

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	Pauline
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Ann
Archpriest Eugene	Stefan
Archpriest Dimitrie	John
Priest James	Vivian
Priest John	Jung Sook
Subdeacon James	Thomas
Reader Aleksei	Nancy
Reader Sergei	Randall
Monk Philaret	Rose
Matushka Priscilla	Don
Marie • Virginia • Thomas	Norma
John • Luke • Katherine	James
Catechumen Rebecca	
Catechumen Jennifer	

The repose and salvation of –

Archpriest Paul (March 5)	Allen (March 7)
Helene (March 8)	

Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.

**This Friday, March 30, 6:30 PM – Presanctified
Liturgy & Lenten Potluck**

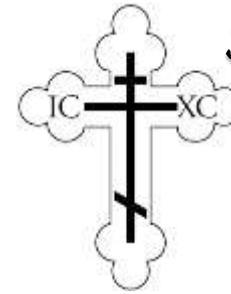
**This Saturday, March 31, 9:30 AM – Divine
Liturgy for St. Lazarus**

This Saturday, March 31, 5:30 PM – Vigil for Palm Sunday

Next Sunday, April 1, after fellowship – Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 4, 6:30 PM – Matins for Holy Thursday

*A mission parish under the omophorion of His Eminence Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,
Orthodox Church in America*



**ST TIKHON ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Sunday, March 25, 2018



Annunciation of the Most-Holy Theotokos

St Mary of Egypt



The Annunciation in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, France (12th Century)

Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM – Evening Prayers & Saints of the Day
Other services as announced

Priest Alexander Vallens, *Rector*

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Deacon John Manutes, *Attached*

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The Annunciation of the our Most-Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

When the All-Holy Virgin was entering her fifteenth year, after having spent 11 years of living and serving in the Temple of Jerusalem, the priests informed her that, according to the Law, she could not remain in the Temple but was required to be betrothed and enter into marriage. What a great surprise to the priests was the answer of the All-Holy Virgin that she had dedicated her life to God and that she desired to remain a Virgin until death, not wanting to enter into marriage with anyone!

Then, according to Divine Providence, Zacharias, the high priest and father of the Forerunner, under the inspiration of God, and in agreement with the other priests, gathered 12 unwed men from the Tribe of David to betroth the Virgin Mary to one of them to preserve her virginity and to care for her. She was betrothed to Joseph of Nazareth who was her kinsman. In the house of Joseph, the All-Holy Virgin continued to live as she did in the Temple of Solomon, occupying her time in the reading of Sacred Scripture, in prayer, in Godly-thoughts, in fasting and in handiwork. She rarely went anywhere outside the house nor was she interested in worldly things and events. She spoke very little to anyone, if at all, and never without special need. More frequently she communicated with both of Joseph's daughters.

When the fullness of time had come, as prophesied by Daniel the Prophet, and when God was pleased to fulfill His promise to the banished Adam and to the Prophets, the great Archangel Gabriel appeared in the chamber of the All-Holy Virgin and, as some priestly writers wrote, precisely at that same moment when she held open the book of the Prophet Isaiah and was contemplating his great prophecy: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son!" (Isaiah 7:13). Gabriel appeared in all of his angelic brightness and saluted her: "Rejoice, highly favored one! The Lord is with you" (St. Luke 1:28), and the rest in order as it is written in the Gospel of the saintly Luke. With this angelic annunciation and the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Virgin, the salvation of mankind and restoration of all creation began. The history of the New Testament was opened by the words of the Archangel Gabriel: "Rejoice, highly favored one" This is to imply that the New Testament was to signify joy to mankind and to all created things. It is from this that the Annunciation is considered not only a great feast, but a joyful feast as well.

Also this week: LEAVETAKING OF THE ANNUNCIATION; *Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel; St Larissa, Martyr of Crimea (March 26); Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica (March 27); Ven. Hilarion the new, Abbot of Pelecete (March 28); Hieromartyr Mark, Bp of Arethusa, Martyr Cyril the Deacon, of Heliopolis, and others who suffered under Julian the Apostate (March 29); Ven. John Climacus of Sinai (March 30); ST INNOCENT, METROPOLITAN OF MOSCOW, ENLIGHTENER OF THE ALEUTS AND APOSTLE TO THE AMERICAS (March 31).*

** Lenten fast all week; fish, wine, and oil allowed today; wine and oil allowed on Monday; caviar, wine, and oil allowed on Saturday **

Epistles: Hebrews 9:11-14 (Sunday) / Hebrews 2:11-18 (Feast)

Gospels: Mark 10:32-45 (Sunday) / Luke 1:24-38 (Feast)

Troparion - Tone 1 (Resurrection)

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, /
While the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, /
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, /
Granting life to the world. /
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: /
"Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! /
Glory to Thy Kingdom! ///
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!"

Troparion – Tone 4 (Feast)

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 good tidings of grace. /
Together with them let us cry to the Theotokos: /
Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, ///
The Lord is with thee.

Kontakion – Tone 8 (Feast)

O victorious leader of triumphant hosts, /
We thy servants delivered from all evil sing our grateful thanks to thee, O Theotokos, /
As thou dost possess invincible might, set us from every calamity, ///
So that we may sing: *Rejoice*, O unwedded bride!

