

Entrance of the Theotokos in the Temple:

The feast *Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple* it is commemorated this Wednesday, November 21.

About the Icon

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,

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.

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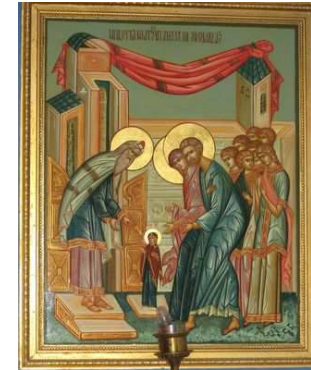
Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

115 Hudson St. Mays Landing, New Jersey 08330

**Very Reverend Daniel Hubiak,
Temporary Rector**



**Christ is in
our midst!**

**He is, and
always
will be!**

**Entrance of the Theotokos
in the Temple**

*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- Entrance of the Theotokos
Wednesday, November 21

Today the Church remembers:

Martyr Plato of Ancyra (ca. 306) • Martyr Romanus the Deacon, of Cæsarea, and the youth Barulas (303) • Martyrs Zacchæus the Deacon, and Alphæus, of Cæsarea in Palestine (303)

November 18, 2012

Nativity Fast

Tone 7 of the Octoechos

24th Sunday After Pentecost
9th Sunday of Luke