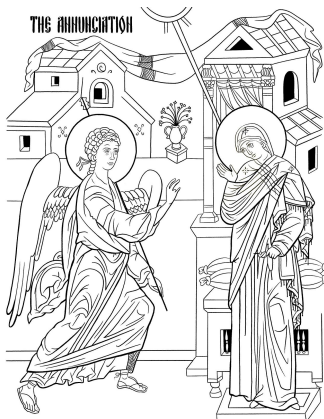




Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

877 Francine Lane, Santa Maria, CA 93455

Rev. Justin Taylor, *Rector*

V. Rev. Lawrence Russell, *Pastor Emeritus (Retired, Attached)*

FrJustin@odox.org

www.odox.org

Confessions:

During & after Vespers, before Divine Liturgy, or by Appointment

Upcoming Services

Sunday, August 23

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

1 pm Catechesis

Wednesday, August 26

6 pm Akathist to the Theotokos

Friday, August 28

(St Moses the Ethiopian)

8:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

9 am Divine Liturgy

6 pm Great Vespers

Saturday, August 29

(Beheading of St John the Baptist)

8:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

9 am Divine Liturgy

5:30 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, August 30

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

1 pm Catechesis

Sunday, August 23th

12th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 3)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Matthew 19:16-26

*Leavetaking of the Feast of the Dormition of
the Most Holy Theotokos*

*From Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According
to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God,
by St. Theophan the Recluse.*

A rich man shall hardly enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Here is meant a rich man who sees in his own self many methods and many powers unto his own prosperity. But as soon as one who has many possessions cuts off all attachment to them, extinguishes within himself all reliance on them, and ceases to see them as his substantial support, then in his heart he is the same as one who possesses nothing—for thus is the road to the kingdom open. Riches are then not only a hindrance, but a help, for they provide the means for charitable works. Riches are not the misfortune, but rather reliance upon them and attachment to them. This thought can be generalized in this way: whoever relies on something and is attached to something is rich in that thing. Whoever relies on God alone and cleaves to Him with all his heart is rich in God, Whoever relies on something else turns his heart to it instead of God—such a person is rich in this other thing, but not in God. From this it follows that he who is not rich in God has no entrance into the kingdom of God. Here are meant such things

Many Years!

8/23: Eliza Marchell, Irene Shkabara
(Birthday); 8/25: Diane Foss (Birthday)

as birth, connections, mind, rank, circle of activities and so forth.

Hieromartyr Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons

The Hieromartyr Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, was born in the year 130 in the city of Smyrna (Asia Minor). He received there the finest education, studying poetics, philosophy, rhetoric, and the rest of the classical sciences considered necessary for a young man of the world.

His guide in the truths of the Christian Faith was a disciple of the Apostle John the Theologian, Saint Polycarp of Smyrna (February 23). Saint Polycarp baptized the youth, and afterwards ordained him presbyter and sent him to a city in Gaul then named Lugdunum [the present day Lyons in France] to the dying bishop Pothinus.

At that time there appeared a series of religious-philosophical gnostic teachings. The Gnostics [from the Greek word “gnosis” meaning “knowledge”] taught that God cannot be incarnate [i.e. born in human flesh], since matter is imperfect and manifests itself as the bearer of evil.

In refuting this heresy, championed by Valentinus, Saint Irenaeus presents the Orthodox teaching of salvation. “The Word of God, Jesus Christ, through His inexplicable blessedness caused it to be, that we also, should be made that which He is ...,” taught Saint Irenaeus. “Jesus Christ the Son of God, through exceedingly great love for His creation, condescended to be born of a Virgin, having united mankind with God in His own Self.” Through the Incarnation of God, creation becomes co-imaged and co-bodied to the Son of God. Salvation consists in the “Sonship” and “Theosis” (“Divinization”) of mankind.

In the refutation of another heretic, Marcian, who denied the divine origin of the Old Testament, the saint affirms the same divine inspiration of the Old and the New Testaments: “It is one and the same Spirit of God Who proclaimed through the prophets the precise manner of the Lord’s coming,” wrote the saint. “Through the apostles, He preached that the fulness of time of the

filiation had arrived, and that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand.”

The successors of the Apostles have received from God the certain gift of truth, which Saint Irenaeus links to the succession of the episcopate (Adv. Haer. 4, 26, 2). “Anyone who desires to know the truth ought to turn to the Church, since through Her alone did the apostles expound the Divine Truth. She is the door to life.”

The Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian, Saint Polycarp of Smyrna, and Saint Irenaeus of Lyons are three links in an unbroken chain of the grace of succession, which goes back to the Original Pastor, our Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Please pray for...

Archpriest Matthew Tate; Archpriest Lawrence Farley; Joe (Sunday’s brother); Thomas; Helen; Marija (cancer); Maria; the nun Paraskeva 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); Carol (Edie’s mother); the child Rastko; Vasilije; Sophia; Steve; Alexis; Angelina; the child Uriah; Anna (sick); Alexis; Shawn; Claude; Olga (recovery from surgery); Kyle; Virginia (cancer); Lana; Ben, Maggie, Ada, and Stevie; Alexandra (health); Joseb; Seraphima; Tomica; Tina (Joseb’s mother); Laura (Roger’s wife); the child Stefan; Hannah; Jonah; Lydia; Alexandra (recovery from surgery); Luci (recovery from surgery); John (Alzheimer’s) and his wife Eileen; Marion (sick); Timothy (cancer); Ken (cancer); Ethne; Daniel; Iskra; Viktor and Andrea; Ionna (cancer); Cheryl (cancer); Lee and Veronica.

Leanna Marchell and the newborn Maximus; Emma Saperstein and the newborn Nyomi; Julie and the newborn Callen (MacLane family); Luisa and the newborn Jonah

Pregnancies: Matushka Rachel, Michelle Millar, Aleena Smith

The newly departed Manwa Fadel (Samir’s aunt); Archpriest John, Mary, Walter.