

LOCATION

We are located across from Purdue North Central University and in front of the University Park Headquarters at **10087 W Rolling Meadows Dr., Westville, IN 46391-3402**.

VISITING US

"Come and see!" The Orthodox monastic life can be only learned by living it. Please call 219-805-7961 or 219-785-2529 for hours on that day. Visit with the nuns, learn about monasticism in the Orthodox Church, see the Icon Studio, and learn about prayer, spiritual life, how holy icons are made, and how we relate to them.

We offer 2-3 days and weekend 3-4 member Family spiritual retreat, women spiritual retreat, accommodating up to 3-4 women to join us in the presence of God, please call us, and join us to freshen up your soul and spiritual life.

PRAYING FOR US AND WITH US

As we have set off on our path in Northwest Indiana, we ask your prayers, support, encouragement, and patience. As of this time, we work and pray to pay the **MORTGAGE** on the Hermitage house and car.



DONATIONS

Every donation is **MOST** gratefully appreciated. You and your loved ones will be remembered with much thanksgiving and gratitude in our daily prayers.

DIRECTIONS

We are located across from the North Central Purdue University in the University Park

From East - From I-80 West go to exit 39, after the toll turn right on R 421 South go through a blinking light and at the first traffic light turn right, follow the road up after the bridge the Hermitage is immediately on the right.

From West - From I-80 East, take go to exit 39, after the toll turn right on R 421 South go through a blinking light and at the first traffic light turn right, follow the road up after the bridge the Hermitage is immediately on the right.

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Mt. 16:24 "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mt. 16:26



HOLY ANNUNCIATION HERMITAGE

ORTHODOX NUNS MONASTERY

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Ø VICTORIOUS LEADER

OF TRIUMPHANT HOST,

**WE YOUR SERVANTS DELIVERED FROM ALL
HARM, SING OUR**

GRATEFUL THANKS, O BIRTHGIVER OF GOD.

**AS YOU HAVE INVINCIBLE NIGHT, FREE US
FROM EVERY CALAMITY**

THAT WE MAY CRY TO YOU:

REJOICE, O BRIDE, UNWEDDED

WHO ARE WE

By God's Grace, **Holy Annunciation Hermitage** is a recently formed (2005) Orthodox Monastic community for women. The Hermitage was established with the blessing and guidance of His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel of the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of the Orthodox Church in America. The nuns of Holy Annunciation Hermitage originate from Romania.

On September 08, 2004, the Feast Day of the Nativity of the Theotokos, with the blessing of Archbishop Nathaniel, and the faithful, we came to Merrillville, Indiana, and settled in the Parish House of The Descent of the Holy Ghost Church (ROEA). This allowed our community to be more accessible in our mission, outreach, retreat work, and focus more on our work in the traditional Byzantine Iconography (writing of icons). Although Eastern Orthodox monasticism is the same everywhere, there are many variations according to possibilities and conditions.

With much gratitude to the "mother church", "Descent of the Holy Ghost" we grew to stand on our own feet.

BY GOD'S GRACE AND MANY BLESSED EFFORTS, WE HAVE OUR OWN HERMITAGE HOUSE NOW. AFTER MANY PRAYERS AND PONDERING, WE HAVE PURCHASED THE HERMITAGE HOME DURING THE SUMMER OF 2008 AND WERE ABLE TO MOVE AND SETTLE IN.

ON SEPTEMBER 28th 2008

*His Eminence Archbishop Nathaniel
Visited and blessed the house informally*

"Holy Annunciation" community is organized as an Hermitage or Skete rather than as a monastery per se. At this time, the cycle of services our community offers is limited according to our limited number and the

restrictions of our residence. Nevertheless, this allows certain flexibility in the pastoral missionary work of our community. As in all Orthodox monastic communities, the heart of its existence is public and private prayer that leads to union with God and personal and cosmic sanctification. Every other activity, however worthy, is incidental to this ultimate goal. The "way of life" for the Hermitage is found in other monastic communities throughout the Orthodox world. Among other of our goals, as witnesses to our Orthodox tradition is to bring to life even today authentic Byzantine iconography as the ancient iconographers have passed on to us. [See website for Icon Gallery and ordering information]



HUNS HERMITAGE HOUSE

We have fashioned a Holy Altar located in the largest room of the house. It is here where the community offers its daily prayers. We have planted a vegetable garden as well as planted flowers around the house and we have set up an Icon Studio for the study, research, teaching, and painting of traditional Byzantine icons. Our other activities, in addition to our daily prayer services, iconography and house-keeping, include charitable activities, visitations to the sick and disabled, spiritual outreach, lectures and retreats, spiritual counseling for the young, teaching Sunday School, the practice of a variety of traditional art and craftwork.

VOCATIONS

Our Hermitage openly welcomes women who would like to consider becoming members of our monastic community. Although we live in

this world, we strive not to be of the world. We live in poverty and chastity, offering ourselves to serve God and our neighborhood. These monastic principles, established from the beginning of monasticism, remind us that the world belongs to God and we surrender ourselves solely to His service, seeking to "ransfigure" the world and not to be "disfigured" by the world. Thus, monastics pray for the entire world. If you are interested in pursuing a life consecrated to God as a nun with the monastic sisterhood of the Holy Annunciation Hermitage, please contact: Nun Theodora at (219) 805-7961 and come visit us.

ICONOGRAPHY

The nuns can provide you with hand-painted (written) portable panel icons for church iconostasis, chapels, and private homes. In addition, we paint mural frescoes on canvas for the adornment and traditionally painting of the Church walls, glass painting, and restorations, all done in various techniques and mediums. We use the traditional Egg-tempera technique, as well as, oil on glass, acrylic on canvas and panel, decorative art, drawing designs, gold-leaf gilding, and book illuminations. We offer conferences on Orthodox Iconography, hold classes to teach those interested in learning these techniques, their tradition, spirituality, and prayer. The Hermitage Icon Studio is dedicated to traditional Byzantine iconography. For orders and information, please call during business hours at (219) 805-7961 or E-mail: mothertheodora@gmail.com and visit www.hermitagebyzantineiconstudio.com

PRAYER SERVICE SCHEDULE

7:00AM, Morning Prayer 7:00PM, Evening Prayer. Please telephone us for the Schedule for Feast Days services. Our prayers are offered in both the English and Romanian languages.