

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:****For the health and prosperity of:****Laura** on her birthday, offered by her mother, Liz**Julian** Searfoorce on his 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday, offered by his grandparents.**Johnathan** on his birthday, son of Holly and Ed Dawson**Readings:**

- 1 Corinthians 9:2-12
- Matthew 18:23-35
- Galatians 6:11-16 (Epistle, Sunday Before Cross)
- John 3:13-17 (Gospel, Sunday Before Cross)
  - **Philippians 2:5-11 (Theotokos)**
- **Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Theotokos)**

**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!"

**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****(Church School will begin on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM.)**

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

**Announcements:**

- There will be a **meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Mother of God today**, after coffee hour.
- **Church School** will be beginning for the new school year next Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>. **Classes meet at 9:30 AM** in the community room, and will meet each Sunday **except for the first Sunday of each month**. Church School is open to all children in grades pre-K through 8. Registration forms are available at the candle stand. Lessons are individualized and materials are purchased for each student, so once you have registered, please make every effort to attend Church School each week. Children of visitors are welcome to attend without prior registration.
- The next **meeting of the Parish Council** will be on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, after coffee hour.
- There are now new brochures on a table in our vestibule! If you have not seen them, check them out: **"Welcome to The Orthodox Church: An Introduction"** • **"Prayer 101: A basic 'no excuse' daily rule of prayer for the entire year"** • **"The Orthodox Church & The 12 Steps"** • **"Orthodox Church of the Mother of God"** • **"Church History Timeline"** Contributions to defray printing costs (paper and ink) are welcome.

**Special Announcements:**

- Special 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.

**Nativity of the Theotokos (Today):**

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

Sunday Bulletin

**Church of the Mother of God**

*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

*Founded 1966*

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**Glory to  
Jesus Christ**

**Glory  
Forever**

**Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady  
Theotokos and Ever Virgin  
Mary**

*Your Nativity, O Virgin,  
Has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!  
The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God,  
Has shone from You, O Theotokos!  
By annulling the curse,  
He bestowed a blessing.  
By destroying death, He has granted us eternal Life.*

**Troparion-**

**Today the Church remembers:**

**The Nativity Of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos And Ever-Virgin Mary •  
Sunday before Elevation • Icons of the Most-holy Theotokos: "KURSK-ROOT"  
Icon of the Sign (1259), "POCHAEV" (1559), "KHOLMSK", and others.**

**September 8, 2013**

**11<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**

**Tone 2 of the Octoechos**