

**GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!**

**\*\*FLOWERS FOR THIS WEEK\*\***

In front of the Icon of Our Lord, In front of the Icon of The Theotokos, and on the Center Icon Table are donated for The Feast of The Entrance of The Theotokos into The Temple

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**Altar Candles** are offered by Anthony DeNuovo in Loving Memory of Thy Departed Servants of his family. May their memory be eternal.

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**TODAY'S WEEKLY MESSENGER IS SPONSORED BY:**

ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH

**WELCOME TO ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH**

We welcome all of you to the Divine Liturgy this morning, especially those who are visiting with us here at St. George Orthodox Church. Everyone is invited to the Parish Fellowship Hall following the Divine Liturgy for Christian Fellowship. It is our prayer that your experience this morning was spiritually uplifting and you will return very soon to pray with our parish family. In the Orthodox Church, we do not practice open Communion. However we do invite everyone to come and participate in the Divine Liturgy. Hence only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through prayer and fasting may receive Holy Communion. May the Lord bless you with many years of good health and happiness.

**THE WEEKLY MESSENGER**

Published weekly in the interest of the parishioners and friends of Saint George Orthodox Church, Buffalo, NY a parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey and The Orthodox Church in America

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**22nd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 5.  
The Entry of the Most-Holy Theotokos into the Temple .**

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**EPISTLE LESSON**

**GOSPEL LESSON**

Galatians 6:11-18

Luke 12:16-21

Hebrews 9:1-7 (Feast)

Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

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**NOVEMBER 21, 2021 NO. 433**

**Come and See how we are all called to be Stewards of The Church!**

- Stewardship is our active commitment to use all our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgment of Christ's redeeming love.
- Stewardship is caring for the needs of others.
- Stewardship is offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us.
- Stewardship is what a person does after saying "I Believe . . .", as proof of that belief.
- Stewardship is learning how to be a responsible and concerned caretaker of Christ's Church; it is learning how to enjoy Church life and be happy in Church work, for in Her dwells the fullness of the Spirit of God.

If you would like to make a donation to our parish, please feel free to use the QR Code below. Thank you for your continued support and generosity for our parish in bringing The Love and Faith of Our Lord Jesus Christ to all! May God continue to bless and guide you and keep all of you in His loving care today and always!



**Tropars/Kontakions for Divine Liturgy**

**Troparion for The Resurrection — Tone 5**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word, co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit, born for our salvation from the Virgin; for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh, to endure death, and to raise the dead// by His glorious Resurrection.

**Troparion for The Feast of**

**The Entrance of The Theotokos — Tone 4**

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!"

**Kontakion for The Resurrection — Tone 5**

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Savior, shattering its gates as Almighty, resurrecting the dead as Creator, and destroying the sting of death. Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of man, // and we cry to Thee: "O Lord, save us!"

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit.*

**Kontakion for The Feast of The Entrance of The Theotokos — Tone 4**

The most pure Temple of the Savior; the precious Chamber and Virgin; the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, is presented today to the house of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, therefore, the angels of God praise her:// "Truly this woman is the abode of Heaven!"

*Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Steadfast Protectress Tone 6** *(Hymn to the Theotokos)*

Steadfast Protectress of Christians, constant advocate before the Creator. Despise not the entreating cry of us sinners, but in Your Goodness come speedily to help us who call on You in faith! Hasten to hear our petition and to intercede for us, O Theotokos!! For You always protect those who honor You!

**THE EPISTLE LESSON FOR TODAY**

*Galatians 6:11-18 and Hebrews 9:1-7*

**BRETHREN:**

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand!

As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.

From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

**BRETHREN:**

Then indeed, even the first covenant had ordinances of divine service and the earthly sanctuary.

For a tabernacle was prepared: the first part, in which was the lampstand, the table, and the showbread, which is called the sanctuary; and behind the second veil, the part of the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of All, which had the golden censer and the ark of the

**PROKEMEINON Tone 5**

Thou, O Lord, shalt protect us / and preserve us from generation forever.

