

A PROMISE FULFILLED

By virtue of her being chosen by God to give birth to His Only-Begotten Son, Mary is held in the highest esteem by our Church. We reverently refer to her as the "Theotokos", or simply the "Mother of God."

It should be noted, however, that her own birth was, in itself, a miraculous one. Holy Tradition tells us of the saintly Joachim and Anna, who lived lives of service to the Lord. They were firm in their commitment to His teachings, obeying His every commandment. Still, Joachim and Anna were puzzled and saddened by their inability to have children, which was something of an embarrassment in the Hebrew society of their time. Their sorrow reached a climax when Joachim's offering to God in the temple in Jerusalem was refused by the high priest, who claimed that their childlessness was the result of God's anger with their sinful ways.

Legend has it that Joachim retired to a desert place, where he prayed and fasted for 40 days and nights. Anna, too, back in their home in Nazareth, raised her voice in constant supplication to God. Finally the prayers of Joachim and Anna were answered! An angel appeared to Anna, announcing that she would soon conceive a child, whom they would name Mary. Joachim, far away in his wilderness retreat, received the same message from God, and hurriedly returned to his wife in Nazareth.

God kept His promise to Joachim and Anna. Soon they had the child for whom they had prayed! They, in turn, made a solemn vow to the Lord, promising that they would see that their daughter would serve Him all the days of her life, praising His all-holy Name.

Icon by Austin Kachek - Manville, NJ

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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.

A Gift of Blessing

Visit the Church Gift Shop.

See the Beautiful Icons, Crosses & Home Censers

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THE VIRGIN MARY
WITH HER RIGHTEOUS PARENTS
JOACHIM AND ANNA

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 SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

TONE 6/ EOTHINON 4

FOREFEAST OF AND SUNDAY BEFORE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS

CONSECRATION OF RESURRECTION CHURCH IN JERUSALEM

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX

Angelic Powers were above Thy tomb, and they that guarded Thee became as dead. And Mary stood by the grave seeking Thine immaculate Body. Thou hast despoiled Hades and wast not tried thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst grant us life. O Thou Who didst arise from the dead, Lord, glory be to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF FOREFEAST OF THE HOLY CROSS IN TONE TWO

We offer thee in mediation the life-giving Cross which, of Thy goodness, Thou hast given unto us, the unworthy, O Lord. Save Thy hierarchs and Thy flock, and grant Thou peace through the Theotokos, O only Lover of mankind.

APOLYTIKION OF HOLY RESURRECTION CHURCH IN TONE FOUR

Thou hast revealed the earthly majesty of the dwelling place of the holy glory, O Lord, as the brilliance of the firmament on high. Make firm its foundation unto ages of ages and receive our fervent supplications which are offered to thee therein; through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Life and Resurrection of all.

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 HOLY RESURRECTION CHURCH IN TONE FOUR

The Church is shown to be * a many-lighted heaven * that doth shine a guiding light * upon all them that do believe; * wherein while standing, we cry aloud: * Do Thou Thyself now establish this house, O Lord.

We Celebrate Today

On September 13 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we celebrate the **Forefeast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross** and commemorate the **Consecration of the Church of the Holy Resurrection** of Christ our God.

Verses

New Israel, fulfilling a law that is ancient,

Doth honor thy tomb, O Word, with this consecration.

On the thirteenth befell the consecration of the Resurrection's fane.

Holy Resurrection in Jerusalem is honored above all others. Constantine the Great constructed it at the place of Golgotha, where our Savior was crucified and buried, then arose. For a long time this place had been purposely buried beneath the earth by the Jews and heathen;

furthermore, during the reign of Hadrian (117-138), a temple dedicated to Aphrodite was built over the site so that this sacred place might be even further desecrated and fall into utter oblivion. It was here that the Cross was hidden. However, at the command of the pious Emperor Constantine, excavations were made and the tokens of the saving Passion were found. It was here, then, that the very great and magnificent temple named in honor of Christ God's Resurrection was built under the supervision of the blessed Helen, while Macarius was Archbishop of Jerusalem. Macarius elevated the venerable Cross and consecrated this temple in the year 336. On this day, we also commemorate the **Hieromartyr Cornelius the centurion**; and **Venerable Hierotheos the Younger** of Iviron monastery on Athos. By the intercessions of Thy Saints, O Christ God, have mercy on us. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+Healing & Recovery Bishop Nicholas, Fr. Paul, Dea Terry, Kh. Janet, Joy Logue.

Dolores Nossier, Rick Collins, George Michael Nasif, Lynne Abraham, Pam Smith, Irene

Tzotzolas, Michael Farris, Athena, Georgia, Andrea Simon, Chuck Abraham, Carla Leese.

Drew, Robert Taylor, Gregory Thomas, Helen Abraham, Hannah Bonelli.

+Birthdays & Anniversaries, Sept. Samara Dallaire, Jaynie Fedell, Janice Strickland (12).

Bobby Lutton, Janet Angelo (17), Stavros Tzotzolas (20), Michael Moses (21), Susie Angelo

(22), Janet Gleason (24).

+Potluck Today. Along with the beginning of Sunday School, let us start the church year with

fellowship, family and food. Bring your favorite side dish and let us spend some time together.

+Keep in your prayers. Our Catechumens, Cole Gary, Who is preparing himself for the Holy Sacrament of Chrismation.

+ Parish Council Meeting. Tuesday Sept. 15 @ 6 PM

+Feast of the Elevation of the Cross. Great Vespers **Sunday Sep. 13th.** @ 5:30pm.

Orthros & Divine Liturgy & Procession of the Cross. **Monday Sep. 14th.** @ 5 pm.

+Sunday School Classes will start Today, Sunday September 13th. After Divine Liturgy.

+Upcoming * Fall Festival, Sunday November 1.

* Fall Kibbee Sale, Saturday October 17.

+ 120th. Anniversary's Celebration for St. George Church. Save the Dates.

A 3-part series "reflection of our Ancestors"

Wednesday September 30th Wednesday October 21st and Saturday November 14th.

+ Fall Retreat 2026 At St. Ignatius Orthodox Church Franklin, TN. September 17-19th.

RETREAT THEME: "ON THE INCARNATION" St. Athanasius

The Church Fathers Teach

Tell us, Cyril of Jerusalem, is this the Tree of Life?

"Although to Adam it was said, 'For the day you eat of it, you must die,' today you have been faithful. Today will bring you salvation. The tree brought ruin to Adam; the tree [of life] shall bring you into paradise. Fear not the serpent; he shall not cast you out, for he has fallen from heaven. I say not to you, 'This day you shall depart,' but 'This day you shall be with Me. *Catechetical Lectures.*"

DIVINE LITURGY AUGUST 13, 2026

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

**FOREFEAST OF AND SUNDAY BEFORE ELEVATION OF THE CROSS
CONSECRATION OF RESURRECTION CHURCH IN JERUSALEM**

THE EPISTLE

{For the Sunday before the Elevation of the Holy Cross}

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O Lord 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."