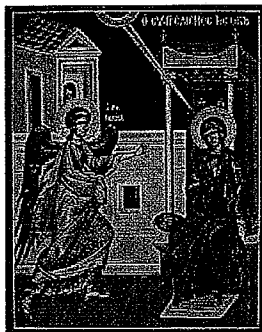


The Olive Shoots
St. Symeon Orthodox Church
March 25, 2012
✦ The Feast of Annunciation ✦



“Humility is constant forgetfulness of one’s
achievements.” ~ St. John Climacus

Upcoming Events

Wed. March 28, 6:30pm ~ Presanctified Liturgy
Thurs. March 29, 6:30pm ~ Canon of St. Andrew
Fri. March 30, 6:30pm ~ Akathist to the Theotokos

Pg. 1~ Cover
Pg. 2~ Troparion/ Kontakion/ Bible verse
Pg. 3~ Story
Pg. 4~ Activity



Troparion Tone 4

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery! The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin As Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice, O Full of Grace, The Lord is with Thee!

Kontakion Tone 8

O Victorious Leader of Triumphant Hosts! We, Thy servants, delivered from evil, sing our grateful thanks to Thee, O Theotokos! As Thou possess might invincible, set us free from every calamity, so that we may sing: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride!

Today's Bible verse is:

He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love.

~1 John 4:8

What does it mean?

If you don't love, you don't know God, because God is love.

While the Virgin Mary was in the Holy of Holy's sewing the curtain for the temple, the Archangel Gabriel showed up to her. He spoke with these words. "Rejoice O Full of Grace! The Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women! Do not be afraid, O Virgin. For you have found favor with God! I bring you good tidings of great joy! You shall have in your womb a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. And behold, that which is of you is of the Holy Spirit!" Mary was not frightened by the angel, for she knew Gabriel. She was afraid of the news she heard. "But how will I be pregnant at such a young age?" she said. "The power of the Most High will overshadow you." Mary wasn't sure about what to answer. "Because I know that this message is from God, I will do what he says. I accept this message. For my soul does magnify the Lord, and my Spirit rejoices in God, My Savior." The Virgin was obedient. She did what God said to do. The Annunciation is one of the 12 Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church. It is the 7th of the 12. Mary was afraid, because she was very young. But, she was obedient. She loved god so much, that she was willing to make a sacrifice. She was willing to make an offering to God.

The Annunciation

Read the story to find the answers

1. Who told Mary that she was going to have baby Jesus? _____
2. Mary said no. True or False?
3. What number of the 12 Great Feasts is the Annunciation? _____
4. Mary was at a young age when she got told she was having Jesus.
True or False?
5. Was Mary afraid of Gabriel? _____
6. Why was Mary afraid? _____
7. Where was Mary when Gabriel showed up to her? _____
8. What was Mary doing when Gabriel came to her? _____
9. Gabriel said "The power of the _____ will overshadow you."
10. Was Mary sure about what to answer? _____
11. Who sent the message? Note: Gabriel delivered the message but
who was it from? _____
12. Mary was called the _____ Mary.

