

**The Feast of the Annunciation** is celebrated on March 25th each year, nine months before Christmas. The Vigil for the Feast will be on Sunday, March 24th at 5 PM, and the Vespers Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Monday, March 25th at 5 PM. The Feast of Annunciation is “ranked” fourth in importance, after that of Pascha, Christmas and Theophany. If you are prepared to receive Holy Communion at the Vespers Liturgy on Monday, do come forward to receive even if you arrive late because of work or traffic.

**Please join me** in giving thanks to God for blessing us with the Services of Clean Week: the 8 AM Matins, the 7 PM Great Compline and Canon of St. Andrew, the Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesday and Friday, and the funeral service for Jeanne Elizabeth Share, Fr. Nicholas’ beloved mother, who reposed on Monday. The singing, reading and serving was done reverently and beautifully every morning and evening. Such things are a result of a great deal of study, rehearsal and a sacrifice and offering of time by those who love to serve the Lord. From Sunday afternoon’s *Vespers of Forgiveness*, to Friday’s Presanctified, there are **eleven Church Services**. Thank you, Choir Master Nicolas, singers, readers, clergy, servers and sacristans for giving us so much. —*Fr Lawrence*

**Upgrades and repairs** take place regularly here at the parish. This last week we saw the reroofing of the Intern/Choir Director apartment and the duplex next door. Both buildings were years overdue for this work. Other possible projects are on the list. Other items that will be done very soon are the removal and replacement of solar panel brackets (new panels being installed), mowing of the mound in the middle of the vineyard.

**Those who commune** regularly (that is, each Sunday and feasts) prepare themselves by confessing at least monthly.

**Catechism this Saturday** (at 3:30 PM in the Parish Hall) will be about the Holy Mystery of Confession. We will speak about the Old and New Testament background, the practice of the early church and how to prepare and make a confession. If you think you might need a refresher, or not sure about all it, please do come.

# ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

## PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



**March 24, 2024**

Sunday of Orthodoxy ~ First Sunday of Great Lent



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone One:  
When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ; glory to Thy kingdom; glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.
- TROPARION OF THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY, Tone Two:  
We venerate Thy most pure icon, O Loving Lord, asking Thee, O Christ our God, to pardon our transgressions. For of Thine own will wast Thou well-pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, to deliver from the bondage of the enemy those whom Thou hast fashioned. Therefore, in thanksgiving, we cry aloud to Thee: Thou hast filled all with joy, O our Savior, when Thou camest to save the world.

- TROPARION OF THE PREFEAST, Tone Four:

Today is the prelude of joy for the universe! Let us anticipate the feast and celebrate with exultation: Gabriel is on his way to announce the glad tidings to the Virgin; he is ready to cry out in fear and wonder: “Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with thee!”

- KONTAKION OF THE SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY, Tone Eight:

The uncircumscribed Word of the Father became circumscribed, taking flesh from thee, O Theotokos, and He has restored the sullied image to its ancient glory, filling it with divine beauty. This our salvation we confess in deed and word, and we depict it in the holy icons.

- KONTAKION OF THE FOREFEAST, Tone Four:

At the great Archangel’s voice, O Theotokos, the All-Holy Spirit came upon thee and thou didst conceive Him that is one in essence and throne with God the Father, O Adam’s recovery.

## ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Friday, March 22: 10:30 AM, Presanctified / [Blessing of Koliva](#)
- Saturday, March 23: 3:30 PM, Catechism, [On Confession](#)  
5 PM, Vespers and Confessions
- Sunday, March 24: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy / Procession with Icons  
Noon, Agape Meal  
5 PM, Vigil for Annunciation
- Monday, March 25: 5 PM, Vesperal Liturgy for Annunciation
- Tues., March 26: 8 AM, Lenten Matins
- Wed., March 27: 8 AM, Lenten Matins  
5 PM, Confessions  
6 PM, 9th Hour, Presanctified and Meal
- Thurs., March 28: 8 AM, Lenten Matins  
**6:30 PM, Parish Council Meeting**
- Fri., March 29: 8 AM, Matins / 11:30 AM, Confessions  
6 PM, Small Compline / Akathist

**Memory Eternal.** Our dear parishioner Jeanne Elizabeth Share, mother of Father Nicholas Carr, reposed on Monday, the first day of Great Lent. She confessed and communed last week, and on Sunday the *Service for the Departure of the Soul* was done for her. We offer our condolences to Father Nicholas and Matushka Esther and the entire Carr family. The funeral service was celebrated on Thursday at 11:30 AM, followed by a Memorial Meal in the Parish Hall. Due to complications at Oak Mound Cemetery, the burial will take place on another day, to be announced.

**Please bring an icon** on Sunday morning to carry during the Procession after the Divine Liturgy.

**The Feast of the Sunday of Orthodoxy**, also known as the *Triumph of Orthodoxy*, or, the *Restoration of the Holy Icons*, is celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent. The celebrations of the Church are spiritual celebrations. We have no reason to gloat, brag or boast, since some of us distinguish ourselves by our sins and vices, rather than our virtues and faith and love. This humble *Triumph of Orthodoxy* has nothing to do with worldly victories, which are almost always about power and pride. This victory is one of Godly love and joy, not over *other* people, but over that which is false within us, over evil and idolatry, over darkness, death and sin, and him that before Christ “held the power of death, that is the devil” (Heb. 2:14). [Archimandrite John \(Krestiankin\)](#) preached that “the Triumph of Orthodoxy will ever be celebrated in the Church, for this triumph is not of the visible glory of Orthodoxy, but of the only thing that gives life to the world, and which no external troubles or enemies now can take away—it is the triumph of Divine love for the world and the eternal life of the world in this love and by this love. And for us, for every one of us, there remains only one personal question: Will we be participants in this Divine love? Will we preserve for ourselves and for our posterity that which Christ Himself gave to us and which His faithful followers in the Church have handed down to us in purity?”

**“Mentorship” returns** on Sunday, March 31. The *Spiritual Lesson* will be given the following week at a new time and place: rather than having our *Lessons* in the Protection Church after a rushed lunch, let’s gather the children, the mentors and the parents in the north transept of the Cathedral at the conclusion of the Liturgy, and I will offer a brief *Lesson* during the veneration of the Cross. —*Fr Lawrence*