*v. Save me, O Lord, for there is no longer any that is godly!*

**THE SECOND PROKEMEINON Tone 3**

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath God my Savior.

**ALLELUIA VERSES**

*I will sing of Thy mercies, O Lord, forever; with my mouth I will proclaim Thy truth from generation to generation.*

*For Thou hast said: Mercy will be established forever; Thy truth will be prepared in the heavens.*

*Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear!*

**THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS**

***Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing:***

The angels beheld the entrance of the Pure One and were amazed.// How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies? Since she is a living Ark of God let no profane hand touch the Theotokos. But let the lips of believers unceasingly sing to her, praising her in joy with the angel's song:// "Truly, thou art more exalted than all, O pure Virgin!"

**COMMUNION HYMN**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

covenant overlaid on all sides with gold, in which were the golden pot that had the manna, Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant; and above it were the cherubim of glory overshadowing the mercy seat. Of these things we cannot now speak in detail.

Now when these things had been thus prepared, the priests always went into the first part of the tabernacle, performing the services. But into the second part the high priest went alone once a year, not without blood, which he offered for himself and for the people's sins committed in ignorance;

**THE GOSPEL LESSON FOR TODAY**

*Luke 12:16-21 and Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28*

**Let us Attend:**

Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully.

And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?'

So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods.

'And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'"

But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?'

## LOVE CONQUERS ALL

**LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE. 1 Cor.16:14**

**YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. Matt. 22:37**

**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF. Matt. 22:39**

**LOVE YOUR ENEMIES AND PRAY FOR THOSE WHO PERSECUTE YOU. Matt. 5:44**

**LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND, LOVE DOES NOT ENVY, LOVE DOES NOT BOAST, LOVE IS NOT PROUD, LOVE IS NOT SELFISH, LOVE IS NOT PROVOKED. 1Cor. 13:4**

**LOVE BEARS ALL THINGS, LOVE ALWAYS HAS FAITH, LOVE ALWAYS HAS HOPE, LOVE ENDURES ALL THINGS. LOVE NEVER FAILS! 1Cor. 13:7,8**

So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

### **At That Time:**

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me."

And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!"

But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

**Upcoming Events within The Life of our Parish/Diocese**

**NOVEMBER 2021**{Nativity Fast Begins: Nov. 15-Dec. 24}

**21 – The Great Feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple**  
The Hours – 9:40 AM      Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM

**22 – Monthly Community Healing Prayer Service/Thanksgiving Prayer Service –**

**25 – THANKSGIVING DAY**  
Moleben Service of Thanksgiving – 9:00 AM

**\*Education Sermon on Sunday November 21:  
The Liturgical Colors of The Orthodox Church\***

**\*\*Bible Study Class – Monday November 8 (6:30 PM)  
Monday November 22 (7:00 PM)**

**\*\*St. George Book Club – Monday November 29 (6:30 PM)**

**DECEMBER 2021**{Nativity Fast: Nov. 15-Dec. 24}

**\*\*FULL SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE NATIVITY FAST  
WILL BE SENT OUT TO EVERYONE VIA EMAIL AND/OR MAIL\*\***

**1 – Parish Council Meeting**

**5 – Eve of the Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker**  
Youth Sunday  
Church School Q&A with Fr. Jay (The Acts of the Holy Apostles)  
Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM      Great Vespers with Litiya at 1:30 PM

**5 – ANNUAL CHURCH SCHOOL ST. NICHOLAS/NATIVITY PROGRAM**

**6 – The Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker**  
Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM

**12 – Annual Parish Meeting**

**13 – Feast of St. Herman of Alaska**  
Moleben/Akathist Service to St. Herman at 9:00 AM

**13 – Monthly Community Healing Prayer Service– 6:00 PM**

**18 - Great Vespers – 4:00 PM      Parish Council Meeting (5:00pm)**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 12**

