

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

**Sheryl-Ann Stefy** on her birthday, offered by her mother-in-law Lore Stefy

- Readings:**
- **Ephesians 2:14-22**
  - **Luke 12:16-21**
  - Galatians 5:22-6:2 (St. Alexander)
  - Matthew 11:27-30 (St. Alexander)

**BRETHREN**, for he is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the law of commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby bringing the hostility to an end. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built into it for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

**The Lord said this parable:** "The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, 'What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?' And he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." As he said these things, he cried out: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

**Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM****Sunday service:****Hours – 9:40 AM****Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM****Private Confession – Half hour before any service.**

See Fr Matthew for other times.

**General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month****Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month****Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room****Church School - Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month)**

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

**Announcements:**

- **The next Council Meeting will be on November 30<sup>th</sup>** following Coffee Hour. Please send agenda items to Trudy as soon as possible. The December Council Meeting will be held on the 21<sup>st</sup> due His Grace, Bp.. Michael's visit on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- To help make our church more beautiful for the Nativity feast, **each family is being asked to bring in one poinsettia plant by December 7<sup>th</sup>**. This will be in lieu of a collection for Nativity flowers.
- **On Sunday December 7<sup>th</sup>, our parish will celebrate its annual St. Nicholas Day feast.** Children are invited to help decorate the tree downstairs after the Liturgy. Pizza will be served and a visit from St. Nicholas is expected. If you wish to have your child participate in the festivities, please see Maribeth Romanofsky.
- **The Sisterhood will be raffling off a Nativity gift basket** this year on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Tickets will be sold for \$1.00 each. Each family is asked to sell ten tickets. Items are needed to fill up the basket. Please see the posted sheet downstairs if you wish to donate an item.
- On **December 28<sup>th</sup>**, the Sunday after the Nativity, we will welcome **His Grace, Bishop Michael**. A dinner is planned in Bishop Michael's honor, to be held immediately after the Liturgy. Tickets for the dinner will be \$10.00 each. If you wish to contribute an item to the dinner, please check the sign-up sheet downstairs.

**Special Announcements:**

- **Any Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to:** [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.

**St. Maximus says:** - Truth is divine knowledge, and virtue's the struggle for truth on the part of those who desire it...

**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 was commemorated last Friday, **November 21<sup>st</sup>**. The Leavetaking is this Tuesday, **November 25<sup>th</sup>**.

**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.

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E-Mail us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**Orthodox Church of the Mother of God***"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

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Glory to  
Jesus ChristGlory  
ForeverAfterfeast of the Entry  
Into the Temple

*Today is the prelude of the good will of God,  
of the preaching of the salvation of mankind.*

*The Virgin appears in the temple of God,  
in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all.*

*Let us rejoice and sing to her:*

*"Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation."*

Troparion — Tone 4

**Today the Church remembers:**

**Afterfeast of the Entry Into the Temple • Repose of Rt. Blv. Great Prince Alexander Nevsky, in schema Aleksy (1263) • St. Amphilochius, Bishop of Iconium (394) • St. Gregory, Bishop of Agrigentum (6th-7th c.) • St. Metrophán, in schema Makáry, Bishop of Vorónezh (1703) • Martyr Sisinius, Bishop of Cyzicus (3rd c.) • Martyr Theodore of Antioch (4th c.)**

**November 23, 2014****24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost****Tone 7** of the Octoechos

Nativity Fast