

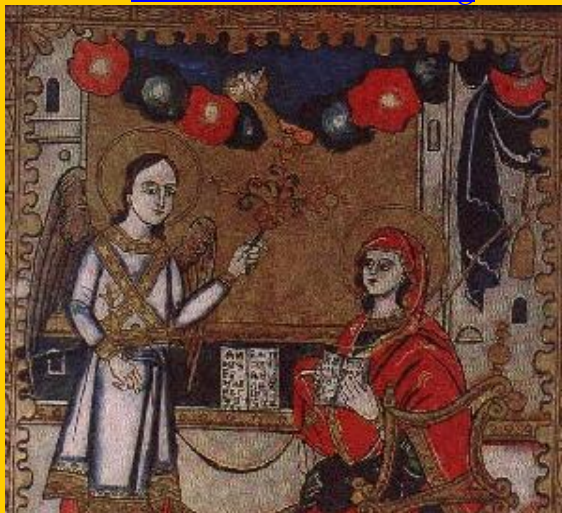
St. Makarios the Great Orthodox Christian Mission

Orthodox Church in America

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March 21, 2010

Confessions can be made before or after services or by appointment.

SCHEDULE: from 3/21 – 4/4

Wednesday **Short Unction & Presanctified Liturgy** at Bond Chapel, 5pm

Thursday 3/25 – Annunciation, Liturgy, 5pm @Bond

Saturday 3/27 – Lazarus Saturday, Liturgy 9:30am @Bond; **Vespers**, 6pm at St. John Stone Augustinian Friary, 1165 E. 54 Place.

Palm Sunday 3/28: **Liturgy, 9am**, (Matins before, from about 8am, if anyone available to at least read the text) at Bond chapel, 1050 E. 59th St., next to Swift Hall, best accessed from 58th off of University Ave, in SW corner of the main UC quadrangle.

6pm: Bridegroom Matins, @ *Holy Trinity Cathedral, 1121 N Leavitt, Chicago.*

HOLY WEEK & PASCHA please note place, *not all at Bond this year.* Also note times, which may vary.

Monday, 3/29 Bridegroom Matins 5pm, @Bond.

Tuesday, 3/30 Presanctified Liturgy 7am, @Bond; Bridegroom Matins 5pm, @Bond.

Wednesday, 3/31 Holy Thursday Matins w/ Unction 5:30pm, @Bond

Holy Thursday, 4/1 Vespertal Liturgy, 9:30am @Bond. Holy Friday Matins w/ Passion Gospels 6pm @Calvert House (5735 S.University)

Holy Friday, 4/2 Royal Hours 9am, Bond; Vespers--time and place TBA; Holy Saturday Matins with Lamentations 6pm @Calvert House (5735 S.University)

Holy Saturday, 4/3 Vespertal Liturgy w/Old Testament Readings, 9:30am @Bond. Paschal Vigil and Liturgy 11:30pm @Bond

Pascha Sunday, Day of Resurrection: Vigil continues from 12am on. Agape Vespers, 1pm @Bond

More may still be scheduled for Bright Week (4/4-11)

"We have abandoned a light burden, namely self-criticism, and taken up a heavy burden, namely self-justification."

-- **St. John the Dwarf**

The Crown of Creation

Know to what extent the Creator has honored you above all the rest of creation. The sky is not an image of God, nor is the moon, nor the sun, nor the beauty of the stars, nor anything of what can be seen in creation. You alone have been made the image of the Reality that transcends all understanding, the likeness of imperishable beauty, the imprint of true divinity, the recipient of beatitude, the seal of the true light.

When you turn to him you become that which he is himself.... Nothing in creation can be compared with your greatness. God is able to measure the whole heaven with his span. The earth and the sea are enclosed in the hollow of his hand. And although he is so great and holds all creation in the palm of his hand, you are able to hold him, he dwells in you and moves within you without constraint, for he has said, "I will live and move among them."

-- **St. Gregory of Nyssa**

ANNUNCIATION to the Virgin Mary.

Sometimes we might hear the accusation that Christianity cannot handle sexuality so it exalts an impossible virginal motherhood which serves to put all other ('real') women down. This is not true. It may happen that some may use the virginal motherhood of Mary this way; but then, people are also able to put the wrong interpretation onto the cross and God himself.

What is the right interpretation of the virginal conception by the Mother of God? Motherhood is good; but we forget how in ancient times, and perhaps even now, virginity and childlessness was considered a most lamentable state. Yet virginity is good; it is the physical reflection of a state of spiritual wholeness that one has when one does not unwisely yoke oneself to others outside of the covenant of marriage. Both these states are affirmed by the Virgin Mary because she participates in them so as to redeem them and all human experience. Her work takes us even beyond these more limited states: the miracle that God works in her is that through her bringing the Life of All into human life to redeem us from death, she has made possible that virginity be able to bring forth life through the power of the Spirit. In complement to this, motherhood is able to be renewed by the power of victory over death; by faith in the Risen Lord mothers no more live in the ancient fears of death that haunted childbirth and parenthood. All this is true in the faith that the Virgin Mary expresses for us, with us and in us as the great saint, the first of those divinized by the real and even material indwelling of the Word of God who begins re-sanctifying all creation through her body which incarnates him.

Isaiah 54:1-9 "Sing, O barren one, who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in travail! For the children of the desolate one will be more than the children of her that is married, says the LORD. ² Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; hold not back, lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. ³ For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your descendants will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities. ⁴ "Fear not, for you will not be ashamed; be not confounded, for you will not be put to shame; for you will forget the shame of your youth, and the reproach of your widowhood you will remember no more. ⁵ For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called. ⁶ For the LORD has called you like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit, like a wife of youth when she is cast off, says your God. ⁷ For a brief moment I forsook you, but with great compassion I will gather you. ⁸ In overflowing wrath for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you, says the LORD, your Redeemer. ⁹ "For this is like the days of Noah to me: as I swore that the waters of Noah should no more go over the earth, so I have sworn that I will not be angry with you and will not rebuke you.