

The Nativity of The Most-holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feasts at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family.

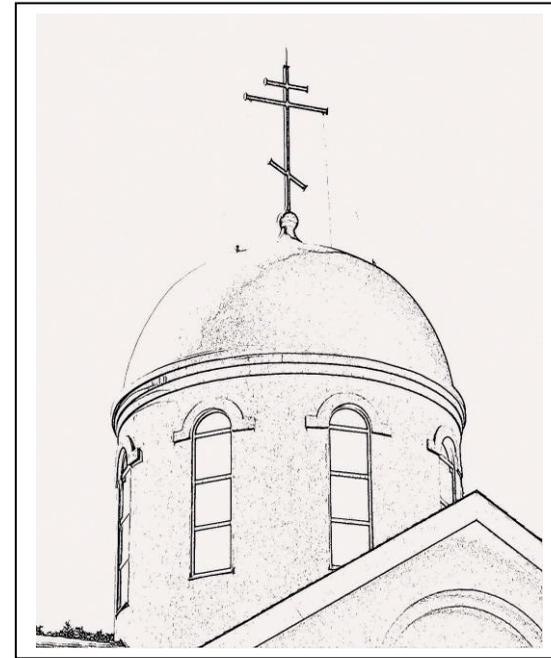
The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

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 of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Rev. Fr. Alexander Smida, *Attached Priest*

Rev. Dn. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Deacon*

Tara Paxton, *Senior Warden*

Reader Matthew Hascha, *Choir Director*

September 6, 2020

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 4. Commemoration of the Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossæ. Martyrs Eudoxius, Zeno, and Macarius (311-312). St. Archippus (Arkhipp) of Herapolis. Martyr Romulus, and with him many others (107-115). Hieromartyr Cyril, Bishop of Gortyna (3rd-4th c.). Martyrs Cyriacus, Faustus the Presbyter, Abibas the Deacon, and 11 others, at Alexandria (ca. 250). St. David of Hermopolis, Egypt (4th c.). Hieromartyr Priest Maxim Sandovich (1914).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 16:13-24

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-42

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today @ 9am Divine Liturgy

Monday @ 6pm Great Vespers

Tuesday @ 9am Divine Liturgy

Saturday @ 6pm Great Vespers

Sunday @ 9am Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 and Galatians 6:11-18

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14 and John 3:13-17



*Nativity of the Most-holy
Theotokos*

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news and directives by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.occa-brick.org.

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Reader John Economou, Margaret Makara, Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Dorothy Studier, Helen Ciurczak (under hospice care), Pauline Barnowsky, and Catherine Ratushnik.**

MANY YEARS

Birthdays this week:

Today – Anthony Macejka

Wednesday – Linda Washenko

Saturday – Reader Andrew Bair

Wedding Anniversaries this week:

Tuesday – Charlie & Joanne Bass (#20)

Wednesday – Brian & Marie Price (#53)

Thursday – Michael & Paula Getmanov (#31)

Thursday – Mary & Ben Horne (#2)

Saturday – Carole & George Stavrou (#52)

Saturday – Elaine & Alan D'Alessandro (#39)

Annunciations

THIS TUESDAY is the **Great Feast of the Nativity of the Most-holy Theotokos**. Great Vespers will be held Monday at 7pm. Divine Liturgy will be served on the feastday at 9am.

THIS TUESDAY – On this **new day of the week** (changed from Wednesday), we will continue the **Adult Education** program on the subject of the **Divine Liturgy**. All **parishioners and inquirers** are invited to attend via Zoom.

THIS WEDNESDAY – **Dr. Al Rossi** will present the first of four on-line classes based on his new book, “**All is Well**”. This is a joint presentation being made to three parishes – Holy Cross Church in Medford, Mother of God Church in Princeton, and ours. The **Zoom link** for these has been sent to all parishioners. Please contact Father Gary if more information is desired.

THIS THURSDAY – The **Parish Council** will meet via Zoom at 7pm.

We will continue to allow a maximum of **25 attendees** per service in the Church. For **Great Vespers and weekday Divine Liturgy**, parishioners are being encouraged to attend by signing up on a first-come-first-served basis. For **Sunday Divine Liturgy**, the process differs by being invitation only, with invitations being made by a rotation through the parish roster. Our parishioners' patience is appreciated as we try to navigate through these processes.

Stewardship Donations may be brought to the church or mailed to the church address: 360 Van Zile Road, Brick, NJ 08724. **On-line donations** are possible by visiting our website for a link. Many thanks for continuing to support your parish in these challenging times.

Confessions continue to be offered either by phone or in person (with proper social distancing). Please **contact Father Gary** to make an appointment for the Sacrament of Confession.

Grocery Gift Cards are available for purchase. Please contact Matushka Mary by email (matmaryb@gmail.com) or by phone at (848) 333-7075 to make arrangements.

The Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program is an essential vehicle for funding the activities and programs of our diocese. Please consider participating in the program. Brochures are located by the bulletin board in the parish hall or at the diocesan website at www.nynjoca.org.