SUNDAY, November 15th, 2020 — 8th Sunday of Luke

**Gurias, Shamuna, and Habib, Martyrs and Confessors of Edessa**

Thomas, Archbishop of Constantinople

Orthros Mode: Plagal Second  
Liturgy Gospel: Matthew 28:16-37

Liturgy Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10  

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**The Nativity Fast Begins Today**

For forty days the Church seeks to prepare us for the true meaning of Christmas. Most of us need time to prepare for special events. It takes time to plan for a trip, a vacation, for entering college, for a baptism or a wedding. We need time to anticipate, to prepare for practical aspects, to think about their significance for us. With adequate preparation we enjoy these events much more.

During the liturgical year the Church has several periods of preparation prior to great feastdays. The first such period begins on November 15, the Christmas Fast, which is not as strict as the Great Lent prior to Easter. **For forty days we anticipate and prepare for the coming (advent) of Christ into the world and into our lives. How will you prepare for Christmas this year?**

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**Some Practical Advice**

As part of your preparation for Christmas resolve to give closer attention to the Word of God by reading, for example, one chapter a day from the Gospels for the next forty days. Getting to know more about the life of Christ will make you appreciate more deeply the significance of His coming which we celebrate on Christmas. In your daily prayers include thanksgiving for the Lord. Getting to know more about the life of Christ will make you appreciate more deeply the significance of His coming which we celebrate on Christmas. In your daily prayers include thanksgiving for the Lord.

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**ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, LANCASTER, PA**

**WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS**

We welcome our non-Orthodox friends and neighbors at all the liturgical services with a reminder that Holy Communion may be received only by **pre pared** Orthodox Christians. Please sign the Visitor’s Registry in the Narthex if you wish to be contacted by the priest.

**Father Hector Firoglanis, Pastor**
**Father Theodosios Palls, Assistant Pastor; Father Alexander Veronis, Pastor Emeritus**

www.annunciationorthodox.org

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**Sunday, November 15th**

**Memorial:** Irene Mavrides (40 day)

- 8:15 AM Orthros
- 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy
- 10:35 AM Sunday School

**Nativity Fast Begins**

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**Monday, November 16th**

- 7:00 PM GOYA Zoom Bible Trivia Night

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**Tuesday, November 17th**

- 7:00 PM DOP Meeting (Zoom), any questions, please call Kathy Granbois, 717-471-1097
- 7:30PM Parish Council Meeting

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**Wednesday, November 18th**

- 6:00 PM Live Stream Book Study w/ Fr. Hector
- 7:00 PM Paraklesis to St. Nikiforos the Leper

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**Thursday, November 19th**

- 9:30–11:00AM Food Box Distribution & Delivery — In memory of Dimitrios & Stamatia Madonis and Nicholas and Evdoxia Hadgis

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**Friday, November 20th**

- 9:00AM Paraklesis to The Theotokos

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**Saturday, November 21st**

- **Entrance of The Theotokos**
  - 8:30 AM Orthros
  - 9:30 AM Liturgy
  - 7:00 PM Vespers

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**2021 Stewardship Pledges**

If you have not made your 2021 Church Stewardship Commitment, please make it today by completing a form in the Narthex and placing it in the Stewardship Box on the table. You may also call or email the church office, or fill out an online pledge at: https://www.annunciationorthodox.org/online-giving/make-a-pledge

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**Annual Community Christmas Card & Decorations**

If you would like to be included in the Annual Community Christmas Card or to make a contribution to purchase Christmas Poinsettias & Decorations please complete the form found in November’s Announcer and return it to the church office by December 4th. A $15 minimum donation per family is greatly appreciated. All donations support the various ministries of the Annunciation Church.

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**Sponsor a Renovated Classroom!**

If you are interested in sponsoring the renovation of a classroom in memory of a loved one, please contact our Parish Council President, Dr. Spencer Phillips (drspphilips@mdvip.com), Fr. Hector Firoglanis (frhector@agochurch.com), or call the church office (717-394-1735). By God’s grace and your generosity it is our prayer that we will renovate all the classrooms of our church building during our 2021 Centennial Year!

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**Thanksgiving Appeal**

Please mail in your Monetary Thanksgiving Donation in the Thanksgiving envelope found in the November Announcer.

All the donations from this year’s Thanksgiving Appeal will go directly towards the Annunciation Church Food Box Ministry, which provides 125 food boxes to neighbors in need of food every other Thursday.

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**CENTENNIAL SPIRITWEAR**

There are 35 extra Centennial Aprons available for sale. $20 each

Please contact Tina Georges if you are interested in purchasing one at 717-314-4678 or email at tineli79@gmail.com

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**ANNUNCIATION APPAREL**

The online store to purchase Annunciation Apparel is now open! This GOYA fundraiser makes a perfect gift for the Holidays.

The store is open now through November 27th

Use the link: sppartners.tuosystems.com/stores/sppartners-oct28-145043

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**Donors needed for:**

- **Altar Flowers, Altar Candles, & Candelabra Candles for November 22, 26 & 29; December 20, 25 & 29.**

Please call the Church Office 717-394-1735 to make your donation.

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**Special thank you to all our volunteers for their time, donations, & service to our parish during our Annual Bazaar.**

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“Among the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed mercy on him.” And Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we might walk in them.”

The Epistle Eph. 2:1-10

Brethren, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through trespasses, he made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved, through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God: not because of works, lest any man should boast.

**1. RESURRECTIONAL APOTYIKION**

When the angelic powers were at your tomb, then that guarded You became as dead. And Mary stood beside the grave seeking Your immaculate body. You devastated Hades and were not tried by it. You met the Virgin and granted life to us. O Lord, Who are risen from the dead, glorify to You. **Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, who are risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.**

**2. FOR THE MARTYRS**

You have given us the miracles of Your holy Martyrs as an impregnable fortress, O Christ our God. At their entreaties, frustrate the plots of foreign enemies, and strengthen our nation, for You alone are good and love humanity.

**3. HYMN OF OUR CHURCH (Fourth Mode)**

Today is the beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the mystery of ages. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin and Gabriel proclaims this gift from God. Together with him we cry out to You. O Theotokos: “Hail thou full of grace, the Lord is with you.”

**4. KONTAKION (Fourth Mode)**

The Savior’s most pure and immaculate temple, the very precious bridal chamber and Virgin, who is the sacred treasure of the glory of God, on this day is introduced into the House of the Lord, and with herself she brings the grace in the divine Spirit. She is exulted by the Angels of God. A heavenly tabernacle is she.