

Today's Bulletin Sponsor are:**For the health of:**

Anthony "Tony" DaGrosa on his 55th birthday, offered with love by Tatsiana and Mark DaGrosa.

Readings:

Colossians 1:12-18 (*28th Sunday after Pentecost*)

Galatians 4:22-31 (*Conception of the Theotokos*)

Luke 17:12-19 (*12th Sunday of Luke*)

Luke 8:16-21 (*Conception of the Theotokos*)

BRETHREN, give thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or authorities--all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent.

At that time, as Jesus entered a village, He was met by ten lepers, who stood at a distance and lifted up their voices and said: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us." When He saw them He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went they were cleansed. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice; and he fell on his face at Jesus's feet, giving Him thanks. Now he was a Samaritan. Then said Jesus: "Were not ten cleansed? Where are the nine? Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him: "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well."

Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM**Sunday service:**

Hours - 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

(**Private Confession** – After Vespers by appointment.)

(**General Confession** – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month)

(**Pannikhidas** – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School

2nd through 8th grades – 9:30 AM (No Church School on the first Sunday of each month.)

Preschool through 1st grades meet immediately after communion every Sunday.

Coffee hour - after Liturgy

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- Our parish will celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord in the Flesh on Monday evening December 24 at 6:30 PM with the Nativity Liturgy.
- Today, Dec 9 – Annual St. Nicholas Day Celebration: pizza party and visit from St. Nicholas! All parish and visiting children are invited to participate.

Special Announcements:

- **Any Announcements or prayer requests for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to:** Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the sign up sheet at the candle stand.
- **The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous** meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.
- **The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous** meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.

The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos:

Saint Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married Saint Joachim (September 9), who was a native of Galilee.

For a long time, Saint Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as Saint Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter Two of his Commentary on Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in Her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although she committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, she would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary by Saint Anna took place at Jerusalem. The many icons depicting the Conception by Saint Anna show the Most Holy Theotokos trampling the serpent underfoot.

“In the icon Saints Joachim and Anna are usually depicted with hands folded in prayer; their eyes are also directed upward and they contemplate the Mother of God, who stands in the air with outstretched hands; under her feet is an orb encircled by a serpent (symbolizing the devil), which strives to conquer all the universe by its power.”

There are also icons in which Saint Anna holds the Most Holy Virgin on her left arm as an infant. On Saint Anna’s face is a look of reverence. A large ancient icon, painted on canvas, is located in the village of Minkovetsa in the Dubensk district of Volhynia diocese. From ancient times this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women in Russia.

*Today the universe rejoices,
for Anna has conceived the Theotokos through God’s dispensation,
for she has brought forth the one who is to bear the ineffable Word!*

Kontakion - Tone 4

Readings on all saints remembered today can be found at:

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2018/12/02>

Read about St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (Dec. 6) here:

<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2018/12/06/103484-st-nicholas-the-wonderworker-and-archbishop-of-myra-in-lycia>

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Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

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*Conception by Righteous Anna of the
Most Holy Mother of God*

**Glory to
Jesus
Christ**

**Glory
Forever**

*Today the bonds of barrenness are broken,
God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna
He has promised them beyond all their hopes to bear the Maiden of God,
by whom the uncircumscribed One was born as mortal Man;
He commanded an angel to cry to her:
“Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with you!”*

Troparion (Conception by Righteous Anna) – Tone 4

On this day the Church remembers:

The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most-holy Theotokos • Prophetess Anna (Hannah), mother of the Prophet Samuel (ca. 1100 B.C.) • St. Sophronius, Archbishop of Cyprus (6th c.) • St. Stephen the “New Light” of Constantinople (10th c.) • Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, “UNEXPECTED JOY”.

December 9, 2018 - Bulletin

Nativity Fast
Tone 3 of the Octoechos

28th Sunday After Pentecost
12th Sunday of Luke