



Weekly Bulletin

## **Orthodox Church of the Annunciation**

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Rev. Justin Taylor, *Rector*

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

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Confessions:

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

### **Upcoming Services**

#### **Sunday, September 20**

9 am Marchell Baptism

10 am Divine Liturgy

1 pm Catechesis/Adult Education

#### **Wednesday, September 23**

(Conception of St John the Forerunner)

8:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

9 am Divine Liturgy

6 pm Akathist to St Silouan

#### **Thursday, September 24**

(Sts Silouan, Thekla, Alaskan Newmartyrs)

8:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

9 am Divine Liturgy

#### **Saturday, September 26**

5:30 pm Great Vespers

#### **Sunday, September 27**

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

1 Catechesis/Adult Education

### **Sunday, September 20th**

16th Sunday After Pentecost (Tone 7)

Afterfeast of the Elevation of the Cross

*Galatians 2:16-20; 2 Corinthians 6:1-10*

*Mark 8:34-9:1; Matthew 25:14-30*

**From Thoughts for Each Day of the Year**

**According to the Daily Church Readings from  
the Word of God, by St. Theophan the Recluse**

The parable about the talents offers the thought that life is a time for trading. That means that it is necessary to hasten to use this time as a person would hurry to a market to bargain for what he can. Even if one has only brought bast shoes, or only bast, he does not sit with his arms folded, but contrives to call over buyers to sell what he has and then buy for himself what he needs.

No one who has received life from the Lord can say that he does not have a single talent—everyone has something, and not just one thing; everyone, therefore, has something with which to trade and make a profit. Do not look around and calculate what others have received, but take a good look at yourself and determine more precisely what lies in you and what you can gain for that which you have, and then act according to this plan without laziness.

**Many Years!** 9/20: Steve Ballas (Name's Day); 9/23: Olga Howe, Sydney Bello (Birthday); 9/26: Riley Fennel, Tatiana Abboud (Birthday).

**Baptism:** Marchells (Brandon, Leanna, Elizabeth, Margo, Maximos) and Godparents (Conrads).

At the Judgment you will not be asked why you did not gain ten talents if you had only one, and you will not even be asked why you gained only one talent on your one, but you will be told that you gained a talent, half a talent or a tenth of its worth. And the reward will not be because you received the talents, but because you gained.

There will be nothing with which to justify yourself—not with nobleness, nor poverty, nor lack of education. When this is not given, there will be no question about it. But you had hands and feet. You will be asked, what did you gain with them? You had a tongue, what did you gain with it? In this way will the inequalities of earthly states be levelled out at God's judgment...

The honourable cross is brought out for veneration in the middle of Great Lent in order to inspire those who toil in fasting to patiently bear the yoke they have taken to the end.

Why is this done in September? Is it accidental? But there are no accidents for the Providential Wisdom that arranges all things. This is why: [in Russia], at least, in September the harvest is taken from the field. And so that some of the Christians might not feel too satisfied and say: "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry!" and so that others might not fall in spirit because of scarcity, the elevated cross is brought before all.

It reminds the former that the support of well being is not possessions, but their bearing of the cross in a Christian, inner way, should God's goodness bring external plenitude; and it inspires the latter to possess their souls in patience, through the certainty that they will go from the cross directly to heaven.

Therefore, may some endure, knowing, that they are travelling a smooth path to the heavenly kingdom; and may the others enjoy external comforts with fear, not sealing the entrance to heaven against themselves.

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### Please pray for...

Archpriest Matthew Tate; Archpriest Lawrence Farley; Archpriest Gregory; 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; Anna (sick); Alexis; Shawn; Claude; Olga (recovery from surgery); Kyle; Virginia (cancer); Lana;; Seraphima; Tomica; Tina (Joseb's mother); Laura (Roger's wife); 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; Michelle; Michael and Martha; Matt (health); Steve (health); Angelina (labor); Milosava (cancer); Theresa (Linda Deak's daughter-in-law, health); Mirjana (health); William, Joe, Khrie.

Leanna Marchell and the newborn Maximos; Emma Saperstein and the newborn Nyomi.

Pregnancies: Matushka Rachel, Michelle Millar, Aleena Smith.

Departed: Borislav, Azure (Gan's cousin), Jeanne (Elise's friend), Johnny Ramirez (Joshua's father).