

THE TROPHYBEARER

Pastoral Thoughts

Annunciation in the Midst of Lent

Each year, as we labor through the first weeks of Great Lent, the radiant Feast of the Annunciation meets us like a burst of light. At first glance, Lent calls us to repentance, fasting, and struggle, while the Annunciation proclaims joy. Yet the Church places them together because they reveal one single mystery: salvation begins with a humble "yes."

On the first Sunday of Lent, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we proclaim that God truly became man. The Annunciation is the beginning of that reality. As St. John of Damascus taught, we depict Christ because He truly took flesh. In Nazareth, when the Virgin receives the Archangel's message, the invisible God begins to be seen.

On the second Sunday, we remember St. Gregory Palamas, who taught that God's grace is His uncreated light. That same divine grace overshadowed the Virgin at the Annunciation. Lent is not merely self-improvement; it is opening ourselves to that very light.

The third Sunday brings us to the Cross. The Child conceived at the Annunciation is born for Golgotha. When the Theotokos says, "Be it unto me according to thy word," she accepts not only joy but also suffering. Lent teaches us that true obedience to God always passes through the Cross — and beyond it, to resurrection.

On the fourth Sunday, we honor St. John Climacus and the Ladder of Divine Ascent. The Virgin's obedience is the first rung of that ladder. Through humility, humanity begins to rise again.

In these holy days, the Annunciation becomes personal. God speaks His word to each of us. The question is whether we will make room for Christ to dwell within us.

Through fasting, prayer, and repentance, may we learn to answer as she did:

"Let it be to me according to Thy word."



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PARISH NEWS

Epistle Readers

Anyone wishing to become an Epistle Reader, Please Contact Father Michael

Sunday, March 1, 2026: The Sunday of Orthodoxy: Alexa Florence

Sunday, March 8, 2026: The Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas: Harry Coin

Sunday, March 15, 2026: The Sunday of the Holy Cross: Aletheia Hadjis

Sunday, March 22, 2026: The Sunday of Saint John Climacus: Eric Reyes

Sunday, March 29, 2026: The Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt: Mary Rankin

Evening Meal Volunteers

March 25, 2026: Kim Eastland / Veronica Tolescu

April 22, 2026: Dennis and Nancy Spurgetis

May 27, 2026: Kathy Begyn / Elaine Amidon

June 24, 2026: Fr. Michael and Presbytera Maria Constantinides / Doug and Patti Kenyon

Anyone interested in taking part in this worthwhile ministry should contact Mary Winters at 563-726-2880

Parish Council Sunday Duty Schedule

Sunday, March 1, 2026: Nick Elias, Ted Pitsoulakis, and Dennis Spurgetis

Sunday, March 8, 2026: Joe Burmeister, Mariellen Crosson, Pete Hadjis, Gus Pappas

Sunday, March 15, 2026: Kathy Begyn, Kim Eastland, Mary Kay Eckert, and Mary Rankin.

Sunday, March 22, 2026: Nick Elias, Ted Pitsoulakis, and Dennis Spurgetis

Sunday, March 29, 2026: Joe Burmeister, Mariellen Crosson, Pete Hadjis, Gus Pappas

Lenten Schedule

Great Compline @ Assumption 6:00 p.m.

Monday, March 2, 2026; March 9, 2026; Monday, March 16, 2026; and March 23, 2026.

Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays

March 4, 2026: 6:00 p.m. at Saint George

March 11, 2026: 5:30 p.m. at Assumption

March 18, 2026: 6:00 p.m. at Saint George

March 25, 2026: The Annunciation of the Theotokos (no Presanctified) @

Assumption: 8:00 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy.

Lenten Pot Luck @ Assumption after Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

Sunday, March 1 – Sunday of Orthodoxy

8:30 a.m. Orthros/9:30 am Divine Liturgy

We remind the faithful to bring an icon from home to participate in the procession!

Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at St Nicholas in Davenport at 6:00 p.m.

