

Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8):

**The Most Holy Virgin Mary** was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind. The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since St Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Sts Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Sts Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastsdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

St Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. St Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God's mercy on her family. The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: "the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls" (2nd Stikhera on "Lord, I Have Cried", Tone 6)

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

See us on the web at:

[ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)

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Sunday Bulletin

**Church of the Mother of God**

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**Nativity of the  
Mother of God**

**Christ is in our  
midst!**

**He is and always  
will be!**

*By Your Nativity, O Most Pure Virgin,  
Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness;  
Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death.*

*And we, your people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you:  
The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life!*

*Kontakion – Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary*

**On this day the Church remembers:**

**Sunday Before the Elevation of the Cross • Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos**

• Ven. Theodora of Alexandria (474-491) • Translation of the Relics of Ven. Sergius and Herman, Wonderworkers of Valaam • Martyrs Demetrius, his wife Euanthia, and their son Demetrian, at Skepsis on the Hellespont (1<sup>st</sup> c.) • Martyrs Diodorus, Didymus, and Diomedes, of Laodicea. Martyr Ia and 9,000 Martyrs with her, of Persia (362-364). St. Euphrosynus the Cook, of Alexandria (9<sup>th</sup> c.) • The Weeping "KAPLUNOVSKAYA" Kazan' Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos (1689)

September 11, 2011

**Tone 4** of the Octoechos.

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

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

All parishioners and visitors, offered by the Parish Council.

**Summer Sunday service:**

Hours - 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM

(General Confession on the first Sunday of each month)

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:**

- **Regular service schedule returns today, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Hours will be at 9:40 am and Divine Liturgy will start at 10:00 am.**
- **The next meeting of the Parish Council will be September 25<sup>th</sup> after coffee hour.**
- **Sunday School will begin again on September 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am.**

**Upcoming Sisterhood Events**

- **The Sisterhood of the Mother of God will be having a covered dish luncheon on Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> in honor of their Feast Day. Cost is \$5.00 for adults. A sign-up sheet will be posted on September 18<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Next Sisterhood meeting will be October 9<sup>th</sup> after coffee hour.**

**Special Announcements:**

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

**Readings:**

- **Philippians 2:5-11 (Theotokos)**
- **Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Theotokos)**
  - 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 (13th Sunday)
  - Matthew 19:3-12 (13th Sunday)

**BRETHREN**, have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**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!"