



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

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Confessions after Vespers or by Appointment

Upcoming Services

Sunday, February 8

(*Sunday of the Prodigal Son*)

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

Thursday, February 12

6 pm Daily Vespers

6:30-8 pm Catechesis & Inquirers Class

Saturday, February 14

(*Memorial Saturday*)

8:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

9 am Divine Liturgy

3:30-5 pm Catechesis & Inquirers Class

5:30 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, February 15

(*Sunday of the Last Judgement; Meatfare*)

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

* Friday 2/13: Diaper Drive from 12:30-4 pm

* Saturday 2/14: 11 am BBQ Fundraiser

Many Years!

2/8: Theodore Taylor (Name's Day); 2/9: Rosa Tscheekar (Birthday); Aiden McGuire (Birthday); 2/10: Sasha Bell (Birthday); 2/11: Andrew Ritchie (Birthday); 2/12: Andrew Foss (Birthday); 2/13: Lucy Abboud (Birthday)

Sunday, February 8 2026

35th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 2)

1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Luke 15:11-32

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

The Sunday after the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee is the Sunday of the Prodigal Son. This parable of God's forgiveness calls us to "come to ourselves" as did the prodigal son, to see ourselves as being "in a far country" far from the Father's house, and to make the journey of return to God. We are given every assurance by the Master that our heavenly Father will receive us with joy and gladness. We must only "arise and go," confessing our self-inflicted and sinful separation from that "home" where we truly belong (Luke 15:11-24).

After the Polyeleion at Matins, we first hear the lenten hymn "By the Waters of Babylon." It will be sung for the next two Sundays before Lent begins, and it serves to reinforce the theme of exile in today's Gospel.

Starting tomorrow, the weekday readings summarize the events of Holy Week. On Monday we read Saint Mark's account of the Entry into Jerusalem. On Tuesday we read how Judas went to the chief priests and offered to betray the Lord. On the night before His death Christ tells His disciples that one of them will betray Him. He also predicts that they will desert Him, and that Peter will deny Him three times.

On Wednesday the Gospel describes how Judas betrayed the Savior with a kiss. Thursday's Gospel tells how Jesus was questioned by Pilate. On Friday we read the narrative of Christ's crucifixion and death.

Two weeks before the beginning of the Fast, as part of our preparation for Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha, the Church prescribes the reading of Saint Mark's Gospel. From Monday to Friday the focus is on the end times, and the Savior's death and burial.

Greatmartyr Theodore Stratelates "the General"

The Great Martyr Theodore Stratelates came from the city of Euchaita in Asia Minor.

For his bravery, St Theodore was appointed military commander in the city of Heraclea, where he combined his military service with preaching the Gospel among the pagans subject to him. His gift of persuasion, reinforced by his personal example of Christian life, turned many from their false gods. Soon, nearly all of Heraclea had accepted Christianity.

During this time the emperor Licinius (311-324) began a fierce persecution against Christians... Saint Theodore was arrested and subjected to fierce and refined torture.

Thus St Theodore became "like a day of splendor" for those pagans dwelling in the darkness of idolatry, and he enlightened their souls "with the bright rays of his suffering."

Unwilling to escape martyrdom for Christ, St Theodore voluntarily surrendered himself to Licinius, and discouraged the Christians from rising up against the torturer, saying, "Beloved, halt! My Lord Jesus Christ, hanging upon the Cross, restrained the angels and did not permit them to take revenge on the race of man."

Going to execution, the holy martyr opened up the prison doors with just a word and freed the prisoners from their bonds. People who touched

his robe were healed instantly from sicknesses, and freed from demonic possession. By order of the emperor, St Theodore was beheaded by the sword. Before his death he told Varus, "Do not fail to record the day of my death, and bury my body in Euchaita." He also asked to be remembered each year on this date. Then he bent his neck beneath the sword, and received the crown of martyrdom which he had sought. This occurred on February 8, 319, on a Saturday, at the third hour of the day.

St Theodore is regarded as the patron saint of soldiers. He is also commemorated on June 8.

Pray for...

Archpriest Matthew; Joe (Sunday's brother); Nathan; John Truman (recovery from injury); Thomas; Helen; Sofie; Sofia; Seraphima; Marija (cancer); Maria; the nun Parasekva and her mother Radojka; Ginny; the newborn Sieglinda (for health); Derek (Nektarios) for employment/housing assistance; Miles (Larissa's grandson); Zoi and Valeri (Oxana's parents); Natalia (Nina Slater's sister); Maria Carmen (Joseph Nuno's mother); Luis; Adam; Grace; Carol (Edie's mother); the child Rastko; Vasilije; Sophia; Steve...

...Emma Saperstein and the child to be born of her, and Scott; Leanna Marchell and the child to be born of her, Brandon, Elizabeth, and Margaret; Marianna Olivares and the child to be born of her, Joseph, John, Ephrem, Paul, and Daniel; Luisa and the child to be born of her (Fetzko's friend)...

...Natasa and the newborn child, Tomica, and Luka...

....the newly departed Michael (Mike Meko's cousin); Sheila (Emma's grandmother).

A man in this world must solve a problem: to be with Christ, or to be against Him. And every man decides this, whether he wants to or not. He will either be a lover of Christ or a fighter of Christ. There is no third option.

+ St Justin Popovic