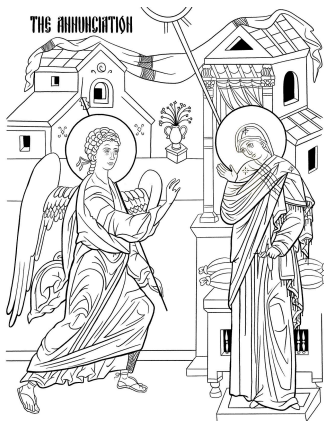




Weekly Bulletin

## **Orthodox Church of the Annunciation**

877 Francine Lane, Santa Maria, CA 93455

Rev. Justin Taylor, *Rector*

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

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Confessions:

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

### **Upcoming Services**

#### **Sunday, October 25**

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

1 pm Catechesis & Adult Education

#### **Tuesday, October 27**

(St Olga of Alaska)

8:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

9 am Divine Liturgy

#### **Saturday, October 24**

5:30 pm Great Vespers

#### **Sunday, October 25**

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

1 pm Catechesis & Adult Education

### **Many Years!**

10/25: Don & Nina Slater (Anniversary)

10/27: Don Slater (Birthday)

10/27: Aleena Smith (Name's Day)

10/29: Rosa-Maria Tscheekar (Name's Day)

## **Sunday, October 25th**

5th Sunday of Luke (Tone 4)

*Galatians 2:16-20*

*Luke 16:19-31*

### **Holy, Glorious Demetrios the Myrrh-gusher of Thessaloniki**

*Commemorated October 26*

The parents of Saint Demetrios were secret Christians, and he was baptized and raised in the Christian Faith in a secret church in his father's home.

By the time Demetrios had reached maturity and his father had died, Emperor Galerius Maximian had ascended the throne (305). Maximian, confident in Demetrios's education as well as his administrative and military abilities, appointed him to his father's position as proconsul of the Thessaloniki district. The young commander's principal duties were to defend the city from barbarians and to eradicate Christianity. The Emperor's policy regarding Christians was expressed simply: "Put to death anyone who calls on the name of Christ." The Emperor did not suspect that by appointing Demetrios he had provided him with the opportunity to bring many people to Christ.

Accepting the appointment, Demetrios returned to Thessaloniki and confessed and glorified our Lord Jesus Christ. Instead of persecuting and executing Christians, he began to teach the Christian Faith openly to the inhabitants of the

city and to overthrow pagan customs and the worship of idols. The compiler of his Life, Saint Simeon Metaphrastes (November 9), says that because of his teaching zeal he became "a second Apostle Paul" for Thessaloniki, particularly since "the Apostle to the Gentiles" founded the first community of believers in the city (1 Thess. and 2 Thess.).

The Lord also destined Saint Demetrios to follow Saint Paul on the path to martyrdom. When Maximian learned that the newly-appointed proconsul was a Christian, and that he had converted many Roman subjects to Christianity, the Emperor's rage knew no bounds. Returning from a campaign in the area of the Black Sea, the Emperor decided to lead his army through Thessaloniki, determined to massacre the Christians.

Learning of this, Saint Demetrios ordered his faithful servant Lupus to give his wealth to the poor saying, "Distribute my earthly riches among them, for we shall seek heavenly riches for ourselves." He began to pray and fast, preparing himself for martyrdom.

At dawn on October 26, 306 soldiers appeared in the Saint's underground prison and ran him through with lances. His faithful servant, Saint Lupus, gathered up the blood-soaked garment of Saint Demetrios; he took the imperial ring from his finger, a symbol of his high status, and dipped it in the blood. With the ring and other holy things sanctifying the blood of Saint Demetrios, Saint Lupus began to heal the infirm. The Emperor ordered his soldiers to arrest and kill him.

The body of the holy Great Martyr Demetrios was cast out for wild animals to devour, but the Christians took it and secretly buried it in the earth.

During the reign of Saint Constantine (306-337), a church was built over the grave of Saint Demetrios. A hundred years later, during the construction of a majestic new church on the old spot, the incorrupt relics of the holy martyr were uncovered. Since the seventh century a miraculous

flow of fragrant myrrh has been found beneath the crypt of the Great Martyr Demetrios, so he is called "the Myrrh-gusher."

Several times, those venerating the holy wonderworker tried to bring his holy relics, or a part of them, to Constantinople. Invariably, Saint Demetrios made it clear that he would not permit anyone to remove even a portion of his relics.

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### **Prayer Corner**

Archpriest Matthew Tate;  
Archpriest Lawrence Farley;  
Archpriest Gregory; Joe (Sunday's brother); Thomas; Helen; Marija (cancer); Maria; the nun Paraskeva and her mother Radojka; the newborn Sieglinda (for health); Derek (Nektarios) for employment and 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; Claude; Olga (recovery from surgery); Kyle; Virginia (cancer); Lana;; Seraphima; Tina (Joseb's mother); Laura (Roger's wife); Alexandra (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); Anna (Olga's sister); Angelina; Theresa (Linda Deak's daughter-in-law, health problems), William, Joe, Khrie; Anna; Scott; John, Theodora, Rebecca; Laura Beth (health); Heather; Chris; Gregory; Barbara; Larry.



**Pregnancies:** Matushka Rachel, Michelle Millar, Aleena Smith.

**Departed:** George (Alexandra's father); Dobrasav (Tomica's grandfather); Milanka (Natasa's grandmother).

**Newly Departed:** Johnny Ramirez (Joshua's father); Milosava; Lee (Brandon Marchell's grandfather); George (Alexandra's father)