



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.

**OUR ALTAR SERVERS**

Erik Cline, Anthony Gath, Greg Gath, Marcus Cabrera, Ian, Liam & Nigel Ward, Jonathan Weil, & Andrew Sarsam

EPISTLE READER / CANTOR REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

12/07/2014	<b>REHEARSAL</b>	<b>9:00 - 9:45 am</b>
	Ron Pasmant	Ephesians 5:9-19
12/14/2014	<b>REHEARSAL</b>	<b>9:00 - 9:45 am</b>
12/14/2014	Marc Brown	Colossians 3:4-11
12/21/2014	<b>REHEARSAL</b>	<b>9:00 - 9:45 am</b>
12/21/2014	Kester Bailey	Hebrews 11:9-10,32-40
12/28/2014	<b>REHEARSAL</b>	<b>9:00 - 9:45 am</b>
	Mike Petyo	Galatians 1:11-19

**DIVINE LITURGY AND PARISH CALENDAR**

Sun. 7<sup>th</sup> 26<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
 10 am Living & Deceased Parishioners

Mon. 8<sup>th</sup> 9 AM SOLEMN HOLY DAY OF CONCEPTION OF ANNA  
 7:30 pm Blessed Repose of  
 + William Vann (Father of Bs. Vann)

Tues. 9<sup>th</sup> No Liturgy

Wed. 10<sup>th</sup> 6 pm Healing to Katherine H. Gage (Anna Gage)

Thurs. 11<sup>th</sup> No Liturgy

Fri. 12<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm Our Lady of Guadalupe  
 Birthday Blessings to Andrew Flores  
 (Jan & George Washicko)

Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> 6 pm Vespers

Sun. 14<sup>th</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**Tithes, Gifts & Finances: 30 November, 2014**

Tithes	\$3,673.75
Youth	14.25
Candles	8.00
Thanksgiving	610.00
Mortgage	30.00
Sanctuary	70.00
Principal Reduction	190.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,596.00</b>

**Weeklong Candle Intentions**

ETERNAL LIGHT: *Special Intentions of Fr. James*

CHRIST: *Blessings to Sr. Anastasia, Julie & Danielle* (Kay Terry)

CHRIST:

THEOTOKOS: *Special Intention* (Helen Bruce)

THEOTOKOS:

CHRIST ENTHRONED: *Special Intentions*

Candle Intentions can be requested by filling out an envelope found in the Narthex. Donation is \$4.00



FLOWER DONATION before the Icon of the Theotokos has been given by Chuck & Marilu Krofchik, in honor of The Feasts of the Immaculate Conception & Our Lady of Guadalupe.



Please remember in your prayers: Tom Brown (Brother of Sue Petyo), 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.

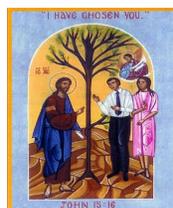
**2014 CONTRIBUTIONS to Church of the Annunciation** will be gladly acknowledged and documented. So, if you would like to apply a contribution to your 2014 taxes, you have to make sure the office receives the donation by December 31st. Any contributions received January 1st will be acknowledged for the tax year 2015.



The new 2015 offering envelopes are available in the Narthex of the Church. Our thanks to Funeraria Del Angel Pierce Brothers Anaheim Mortuary for covering the costs of the calendars again this year. Calendars should be here in about a week (I hope).



Our sincere Thanks to all who contributed to the materials for the gift bags to the Homeless. You cannot imagine how much they appreciate your generosity. *Proverbs 19:17* *Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed.*



**THE VOCATION TRAVELING ICON** is at the home of Doug & Suzanne Ward until Dec. 14th. Please join your prayers with theirs that the Lord will bless His Holy Church with more priests, monks and religious.



Holy Father's Prayer Intentions

**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. Also, That parents may be true evangelizers, passing on to their children the precious gift of faith.

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

**METROPOLITAN CANTORS' WORKSHOP**

**ONLINE:** Some have lamented that we, on the West Coast, don't have the advantages of the those who live in Pittsburgh; especially, when it come to the training for cantors. The Lord answers prayers. Just yesterday we received this email from Jeff Mierzejewski: *"To meet the needs of cantors and prospective cantors far from the Pittsburgh area – and to provide additional resources to local cantors as well – the Metropolitan Cantor Institute has created a distance learning program, which we call MCI Online. Using a computer connected to the Internet, students will be able to view lessons on their own schedule, take quizzes to test their knowledge, and gain access to other instructional materials (including copyrighted materials we cannot simply post on the MCI website).*

**How do I get started?**

- Students who register for the full year of MCI classes in Pittsburgh are automatically enrolled in MCI Online.
- Cantors outside the Pittsburgh area who wish to enroll in MCI Online (only) can do so for \$60 per year. This fee allows access to all online cantor classes AND a certain amount of individualized instruction (coaching, assistance with difficulties, etc.) Use of MCI Online requires a computer with access to the Internet, a Web browser, and speakers or headphones. Older computers may not support all MCI Online features. Information about MCI Online will be sent to students upon enrollment.

