

# HOLY ANGELS BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



*The Healing of the Bent Woman*

November 24, 2024

*27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

*Postfeast of Entrance into the Temple;  
The Holy Great Martyr Catherine of Alexandria;  
The Holy Great Martyr Mercurius*

# November 24, 2024

## Schedule of services for the week of November 25 – December 1

**Thursday, November 28 – The Holy Venerable Martyr Stephen the New; The Holy Martyr Irenarchus**  
9AM – Divine Liturgy

**Saturday, November 30 – The Holy and All-Praised Apostle Andrew, the First-Called**  
9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy & Panahida; +Margaret Bankston  
4:00 PM – Confessions  
5:00 PM – Great Vespers

**Sunday, December 1 – 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost; The Holy Prophet Nahum**  
7:30 AM – Matins  
9:00 AM – Divine Liturgy

**“Woman, you are freed from your infirmity!” As the Physician of souls and bodies, our Lord shows mercy to the woman who had an infirmity for eighteen years. His healing can restore any brokenness, and the life in Christ allows us to bring his healing to the world. Are you being called to do so through the priestly, diaconal, monastic or religious life?**

Contact the Vocations Office at 206-329-9219 or email: [vocations@ephx.org](mailto:vocations@ephx.org)

### A PRAYER BEFORE READING OR LISTENING TO THE WORD OF GOD

By St. John Chrysostom

O Lord Jesus Christ, open the eyes of my heart, that I may hear Your word and understand and do Your will, for I am a sojourner upon the earth. Hide not Your commandments from me, but open mine eyes, that I may perceive the wonders of Your law. Speak unto me the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom. On You do I set my hope, O my God, that You shalt enlighten my mind and understanding with the light of Your knowledge, not only to cherish those things which are written, but to do them; that in reading the lives and sayings of the saints I may not sin, but that such may serve for my restoration, enlightenment and sanctification, for the salvation of my soul, and the inheritance of life everlasting. For You are the enlightenment of those who lie in darkness, and from You comes every good deed and every gift. Amen.

**On December 8,** St. Nicholas will visit the parish. We will have a pot-luck that day. Please check the sign-up sheet in the church hall to see what you can sign up to bring to the celebration. Today after Divine Liturgy will be a planning meeting for the St. Nicholas Celebration on December 8.



Thank You to the Knights of Columbus, Balboa Assembly for providing us with a new American Flag!

### O Physician of Souls and Bodies, we pray for:

Pope Francis, Barbara Alexander, Maria Amaro, Fr. Deacon Craig Anderson, Janice Andre, Peter Andre, Fr. Christopher Andrews, Harry and Virginia Bowden, Kim Camplisson, Patrick Carmack, Fr. Andriy Chirovsky, Julia Camberos, Dennis Cline, Amy Cohn, Vivian Corr, Maria Cruz, Joe Danscuk, Fr. Daniel Dozier, Gabriel Espedal, Ana Fandrey, Karen Foto, Christine Galgano, Janet Greenwell, Deborah Harris, Michael Havens, Martha Hill, Doris Huber, Rebecca Huber, Melissa Hunter, Taylor Kessler, Subdcn Paul Kilroy Jamie Kohanyj, Juan Lopez, Pauli Martin, Mila Mina, Linda Moffit, Maryann Nagrant, Julia Ohnysty, Genevieve Paquette, Sylvia Pasnak, Fr. Lee Perry, Anthony Porrello, Nina Porrello, Peter Porrello, Fr. Robert Rankin, Margaret Raya, Michael Raya Jr. Maha Salazar, Gretchen Sharpe, Karen Simonich, Debbie Stark, Tava Tomc, Hong Truong, Pat Walsh, Maria Zhukova, Gianna, Nicole, Subdcn Eddie and his wife Viane.



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Saturday,  
December 14  
is Family  
Craft and  
Game night,  
right after  
vespers, about  
6:00 pm.

Come for Fellowship, various  
Christmas crafts and fun. Bring a  
game to play, too!

“The Woman Whom even God dreamed of before the world was made; The Woman of Who, though no priest, could yet on Calvary’s Hill breathe, ‘this is my Body; this is my Blood’ – for none save Her gave Him human life. The Woman Who guides my pen, which falters so with words in telling of the Word. Accept these dried grapes of thoughts from this poor author, who has no wine; work a miracle and save a soul forgetting not my own.”

– Venerable Fulton Sheen

*(Dedication Poem in World’s First Love)*

### **We are Called to Bear Fruit**

At the Last Supper, as we read in Chapter 15 of the Gospel of John, Jesus instructed His disciples, “I Am the Vine; you are the branches.” He was telling us that the purpose of our abiding in Him is that we may bear fruit for God in the world. “By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit...” (John 15:8). Just as the vine bears fruit only through its branches, so Jesus has chosen to work in the world through us. We are the members of His body – the branches through which the Vine must bear fruit. We bear fruit when we serve and support God and His Church.

