



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, Ian, Nigel and Liam Ward, Jonny Weil & Andrew Sarsam

EPISTLE READER / CANTOR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

12/28/2014 **REHEARSAL 9:00 - 9:45 am**
Mike Petyo Galatians 1:11-19

Tithes, Gifts & Finances: 21 December, 2014

Tithes	\$2,973.00
Youth	14.36
Christmas Flower	15.00
Christmas	500.00
Principal Reduction	10,220.00
Total	\$13,722.36

DIVINE LITURGY AND PARISH CALENDAR

- Sun. 28th **SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**
10 am Living & Deceased Parishioners
- Mon. 29th 6 pm + Blessed Repose Annabelle Richards
(Bruce, Ruth & Catherine Terry)
- Tues. 30th No Liturgy
- Wed. 31st 7 pm Moleben of Thanksgiving
- Thurs. 1st Solemn Holy Day (Circumcision of our Lord)
10 am Divine Liturgy + Blessed Repose Mary Petruska
(Angelica Vallarin)
- Fri. 2nd No Liturgy
- Sat. 3rd Saturday before Theophany
9 am Blessings to Jean Washicko (George & Jean Washicko)
6 pm Vespers



By Peter Andrusiw

Weeklong Candle Intentions

- ETERNAL LIGHT: Special Intentions of Fr. James**
 - CHRIST:** + Blessed Repose Frank Greene (Marilu Krofchek)
 - CHRIST:** + Blessed Repose Frank Greene III (Marilu Krofchek)
 - THEOTOKOS: Special Intention** (Helen Bruce)
 - THEOTOKOS:** + Blessed Repose Teena Greene (Marilu Krofchek)
 - CHRIST NARTHEX: Blessings to Betty Krofchek** (Marilu Krofchek)
- 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.



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 JANUARY: Universal: That those from diverse religious traditions and all people of good will may work together for peace.
Evangelization: That in this year dedicated to consecrated life, religious men and women may rediscover the joy of following Christ and strive to serve the poor with zeal.

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

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 Circumcision of the Lord and the Feast of St. Basil the Great January 1st

The Circumcision of our Lord is the principal feast of January 1st. Eight days after His birth, the Child was circumcised according to the Mosaic Law and was given the name assigned to Him by an angel before He was conceived—**JESUS**.

Christ could have accomplished our redemption by a single word, but he desired to carry out His saving mission through a series of actions which were finally crowned with His death and resurrection. All these various acts between His birth and resurrection were performed for our sake, to help us understand the nature and meaning of our redemption. One of these acts was His circumcision. Circumcision had a sacramental character in the Old Testament and was the first legal observance required by God of the descendants of Abraham. It was, in fact, a sacrament of initiation into the service of God. The law of circumcision remained in force until the death of Christ; and our Lord, being born under this law, submitted Himself to it.

The liturgy sees, in the act of circumcision, Christ giving us an example of obedience to the law, teaching us humility and revealing His infinite mercy. "The all-good God did not disdain to be circumcised by the circumcision of flesh; but offered Himself as a sign and example of salvation to all, for the Maker of the Law fulfills the precepts of the Law and the preaching of the prophets concerning Him" (stichera of vespers). "The Maker of all and the Lord of the World, who is in the highest with the Father and the Spirit, is circumcised on earth as a child of eight days. Your works are indeed divine and wonderful—You were circumcised for our sake, O Lord, since You are the fulfillment of the Law" (kathisma of matins).

This feast dates back to the early centuries and the Fathers of the fourth century, especially St. Gregory of Nyssa and St. Ambrose, have many references to it in their homilies. On the same day, we also celebrate the feast of St. Basil the Great. St. Basil is one of the most distinguished Doctors of the Church. Born about 330 A.D. he was the oldest of five sons. Three of his brothers became bishops, one of whom was St. Gregory of Nyssa who, together with St. Basil himself and his

very close friend, St. Gregory of Nazianzus, make up the trio known as "The Three Cappadocians."

St. Basil became bishop of Caesarea and was a heroic champion of the Catholic faith against the Arian heresy. He was a great theologian, a powerful preacher, and a tireless writer of doctrinal works and numerous letters and homilies. His letters tell the story of his active and varied life. The founder of Eastern monasticism, he edited that form of the Divine Liturgy which bears his name. By common consent, he ranks among the greatest figures of Church history, yet he died January 1, 379. (Taken from The Liturgical Year of the Byzantine-Slavic Rite By Basil Shereghy)

POPE FRANCIS: THE FIFTEEN 'DISEASES' OF THE CURIA

Pope Francis surprised the Cardinals and Bishops who work in the Curia (the "governmental" offices of the Church) when in his Christmas greetings to them, he gave a direct and honest assessment of what he sees as "illnesses" that infect their institution. This makes for good reading because many of these spiritual illnesses are present in parishes, dioceses, eparchies and Bishop Conferences around the world. Below is a summary of the speech as found in the Vatican Insider, December 25th, 2014 edition (<http://vaticaninsider.lastampa.it/en/the-vatican/detail/articolo/francesco-francisco-francis-38200/>)

Francis invites his collaborators to examine their conscience to confess their 'sins' in today's speech. He mentions vainglory and feeling essential, as well as 'spiritual Alzheimer's' and hoarding money and power. The Pope also speaks of closed circles and worldly profit, as well as the 'terrorism of gossip'.

ANDREA TORNIELLI

VATICAN CITY 15 diseases listed and explained, one by one in detail. In his second Christmas speech to the Roman Curia, Pope Francis identifies and explains 15 shades of sin, inviting everyone to ask for God's forgiveness. The same God who 'is born in poverty in a cave in Bethlehem to teach us the power of humility', and was welcomed not by the "chosen" people but by the "poor and simple". Pope Francis asks his collaborators to really examine their conscience in preparation for confession before Christmas.

