



The Prophet

A Publication of
Saint John the Baptist Church
Canonsburg, Pennsylvania
Volume 13 March 2018

ANNUNCIATION

The feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary comes nine months before Christmas on the **twenty-fifth of March**. It is the celebration of the announcing of the birth of Christ to the Virgin Mary as recorded in the Gospel of Saint Luke.

The services of the feast of the Annunciation, the Matins and the Divine Liturgy, stress again and again the joyous news of the salvation of men in the birth of the Savior.

special feature of this feast is the Matins Canon which has the character of a dialogue between the Archangel Gabriel and the Virgin Mary. Also among the more popular elements of the feast is the Magnification which has the form of our own salutation to the virgin mother with the words of the archangel:

With the voice of the archangel we cry to Thee, O Pure One: Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee! The Annunciation, therefore, is the feast of our own reception of the glad tidings of salvation, and our own glorification of the maiden Mary who becomes the Mother of God in the flesh.

HOLY UNCTION

As of this publication the only Deanery service schedule for our portion is the Sacrament of

Holy Unction. This will be served in our parish on the evening of Sunday, March 25.

The express purpose of the sacrament of holy unction is healing and forgiveness. Since it is not always the will of God that there should be physical healing, the prayer of Christ that God's will be done always remains as the proper context of the sacrament. In addition, it is the clear intention of the sacrament that through the anointing of the sick body the sufferings of the person should be sanctified and united to the sufferings of Christ. In this way, the wounds of the flesh are consecrated, and strength is given that the suffering of the diseased person may not be unto the death of his soul, but for eternal salvation in the resurrection and life of the Kingdom of God.

EPISCOPAL VISIT

His Eminence, Archbishop Melschisedek will visit our parish on Sunday, March 4, to lead us in the celebration of the Eucharist.

Please do not be late for the beginning of the service. If nothing else, it's disrespectful.

Also, there is no need to be shy. Say 'Hello, your Eminence and ask him for his blessing.

Talk to him. Have a bite to eat and a cup of coffee with him.

EASTER BAKING INFORMATION

Baking: Monday and Tuesday

3/5 and 3/6
3/12 and 3/24,

Bake Sale: March 24.

Helpers needed please!

CHOIR REHEARSALS

February 24
March 3
March 10
March 24

The choir can't sing new pieces if the full choir isn't at rehearsal.

Plus, They will be starting to prepare for our Centennial anniversary in October.

LUMINARIES

The Church School will be doing their luminary project again this year. Please consider lighting a luminary in memory of a loved one. Order forms will be available in the near future.

CHURCH CLEANING

No specific dates for the spring church cleaning have been set

However, the chandelier cleaning is usually the fifth Monday of lent. This year it would be March 19. Stay tuned for updates,

THE LENTEN PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power and idle talk.

But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience and love to Your servant.

Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for You are blessed unto ages of ages.

A LENTEN HYMN

The outside door of divine repentance Has been opened:

Let us enter with fervor, having purified our bodies,

Observing abstinence from food and passions

As being obedient to Christ who has called the world to the heavenly kingdom,

Offering to the Master of all the tenth part of the year,

That we may look with love upon his resurrection.

JUST A THOUGHT

There is nothing that you can do to make God love you more.

There is nothing that you can do to make God love you less.