



*Welcome to our Visitors: We are honored to have you come to worship with us. You may find the worship of the Ancient Church rather different. If you are unfamiliar with the worship of the Byzantine Church, simply listen to the Liturgy and allow the rest of the congregation to carry you in worship. We understand Communion to be an act of the unity of our Faith; however, while we work towards it, this unity regrettably does not now exist. Therefore, only baptized Catholics in the State of Grace are permitted to participate in Holy Communion.*



**PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE IN OUR MILITARY:** Dennis Lloyd, Scott Nale, Michael Perko, Matt Reynolds, Robert Skopecck Jr.

**OUR ALTAR SERVERS**

Erik Cline, Anthony Gath, Greg Gath, Marcus Cabrera, Jonny Weil & Andrew Sarsam

**EPISTLE READER / CANTOR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE**

12/21/2014	<b>REHEARSAL</b>	<b>9:00 - 9:45 am</b>
12/21/2014	<b>Kester Bailey</b>	<b>Hebrews 11:9-10,32-40</b>
12/28/2014	<b>REHEARSAL</b>	<b>9:00 - 9:45 am</b>
	<b>Mike Petyo</b>	<b>Galatians 1:11-19</b>

**DIVINE LITURGY AND PARISH CALENDAR**

Sun. 21<sup>st</sup> **SUNDAY OF THE FATHERS**  
 10 am *Living & Deceased Parishioners*  
 4:30 pm *Christmas Concert with St Cecilia's Choir*

Mon. 22<sup>nd</sup> 6 pm *Blessings to Michelle Washicko* (Washicko Family)

Tues. 23<sup>rd</sup> *No Liturgy*

Wed. 24<sup>th</sup> 7 pm *Great Compline with Matins*

Thurs. 25<sup>th</sup> **NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
 10 am *Divine Liturgy*

Fri. 26<sup>th</sup> **SYNAXIS OF THE THEOTOKOS**  
 7 pm + *Blessed Repose William & Irene Dryler* (Kay Terry)

Sat. 27<sup>th</sup> **STEPHEN PROTOMARTYR**  
 9 am + *Blessed Repose James A. Gage* (Anna Gage)  
 6 pm *Vespers*

Sun. 28<sup>th</sup> **SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**  
 10 am *Living & Deceased Parishioners*

**Tithes, Gifts & Finances: 14 December, 2014**

Tithes	\$4,866.00
Youth	16.25
Flowers	720.00
Candles	8.00
Recycling	60.00
Retirement for Religious	135.00
Coffee Social	170.00
Bake Sale	2,005.00
Mortgage Reduction	150.00
<u>Principal Reduction</u>	<u>245.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,375.25</b>

**Weeklong Candle Intentions**

- ETERNAL LIGHT:** *Special Intentions of Fr. James*
- CHRIST:** *Blessings to Janelle, Sophia & July* (Kay Terry)
- CHRIST:** + *Blessed Repose Fr. Vladimir Vancik* (Angelica Villarin)
- THEOTOKOS:** *Special Intention* (Helen Bruce)
- THEOTOKOS:** + *Blessed Repose Mary & Andrew Petruska* (Petruska Family)
- CHRIST ENTHRONED:**  
*Candle Intentions can be requested by filling out an envelope found in the Narthex. Donation is \$4.00*



*Please remember in your prayers:* David (brother of Marilyn Cooper), Mons. Vida and Mons. Moran, Richard Sesma, Deanna Keefe, Jean Mayo (Rita's Mother), Rita and Robert Pipta, Ron Lowery & Family, Libby Distefano, Alex Vida, Susan Dovin, Evdokiya Obushko, Robert M. Weil and Kay Weil, Janet Lambert, Dolores Demko, and Ron & Carol and Gilbert & Sally Pasmant, Ethan McArthur. That the Lord have mercy and save His people undergoing persecution in Pakistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria, Egypt and other lands.



As you review your 2014 tax planning please consider a year end gift to support the Byzantine Catholic Church. Your charitable gift may be given to our parish of Annunciation, the Holy Protection of Mary Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix (Eparchy of Phoenix) for use to support seminarians or mission development, or the Byzantine Catholic Seminary of Sts Cyril and Methodius. Feel free to call me or Fr. Wes Izer (602-861-9778), or David H. Dix, Seminary Development Consultant, at (412) 321-8383 x28 for more information.

**FLOWERS IN FRONT OF THE THEOTOKOS in honor of the engagement of Nicholas Weil and China Wiese by the Marya & Bob Weil.**



Thank you to all who donated for the purchasing of flowers and decorations for the Sanctuary and the church. If you would still like to donate please feel free.



**THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER: Christmas, hope for humanity.** That the birth of the Redeemer may bring peace and hope to all people of good will.  
**Parents.** That parents may be true evangelizers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

**Reminder: Gifts must be postmarked or received on or before Wednesday, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>, 2014, in order to qualify for a charitable deduction on your 2014 tax return.**



- Dec. 24th 7 pm Great Compline with Matins
- Dec. 25th FEAST OF CHRISTMAS (Holy Day of Obligation)  
10 am Divine Liturgy
- Dec. 26th SYNAXIS OF THEOTOKOS (Solemn Holy Day)  
7 pm Divine Liturgy
- Dec. 27th FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN (SIMPLE HOLY DAY)  
9 am Divine Liturgy
- 27th 6 pm Vespers



**JOYFUL SOUND  
OF CHRISTMAS  
DECEMBER 21ST, 4:30 PM**

**SCHOLA CANTORUM ENSEMBLE**  
**St. Cecilia Chorale Directed by Dr. Alina Artemova**  
*Carols and songs, Excerpts from HANDEL'S MESSIAH,*  
*Chants and motets & Sing-a-Long*  
 Annunciation Catholic Church, 995 N. West Street, Anaheim  
 714-533-6292 Tickets: \$10 \$13

**SECURITY CAMERAS** This past week has seen two more instances of vandalism on our campus. Monday, Father was informed of the broken lamppost in front of the church. Then, Thursday Steve Kopko discovered that someone had attempted to jimmy open one of the doors on the north side of the church. Fortunately, very heavy duty and secure doors had been installed, so the hooligan was not able to enter. Bishop Dino has already approved the purchase and installation of a new system that will cover all angles of the exteriors of the parish hall and the church, as well as a camera on the sanctuary. Father and Steve have gathered a few bids and will be discussing the matter so they can be installed before the beginning of the year. The cost will be covered by the very generous donation from the Grace Rocco memorial.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Friday, February 20th for a presentation by the world famous scholar of Byzantine Liturgy and Spirituality, Sr. Vassa.(Larin)

**PRAYER AND THE LIVING  
LENT: "WHAT'S THE POINT?"**

**Join Us for a Talk with (Dr.) Sister Vassa Larin**

**Friday, February 20, 2015**

(Following Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at 6:00pm)

**7:30pm – 9:00pm**

**Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church**



Sister Vassa (Larin) has lived the Orthodox monastic life for twenty-five years. She received her Masters Degree in Orthodox Theology from the Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich, where she also received her doctorate degree in 2008 under the direction of Robert Taft, S.J. Since January 2009, she teaches Liturgical Studies at the University of Vienna. Sister Vassa also hosts the popular youtube show "Coffee With Sister Vassa."

**The Huron Indian Christmas**

**Carol.** In the history of the Catholic Church many of the great saints and missionaries have attempted to inculcate the glorious message of the Nativity of the Christ into images that indigenous peoples could better understand. A carol which deserves to be more widely known among Catholics is the lovely *Indian Christmas Carol* written by St. John de Brebeuf, S.J., a French Jesuit missionary among the Huron Indian tribes. Father de Brebeuf translated the Christmas story into Indian imagery for the Indians at whose hands he later suffered martyrdom. As you read each stanza imagine yourself as a Native American child hearing about the Son of the Great Spirit, who was born among regu-



1. *Twas in the moon of wintertime  
When all the birds had fled,  
That mighty Gitchi Manitou (Great Spirit)  
Sent angel choirs instead;  
Before their light the stars grew dim,  
And wond'ring hunters heard the hymn:  
(Refrain)*

*Refrain:  
Jesus, your King is born,  
Jesus is born,  
In excelsis gloria*

2. *Within a lodge of broken bark  
The tender Babe was found,  
A ragged robe of rabbit skin  
Enwrapp'd Hid beauty 'round.  
But as the hunter braves drew night,  
The angel song rang loud and high:  
(Refrain)*

3. *The earliest moon of wintertime  
Is not so round and fair*

*As was the ring of glory on  
The helpless infant there.  
The chiefs from far before Him knelt  
With gifts of fox and beaver pelt.  
(Refrain)*

4. *O children of the forest free, O sons  
O sons of Manitou,  
The Holy Child of earth and heav'n  
Is born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant boy,  
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.  
(Refrain)*

