



*Welcome to St. Athanasius the Great
Byzantine Catholic Church*

***“Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to Him forever!”
Slava Isusu Christu! Slava naviky Bohu sviatomu!***

We welcome all to the Divine Services at our parish. Our restrooms are in the Dormition Hall behind the Rectory next door. On Sundays, after Divine Liturgy, all of you are welcome for luncheon.

My soul, my soul, arise! Why are you sleeping? The end is drowning near, and you will be confounded. Awake, then, and be watchful that Christ our God may spare you, for he is everywhere present and fills all things.

(The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete, Kontakion)

Need to request an appointment with Father?

Father is available for confession or spiritual direction by appointment, and he welcomes you to contact him whenever you need him.

Prayers for the sick or other intentions:

If you have a special intention for the sick, birthdays, or deceased, need to request a Liturgy or other service to be offered for someone please give a note, text, or call Father at 216-532-6364.

Opportunities to help with fundraising....we are called into service

Currently, our parish is unable to exist without fundraising initiatives. Our most successful venture over the years has proved to be the traditional pierogi and European baked goods made in our commercial kitchen and sold at the various local Farmers' Market venues. **Volunteers are always needed to help with the baking and selling.** Cleaning the work areas and equipment is also a welcome opportunity to serve (can be an evening after work).

You are always needed, even if it is for a couple of hours.

The Winter Carmel Market started October 19 and continues every Saturday until March 29, 2025. Bakery activities continue Tuesday through Friday.

Please contact Father Mykhaylo, to schedule a workable day and time

Opportunities For Service At St. Athanasius

- **This year's Winter Market (Oct 19 – March 29) has begun and requires at least one able-bodied volunteer every Saturday morning at 6:40 AM at the church hall to load the van with products, drive the van to the market, unload the van, reload the van with unsold products at market close (noon), drive the van back to the hall, unload the van, take product inventory and store products appropriately in the hall. Additional volunteers, at least 2, are needed to sell products (9:00-noon) at the market. Someone is needed to manage this.**
- Pierogi pinchers and bakers are always needed (Tuesday through Friday with pierogi making typically on Wednesday).
- Our worship space needs to be kept maintained; plants watered, candles filled, carpet vacuumed.
- Our social space needs to be kept clean and organized, including bathrooms. Please clean up chairs as well as tables in the hall.
- Items for the food pantry are always needed; (food [cans with pop tops are appreciated], toiletries, cereal, carton milk, crackers, peanut butter)
- Bags for the food pantry need to be assembled every week.
- **In the garden: soil preparation (laying down cardboard & cover with leaves)**
- Plastic grocery bags are needed for the food pantry and market sales.

(Tuesday through Saturday) for you and/or your family.

THE EPARCHY OF PARMA

PRESENTS 3RD ANNUAL Family Liturgy & Life Camp Life

Transfigured by the Light of the East

3-9 August 2025 CEDAR LAKE MINISTRIES CEDAR LAKE, INDIANA

STAY TUNED TO PARMA.ORG FOR DETAILS!

It could be me

We are creating an activity area in Dormition Hall for our toddlers and preschoolers. A small table and chairs and a rug have been donated. Other items like a small bookcase, floor pillows, books, puzzles and drawing supplies will be needed and welcomed donations.

Pilgrimage of Hope
 "For we walk by faith, not by sight" 2
 Corinthians 5:7

Saturday, April 5th
SACRED HEART BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Relic Tour
 We will be given a special tour of the All Saints Shrine located at the parish!

Prayer
 We will pray the Akathist and celebrate Liturgy as a group!

Food
 Snacks and dinner will be provided!

REGISTER TODAY!

To register, or for more info visit byzantineyoungadults.com!

Services for Fourth Week of Great Fast

Tuesday of March 25 – Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Wednesday of March 26 - Vespers and Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday of March 27 – Sixth Hour

Friday of March 28 - Vespers and Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday of March 29- Fourth All Souls Saturday

