

The Annunciation of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary - March 25th

The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the earliest Christian feasts, and was already being celebrated in the fourth century. There is a painting of the Annunciation in the catacomb of Priscilla in Rome dating from the second century. The Council of Toledo in 656 mentions the Feast, and the Council in Trullo in 692 says that the Annunciation was celebrated during Great Lent.

There are two main components to the Annunciation: the message itself, and the response of the Virgin. The message fulfills God's promise to send a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15): "I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed; he shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for his heel." The Fathers of the Church understand "her seed" to refer to Christ. The prophets hinted at His coming, which they saw dimly, but the Archangel Gabriel now proclaims that the promise is about to be fulfilled.

We see this echoed in the Liturgy of Saint Basil, as well: "When man disobeyed Thee, the only true God who had created him, and was deceived by the guile of the serpent, becoming subject to death by his own transgressions, Thou, O God, in Thy righteous judgment, didst send him forth from Paradise into this world, returning him to the earth from which he was taken, yet providing for him the salvation of regeneration in Thy Christ Himself."

The Archangel Gabriel was sent by God to Nazareth in Galilee. There he spoke to the undefiled Virgin who was betrothed to Saint Joseph: "Hail, thou who art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Most High: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?" (Luke 1:34).

"And the angel answered and said unto her, 'The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee: therefore also that which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.' And Mary said, 'Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.' And the angel departed from her." (Luke 1: 35-38)

The icon of the Feast shows the Archangel with a staff in his left hand, indicating his role as a messenger. Sometimes one wing is upraised, as if to show his swift descent from heaven. His right hand is stretched toward the holy Virgin as he delivers his message.

The Virgin is depicted either standing or sitting, usually holding yarn in her left hand. Sometimes she is shown holding a scroll. Her right hand may be raised to indicate her surprise at the message she is hearing. Her head is bowed, showing her consent and obedience.

Excerpts taken from: <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/03/25/100884-the-annunciation-of-our-most-holy-lady-the-theotokos-and-ever-vi>

Holy Spirit Byzantine Catholic Church

360 Clinton Street, Binghamton, NY 13905

Ss. Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

106 North Rogers Avenue, Endicott, NY 13760

March 22, 2026

Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast

Administrator:

Very Rev. Fr. Steven Galuschik

Deacon:

Rev. Fr. Dn. Richard Terza

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Confessions: (Holy Spirit)

Sundays from 8:00am – 8:30 (Before Divine Liturgy)

Parishes Website:

<https://www.southernthybyzantine.com>

Bulletin: churchbulletin0@gmail.com

On-Line Giving: Please use the link below for on-line donations for Ss. Peter & Paul **OR** for Holy Spirit Church:

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZA77/home>

You can also scan the QR code with your phone or you can visit the Parish website for a link!



Thank you for your support of your Churches!



**Annunciation of the Theotokos and
Ever-Virgin Mary
- March 25th -**

✠ Liturgies for the Week of 3/21 – 3/29 ✠

SAT	Mar 21	<i>Akathistos Saturday</i>		
--- No Divine Services ---				
SUN	Mar 22	<i>Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast (St. Mary of Egypt)</i>		
	9:00 am	Holy Spirit – <i>Living and Deceased Members of Holy Spirit and Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Churches</i>	Apostol: Heb 9: 11-14	Gospel: Mk 10: 32-45
(Tone 8)				
	11:00 am	Ss. Peter & Paul – <i>† John & † Helen Dahulich and † Julia (Dahulich) & † James Caciola by Mary Ann and Bob Swan</i>		
MON	Mar 23	<i>The Holy Venerable-Martyr Nikon and his Students martyred with him (250)</i>		
--- No Divine Services ---				
TUES	Mar 24	<i>Our Venerable Father Zachary, Our Holy Father Artemon, Bishop of Seleucia of Pisidia</i>		
--- No Divine Services ---				
WED	Mar 25	<i>Annunciation of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary (Solemn Holy Day)</i>		
	6:30 pm	Holy Spirit – <i>Great Vespers with Divine Liturgy – † Fr. Charles, † Fr. Michael, † Clyde, † Mildred, † Theodore and † Jean by Family and Friends.</i>		
THU	Mar 26	<i>The Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel</i>		
--- No Divine Services ---				
FRI	Mar 27	<i>Our Venerable Mother Matrona of Thessalonica (c. 350)</i>		
	--- No Divine Services ---			
SAT	Mar 28	<i>Lazarus Saturday</i>		
--- No Divine Services ---				
SUN	Mar 29	<i>Palm (Flowery) Sunday</i>		
	9:00 am	Holy Spirit – <i>† Charles Punako by his much loved children: Nancy Mastry, Sonya Hildebrandt, and Diane Hover & Thomas Punako</i>		
(Festal Tone)				
	11:00 am	Ss. Peter & Paul – <i>Living and Deceased Members of Holy Spirit and Ss. Peter & Paul Byzantine Catholic Churches</i>	Apostol: Phil 4: 4-9	Gospel: Jn 12: 1-18



Candle Intentions: Please see the sheet posted in the Church vestibule for the Candle Intentions and Sponsors for the Month of **† March**.



Happy Birthday: We'd like to wish a very Happy Birthday to:
Eleanor Deliman, who celebrated her Birthday this past Wednesday, **March 18^h**
May Our Lord and God bless her and grant her long life, good health, peace and happiness for
Many Happy and Blessed Years! - Na Mnohaja i Blahaja Lita!



All Souls Saturdays: As in previous years, we will commemorate **All Souls** with a Divine Liturgy intention or Presanctified Divine Liturgy intention and celebrate a **Panachida for each of the Five All Soul Saturdays on the Sunday that follows it.**



The Fifth and final All Souls Saturday, is May 23rd, 2026. Please submit additional names by **May 17th** to be included in the **May 23rd Panachida.** **Thank You †**



Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts: During Lent, the **Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts** will be celebrated on **Wednesdays at 6:30 pm** alternating each week between **Ss. Peter & Paul Church** and **Holy Spirit Church.** All are HIGHLY encouraged to attend and take part in these beautiful and moving prayers & chant as often as possible this **Great Lent.** †



Stephen Dean, the Cantor from Ss. Peter and Paul Church, is **hosting classes** to help anyone who is interested in learning more about singing the melodies of the Divine Liturgy in the Green Book, including the eight tones, Troparions, Kontikons, and even the Prokeimenon and Alleluias. Reading of music is not required and everyone is welcome !

The Classes are **every Thursday.** **The first class of the year** will be on **Thursday, April 16th**, from **4:00 pm to 5:30 pm** at Ss. Peter and Paul Church.



Can & Bottle Drive – Ss. Peter and Paul will be having a **Can & Bottle Drive** scheduled for **Saturday, April 11th**. Please begin saving your Cans & Bottles for them. You can drop off your bagged or boxed empties at the church parking lot between **11:00 am – 3:00 pm on April 11th**. No sorting is necessary.



Holy Spirit Church 50/50 Raffle: Don't forget to get your **2026 - 50/50 Raffle Ticket for March!** The **March 2026** Envelopes are on the table in the church's vestibule. You have to play to Win!

Thank You for your support ! †



2026 Financial Statements **Time is running out to get your 2025 Financial "giving statements"** for your 2025 taxes. For Ss. Peter & Paul, please contact Cantor Steven Dean. For Holy Spirit, parishioners can email Fr. Steven at: stnybyzantine@gmail.com.

Thank You for your Generosity in 2025 ! †

