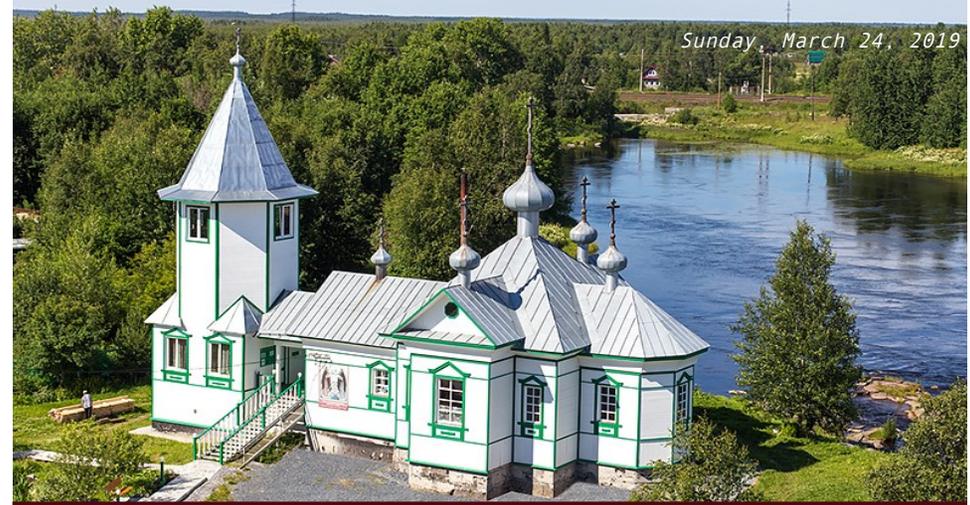


## Parish Announcements

- **Great Feast of the Annunciation:** Tonight and tomorrow we will celebrate the Great Feast of the Annunciation, when Jesus Christ was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary by way of the Holy Spirit because of her willingness. For Monday, there is an allowance for fish, wine, and olive oil.
- **Service Schedule:**
  - Sunday** – Vigil for Annunciation (6 PM)
  - Monday** – Liturgy for Annunciation (8 AM)
  - Wednesday** – Presanctified Liturgy (6 PM)
  - Friday** – Akathist to the Theotokos (6:30 PM)
  - Saturday** – Akathist for the Departed (9:30 AM)
- **Lenten Women's Retreat:** AWE will hold its annual Lenten retreat at Antiochian Village this coming weekend (March 29-31).
- **Wednesday Night Potlucks:** Presanctified Liturgies on Wednesdays during Lent will each be followed by a potluck meal.
- **Orthodoxy 101:** Classes will continue on Saturdays at 4 PM, concluding on April 20.

## Ways to Get Involved

- **Lenten Charity Boxes:** Boxes for Lenten almsgiving are now available at church. They will be collected on Palm Sunday.
- **DERD Syrian Relief Program:** For details on contributing to relief efforts, see <http://antiochian.org/syrian-relief-program-introducing-derd>.
- **West Chester Food Cupboard:** We are now collecting **canned fruit, boxed pasta, and spaghetti sauce**. Please place your donations in the clear plastic bin in the library. Your contributions really help the needy in our West Chester area community! Thank you!



# HOLY ASCENSION

Orthodox Christian Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Diocese of  
Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic

Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch  
and All the East

**Primate**

His Eminence, the Most Rev. Metropolitan Joseph  
(Al-Zehlaoui)

**Diocesan Hierarchy**

His Grace, the Right Rev. Bishop Thomas (Joseph)

**Pastor**

Rev. Fr. Daniel Meyer

**Subdeacon**

Vladimir Moses

**Saturday Vespers - 5:00 PM**

**Sunday Orthros - 8:25 AM**

**Sunday Liturgy - 9:30 AM**

**Confessions - Saturday evenings,**  
following most divine services,  
and by appointment

*For an updated service and event  
schedule, visit our online calendar:*

**HolyAscension.net/calendar**

## Divine Liturgy Variables

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in Tone Two

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power – and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

### Apolytikion of the Forefeast of the Annunciation in Tone Four

Today the preludes of universal joy move us to sing the prefestal hymn – for behold, Gabriel cometh, bringing the good tidings to the Virgin, and shall cry to her: Rejoice, thou who art full of grace; the Lord is with thee.

