

Annunciation Orthodox Church

Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America
Orthodox Church in America

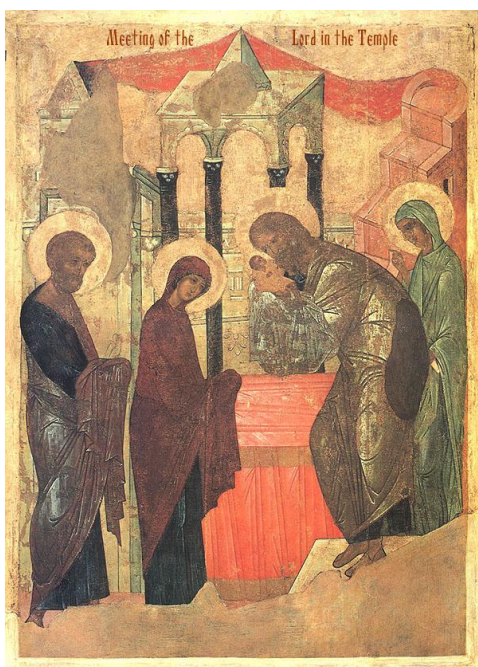
37 Washington Street
Natick, MA 01760

Website: www.aocnatick.org

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

Church Hall: (508) 655-7927
Father Gregory (508) 397-1322

February 2025 Bulletin



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

+++ Sunday February 2, 2025 – Sunday of Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

Gabriel the New Martyr of Constantinople; Agathadorus, the Martyr of Cappadocia

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Tone 7)

Epistle Lesson Hebrews 7: 7 - 17

Gospel Lesson Luke 2: 22 - 30

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

+++ Sunday February 9, 2025 – Sunday of Publican and Pharisee (16th Sunday of Luke)

Leave taking of the Presentation; Nicephorus, the Martyr of Antioch

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Tone 8)

Epistle Lesson II Timothy 3: 10 -15

Gospel Lesson Luke 18: 10 - 14

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

+++ Sunday February 16, 2025 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son (17th Sunday of Luke)

Pamphilus, The Martyr and his Companions; Romanus, the Younger

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

Epistle Lesson I Corinthians 6: 12 - 20

Gospel Lesson Luke 15: 11 - 32

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

+++ Sunday February 23, 2025 – Sunday of Last Judgment (Meatfare)

Polycarp, the Bishop of Smyrna; Gorgonia, the Righteous Sister of St. Gregory Theologian

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

Epistle Lesson I Corinthians 8: 8 – 13; 9: 1 - 2

Gospel Lesson Matthew 25: 31 - 46

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:

February Parish Council Meeting – our next meeting will be held on Thursday February 13, 2025 at 6:00 pm in the Church Hall.

Holy Water & Home Blessings – both remain available for all. Holy Water is available after the Divine Liturgy every Sunday. The holy water may be consumed during times of sickness or used to bless your house when that might be desired. Father Gregory is available to bless houses on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, or on Saturdays throughout the Season of Great Lent (see dates below).

Annual Parish Meeting – thank you to everyone who attended our Annual Parish Membership Meeting on Sunday January 19. The most critical topic was the election of our Parish Council, which occurs annually at this meeting. Congratulations to our newest Council Members, Emily Peters and Raimonda Lubonja! In addition, the following current Council members were re-elected and will make up our seven-member Council for 2025: John Fedak, Karen Kisty, Steve Pisuk, Ilira Shehu, and Brian Verdy. Thank you as well to the two Council members who are stepping down in 2025 – Joanne Nako who served a one-year term in 2024, and long-time Council member Mark Yusikones who served for nearly two decades on the Council. We will schedule the oath of office and blessing of our new Council as soon as practical. May God grant them many years!

Vetetima Valentine's Party – The Vetetima will host a Valentine's Party on Saturday February 8, 2025 beginning at 6:00 pm in the Church Hall. Children are welcome too! Please RSVP to Katerina Shuteriqi at (508) 333-6282 or kshuteriqi@gmail.com. You can also RSVP to any Vetetima officer. Thanks!

Great and Holy Lent – begins on Monday, March 3, 2025 following Forgiveness Sunday. In addition, Holy Pascha, which coincides this year with Easter in the Roman Catholic and Protestant Christian liturgical calendars, falls on Sunday April 20, 2025. Throughout Great Lent, please prepare Fellowship Meals with consideration of our Lenten fasting tradition of no meat, cheese, or dairy.

Visit of His Grace Bishop Nikodhim – we are overjoyed that our Archdiocesan Bishop will be visiting us on Sunday March 23, which is Veneration of the Holy Cross Sunday, and he also plans to share in the observance of our Matronal Feast Day (Annunciation) to be celebrated that same Sunday. This day is also designated as "Heritage Sunday" where we shall have a Memorial Service remembering the Deceased Hierarchs of our blessed Archdiocese, as well as the Priests and Prifterisha of our parish. His Grace will also be present with us for an Akathist Service to the Holy Theotokos on Friday, 6:30 pm, on April 4, 2025. We will hold a Lenten meal for those present immediately following this service. There will be more information regarding the Akathist service in the coming weeks.

Icon Bidding – We will hold our annual icon bidding on Orthodoxy Sunday, March 9, 2025. Father Gregory is preparing a list of icons held by our Parish so that individuals or families may choose from among them for the purpose of donating to the parish. This list will help parishioners bid on any available icon of interest.

Fellowship Sign-Up – Please consider volunteering for weekly fellowship using the sign-up sheet on the candle stand to help support our church. One or more families or members may jointly sponsor fellowship meals. Thank you.

Sunday School – We are in the middle of a new church school year and encourage all families with school age children to join us every Sunday for fun and basic Orthodox Christian education.

Catechumen Classes – Classes will reconvene on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm, starting February 12, 2025 for potential catechumens and anyone interested in learning more about Orthodox Theology, history, liturgy and spirituality. Please let Father Gregory know if you have an interest in joining this group.

Baptism and Chrismation – A note from Father Gregory: It is incumbent upon all Orthodox Christian parents to have their children Baptized, Chrismated, and Communed at the earliest opportunity. It is essential that children ‘come to the Lord’ as soon as possible to begin their spiritual life into adulthood and to lead a life in the Church, bequeathing the treasures of Orthodox Christian faith into the future.

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 by email at: harriglegreg1@yahoo.com.

On Receiving Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church:

All Orthodox Christians who are spiritually prepared are invited to receive the Precious Body and Blood of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. To partake in Holy Communion, please abstain from eating and drinking beginning at midnight (unless advised otherwise by your physician). If you are an Orthodox Christian visiting with us, please say your name or Chrismation name at time of reception. Non-Orthodox Christians, if they desire, may approach during Communion for a blessing and take a piece of the Antidoron (blessed bread) from the silver bowl.

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!”