

Fifth Week of Great Lent + Annunciation, 2015

****UPDATED MARCH 14, 2015****

The Great Feast of the Annunciation to the Most-Holy Theotokos (March 25) falls this year on the Fifth Wednesday of Great Lent. This impacts the offering of important Lenten services during this week, namely the Presanctified Divine Liturgy with the twenty-four Penitential Stichera (usually offered late afternoon or early evening on Wednesday) and Little Compline with the Life of St. Mary of Egypt and the full Great Canon of Repentance (offered on Wednesday night).

When this rare coincidence occurs, we strictly follow the Typikon in this manner:

Monday, March 23

- In the late afternoon or early evening, parishes *may* serve Lenten Daily Vespers with the twenty-four Penitential Stichera said after the idiomela and martyrikon of aposticha. This is optional, as the mandated service for this evening is Little Compline.
- Then, in the evening, parishes will serve Little Compline with the Life of St. Mary of Egypt and the full Great Canon of Repentance.

The above order provides the greatest ease for parishes to offer these Lenten services without conflicts with the Annunciation.

Tuesday, March 24

- Evening: Great Vespers (with Litia/Artoklasia if desired) for the Annunciation

Parishes will offer these additional services for the Great Feast in one of two ways:

--OPTION #1--

Wednesday, March 25

- Morning: Festal Orthros and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for the Annunciation
- Evening: Parishes *may* offer Daily Vespers for the apodosis of the Annunciation and the Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel

--OR, OPTION #2--

Wednesday, March 25

Evening: Vespersal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for the Annunciation with the Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel (**NOT TO BE DONE ON MARCH 24**). This ancient order ensures that we put off celebration of the Feast to the end of the day, as we would for important saints like the Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebastia (Mar. 9).

NOTE: The schedule of services for the Annunciation changes yearly, depending on where March 25 falls during Great Lent. Regardless, we eat only one semi-festal meal (with fish, wine and oil) following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, and then we return to the strict fast.

On the night of **March 26**, parishes *may* offer the Presanctified Divine Liturgy for the fifth Thursday of Great Lent.

All of these services will be posted at <http://www.antiochian.org/online-liturgical-guide> and http://www.antiochianladiocese.org/service_texts_great_feast.html. If you have any questions about this directive, write to Very Rev. Thomas Zain, Archdiocesan Vicar-General, at abounathomas@me.com.