

# Saintly Notes

## Cyril, Archbishop of Jerusalem (March 18)

When the All-Holy Virgin completed the fourteenth year after her birth and was entering her fifteenth year, after having spent eleven 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 twelve 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.

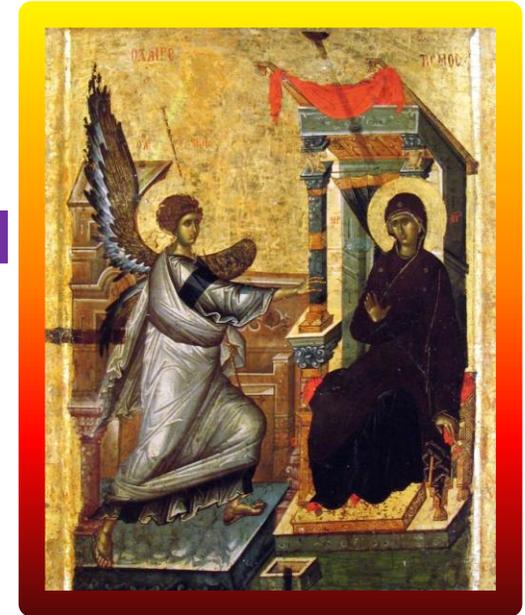
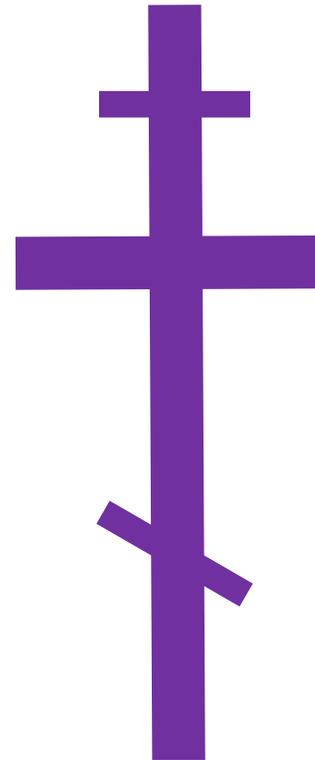
In the house of Joseph, the All-Holy Virgin continued to live as she did in the Temple of Solomon, occupying her time in the reading of Sacred Scripture, in prayer, in Godly-thoughts, in fasting and in handiwork. She rarely went anywhere outside the house nor was she interested in worldly things and 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.

*(The Prologue from Ochrid)*

# Annunciation to the Most Holy Theotokos

March 25, 2012



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All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC  
(www.allsaintsnc.org)  
919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest  
The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

March 25, 2012

## This Week's Schedule

**Today:** 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy  
**Monday:** Church Office Closed  
**Wednesday:** 9:30a 3<sup>rd</sup> Hour Prayers; 6:30p Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts;  
8:00p Lenten Soup/Bread Supper  
**Friday:** 6:30p Akathist  
**Saturday:** 9:00a Soup Making; 5:30p Great Vespers  
**Sunday:** 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

## First Antiphon

*Refrain:* Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

## Second Antiphon

*Refrain:* O Son of God, *Who wast incarnate for our sake*, save us who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

## Third Antiphon

### for the Annunciation (Tone 4)

His Name shall be blessed forever; His Name shall continue longer than the sun. Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, Who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be His glorious Name unto the ages, and unto the ages of ages.

*Troparion of the Annunciation:* Today is the beginning of our salvation, and the manifestation of the mystery of the ages; for the Son of God becometh the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaimeth grace. Wherefore, do we shout with him to the Theotokos: Rejoice, O full of grace! The Lord is with thee.

## Little Entrance

† *Entrance Hymn:* "Tell forth from day to day the glad tidings of the salvation of our God. Save us, O Son of God, *Who art risen from the dead*; who sing to Thee. Alleluia."

† *Resurrectional Troparion (Tone 8):* From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

† *Troparion for the Annunciation (Tone 4):* See above.