### **Sayings of Mother Gavrilia (+1992)**

- Human relationships become difficult when the “I” stands above the “you”.
- Better a prayer of the lips than no prayer at all.
- How easy it is to go on a diet for the sake of one’s figure! And how difficult it is to fast on Wednesdays and Fridays because our Church has asked for...
- Our destination is to worship God and to love our fellow-men.
- If you do not like somebody, think that you see Christ in that person. Then you would not even dare to utter a word of criticism.
- Love alone is enough to make a miracle happen.
- We find happiness and peace only by living according to God’s Commandments.
- Do not say a word in the hour of crisis, when a problem is acute. Do not say anything, because you may regret it a thousand times. Instead, tell it to the angels so that they may place it at the Lord’s Feet, and pray the Lord for an angel of peace to calm your soul.
- I could not get worried, even if I tried, because when we worry it is as if we say to God: “I do not agree. You don’t do things right”... besides this is sheer ingratitude.

### **Blessed Nativity Fast!!!!**

Are you fasting? Show me your fast with your works. Which works? If you see someone who is poor, show him mercy. If you see an enemy, reconcile with him. If you see a friend who is becoming successful, do not be jealous of him! Love your neighbor.

–St. John Chrysostom

# The Entrance Into the Temple of the Most Holy Mother of God

November 21

*“The most pure Temple of the Saviour;  
the most precious chamber and Virgin;  
sacred treasure of God’s glory, today  
is being presented in the house of the Lord.”*  
(Kontakion of the feast)

## The Spiritual Significance of the Feast

What does the feast of the Entrance convey to us? What spiritual lesson does it offer us? First of all, it speaks to us of the joyful sacrifice of Joachim and Anna. They themselves bring their daughter to the Temple and offer her to the service of God. In the canon of Matins of this feast in the eighth

Ode we read:

“Anna, when bringing the Most Pure Temple (that is Mary) into the house of God, exclaimed to the priest:

Today, receive the child given to me by God, take her into the Temple of your Creator and joyfully sing to Him: all you bless the works of the Lord.”

But not only do the parents joyfully bring their child to offer her to the service of God; Mary also gladly obeys the voice of God and of her parents. Like Joachim and Anna,

Mary too is a very beautiful example for us of joyful sacrifice and service to God.

Perhaps today, more than ever before, the entire Church of Christ, our Church included, is suffering from a great dearth of vocations to the priesthood and religious life. The



The spirit of materialism and secularism is invading our families more and more, and we have fewer and fewer youths

willing to sacrifice and dedicate themselves to the service of God, their Church and their nation. There are fewer and fewer parents among our people who, like St. Anna, are ready to say to our Church: “Receive the child given to me by God.”

A sign of deep piety of a nation is not only its magnificent and numerous churches and monasteries but, above all, its numerous vocations – its priests, missionaries, monks and nuns. The most beautiful churches and gilded altars will be of no help to us if we do not have priests to offer the Unbloody Sacrifice, administer the Holy Sacraments, and preach the word of God in those churches. The Servant of God Metropolitan Andrew Sheptytsky says: “You must understand that the nation also needs zealous and holy priests to bring salvation.” The lack of religious vocations among a people must lead to a gradual dying of the Church and of the spiritual life of its faithful, for the religious state is the heart and soul of the Church.

Where are we to look for the solution to such a burning problem? Where are religious vocations nurtured? The best garden where vocations to the priesthood or religious state grow and mature is a good Christian home. “A good Christian home,” says the German Cardinal M. Faulhaber, “is the first spiritual seminary.” Holy Church frequently calls the home the cradle of vocations. Statistics show that fifty percent of the religious vocations arise between the ages of six and fourteen, that is, during that time of life when

the child is still under the full influence of its parents.

The spirit of sacrifice in the family in relation to God and one’s Church is a very important factor in fostering vocations. Without the spirit of sacrifice, there is no pursuit of ideals, for sacrifice is the language of love. Consequently, parents should prepare their children from the very cradle for sacrifice and dedication.

Unfortunately, however, there are few such Christian parents today who strive to cultivate the spirit of sacrifice and the ideal of a religious vocation in the home. On the contrary, among our faithful there are many parents who suppress the first signs of a vocation in the hearts of their children.

To a very great degree, the future of our Church and nation depends upon how parents educate their children. We need parents who, following the example of SS.Joachim and Anna, would gladly offer their children as a “burnt” offering to God, their Church and their nation. We need youth with ideals, who like the model of the Most Pure Virgin Mary, would gladly follow the voice of God and dedicate themselves to the service of God, the Church and the nation. Only then will we be able to look forward to a brighter and happier future for our Church and our nation.

# We ought all of us always to give thanks to God

– Peter of Damascus

Men have four different attitudes towards sensible realities.

Some, like the demons, hate God's works, and they commit evil deliberately.

Others, like the irrational animals, love these works because they are attractive, but their love is full of passion and they make no effort to acquire natural contemplation or to show gratitude.