Salutations on Fridays:

March 6, 13, 20*, 27 @ 7:00 p.m. Saint George

(March 20, 6:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m. Lenten Lecture)

PROSPHORA MAKERS

Sunday, March 1, 2026:

Adrienne Johnson

Sunday, March 8, 2026: Open

Sunday, March 15, 2026: Open

Sunday, March 22, 2026: Open

Sunday, March 29, 2026: Open

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Sunday, March 1, 2026: Joe and Hillary Burmeister

Sunday, March 8, 2026: Kim Eastland and Veronica Tolescu

Sunday, March 15, 2026: Harry and Susan Coin

Sunday, March 22, 2026: John and Shan Corelis

Sunday, March 29, 2026: Steve and Mary Kay Eckert

PARISH REGISTRY

Funeral

The servant of God, Mike Pyevich, fell asleep in the Lord and was buried on February 28, 2026.

LADIES FELLOWSHIP COFFEE

Ladies Fellowship Coffee - Second Thursday of every month @ 9 am. The Coffee House in East Village, 1315 Jersey Ridge Rd., Davenport. Spread the word. No RSVP required - hope to see you there!

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

The Sunday of Orthodoxy (March 1)

For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever-memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: "If anyone does not offer relative worship to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema." Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole first week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God's forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again adorned the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy, that is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.

The Sunday of Saint Gregory Palamas (March 8)

This divine Father, who was from Asia Minor, was from childhood reared in the royal court of Constantinople, where he was instructed in both religious and secular wisdom. Later, while still a youth, he left the imperial court and struggled in asceticism on Mount Athos, and in the Skete at Beroea. He spent some time in Thessalonica being treated for an illness that came from his harsh manner of life. He was present in Constantinople at the Council that was convened in 1341 against Barlaam of Calabria, and at the Council of 1347 against Acindynus, who was of like mind with Barlaam; Barlaam and Acindynus claimed that the grace of God is created. At both these Councils, the Saint contended courageously for the true dogmas of the Church of Christ, teaching in particular that divine grace is not created, but is the uncreated energies of God which are poured forth throughout creation: otherwise it would be impossible, if grace were created, for man to have genuine communion with the uncreated God. In 1347 he was appointed Metropolitan of Thessalonica. He tended his flock in an apostolic manner for some twelve years, and wrote many books and treatises on the most exalted doctrines of our Faith; and having lived for a total of sixty-three years, he reposed in the Lord in 1359.

His holy relics are kept in the Cathedral of Thessalonica. A full service was composed for his feast day by the Patriarch Philotheus in 1368, when it was established that his feast be celebrated on this day. Since works without right faith avail nothing, we set Orthodoxy of faith as the foundation of all that we accomplish during the Fast, by celebrating the Triumph of Orthodoxy the Sunday before, and the great defender of the teachings of the holy Fathers today.

THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS (MARCH 15)

With the help of God, we have almost reached the middle of the course of the Fast, where our strength has been worn down through abstinence, and the full difficulty of the labour set before us becomes apparent. Therefore our holy Mother, the Church of Christ, now brings to our help the all-holy Cross, the joy of the world, the strength of the faithful, the staff of the just, and the hope of sinners, so that by venerating it reverently, we might receive strength and grace to complete the divine struggle of the Fast.

THE SUNDAY OF SAINT JOHN CLIMACUS (MARCH 22)

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on March 30; his biography may be found there. He is celebrated today because his book, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, is a sure guide to the ascetic life, written by a great man of prayer experienced in all forms of the monastic polity; it teaches the seeker after salvation how to lay a sound foundation for his struggles, how to detect and war against each of the passions, how to avoid the snares laid by the demons, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. It is held in such high esteem that it is universally read in its entirety in monasteries during the Great Fast.

