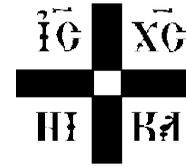


Weekly Schedule

Friday	Akathisto de Maria, 6:00p.m.
Saturday	Great Vespers, 6:00p.m. Confessions following Great Vespers
Sunday	Reading of Hours, 9:40 a.m. Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m. <i>Fellowship Hour following Divine Liturgy</i>

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, Sts 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 St 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. St Gregory of Nyssa, in the fourth century, also mentions this Feast. In the eighth century Sts Germanus and Tarasius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, delivered sermons on the Feast of the Entry. The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.



Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Rev. Matthew Cantrell, Acting Rector
Rev. Sergius Willis, Associate Pastor
Call to arrange sacraments, services,
instruction, counseling, home visits, sick
calls.

November 22, 2009
24th Sunday after Penecost
Tone 7

Afterfeast of the Entrance of the Theoto-
kos into the Temple

Troparion (Tone 6) (Resurrection)

By Your Cross You destroyed death. To
the thief You opened Paradise. For the
Myrrhbearers You changed weeping into
joy. And You commanded Your disci-
ples, O Christ God, to proclaim that You
are risen,//granting the world great
mercy.

Troparion (Tone 4) (Saint)

Today is the prelude of the good will of
God, of the preaching of the salvation of
mankind. The Virgin appears in the Tem-
ple of God, in anticipation proclaiming
Christ to all. Let us rejoice
and sing to her://“Rejoice, O Fulfillment
of the Creator’s dispensation!”

Kontakion (Tone 7) (Resurrection)

The dominion of death can no longer
hold mankind captive, for Christ de-
scended, shattering and destroying its
powers. Hell is bound, while the Proph-
ets rejoice and cry: “The Savior has
come to those in faith; //enter, you faith-
ful, into the Resurrection!”

Kontakion (Tone 4) (Saint)

The most pure Temple of the Savior; the pre-
cious Chamber and Virgin; the sacred Treas-
ure of the glory of God, is presented today to
the house of the Lord. She brings with her
the grace of the Spirit, therefore, the Angels
of God praise her: “Truly this woman is the
abode of Heaven!”

Prayers for The Faithful and Departed

Emelie, Simon, Mary, Anna, McCartney
family. **May God Grant Them Many
Years!**

George, John, Mary, Al. **May Their
Memories Be Eternal!**

Glorry to God for All Things!

Epistle Reading

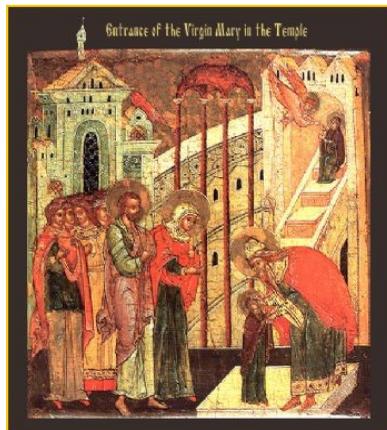
Ephesians 2:14-22

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

Gospel Reading

Luke 21:16-21

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.' And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.



Welcome to our Visitors!!

A warm welcome to all our visitors and guests who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us for our Fellowship Hour in the Church Hall . **Please note: Only those Orthodox Christians that have properly prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and confession of sins may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Collection

Please bring any food you would like to donate to church. We, as a church, will offer food to one of the local food banks.

Church Education

Our parish has begun its Church Education program for our youth *after* the Divine Liturgy. I hope to expand our education offerings to include the adults as well.

Christmas Ornaments

Our church's youth group is making memory ornaments to adorn our Christmas tree. These glass ornaments are offered to remember your loved ones, as well as any important people and events in your life. Please see any of the youth or Debbie for more information. These ornaments are still for sale.

Christmas Flowers

We are beginning to collect donations for Christmas flowers. Please see Debbie. Thank you for helping to beautify our church this coming Nativity season. Donations are still being accepted.

Choir Rehearsal

There will be very brief choir rehearsal following the Divine Liturgy today to look at some new music.

Thank you

Simon and Mary wish to thank all parishioners who offered their prayers and support on the occasion of their forty-fifth wedding anniversary.