Francis explains that these 'diseases' and 'temptations' do not only concern the Curia but 'are naturally a danger to every Christian and every curia, community, congregation, parish, and ecclesiastic movement'. The Pope, however, clearly identifies these as present within the environment where he has been living for 21 months now.

The Pope said that 'it would be good to think of the Roman Curia as a small model of the Church, that is as a "body" which earnestly attempts to be more alive, healthier, more harmonious and more united in itself and in Christ every day". The Curia, like the Church, cannot live 'without having a vital, personal, authentic and solid relationship with Christ'. And a member of the Curia who does not draw from that every day will become a mere bureaucrat. He adds that 'we will talk about the list of diseases which, following the Fathers of the desert, will aid us in preparing for confession'.

The disease of feeling 'immortal' or 'essential'

'A curia that does not practice self-criticism, does not keep up to date, does not try to better itself, is an infirm Body'. The Pope mentions that a visit to cemeteries could help us see the names of many who 'maybe thought they were immortal, exempt and essential'. It is the disease of those who 'turn into masters and feel superior to everyone rather than in the service of all people. It often comes from the pathology of power, the "Messiah complex" and narcissism'.

The disease of excessive activity

It is the disease of those who, like Martha in the Gospel, 'lose themselves in their work, inevitably neglecting "what is better"; sitting at Jesus' feet'. The Pope recalls that Jesus 'called his disciples to "rest a little", because neglecting necessary rest brings anxiety and stress'.

The diseases of mental and spiritual 'petrification'

It is the disease of those who 'lose their internal peace, their vivacity and audacity, to hide under papers and become "procedural machines" instead of men of God', unable to 'weep with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice!'.

The disease of over planning "When the apostle plans everything in detail' and believes that, through this, 'things progress effectively, thus becoming an accountant. Good planning is necessary but without falling into the temptation of wanting to enclose or steer the freedom of the Holy Spirit... it is always easier and more convenient to fall back on static and unchanged positions'.

The disease of bad coordination It is the disease of members who 'lose the community among them, and the Body loses its harmonious functionality' becoming 'an orchestra producing undisciplined noise because its members do not cooperate and do not live communally and have team spirit'.

The disease of spiritual Alzheimer's That is a 'progressive decline of spiritual faculties' which 'causes severe disadvantages to people', making them live in a 'state of absolute dependence on their, often imagined, views'. We can see this in those who have 'lost their memory' of their encounter with the Lord, in those who depend on their 'passions, whims and obsessions'.

The disease of rivalry and vainglory 'When the appearance, the colour of the vestments and the honours become the first objectives of life... It is the disease that leads us to become false men and women, living a false "mysticism" and false "quietism"'.

The disease of existential schizophrenia It is the disease of those who live 'a double life, a result of the hypocrisy typical of mediocre people and of advancing spiritual emptiness, which degrees or academic titles cannot fill'. It often strikes us that some 'abandon the pastoral service and limit their activities to bureaucracy, losing touch with reality and real people. They thus create their own parallel world, where they set aside all that the others harshly teach' and live a 'hidden' and often 'dissolute' life.

The disease of gossip and chatter 'It takes hold of a person making them "sowers of discord" (like Satan), and, in many cases, "cold-blooded murderers" of the reputation of their colleagues and brothers. It is the disease of cowards, who do not have the courage to speak upfront and so talk behind one's back... Watch out against the terrorism of gossip!'.

The disease of deifying the leaders It is the disease of those who 'court their superiors', becoming victims of 'careerism and opportunism' and 'live their vocation thinking only of what they must gain and not of what they must give'. It might also affects the superiors 'when they court some of their collaborators in order to gain their submission, loyalty and psychological dependence, but the final result is real complicity'.

The disease of indifference to other 'When each one thinks only of themselves and loses the truthfulness and warmth of human relationships. When the more experienced ones do not offer their knowledge to the service of less experienced colleagues. When, because of jealousy or cunning, we rejoice in seeing others fall, rather than lift them up and encourage them'.

The disease of the funeral face It is the disease of people who are 'scowling and unfriendly and think that, in order to be serious, they must show a melancholic and strict face and treat others - especially those, whom they think are inferior - with rigidity, harshness and arrogance'. In reality, adds the Pope, 'theatrical strictness and sterile pessimism are often symptoms of fear and insecurity about themselves. The apostle must strive to be a polite, serene, enthusiastic and joyful person...'. Francis invites people to be full of humour and self-irony; 'How beneficial a healthy dose of humour can be!'

The disease of hoarding 'When the apostle seeks to fill an existential void in his heart by hoarding material possessions, not because of necessity, but only to feel secure'.

The disease of closed circles When belonging to a clique becomes more important than belonging to the Body and, in some situations, than belonging to Christ himself. Even this disease starts from good intentions, but in time it enslaves all its members becoming "a cancer"'.

The disease of worldly profit and exhibitionism 'When the apostle turns his service into power, and his power into a commodity to gain worldly profits, or even more powers. It is the disease of those people who relentlessly seek to increase their powers. To achieve that, they may defame, slander and discredit others, even on newspapers and magazines. Naturally, that is in order to show off and exhibit their superiority to others'. A disease that 'badly hurts the Body because it leads people to justify the use of any means in order to fulfill their aim, often in the name of transparency and justice!'

Francis ended by recalling that he had once read that 'priests are like airplanes, they make the headlines only when they fall, but there are many who fly. Many criticize, and few pray for them'. He said this statement was 'very true, because it highlights the importance and the delicacy of our priestly ministry, and how much a single priest who 'falls' may hurt the whole body of the Church'.

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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