### Apolytikion of St. Gregory Palamas in Tone Four

O Star of Orthodoxy, support of the Church and its teacher, O comeliness of ascetics and incontestable champion of those who speak in theology, Gregory the wonder-worker, the pride of Thessalonica and preacher of grace, implore thou constantly for the salvation of our souls.

### Apolytikion of Holy Ascension in Tone Four

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

### Kontakion of the Forefeast of the Annunciation in 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.

## Prayer Requests

### LIVING:

Catechumen Laurie W.; Catechumen Roy B.; Catechumen Peter Y.; Catechumen Amira S., Catechumen Braden M.; Catechumen David S.; Kyle F.'s family (friends of Johnny B.); Seraphim B.; Kathy A. (cancer and stomach); Jeff K. (recent knee surgery); Marlan A.; Alexandra C.; Sue (Yiannis B.'s aunt, undergoing chemotherapy); Tom (Yiannis B.'s uncle); Fiona (Jane S.'s family friend); Elias (Lisa K.'s cousin, tumor); Mary (Jeff K.'s cousin, cancer); Erik (Joanna S.'s family); Vincent and Marteen (Mitri D.'s family); Bp. Alexander (undergoing chemotherapy); Christina (Lisa K.'s mother); Suad and Nasri (ill); Patty Y. (recovering from accident); Jack (Coleen's dad, for continued healing); Nicholas (John C.'s friend); Daniel (Mark R.'s son); Orthodox suffering from persecution; those suffering from war and disasters

### DEPARTED:

Kyle F. (friend of Johnny B.)	Andrew M. (neighbor)
Pete (Elizabeth M.'s grandfather)	Priest Ibrahim
Reader Maxim (John K.'s father)	Bp. Athanasius of Kenya

Those killed in recent natural disasters  
Orthodox Christians and others recently murdered and killed during the fighting in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere in the world

## Forefeast of the Annunciation

Commemoration of St. Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica

## Today's Scripture Readings

### THE EPISTLE

*The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews (1:10-2:3)*

“In the beginning, Thou, O Lord, didst found the earth, and the heavens are the work of Thy hands; they will perish, but Thou remainest; they will all grow old like a garment, like a mantle Thou wilt roll them up, and they will be changed. But Thou art the same, and Thy years will never end.” But to what angel has He ever said, “Sit at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies a stool for thy feet”? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore, we must pay closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message, declared by angels, was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard Him.

### THE GOSPEL

*The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (2:1-12)*

At that time, when Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that He was at home. And many were gathered together, so that there was no longer room for them, not even about the door; and He was preaching the Word to them. And they came, bringing to Jesus a paralytic carried by four men. And when they could not get near Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above Him; and when they had made an opening, they let down the pallet on which the paralytic lay. And when Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now, some of the scribes were sitting there, reasoning in their hearts, “Why does this man speak thus? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” And immediately Jesus, perceiving in His spirit that they thus reasoned within themselves, said to them, “Why do you reason thus in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise, take up your pallet and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins” – He said to the paralytic – “I say to you, rise, take up your pallet and go home.” And he rose, and immediately took up the pallet and went out before them all. So that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We never saw anything like this!”

## Did you know ...

We whose souls and bodies used to be paralyzed ... and incapable of doing anything good, hear the Lord saying to each of us, as to that paralyzed man, “Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thy house” (Matt. 9:6). Strengthened by the grace and power of Holy Baptism within us, we become vigorous and active in virtue ... We then go wherever pleases God and ourselves and, as far as we can, move to our real home, the eternal heavenly mansions. Those who see us ordering our lives in this godly way, marvel and glorify God.

St. Gregory Palamas