

Entry of the Most-holy Theotokos into the Temple

According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

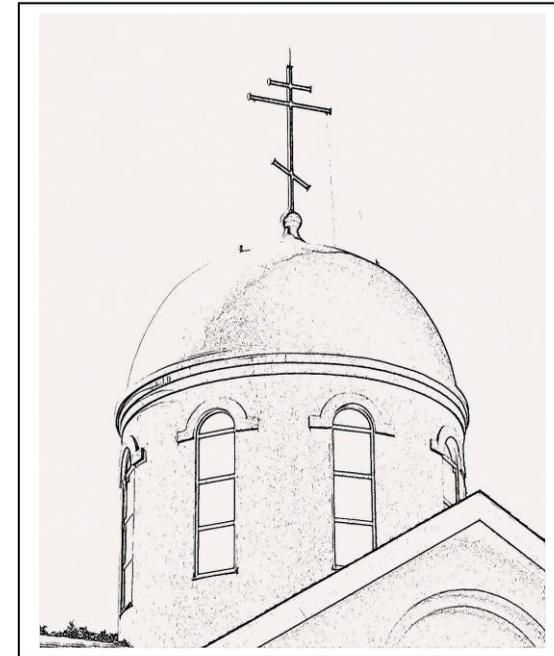
When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said Saint Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian."

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

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

A Parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey of the Orthodox Church in America

360 Van Zile Road, Brick, New Jersey 08724

Phone: (732) 458-9032

Email: orthodoxbrick@gmail.com

Fax: (732) 295-0007

Website: www.orthodoxbrick.org

Very Rev. Fr. Gary Joseph Breton, *Rector*

Very Rev. Fr. Sergius Kuharsky, *Retired Attached Priest*

Very Rev. Fr. Paul Kucynda, *Retired Attached Priest*

Rev. Fr. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton, *Choir Director*

November 20, 2022

Annunciations

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Forefeast of the Entry Into the Temple of the Most-holy Theotokos

Tone 6. Ven. Gregory Decapolites (816). St. Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople (446-447). Ven. Diodorus, Abbot of Yuregórsk (1633). Martyr Dasius of Dorostorum (3rd c.). Martyrs Eustace, Thespesius, and Anatolius of Nicea (312). Hieromartyrs Nerses and Joseph; John, Saverius, Isaac, and Hypatius, Bishops of Persia; Martyrs Azades the Eunuch, Savonius, Thecla, Anna, and many other men and women who suffered in Persia (343).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: Luke 12:16-21

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Today – 6:00pm Great Vespers (*Entry of the Theotokos*)

Monday – 9:00am Divine Liturgy (*Entry of the Theotokos*)

Saturday – 6:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00am Divine Liturgy

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: Ephesians 2:14-22

Gospel: Luke 13:10-17



*Entry of the
Theotokos into the
Temple*

Special Prayers

We pray for all our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are Fr. Sergius Kuharsky, Zoran Pejovic, Ingrid Kopec, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Mary Tczap, George Stavrou, Margaret Makara, Dennis & Ann Marie Gahr, Michael Getmanov, and Lori Ratushnuk.

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for Coffee Hour after the veneration of the Cross. Please note that **reception of the Holy Eucharist** is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.

TODAY – Team 4 is in charge of today's Coffee Hour. Team 1 will host next week. **Many thanks** to all who have volunteered to help out with this important ministry.

TODAY – Episode 4 of "The Chosen" will be shown in the Parish Hall beginning at approximately 11:15am. All parishioners and friends are invited to stay and watch. This episode focuses on **Jesus' calling of the fishermen**.

TODAY – **Great Vespers & Litya** for the Great Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple will be served at 6:00pm. **Archbishop Michael** will be joining us for this festal celebration.

MONDAY – A festal **Divine Liturgy** will be served at 9:00am. All are encouraged to celebrate this **joyous feast** of the Entry of the Theotokos into the Temple.

We are in the midst of the **Nativity Fast**. The Church guides us into this preparatory period and urges us to follow the usual fasting recommendations until the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord. Confessions are heard after every Great Vespers.

THURSDAY is **Thanksgiving Day**. As we observe this holiday, we are urged to maintain the spirit of the Nativity Fast as best we can.

Saturday, December 10 is the date of the **Annual Parish Cookie Walk**. If you are a cookie baker, please consider baking for this event. More information will be forthcoming.

Congratulations to **Tabitha Gabriela Wolf** who was baptized here yesterday. Tabitha is the granddaughter of Mariana Vajda. May God grant her Many Years!

Dessert rolls have been baked. Many flavors are now available for sale at \$15 per roll. Please contact Cathy Berger or Olga Pasick to make your purchases.

We continue to pray for **peace in Ukraine**, for the withdrawal of Russian troops from that land, and for the wellbeing of the Ukrainian people. Lord, have mercy!

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

*Please pray for vocations to the
Holy Priesthood!*

Many Years!

Birthdays this week

Today – Father Paul Kucynda

Wedding Anniversaries this week

Friday – Olga & Richard Pasick (#38)

The Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors program is an essential vehicle for funding the activities and programs of our diocese. Please consider participating in the program. More information is available at the diocesan website at www.nynjoca.org.