Others, in a way that befits men, love God's works in a natural manner, with spiritual knowledge and gratitude, and they use everything with self-control.

Finally, others, like the angels, love these works in a manner that is above and beyond nature, contemplating all things to the glory of God and making use of them only in so far as they are necessary for life, as St Paul puts it (cf. 1 Tim. 6:8).

We ought all of us always to give thanks to God for both the universal and the particular gifts of soul and body that He bestows on us.

The universal gifts consist of the four elements and all that comes into being through them, as well as all the marvelous works of God mentioned in the divine Scriptures.

The particular gifts consist of all that God has given to each individual.

These include:

- wealth, so that one can perform acts of charity;
- poverty, so that one can endure it with patience and gratitude;
- authority, so that one can exercise righteous judgment and establish virtue;
- obedience and service, so that one can more readily attain salvation of soul;
- health, so that one can assist those in need and undertake work worthy of God;

- sickness, so that one may earn the crown of patience;
- spiritual knowledge and strength, so that one may acquire virtue;
- weakness and ignorance, so that, turning one's back on worldly things, one may be under obedience in stillness and humility;
- unsought loss of goods and possessions, so that one may deliberately seek to be saved and may be helped when incapable of shedding all one's possessions or even of giving alms;
- ease and prosperity, so that one may voluntarily struggle and suffer to attain the virtues and thus become dispassionate and fit to save other souls;
- trials and hardship, so that those who cannot eradicate their own will may be saved in spite of themselves, and those capable of joyful endurance may attain perfection.

All these things, even if they are opposed to each other, are nevertheless good when used correctly; but when misused, they are not good, but are harmful for both soul and body.

Better than them all, however, is the patient endurance of afflictions; and he who has been found worthy of this great gift should give thanks to God in that he has been all the more blessed.

For he has become an imitator of Christ, of His holy apostles, and of the martyrs and saints.

*Peter of Damascus (?12<sup>th</sup> Century): A Treasury of Divine Knowledge* Text from G.E.H. Palmer, Philip Sherrard, and Kallistos Ware (trans. and eds.) *The Philokalia: The Complete Text*, vol. 3 (Faber & Faber, London & Boston: 1979ff), pp. 171-172.

## 11 THOUGHTS ON THE NATIVITY FAST

*Patriarch Daniel of Romania*

1. We fast not to be seen and praised by men, but to draw nearer to God.
2. We fast because we love God more than His material gifts which we can consume.
3. Forgiveness is a good way to begin the Fast. No one can enter upon a spiritual struggle for purification without forgiveness.
4. Fasting supports the prayer of believers who consider their connection with God to be the center, light, and nourishment for their souls.
5. True fasting is not simply abstaining from animal products, but also to abstain from material greed and the pursuit of selfish domination over others, and also the limiting of any thoughts, words, or deeds which diminish your love for God and others.
6. If the Fast is accompanied by deeds well-pleasing to God, then fasting makes us light for others and chosen vessels of God's glory.
7. The Fast is not only a material, but a spiritual condition—that is, a fast of the eyes, mouth, and heart.
8. Fasting is the spiritual condition of sacrifice or offering of those who fast freely and in accordance with their powers.
9. During the Fast, the amount of our material food decreases, but spiritual food increases.
10. Fasting supports prayer, while fasting without prayer is not a spiritual work.
11. Fasting calms egotistical passions, enlightens the mind, sanctifies emotions, and changes our attitudes and behavior towards others and nature, placing all in the life of the presence of God's love.

Wise men  
still seek  
HIM



## Holy Angels Byzantine Catholic Church

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### Parish Advisory Council:

Bruce Bitsko, Nelson Chase, Fr. Deacon Jonathan Deane, Joel Espedal, Bob Greenwell, Janet Greenwell, Daniele Laman, Olena Bankston

### Finance Council:

Al Aparicio, Fr. Deacon Jonathan Deane, Bob Greenwell, Paul Washicko

### Bless, O Lord, the worship and Stewardship of your faithful servants:

Adult tithes: \$1030.00; Bookstore: \$30.00; Improvement Fund: \$5.00; Vestments: \$1710.00;  
ECF: \$15.00; CGS: \$100.00; Raffle Proceeds: \$491.00; Loose Change: \$29.00;  
Church Usage: \$200.00; **Total: \$3640.00**

**Vocation Icon:** This week: Aparicio Family  
Next week: Washicko Family

**Please sign up in the narthex to host the vocation icon.**

THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PHOENIX  
SUBSCRIBES TO THE  
*Charter for the Protection of  
Children and Young People*  
*adopted by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops.*

*The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions and programs, is committed to assuring a safe environment in ministry for its children and vulnerable adults that conforms to the Charter for Protection of Children and Young People.*

*For additional information regarding the eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any incidents of concerns, please contact:*

*Fr. Dcn. Michael Hanafin  
Victim Assistance Coordinator  
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