See the attached brochure for registration information.

(Available in the Narthex)

*Yours in Christ,  
Jeff Mierzejewski*

**8 DECEMBER: THE CONCEPTION OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD****Join us for Divine Liturgy at 9 am or 7:30 pm.**

"In accordance with the eternal purpose of God, who willed to prepare a most pure habitation for Himself in order to take flesh and dwell among men, Joachim and Anna were prevented from having children for many years. Their barren old age was symbolic of human nature itself, bowed down and dried up under the weight of sin and death, yet they never ceased begging God to take away their reproach. Now when the time of preparation determined by the Lord had been fulfilled, God sent an Angel to Joachim in solitude on a mountain, and to Anna in her affliction weeping in her garden, to tell them that the ancient prophecies were soon to be fulfilled in them: a child would be born to them, who was destined to become the veritable Ark of the new Covenant, the divine Ladder, the unburnt Bush, the living Temple where the Word of God would take up his abode. Through the conception of Saint Anna, the barrenness of human nature itself, separated from God by death, has on this day been brought to an end; and by the wondrous birth-giving of her who had remained childless until the age when women can no longer bear fruit, God announced and testified to the more astonishing miracle of the Conception without seed, and of the immaculate coming to birth of Christ within the heart and the womb of the Most Holy Virgin and Mother of God.

"Even though the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary took place through a miraculous action of God, she was conceived by the union of man and woman in accordance with the laws of our human nature, which has fallen through Adam's transgression and become subject to sin and corruption (cf. Gen. 3:16). As the chosen Vessel and precious Shrine prepared by God since the beginning of time, she is indeed the most pure and the most perfect of mankind, but even so, she has not been set apart from our common inheritance nor from the consequences of the sin of our first parents. Just as it was fitting that Christ, in order to deliver us from death by his own voluntary death (Heb. 2:14), should by His Incarnation be made like to men in all things except sin; so it was meet that His Mother, in whose womb the Word of God would unite with human nature, should be subject to death and corruption like every child of Adam, lest we not be fully included in Salvation and Redemption. The Mother of God has been chosen and preferred among all women, not arbitrarily, but because God foresaw that she would preserve her purity and keep it perfect: conceived and born like all of us, she has been worthy to become the Mother of the Son of God and the mother of us all. So, in her tenderness and compassion, she is able to intercede for us with her Son, that He may have mercy upon us." ( From the Synaxarion)

**Sunday Coffee Hour Hosting**

As some are aware, it is very difficult to find volunteers to host the weekly coffee hours. Some reasons may be that people have had to sign up for a month at a time (Serving 3 or 4 times a month); it is expensive to buy 7 dozen doughnuts each week; the time commitment to do this so many weeks in a row is a lot to expect, etc. So, Fr. James discussed with the Pastor's Advisory Council about changing the structure and expectations for the volunteers (There were no objections). The changes are these:

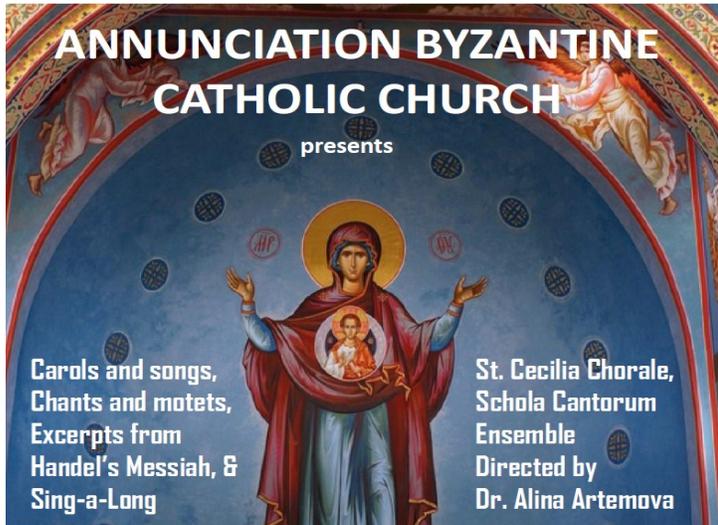
- 1) A sign up sheet will be displayed in the Parish Hall. One or two families or individuals can sign up for one week at a time.
- 2) They will be responsible for setting out and serving the teas and coffee and WHATEVER fruit, sweet or cookies they decide to bring; usually-enough for 90 people. Doughnuts are optional.
- 3) By signing up you are responsible for cleaning up and putting away the coffee pots, trash, etc.
- 4) There will be no "charge" for coffee and snacks. Instead, it will be a free will offering each week to be used for the purchasing of new Altar robes.
- 5) On those weeks that no one signs up, there may or may not be a Coffee Social, depending if someone wants to take the time to make the coffee in the morning. (If you decide to make the coffee you have to find someone to clean up).
- 6) The hope is that since the cost will be greatly reduced (only signing up for one week at a time and the ability to bring their choice of snack) more families will sign up.
- 7) If every family takes a turn, no one would have to volunteer more than once a year.

