



**Sunday of Orthodoxy:**

Originally, the Prophets Moses, Aaron, and Samuel were commemorated on this Sunday. The Epistle and Alleluia verses appointed for today's Liturgy reflect this older usage. **Today, on the first Sunday of Great Lent,** we commemorate the **"Triumph of Orthodoxy"**, the restoration of the holy icons in the reign of the holy Empress Theodora. It is a historical feast commemorating the return of the icons to the churches in the year 843 after the heresy of iconoclasm was overcome. The spiritual theme of the day is first of all the victory of the True Faith. **"This is the victory that overcomes the world, our faith"** (I John 5:4). Secondly, the icons of the saints bear witness that man, **"created in the image and likeness of God"** (Gen 1:26), becomes holy and godlike through the purification of himself as God's living image.

**Annunciation:**

Tomorrow is the **Feast of the Annunciation of the Virgin Mary**. It comes nine months before Christmas on the twenty-fifth of March. It is the celebration of the announcing of the birth of Christ to the Virgin Mary as recorded in the Gospel of Saint Luke. The services of the feast of the Annunciation, the Matins and the Divine Liturgy, stress again and again the joyous news of the salvation of men in the birth of the Saviour.

*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 you. (Troparion).*

Sunday Bulletin

**Church of the Mother of God**

**"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"**

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**Glory to  
Jesus Christ**

**Glory  
Forever**

Triumph of Orthodoxy

*No one could describe the Word of the Father;  
but when He took flesh from you, O Theotokos, He accepted to be described,  
and restored the fallen image to its former beauty.  
We confess and proclaim our salvation in word and images*

Kontakion

**Today the Church remembers:**

**Forefeast of the Annunciation • Sunday of Orthodoxy**

- Ven. Zachariah the Recluse. St. Artemius (Artemon), Bishop of Seleucia (1st-2nd c.)
- Ven. Zachariah, Ascetic, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—13th-14th c.)
- Martyrs Stephen and Peter of Kazan' (1552)
- St. James (Jacob, Iago) the Confessor, Bishop of Catania (8th-9th c.).

**March 24, 2013**

**Tone 1 of the Octoechos  
Triodion week 5**

**Sunday of Orthodoxy  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Great Lent**



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