

## **Announcements**

**For the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation**

**Week of**

**March 15, 2026 to March 21, 2026**

## **Worship Services**

March 15, 2026 – Orthros 9:15 am, Liturgy 10:00 am,  
March 20, 2026 – Fourth Salutations to the Virgin Mary – 5:30 pm

## **Memorial Services**

## **Parish Activities**

40 Day blessing for Blaire Kashou McKenna.  
Flowers will be distributed for the Sunday of the Holy Cross.

## **Future Events and Projects**

On March 24, 2026 we will have a Great Vespers for the Feast Day of our Church at 6:00 pm.

# Annunciation Church Parish Bulletin for March 15, 2026

## **Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation**

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## Hymns of the Day

### **Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Grave Mode**

Thou didst abolish death by Thy Cross; Thou didst open Paradise to the thief; Thou didst transform the myrrh-bearers' lamentation, and didst bid Thine Apostles to preach that Thou art risen, O Christ God, granting great mercy to the world.

### **Apolytikion for Sun. of the Holy Cross in the First Mode**

Save, O Lord, Thy people and bless Thine inheritance; grant Thou unto the faithful victory over adversaries. And by the power of Thy Cross do Thou preserve Thy commonwealth.

### **Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Fourth Mode**

To you, Theotokos, invincible Defender, having been delivered from peril, I, your city, dedicate the victory festival as a thank offering. In your irresistible might, keep me safe from all trials, that I may call out to you: "Hail, unwedded bride!"

## Gospel and Epistle Readings

### **Epistle Reading**

**Prokeimenon. Plagal Second Mode. Psalm 27.9,1.**

**O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.**

**Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.**

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:1-6**

BRETHREN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from

among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek."

## **Gospel Reading**

**Mark 8:34-38; 9:1**

The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

## **Wisdom of the Fathers**

To deny oneself means to give up one's bad habits; to root out of the heart all that ties us to the world; not to cherish bad thoughts and desires; to suppress every evil thought; to avoid occasions of sin; not to desire or to do anything out of self-love, but to do everything out of love for God. To deny oneself, according to St. Paul means "to be dead to sin. . . but alive to God."

**St. Innocent of Alaska**

The Lenten Spring, SVS Press, p. 147, 19th Century

## **Saints and Feasts Commemorated**

### **Sunday of the Holy Cross**

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.