

Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple:

An icon of the **Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple** is found on the Iconostas of our church, in the row of great feasts. This great feast of the Theotokos is the celebration of her entrance as a child into the Jerusalem Temple, it is commemorated tomorrow, **November 21.**

About the Icon

This icon of the feast tells the story of Mary's entry into the Temple. The High Priest, Zacharias, is in his priestly robes standing on the step of the Temple. His arms are outstretched, ready to greet and receive the Virgin.

Mary is shown as a small child, standing before Zacharias with her arms reaching up to him.

On the right in the icon, the young maidens who served as her escort are depicted standing behind her. Also, we see her parents, Joachim and Anna, offering their child to God and His divine service.

The red canopy depicts that the action takes place inside the building that it is draped over, the Temple.

Background information

When Mary was three years old, her aged parents, Joachim and Anna took her three days journey to present her in the Temple in Jerusalem to fulfill their promise to dedicate her to the Lord's work. The Virgin was clad in royal garments and she was accompanied by a grand procession of her kinsmen each carrying a lighted candle. There were 15 steps leading up to the Temple. Her parents stood her on the first step, and then Mary ran to the top. She was received by St. Zacharias, the father of St. John the Forerunner, as he was the High Priest at that time. He took her by the hand and led her into, not only the Holy Place, but into the Holy of Holies. This was the place that only the High Priest was to enter, only on the Day of Atonement. The only explanation is that he was moved by the Spirit of God. Joachim and Anna offered sacrifices to God, received the priest's blessing and returned home. Mary lived in the Temple for nine years. Her parents visited her often until they reposed. She wanted to remain in the Temple all of her days and never marry. The law had no provision for this. It was unheard of for a girl to vow perpetual virginity. So she was betrothed to Joseph. Joseph was an older man whose wife had died leaving him with small children to care for. He needed someone to help him care for the children and she needed someone to protect her in a society that had no place for a single woman. This allowed her to remain a virgin after she left the Temple at age twelve.

See us on the web at:

ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

E-Mail us at:

Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

115 Hudson St.

Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

Rev. Boris Slotsky, Rector

2B Pembroke Lane

Manchester, New Jersey 08759

(732) 350-9588



Entry Into the Temple

Christ is in our midst!

He is and always will be!

Today the universe is filled with joy at the glorious feast of the Mother of God, and cries out: "She is the heavenly heavenly tabernacle."

Kontakion - Entry Into the Temple

On this day the Church remembers:

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

- Ven. Gregory Decapolites (816) • St. Proclus, Archbishop of Constantinople (446-7)
- Ven. Diodorus, Abbot of Yuregórsk (1633) • Martyr Dasius of Dorostorum (3rd c.).
- Martyrs Eustace, Thespesius, and Anatolius of Nicæa (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).

November 20, 2011

Tone 6 of the Octoechos.
(Entry Into the Temple)

23th Sunday after Pentecost
9th Sunday of Luke

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For eternal memory of:**

Eufrozina Kolubechule, offered by Lore Stefy and family
Kathleen Sheehan, mother of Maribeth Romanofsky

There will be a Pannikhida Services today for:

Luba Zviagintseva (3 years)
Anatole, Grandfather of Aleena

Readings:

- Ephesians 2:4-10 (Sunday)
- Luke 12:16-21 (Sunday)
- **Hebrews 9:1-7 (Entry of the Most-Holy Theotokos)**
- **Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Most-Holy Theotokos)**

BRETHREN, the first covenant had regulations for worship and an earthly sanctuary. For a tent was prepared, the outer one, in which were the lampstand and the table and the bread of the Presence; it is called the Holy Place. Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies, having the golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant covered on all sides with gold, which contained a golden urn holding the manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail. These preparations having thus been made, the priests go continually into the outer tent, performing their ritual duties; but into the second only the high priest goes, and he but once a year, and not without taking blood which he offers for himself and for the errors of the people.

At that time, Jesus entered a village; and a woman called Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve you alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
(General Confession – 9 50 AM on the first Sunday of each month)
(Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy, 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School - 9:30 AM **Coffee hour after Liturgy**
 (no classes 1st Sunday of each month)

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

Announcements:

- **St Nicholas Celebration.** Our Saint Nicholas Day celebration will be held on Sunday December 11th. Look for further information in upcoming bulletins.

Special Announcements:

- **The next meeting of the Parish Council will be November 27**, after coffee hour.
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Reminder:

- **Pannikhida Services** - The Church Council asks that all Pannikhida Services be restricted to the 3rd Sunday of each month. The Pannikhida, if requested, will be celebrated right after the Liturgy and before Coffee Hour. From ancient times it has been an established custom to remember the dead on the 3rd, 9th, and 40th day after their repose. The parish will still respect this tradition, but for the anniversary of death, or for the name day of our deceased loved ones, etc., we would like to have this service monthly on the same Sunday. (Arrangements can be made through Fr. Boris)