**The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord in the East**

Following the example of the Western Church, slowly the Eastern Churches began to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord on the 25th of December. Three great Fathers of the Eastern Church played a decisive role in this regard: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian, and St. John Chrysostom. St. Basil the Great (379) was the first to begin to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord on the 25th of December in Cappodocia between the years 371 and 374. One sermon on the Nativity of the Lord is attributed to him. Under his influence, St. Gregory the Theologian (390) introduced this feast in Constantinople. On the 25th of December he began his sermon with these words: "Christ is born — glorify Him! Christ has descended from heaven — greet Him! Christ has appeared on earth — praise Him!" Then he says further: "Today is the feast of the Theophany, or Nativity, as this day is also called, and both names are given to one feast, for God manifested Himself to mankind by being born in the flesh... From the word-manifestation — we have the name Theophany (manifestation of God), and from the word birth — Nativity. This is the feast we are celebrating today — the coming of God to mankind..."

St. John Chrysostom (407) introduced the feast of Christ's Nativity with great zeal in Antioch in 386 or 388. In his sermon on the 25th of December, extolling the Nativity of Christ, he expressed his joy at its celebration: "A long time I have waited to see this day," he says, "and not only to see it but also to celebrate it with such a multitude of people. I prayed unceasingly that our gathering would be great in number as it is today, and it so happened that the prayer was fulfilled. Although ten years had not yet passed since this day became renowned and familiar to us, it seems as though it had been handed down to us from early times, so exalted has it become because of your endeavors. Therefore, he would not err who would say that this feast is both new and at the same time ancient — new, because it was not long ago that it became known to you; ancient, because it quickly achieved equality with the earliest feasts and was raised up to the same level." In his sermon he defends the 25th of December as the real day of Christ's birth, giving as proof the very rapid spread of this feast and the great esteem in which the faithful had held it. Proof of this is also found in the documents that were preserved in Rome concerning the census of Caesar Augustus. Finally, according to him, the fact that the conception of Jesus Christ occurred six months after the conception of John the Baptist proves that December 25 is the real date. So then if the conception of Jesus Christ occurred in March, then his nativity should fall in December.

Later when the Nativity of Christ in the East became a separate feast, the Theophany, celebrated on January 6th, commemorated only the event of the baptism of Christ.



Ever wondered why nativity sets and Nativity Icons always have an ox and an ass depicted? The ox and ass near the manger are found in nearly every Nativity scene — and have been since the 4th century. But they are not there merely to provide the atmosphere of a stable, nor are they the invention of a pious imagination. The tradition originates in two Old Testament passages foretelling the birth of Christ: Isaiah 1:3 — *"The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib, but Israel hath not understood"*; and Habakkuk 3:2 — *"In the*

*midst of two animals Thou shalt become known"*. Pope Benedict, in "Ox and Ass Know Their Lord", a chapter of his lovely little book, *The Blessing of Christmas* (Ignatius Press, 2007), explains: The Fathers of the Church saw in these words a prophecy that pointed ahead to the new people of God, the Church consisting of both Jews and Gentiles. Before God, all men, Jews and Gentiles, were like the ox and ass, without reason or knowledge. But the child in the crib has opened their eyes so that they now recognize the voice of their Master, the voice of their Lord. It is striking to note in the medieval pictures of Christmas how the artists give the two animals almost human faces and how they stand before the mystery of the child and bow down in awareness and reverence. But after all, this was only logical, since the two animals were considered the prophetic symbol for the mystery of the Church — our own mystery, since we are but oxen and asses vis-à-vis the Eternal God, oxen and asses whose eyes are opened on Christmas night, so that they can recognize their Lord in the crib. But some failed to recognize the Savior, he notes. "And what about us?" the pope asks. Are we so wrapped up in ourselves that we become blind to the Child? In this night, then, the faces of the ox and the ass look at us with a question: My people does not understand, but do you perceive the voice of your Lord? When we place the familiar figures in the crib scene, we ought to ask God to give our hearts the simplicity that discovers the Lord in the child. See more at: <http://www.adoremus.org/1209ChristmasCrib.html#sthash.FwiwU3FX.dpuf>



***Last Weekend's Bake Sale was a tremendous success!***

***Our thanks to all the hard work done by our men and women who dedicated so many hours to baking. Over \$2,000 was raised in the sale!***

**IMMACULATE HEART RADIO** has launched a new station in Los Angeles, **KHJ 930 AM**. For live Catholic programming to listen to while in your car or working around the home please consider tuning them in. You will be blessed!

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**THE VOCATION TRAVEING ICON** is at the home of Ingrid Spisak through Dec. 28th. Please join your prayers with hers that the Lord will bless His Holy Church with more priests, monks and religious.