

## A “feast of firsts” during Bishop Paul’s visit to Annunciation Mission, St. James, MO

For the first time since [Annunciation Mission](#) here was planted five years ago, its patronal feast day — the Annunciation — fell on a Sunday this year.

The community is receiving a Church Planting Grant from the Orthodox Church in America for its second year in 2018.

“This, coupled with the fact that we are the only community in the Diocese of the Midwest named after this feast, turned out to be a wonderful occasion to host His Grace, Bishop Paul of Chicago and the Midwest for an archpastoral visit,” said Annunciation’s Priest Joel Wilson. “Another ‘first’ for our community was this year’s series of Friday evening lenten lectures, following the celebration of the Akathistos Hymn to the Mother of God.”

On the Friday before the feast of the Annunciation, Bishop Paul offered a talk titled [“Are We A Church, Or The Church?”](#), Father Joel added. “This wonderful talk was a timely response to several questions as the religious landscape in America becomes increasingly diverse. His Grace’s talk and responses to questions helped frame a loving perspective and provided a good foundation on being the Church.”

The following day, Bishop Paul was hosted at a nearby lake for a lunch and a lively question-and-answer session, at which “some of our inquirers and catechumens were able to meet His Grace for their first time,” Father Joel explained. “The services for the feast of Annunciation began on Saturday evening with Great Vespers, at which His Grace served the Litya. Father George Oanca, a chaplain priest stationed nearby at Ft. Leonard Wood, and his family joined us for the feast on Saturday and Sunday. Before the Sunday Liturgy, we welcomed a new catechumen, Dawn, who has since been chrismated.”

Father Joel adds that Bishop Paul’s visit provided an occasion for everyone to work together in planning the memorable weekend.

“Some persons helped clean and prepare the temple beforehand, while some of our newer altar servers had a chance to serve with a bishop for the first time and two of our newest (and youngest) members welcomed His Grace with flowers,” Father Joel explained. “Others read and chanted, joining Matushka Tessi in the choir. Many of the children helped to capture the event in their drawings. And after the Liturgy on Sunday, we enjoyed a delicious luncheon at Alex’s Pizza in Rolla.

“Finally, after having it confirmed again by His Grace during that we need to find a larger space with proper facilities and social space, we are now for the first time launching a [building campaign](#), and — God willing — the next time we celebrate our patronal feast on a Sunday, we will do so in a new and more permanent space!” Father Joel added.

## Bishop Paul to host second annual “Virtual Youth Retreat” Friday, November 16

On the evening of Friday, November 16, 2018, His Grace, Bishop Paul will lead a discussion with pre-teens and teens during the second annual diocesan online “Virtual Youth Retreat.” Youth in grades six through 12 are invited to participate in this event, which will be hosted at five diocesan parishes — Saint Mary Cathedral, Minneapolis, MN; Holy Trinity Church, Overland Park, KS; Saint Joseph Church, Wheaton, IL; Archangel Michael Church, Broadview Heights, OH; and Holy Transfiguration Church, Livonia, MI.

“With such a geographically large diocese, it’s quite difficult to bring our youth together in one place as often as we’d like,” explained Priest Benjamin Tucci, Diocesan Youth Director. “His Grace has encouraged us to find new ways to connect with our young people, including the creative use of technology. Following the success of last year’s “virtual retreat,” we’re happy to host this year’s program to bring together our pre-teens and teens with Bishop Paul for an evening video chat.

“During the retreat, youth will have a chance to dialogue with Bishop Paul via teleconferencing, explore ways they can help the Church take the ‘#IAMORTHODOX’ statement highlighted at the 19th All-American Council and put it into practice, connect with other Orthodox Christian youth from around the Midwest Diocese, and explore what it means to be an Orthodox Christian in our daily lives,” Father Benjamin added.

The event will begin at 7:00 p.m. CST/8:00 p.m. EST with the opening prayer led by Bishop Paul, who then will address the topic of “Our Life in Christ.”

Bishop Paul encourages as many youth as possible to join him for conversation to understand the importance of keeping Christ at the center of our lives.

[Online registration](#) is now available. Questions and requests for additional information should be addressed to Father Benjamin at 612-599-1125 or [frbentucci@gmail.com](mailto:frbentucci@gmail.com).

## Bad Day

Man: God, can I ask You a question?

**God: Sure**

Man: Promise You won't get mad ...

**God: I promise**

Man: Why did You let so much stuff happen to me today?

**God: What do u mean?**

Man: Well, I woke up late

**God: Yes**

Man: My car took forever to start

**God: Okay**

Man: at lunch they made my sandwich wrong & I had to wait

**God: Hmm**

Man: On the way home, my phone went DEAD, just as I picked up a call

**God: All right**

Man: And on top of it all, when I got home I just wanted to soak my feet in my new foot massager & relax. BUT it wouldn't work!!! Nothing went right today! Why did You do that?

**God: Let me see, the death angel was at your bed this morning & I had to send one of My Angels to battle him for your life. I let you sleep through that**

Man (humbled): OH

**GOD: I didn't let your car start because there was a drunk driver on your route that would have hit you if you were on the road. Man: (ashamed)**

**God: The first person who made your sandwich today was sick & I didn't want you to catch what they have, I knew you couldn't afford to miss work.**

Man (embarrassed): Okay

**God: Your phone went dead because the person that was calling was going to give false witness about what you said on that call, I didn't even let you talk to them so you would be covered.**

Man (softly): I see God

**God: Oh and that foot massager, it had a shortage that was going to throw out all of the power in your house tonight. I didn't think you wanted to be in the dark.**

Man: I'm Sorry God

**God: Don't be sorry, just learn to Trust Me.... in All things , the Good & the bad.**

Man: I will trust You.

**God: And don't doubt that My plan for your day is Always Better than your plan.**

Man: I won't God. And let me just tell you God, Thank You for Everything today.

**God: You're welcome child. It was just another day being your God and looking after My**

## WISH LIST

September month's bill's are as follows:

- Stamps: \$50
- Wine: \$100
- Candles: \$400

If anyone would like to contribute to part, or all, of a bill please write it in on your check.



### Six Little Stories

{1} Once all villagers decided to pray for rain, on the day of prayer all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That's **Faith**

{2} When you throw a baby in the air, she laughs because she knows you will catch her. That's **Trust**

{3} Every night we go to bed, without any assurance of being alive the next morning but still we set the alarms to wake up. That's **Hope**

{4} We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That's **Confidence**

{5} We see the world suffering, but still we get married and have children. That's **Love**

{6} On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old....I am sweet 16 with 64 years experience'

That's **ATTITUDE**

### Weeping Icon of our Mother of Hawaii

St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Cathedral  
3256 Warren Rd  
Cleveland, OH 44111

Wednesday, Oct 3

6:30pm Procession Greeting of the Icon

7:00pm Akathist Service & Veneration

Doors of church open 5:45pm

### IMPORTANT UPDATE FOR OUR 120<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER

- Please pay \$20 per person by Sunday, September 30.
- Please make check payable to *Holy Assumption Orthodox Church*. Put in memo line: *Anniversary Dinner*.