Christ at the Cross, say, Forgive! They do not know what they are doing...

But it is not enough to be forgiven: one must bear fruit of repentance. If we understand at what cost we are forgiven by God: the life and the death of His Only-Begotten Son, at what cost the Mother of God can intercede for us: the surrender of Her life but also the gift unto death of Her Only-Begotten Son, gratitude alone should prompt us to be worthy of this love, to be worthy of God, worthy of Mary the Virgin, worthy of our own selves... Because God's gift of self to us, Mary's gift of Him to us speaks to us of our eternal, immeasurable value in the eyes of God.

Let us therefore venerate worshipfully the event; and respond, respond with all our life, all our heart and mind, all there is in and of us to the trust which God has put into us. Because He gave His life for us, She surrendered to God for us, She gave Him unto death for us because God believes in us, because God hopes all things from us – let us respond to Him with all our life. Amen.

\*This sermon was given in 1989, but the feast also falls at the end of Cross Week in 2017.

# SOME SELECTIONS FROM *The Ladder*

“Prayer is the mother and daughter of tears. It is an expiation of sin, a bridge across temptation, a bulwark against affliction. It wipes out conflict, it is the work of angels, and is the work of all bodiless beings. Prayer is future gladness, action without end, wellspring of virtues, source of grace, hidden progress, food of the soul, enlightenment of the mind, an axe against despair, hope demonstrated, anger diminished... It is a mirror of progress, a demonstration of success, evidence of one's condition, the future revealed, a sign of glory.”

“The attitude of prayer is the same for all, but there are many kinds of prayer and many different prayers. Some talk and deal with God as a friend and master, lifting their praises and their requests to Him not for themselves but for others. Some look for greater spiritual treasures and glory and for greater assurance in their prayers. Some beg to be freed entirely from their adversity. Some seek freedom from [prison] or for charges against them to be dropped.

“But heartfelt thanksgiving should have first place in our book of prayer. Next should be confession and genuine contrition of soul. After that should be our request to the universal King. This method of prayer is best, as one of the brothers was told by an angel of the Lord.”

“You cannot learn to see just because someone tells you to do so. For that, you require your own natural power of sight. In the same way, you cannot discover from the teaching of others the beauty of prayer. Prayer has its own special teacher in God, who ‘teaches men knowledge’ (Ps. 93:10). He grants the prayer of him who prays. And he blesses the years of the just.”

“Some people living carelessly in the world put a question to me: ‘How can we who are married and living among public cares aspire to the monastic life?’

“I answered: ‘Do whatever good you may. Speak evil of no one. Rob no one. Tell no lie. Despise no one and carry no hate. Do not separate yourselves from the church assemblies. Show compassion to the needy. Do not be a cause of scandal to anyone. Stay away from the bed of another, and be satisfied with what your own wives can provide you. If you do all this, you will not be far from the kingdom of heaven.’ ”



# WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 26

## Troparion, Tone 7 (Resurrection)

By Your Cross You destroyed death.  
To the thief You opened Paradise.  
For the Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into joy.  
And You commanded Your disciples, O Christ God,  
to proclaim that You are risen,//  
granting the world great mercy.

## Troparion, Tone 4 (Annunciation)

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, Tone 4 (Archangel)

Gabriel, commander of the heavenly hosts,  
we who are unworthy beseech you,  
by your prayers encompass us beneath the wings of your immaterial glory,  
and faithfully preserve us who fall down and cry to you://  
“Deliver us from all harm, for you are the commander of the powers on high!”

## Kontakion, Tone 8 (Archangel)

Supreme commander Gabriel, you are the glorious intercessor and servant  
before the all-radiant, worthy, all-powerful, infinite and awesome Trinity.  
Ever pray now that we may be delivered from all tribulations and torments,//  
so that we may cry out to you: “Rejoice, protection of your servants!”

## Kontakion, Tone 8 (Annunciation)

O victorious leader of triumphant hosts!  
We, your servants delivered from evil  
sing our grateful thanks to you, O Theotokos.  
As you possess invincible might set us free from every calamity//  
so that we may sing; “Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!”

## Prokeimenon, Tone 7

The Lord shall give strength to His people. The Lord shall bless His people with peace.

*v:* Offer to the Lord, O you sons of God! Offer young rams to the Lord!

**Another, Tone 4:** From day to day proclaim the salvation of our God!

## Alleluia, Tone 7

*v:* It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High.

*v:* To declare Your mercy in the morning, and Your truth by night.

**Tone 1** *v:* He descends like rain upon the fleece, like raindrops that water the earth.

## Communion Hymns

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest!  
The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for His habitation.  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## FROM THE CANON OF ANNUNCIATION

*The Theotokos:* I cannot understand the meaning of thy words. For there have often been miracles, wonders worked by the might of God, symbols and figures contained in the Law. But never has a virgin borne child without knowing a man.

*The Angel:* Thou art amazed, O all-blameless Virgin; and amazing indeed is the wonder that comes to pass in thee: for thou alone shalt receive in thy womb the King of all who is to take flesh. It is thou who art prefigured by the utterances and dark sayings of the prophets and by the symbols of the Law.

*The Theotokos:* How can He whom nothing can contain upon whom none can gaze, dwell in the womb of a virgin whom He Himself has formed? And how shall I conceive God the Word, who with Father and the Spirit has no beginning?

*The Angel:* He who promised to thy forefather David that of the fruit of his body He would set upon the throne of his kingdom, He it is who has chosen thee, the only excellency of Jacob, as His spiritual dwelling-place.

*The Theotokos:* Receiving thy glad tidings, O Gabriel, I am filled with joy, for thou dost speak to me of joy, a joy without end.

*The Angel:* Divine joy is given to thee, O Mother of God. All creation cries unto thee: “Hail, O Bride of God.” For thou alone, O pure Virgin, wast foreordained to be the Mother of the Son of God.

*The Theotokos:* May the condemnation of Eve be now brought to naught through me; and through me may her debt be repaid this day. Through me may the ancient due be rendered up in full.

*The Angel:* God promised to our forefather Abraham that in his seed the Gentiles would be blest, O pure Lady; and through thee today the promise receives its fulfillment.