Services for the Week of March 16 – March 23, 2025				
Day	Time	Service	Readings	
Sunday	March 16 Second Sunday of the Great Fast St. Gregory Palamas	8:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 12:30 PM	Matins Divine Liturgy Luncheon Vespers	Jn 21:1-14 Heb 1:10-2:3 Mk 1:1-12
Monday	March 17 Our Venerable Father Alexis	6:00 PM	Great Compline	Isaiah 8:13-9:6
Tuesday	March 18 Our Holy Father Cyril		No service	Isaiah 9:9-10:4
Wednesday	March 19 The Holy Martyrs Chrysanthus & Daria	6:00 PM	Vespers and Presanctified Liturgy	Genesis 7:6-9 Proverbs 9:12-18
Thursday	March 20 Our Venerable Fathers of the St. Sabbas Monastery	6:00 PM	Jesus Prayer	Isaiah 11:10-12:2
Friday	March 21 Our Venerable & confessor James	6:00 PM	Vespers and Presanctified Liturgy Panachida & Hramoty	Genesis 8:4-21 Proverbs 10:31-11:12
Saturday	March 22 Third All Souls Saturday	5:00 PM	Vespers Confessions	1Thess 4:13-17 Jn 5:24-30
Sunday	March 23 Third Sunday of the Great Fast Veneration of the Holy Cross	8:15 AM 10:00 AM 11:30 AM 12:30 PM 2:00 PM	Matins Divine Liturgy Blessing of Crosses Luncheon Vespers Ukrainian Liturgy	Jn 21:15-25 Heb 4:14-5:6 Mk 8:34-9:1
Financial update: 3/9/2025				
Bakery	Building Fund	Candles	Zoom	Sunday Tithes
\$489.37	\$350	\$5	\$	\$1,148.68
Totals \$1,993.05				

SECOND SUNDAY OF GREAT FAST

St. Gregory of Palamas

Hebrews 1:10-2:3

A reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews. Brethren: And, "You, Lord, founded the earth in the begin-ning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will per-iSh, but you remain; they will all grow old like a garment, like a cloak you will roll them up, and they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end." But to what angel has he ever said, "Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies a stool for your feet"?"

Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to serve, for the sake of those who are to obtain salvation? Therefore we must pay the closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For if the message declared by angels was valid and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him.

Mark 2: 1-12

At that time Jesus came back to *Capernaum after a lapse of several days and word got around that he was at home. At that the people began to gather in great numbers. There was no longer any room for them, even around the door. While Jesus was delivering God's word to them, some people arrived bringing a paralyzed man to him. The four who carried him were unable to bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they began to open up the roof over the spot where Jesus was. When they had made a hole, they let down the mat on which the paralytic was lying.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some of the scribes were sitting there asking themselves: "Why does the man talk in that way? He commits blasphemy! Who can forgive sins except God alone?" Jesus was immediately aware of their reasoning, though they kept it to them-selves, and he said to them: "Why do you harbor these thoughts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk again'? That you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" (he said to the paralyzed man), "I command you: Stand up! Pick up your mat and go home." The man stood and picked up his mat and went outside in the sight of everyone. They were awestruck; all gave praise to God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

EXPERIENCING GOD

What is most important about St. Gregory Palamas is not the details of his life but his clear explanation of the Orthodox Faith: the Orthodox teaching about God's vision for our lives. Gregory taught that we cannot experience God through education, philosophy, intellectual discussion and debates. God is a

person with whom we are to be in a relationship, not a topic to be discussed or facts to memorize. He taught that God desires us to know Him, to experience Him, to share His life, to become one with Him. Even today, there exists a tendency in some Churches to focus on knowing about God and these churches resemble lecture halls in which pastors deliver lengthy sermons which are the focus of the Sunday worship. The center of these churches is a man in a pulpit rather than the presence of God on the holy altar. The emphasis seems to be learning about God more than experiencing God. Gregory studied the Holy Scriptures, read the early Church Fathers and learned from his own experience on Mount Athos that it was possible to know and experience God in this life. This is what our Lord prayed for in His final prayer before His passion and death, that we share His life and become one with Him:

May they all be one, as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, so also may they be in Us. (John 17:21)

The Holy Apostle Peter says we are destined and called to "partake of the divine nature". (2 Peter 1:4)

St. Gregory was vehemently opposed by other theologians among them a man named Barlaam who taught that education and learning are more valuable than hesychastic prayer. Barlaam said it was heresy to claim that one could know God, as a prayer of the Divine Liturgy says: "You are God, ineffable, inconceivable, invisible, incomprehensible..." Gregory agreed that God was unknowable and beyond human approach. But he drew a distinction between knowing God in His essence and knowing God in his energies or actions, the means by which He acts. St. Gregory knew the teaching of the early Church, especially the fourth century St. Basil the Great who taught:

We know our God form his energies, but we do not claim that we can draw near to His essence. For his energies come down to us, but His essence remains unapproachable. (Letter 234)

St. Gregory used the image of the sun: it is impossible to approach the essence or the center of the sun but it is possible to experience the energy of the sun: its light and warmth. Gregory said that through hesychasm, men and women can experience the light of God just as the apostles experienced the light of God streaming through the Body of Jesus at His Transfiguration.



Weekend Divine Services

Saturday: 5 PM Vespers

Sunday: 8:15 AM Matins
10 AM Divine Liturgy

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