## PHILLIPIAN FAST HOLY DAY SCHEDULE :

Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Maternity of St. Anna

9 am Divine Liturgy Steve Kopko

7:30 pm Divine Liturgy Bob Pipta

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm Theotokos of Guadalupe Bob PiptaDec. 13<sup>th</sup> 6 pm Vespers Mike PetyoDec. 21<sup>st</sup> 4:30 pm *Christmas Choral Concert by St. Cecilia*Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 7 pm Great Compline with MatinsDec. 25<sup>th</sup> 10 am Divine LiturgyDec. 26<sup>th</sup> 7 pm Divine Liturgy Bob PiptaDec. 27<sup>th</sup> 9 am Divine Liturgy Steve Kopko

On Sunday, December 21st, at 4:30 pm the St. Cecilia Chorale, Schola Cantorum, will present *Joyful Sounds of the Christmas* in our own beautiful Church of the Annunciation. The Schola will be under the direction of Dr. Alina Artemova. The program will include Carols and songs, Chants and motets, Excerpts from Handel's Messiah, & Sing-a-Long. Tickets of \$13



**The Christmas Bake Sale is on the 14<sup>th</sup>, and home made goodies or monetary donations are accepted.**

**Christmas Gift Boutique:** *Come visit us in the gift shop any Sunday to find that hard to get religious book or item. There will also be a Gift Boutique in the social hall after liturgy on December 14th and 21st.* Sue & Carol Petyo



**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE** On December 9, 1531, in Mexico, Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego, a poor humble Aztec Indian who had recently converted to the Catholic faith. She asked him to go to the Bishop and tell him to build a church where she said "I will show and offer all of my love, my compassion, my help and my protection to my people." Juan Diego did as she asked, but the Bishop asked for a sign that this message was really from Our Lady.

Mary granted his request. On December 12, she showed Juan where the most beautiful Castilian roses were and told him to gather them. It was a miracle that the roses were there and in bloom because there was frost on the ground, and the ground was an infertile place where only cactus and thistles grew. After he gathered them, she helped arrange them in his tilma, or poncho, and told him to show them to the Bishop. When he brought them to the Bishop, the Bishop was amazed at the roses, but was even more amazed at what began to happen to Juan Diego's tilma. Right before their very eyes, the image of Our Lady began to form on the cloth. The picture of Mary was beautiful and the Bishop fell to his knees. He had the church built at her request.

The tilma is still intact after 470 years. The colors have not faded and the cloth has not deteriorated. It has been on display in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe for all this time. The manner in which Our Lady appeared on the tilma was very significant to the Aztec Indians. God had her dressed in a way that they would understand who she was. She was dressed in royal clothes that showed that she was very important, perhaps a queen.

She also had the symbol of the cross at her neck which was the same symbol the Spaniards had on their ships and in the churches they built. She had a sash tied around her waist which meant that she was with child, for this was the way the Aztec women dressed when they were pregnant. And on her beautiful dress were all sorts of designs and flowers. But there was one flower on her dress that was very significant. It had only four petals. To the Aztecs, the four petal flower was the symbol for the true God, the God above all gods. This flower was located on her abdomen, right over the place where Jesus was growing inside of her. The Aztecs immediately understood that this was the mother of the true God!

This appearance of Our Lady of Guadalupe was very important to the history of our continent. You see, the Aztec Indians and the Spaniards were on the brink of war. The Aztec Indians' culture and religion were very different from the Spaniards. They worshipped gods, to whom they would offer human sacrifices, often killing 50,000 people a year. The Spaniards, who were Catholic, were naturally disgusted by this. But they were cruel to the Aztecs too, treating them like animals and sometimes killing them for no reason. If a war had occurred, it would have been very brutal and the Spaniards and Christianity would have been totally wiped out.

Mary's appearance changed everything, however. It helped the Indians to embrace Christianity and it helped the Spaniards to treat the Indians with respect and as human beings. In the course of seven years, 6,000,000 Indians converted to the Catholic faith. This was the biggest conversion in the history of the Church! This is why Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of the Americas. Juan Diego, the humble man to whom she appeared, was canonized in the summer of 2002.

Mary's appearance also put an end to the worship of stone gods and the ritual of human sacrifice. We pray for Mary's help today to bring an end to the human sacrifice of God's children through abortion and to convert non-believers. Our Lady of Guadalupe is also called the Patroness of the Unborn.