

A PRAYER IS ANSWERED

The first major holy day on our church calendar is the Feast Day of the Nativity of the Theotokos, which is observed on September 8/21. It is a tale of sorrow turning to joy - a story of God's ability to answer prayers, no matter how preposterous they may seem.

This is a story of a righteous elderly couple: Joachim & Anna. They had lived a long & fruitful life of obedience to God. Alas, however, they lived alone. In an age when childlessness was viewed as a punishment from God for some unknown sin, Joachim & Anna had no sons or daughters. One can only imagine the gossip & whispering that went on behind the backs of Joachim & Anna. Their reproach among men reached its breaking point when the High Priest in the Temple in Jerusalem refused to accept Joachim's sacrifice on a feast day, considering it an unworthy offering since he had no children. A distraught Joachim retired to the wilderness, tearfully beseeching God to bless them with a child; an equally troubled Anna did the same from their Nazareth home, imploring God to be merciful to them.

Finally, their prayers were answered. They were blessed with a child, Mary, who would be destined to become the "Living Temple of God," for she would one day give birth herself in a miraculous way to mankind's Savior. Early on, Mary's saintly parents vowed to dedicate their child to a life of service to the Lord in the Temple.

It is important for us to note that Joachim was from the tribe of Judah & from the house of David - the ROYAL tribe, while Anna was from the PRIESTLY tribe of Aaron. Thus in the birth of the Virgin Mary, two significant "branches" of Israel were united, fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Messiah.

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2709 Washington St. Vicksburg, MS 39180

Parish Office: 601-636-2483

Fr. Gabriel's cell: 713-357-8871

Email: stgeorge2709@gmail.com

web page: www.stgeorgevicksburg.org

"By your Nativity, O Most-Pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed

to you: 'The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our life.'"



from barrenness; Adam and Eve are loosed from the corruption of death. And we,

your people, are freed from the guilt of sin as we celebrate and sing

Church Calendar: Check the Link. <http://www.stgeorgevicksburg.org/service.html>

SAINT GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Very Rev. Father Gabriel Karam, Pastor

Saturday Great Vespers 6:00 p.m. - Sunday Orthros 9:15 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. - Confessions: By Appointment

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 07, 2025

TONE 4 / EOTHINON 2

SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

TRANSFER OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FOUR

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying: Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

As deliver of Captives: And defender of the Poor, Healer of the Infirm, champion of Kings, Victorious Great Martyr George, Intercede with Christ our God for our souls' salvation.

KONTAKION OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS IN TONE FOUR

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

MEGALYNARION OF THE FEAST IN TONE EIGHT

Virginity is alien to mothers, and childbirth is foreign to virgins; in thee, O Theotokos, both were granted. Wherefore, all we the tribes of the earth bless thee unceasingly.

We Celebrate Today

Today in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the Nativity of our Most-holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary.

Verses

Truly, O Anna, thou surpassest all mothers,

Until that day thy daughter shall become a mother.

On the eighth Anna brought God's Mother into the light.

The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to

bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams; for He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. She was Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, and the Fount of virginity and purity.

Through the intercessions of Thy Mother, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Joy Logue. Sue Thomas. Dolores Nosser. Hugh Cummings. Rick Collins. George Michael Nasif. Lynne Abraham. Kh. Janet Henderson. Pam Smith, Irene Tzotzolas. Maha Habeeb. Deacon Terry. Michael Farris. Athena. Georgia. Andrea Simon. Chuck Abraham. Fr. Paul Yerger. Timmie Fedell.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries Sept Bill Thomas (7). Mickey Fedell, Olivia Kathleen Angelo (10). Samara Dallaire, Jaynie Fedell, Janice Strickland (12). Bobby Lutton, Janet Angelo (17). Stavros Tzotzolas (20). Michael Moses (21). Susie Angelo (22). Janet Gleason (24).

+Holy Bread & Coffee Hour are offered by Tasos & Anna Ioannides and their family.

+Keep in your prayers. Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, Jacob Milliken & John Morgan Mcright. Who are preparing themselves for the Holy Sacrament of Baptism & Chrismation.

+Antiochian Men Meeting. Monday Sept. 15 @ 6 pm. Coffee, Snack and church business.

Discussing Topic: The Holy Cross and the Liturgical life effect on us.

+ Parish Council Meeting. Tuesday Sept. 16 @ 6 PM.

+ Fall Retreat 2025! At St. Ignatius Orthodox Church Franklin, TN. September 18-20th. Topic: "The Armor of God, Strength for the Spiritual Struggle". (Ephesian 6: 10-18)

+Upcoming *Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross, next Sunday September 14.

*Teen Soyo Festival, will be announced soon.

The Church Fathers Teach

What joy does the Nativity of the Mother of God bring us?

Through the birth of the Ever-Virgin, through Her only-begotten Son and God, cursed and outcast mankind makes peace with God Who is immeasurably offended by man's sins, for Christ became the mediator of this peace (cf. Rom. 5:10-11). Man is freed from the curse and eternal death, made worthy of the blessing of the Heavenly Father; he is united and co-mingled with the Divine nature; he is raised to his first inheritance by this co-mingling, according to the Church hymn. Mankind, once an outcast, has been made worthy of sonship to the Heavenly Father, received the promise of the glorious resurrection and eternal life in the heavens together with the angels.

St. John of Kronstadt, Sorrow and Joy: A Homily on the Day of the Nativity of the Most Holy Mother of God

Welcome our Visitors! We invite you to venerate the cross at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. However, only Orthodox Christians who are in good standing and who have prepared by prayer, fasting, and Confession may receive Holy Communion.

DIVINE LITURGY SEPTEMBER 07, 2023

****DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM****

SUNDAY BEFORE THE ELEVATION OF THE HOLY CROSS TRANSFER OF THE NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

THE EPISTLE

(For the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.
To Thee, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.*

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (6:11-18)

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (3:13-17)

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him."