THE SUNDAY OF SAINT MARY OF EGYPT (MARCH 29)

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on April 1, where her life is recorded. Since the end of the holy Forty Days is drawing nigh, it has been appointed for this day also, so that if we think it hard to practice a little abstinence forty days, we might be roused by the heroism of her who fasted in the wilderness forty-seven years; and also that the great loving-kindness of God, and His readiness to receive the repentant, might be demonstrated in very deed.

Change for Change **Challenge**

From Sunday, February 22 to Good Friday, April 10, 2026, The Philoptochos Society is again asking parishioners to help fill a milk jug to benefit a local charity. This year proceeds will go to *Boys and Girls Club of the Mississippi Valley*. This organization's mission is to *empower youth to reach their highest potential by providing transformative experiences*. **The Philoptochos will match the donations up to \$300.** So *change your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters into something that can help change the lives of our Quad City youth.*





The Vicariate of Iowa

Invites you to Salutations on Friday, March 20, 2026, either in person
at your Parish, or virtually at Saint George in Rock Island, IL, at
6:00 p.m.

Facebook or YouTube

Then join us via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. for an inspiring Lenten Lecture by
Fr. Nicholas March of Transfiguration in Mason City, IA.

Zoom Link

Meeting ID: 896 1414 1744

Passcode: 205465

2026 Saint George Pascha Potluck Dinner

Come join us following AGAPE Vespers for a wonderful Lamb dinner provided by St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

Everyone brings something along with them and we share in the truest sense of Christians.



Good Music

Fun fellowship

Foods from all around the world.

Join us for the Saint George Greek Orthodox Church annual

PASCHA POTLUCK DINNER



SAINT GEORGE FEAST DAY CELEBRATION



On Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., we will celebrate Great Vespers for the feast of Saint George.

Following Great Vespers will be a coffee reception

Then, on Thursday, April 23, 2026, we will celebrate the feast day of The Great Martyr George the Trophy Bearer with Orthros at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy

Immediately following Divine Liturgy, a Luncheon Buffet for all those in attendance.

All are invited to join us in celebration of the Great Martyr George.

Come and enjoy a day of celebration honoring our Great Saint.



2026 MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Sunday of Orthodoxy Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy *The faithful are to bring an icon from home to participate in the procession of icons!* 6:00 p.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers at Saint Nicholas in Davenport, IA	2 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Great Compline @ Assumption Church	3 Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Virtual Orthodox Study Forum	4 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy	5 Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Book Study: On the Incarnation by Saint Athanasios the Great both "in-person" and Zoom	6 Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Second Salutations	7 Oil and Wine Allowed
8 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School classes following Holy Communion	9 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Great Compline @ Assumption Church	10 Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Virtual Orthodox Study Forum	11 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 5:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy @ Assumption followed by a Lenten Pot-Luck Dinner	12 Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Book Study: On the Incarnation by Saint Athanasios the Great both "in-person" and Zoom	13 Fast Day 9:00 a.m. Women's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 7:00 p.m. Third Salutations	14 Oil and Wine Allowed
15 Sunday of the Holy Cross Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy *The Procession of the Holy Cross will occur following Orthros as is the ancient practice and not following the Divine Liturgy* Sunday School classes following Holy Communion	16 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Great Compline @ Assumption Church	17 Fast Day 6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	18 Fast Day 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy	19 Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Book Study: On the Incarnation by Saint Athanasios the Great both "in-person" and Zoom	20 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Fourth Salutations 7:30 p.m. Lenten Lecture	21 Oil and Wine Allowed
22 Sunday of Saint John Climacus Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School classes following Holy Communion	23 Fast Day 6:00 p.m. Great Compline @ Assumption	24 Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Virtual Orthodox Study Forum	25 The Annunciation of the Theotokos Fish, Oil and Wine allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at Assumption	26 Fast Day 7:00 p.m. Book Study: On the Incarnation by Saint Athanasios the Great both "in-person" and Zoom	27 Fast Day 7:00 p.m. The Akathyst Hymn	28 Oil and Wine Allowed
29 Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt Oil and Wine Allowed 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School classes following Holy Communion	30 Fast Day	31 Fast Day				