† *Kontakion for Annunciation and Great Lent (Tone 8):* To thee, our captain, Queen of war, the battle trophies won, thy people rescued by thine aid from peril, dedicate as our offering of thanksgiving, O Theotokos. As thou hast might which none by war can overcome from all forms of danger hast thou delivered me, that I may cry unto thee: O Virgin unwedded bride.

## The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty . . . (3x)

## Scripture

### for today and next Sunday

- Today: (See insert)
- Next Sunday (April 1):  
Epistle: Heb. 9:11-14  
Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

## Meagalynarion (Tone 4)

*Receive, O earth, the glad tidings of great joy, and ye heavens, praise the glory of God.*

The Theotokos, being the living tabernacle of God, shall never be touched by an unclean hand. But the lips of believers shall sing unto her ceaselessly with the voice of angels, crying joyfully: Rejoice, O full of grace. The Lord is with thee.

## Communion Hymn

### (Tone 8)

The Lord hath chosen Zion; He hath chosen it for His dwelling. Alleluia.

## Post-Communion Hymn

"We have seen the true light . . ."

## Parish Notes

### Altar Servers Today

Rim Gibrealfa, John Pridgen, Jonah Sieck, Michael Fogg, Justin Fogg, Aidan Labrozzi.

### Special Attention

- **Services of Great Lent.** Your Lenten preparation for Pascha will be greatly aided by attending as many of these Lenten weekly services as possible.
- **Confessions During Great Lent.** The Sacrament of Confession is offered here at All Saints during Great Lent (as is true as is true all year) by appointment only. **As in the past, this Sacrament will not be offered**

during Holy Week. Please plan ahead.

- **Remember Church School and Adult Class.** Please come and study the Orthodox Christian Faith. Classes for Preschool thru Adults.
- **Adult Class to Study Great Lent by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.** All Adults in our parish are welcome to attend. Class begins about 9:15am in the Nave.
- **March is designated as Women's Month** in our Archdiocese. Women will be more active in the church, will read the Epistle, will address those attending Liturgy and will take up a collection (on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday) for the Convent of St. Thekla at the Antiochian Village. We thank God for our All Saints Women's Association called St. Thekla. They truly provide the "heart" to all that we do in our parish. Remember all women in our parish are considered members of St. Thekla.
- **Remember Food for the Hungry.** "It is not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving." (Mother Teresa)
- **Children's Books Needed.** We are collecting gently-used children's books for a free clinic that gives a book to each child who comes in needing medical attention. Books for newborns through young adult readers are needed. A basket has been set up under the Book Drive bulletin board in the parish hall. Please place your books in the basket through Sunday, April 1. If you have questions, please ask Kh. Barbara.

## Today's Epistle and Gospel Readings

### Prokeimenon:

Tell forth from day to day the glad tidings of the salvation of our God.

*Sing unto the Lord a new song;  
sing unto the Lord, all the earth.*

### †Epistle: Heb. 2:11–18

Brethren, He Who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim Thy Name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise Thee." And again, "I will put my trust in Him." And again, "Here am I, and the children God has given me." Since, therefore, the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death He might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that He is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because He Himself has suffered and been tempted, He is able to help those who are tempted.

### †Gospel: Luke 1:24–38

At that time, Elizabeth, the wife of Zachariah, conceived, and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord has done to me in the days when He looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." In the sixth month the archangel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named

Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the archangel came to her and said, "Rejoice, O favored one, the Lord is with thee! Blessed art thou among women!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the archangel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for thou hast found favor with God. And behold, thou wilt conceive in thy womb and bear a son, and you shall call His Name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the archangel, "How shall this be, since I have known no man?" And the archangel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon thee, and the power of the Most High will overshadow thee; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God. And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the archangel departed from her.

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A Word  
from Our Fathers

“TO BE SURE, the Virgin does not give birth today, no one ‘factually’ stands before Pilate, and as facts these events belong to the past. But today we can remember these facts, and the Church is primarily the gift and the power of that remembrance which transforms facts of the past into eternally meaningful events.

Liturgical celebration is thus a re-entrance of the Church into the event, and this means not merely its ‘idea,’ but its joy or sadness, its living and concrete reality.”

(Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, *Great Lent*)

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