

Annunciation Orthodox Church

Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America
Orthodox Church in America

37 Washington Street
Natick, MA 01760-3547

Website: www.aocnatick.org

The Rev. Fr. Gregory Harrigle, Priest-in-Charge

Church Hall: (508) 655-7927
Father Gregory (508) 397-1322 or (774) 280-4031

May 2024 Monthly Bulletin

Including Holy Passion Week, Holy Pascha, and Bright Week:

Christ Is Risen!

Krishti Ungjall!

Christos Anesti!

Christos Voskrese!

Hristos a Inviat!

Al Maseeh Qam!

Truly He Is Risen! (Indeed He Is Risen)

Vertet Ungjall!

Alithos Anesti!

Voistinnu Voskrese!

Adevarat a Inviat!

Huggun Qam!



Divine Liturgy: Sundays at 9:30 am

Please note that Feast Day Liturgies are typically held at different times throughout the year depending on the specific Holy Day

+++ Wednesday May 1, 2024 – Holy Wednesday

Reception of Holy Oil for the blessing of physical and spiritual health

6:00 pm – The Service of Holy Unction

No Fellowship

+++ Thursday May 2, 2024 – Holy Thursday

Commemoration of the Institution of the Lord's Supper by Our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy (Tone 2)

Epistle Lesson 1 Corinthians 11: 22 - 32

Gospel Lesson Matthew 26: 2 – 27: 2

AND

6:00 pm – Solemn Matins with Reading of Twelve Passion Gospels (The commemoration of the Passion of Our Lord and the confession of the thief on the cross)

No Fellowship this day

+++ Friday May 3, 2024 – Holy & Good Friday

3:00 pm – Great Vespers Service with the taking down of the sacred body of Our Lord Jesus Christ from the Cross and the placement of the Epitaphios (Icon Cloth) in the Tomb

AND

7:00 pm – Solemn Lamentations Service of the Burial of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Tomb (The commemoration of the entombment of the divine body of Our Lord)

No Fellowship this day

+++ Saturday May 4, 2024 – Eve of Most Holy Pascha

The Resurrection of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ from the Dead

7:30 pm – Paschal Nocturn, Lighting of Candles, and Celebration of Divine Liturgy (Tone 8)

Epistle Lesson Acts 1: 1 - 8

Gospel Lesson John 1: 1 - 17

Join us for a Pot-Luck Dinner as the Fasting Season of Great Lent draws to a close – please bring a dish to share with everyone.

Those who have assembled "Pascha (Easter) Baskets" may have them blessed at the close of the divine services. Please place your basket next to the Bishop's Chair to the right of the altar when you arrive so they are prepared for the appropriate prayers and sprinkling with holy water.

Note: There are no services scheduled for Sunday May 5, 2024 and no fasting during Bright Week.

+++ Sunday May 12, 2024 – St. Thomas the Apostle, (Second Sunday in the Season of Holy Pascha)

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Tone 1)

Epistle Lesson Acts 1: 1 - 8

Gospel Lesson John 20: 19 - 31

Memorial prayers for our departed Mothers will be held following Divine Liturgy – please join us for Fellowship in the church hall after service

+++ Sunday May 19, 2024 – (Third Sunday in the Season of Holy Pascha)

Sunday of the Holy Myrrh Bearers

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom (Tone 2)

Epistle Lesson Acts 6: 1 - 7

Gospel Lesson Mark 15; 43 – 47; 16: 1 - 8

Please join us for Fellowship in the church hall after Divine Liturgy

+++ Sunday May 26, 2024 – (Fourth Sunday in the Season of Holy Pascha)

Sunday of the Paralytic

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Tone 3)

Epistle Lesson Acts 9: 32 - 42

Gospel Lesson John 5: 1 - 15

Please join us for Fellowship in the church hall after Divine Liturgy

PRAYER FOR AN ENDING TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE

"We pray, O Lord our God, for all those who now suffer from the destructive acts of war, especially for the victims in Ukraine. We pray for Thy peace and mercy in the midst of the great suffering inflicted upon Thy faithful people. Vouchsafe to accept the earnest prayers of Thy holy Church, so that by Thy goodness, all hostility, confusion and hatred would be removed, that all may be led to a path of true reconciliation, and lasting peace may be granted to all peoples; hear us and have mercy. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy. Amen.

IMPORTANT PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS:

+++ His Grace Bishop NIKODHIM – Extends His Episcopal Blessing and continued prayers for Annunciation Church during this Holy Pascha season. His Grace will be taking time to be with us and the other churches in the archdiocese as much as possible during the year. May God grant Him Many Years!

May Parish Council Meeting – Will be held on Thursday May 9 at 6:00 pm in the Church Hall.

Vetetima Mother's Day Celebration – The Vetetima is hosting a Mother's Day party on Saturday May 18. Details will be coming soon.

Tracy Fedak – Tracy and her family would like to thank everyone for keeping her in your prayers. Thank you all for your generous thoughts, gifts, and outreach! She is hoping to be back at church soon.

Fellowship Sign-Up – Please consider volunteering for weekly fellowship using the sign-up sheet on the candle stand to help support our church.

Sunday School – Church school is held each Sunday following Holy Communion. Please encourage friends and family members with school-age children to join us each week!

Temporary Pause of Catechumen Classes – We will reconvene on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 pm beginning on May 15, 2024 in the Church Hall.

Powers Family Memorial – There will be a memorial litany following Divine Liturgy on Sunday June 2 in memory of Edward Powers and Gregory Powers. The Powers Family will also host Fellowship that day. Memory eternal.

Reminder: Priest's Visitation for Holy Unction / Communion: Father Gregory encourages all members and friends of Annunciation Orthodox Church to contact him at their earliest convenience if you or a family member are ever admitted to a hospital, respite care, rehabilitation, hospice or who may be experiencing a sudden or chronic change in their health and medical condition. The visitation of the parish priest is vital to the overall sacramental, spiritual, and bodily health and the continuity of their piety, practice and reception of God's grace or counsel, especially, in times of sickness, need, or personal trauma. It is the tradition of the Holy Church as established in Holy Scripture that the Church is available to you when you are unavailable to the Church. In such circumstances, please reach out to Father Gregory as follows:

Father Gregory Contact Info: 508-397-1322 or 774-280-4031, or by email at harriglegreg1@yahoo.com.

Welcome to all visitors joining our church community for Divine Liturgy. Father Gregory and the members of our church community wish to thank you for praying with us and hope you will return soon. Please speak with a member of the Parish Council or Father Gregory if you are interested in becoming a member of our parish.

Saint / Chrismation Name Days & Birthdays – Congratulations to our church members who are celebrating their Birthdays, Chrismation Days, and/or Patronal Saint Name Day this month. Please come forward at the end of Divine Liturgy for a blessing while we sing "God grant you many years!"

A Thought for Holy Pascha and the Subsequent Bright Season

The Afterfeast of Pascha will continue all the way through until the Eve of the Ascension (40 days later), when Christ, once again, instructs His followers to make Him known to the world, "... *and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth*" (Acts 1:1-12). We are to be His light, enlightening the world by connecting it with Him.