- \*\*Bring New Pajamas for patients at Roswell Park\*\***
- \*\*Christmas Cookies are due for Hearts for Homeless\*\***
- \*\*Christmas Gifts are due for Church School Nativity Project\*\***
- \*\*Winter Gloves Donations due for Mats for Mission\*\***

**13/15/17 – Little Compline Service – 6:30 PM**

**THE SCHEDULE OF  
WEEKLY SERVICES and ACTIVITIES**

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 21**

**THE FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF  
THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE**

**The Hours – 9:40 AM  
Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM**

**Church School Class (in person  
and via Google Classroom)  
following Divine Liturgy**

**Special Coffee Hour Fellowship in  
the Parish Fellowship Hall  
following Divine Liturgy!**

**Coffee Hour Host:  
Fr. Jason and Mat. Katia  
Coffee Hour Donation: Kitchen Project**

**MONDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2021**

**Annual Thanksgiving Prayer  
Community Service – 6:00 PM**

**St. George Bible Study Class  
(Via Zoom) – 7:00 to 8:30 PM**

**WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 24, 2021**

**Daily Matins – 9:30 AM**

**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 25, 2021**

**THANKSGIVING DAY  
Moleben Service of Thanksgiving  
– 9:00 AM**

**SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27 2021**

**Great Vespers -4:00 PM**

**SUNDAY NOVEMBER 28, 2021**

**The Hours – 9:40 AM  
Divine Liturgy - 10:00 AM**

**Church School Class (in person  
and via Google Classroom)  
following Divine Liturgy**

**Coffee Hour Fellowship in the  
Parish Fellowship Hall following  
Divine Liturgy!**

**Coffee Hour Host:  
Coffee Hour Donation:**

**24/25 – THE GREAT FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**

**December 23**

9:00 AM – The Service of Royal Hours

**December 24** (Eve of The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord)

9:00 AM – Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

4:30 PM – Nativity Vigil Service

**December 25** (The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord)

9:30 AM – Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

(Brunch in Parish Fellowship Hall)

**December 26** (2<sup>nd</sup> Day of The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord)

10:00 AM – Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Nativity Luncheon at Church following Divine Liturgy

Christmas Caroling around The Neighborhood

**December 27** (3<sup>rd</sup> Day of The Great Feast of The Nativity of Our Lord)

9:30 AM – Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

**23** – Church School Outing to Our Lady of Fatima Shrine for Festival of Lights

**31 – Eve of Feast of Circumcision of Our Lord/St. Basil the Great/**

**New Year’s Day**

**Great Vespers with Litiya – 4:00 PM**

*\*Church School Children decorate Holy Water Bottles at home with parents and bring back to church on Sunday January 10 for Blessing of Water!\**

**\*\*Please refer to the weekly bulletin, monthly calendar and our church website for any changes to the calendar\*\***

**PLEASE SHARE THESE EVENTS WITH EVERYONE!!**

**PARISH THEME FOR 2021:**

**Orthodox Christian Stewardship**

**Orthodox Christian Stewardship** is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed. **Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges** accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God by teaching and giving examples of a virtuous life to all (St. John Chrysostom). A primary goal of Stewardship is to strengthen our understanding of the teachings and dogmas of The Orthodox Faith through supporting the work of The Church. This can be found in The Divine Services as reiterated by St. John of San Francisco: "The Divine Services in their composition contain all the fullness of the dogmatic teaching of the Church and set forth the path of salvation." Fulfilling our responsibility of continual learning begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. Through being Stewards of the Gospel and of The Orthodox Church, Education calls on the faithful to cheerfully receive instruction given to the Church by Our Lord, Holy Scripture, The Divine Services, and The Holy Fathers of the Church. Through Orthodox Christian Stewardship, The Church promotes spiritual growth and strengthened faith and calls on all of us to bring the faith and

**An Invitation to Support the Stewards of the OCA!**

The Orthodox Church in America (OCA) set the direction for expanding our apostolic work in North America at the 18<sup>th</sup> All-American Council. The foundation for this work is Jesus Christ, Whom we encounter in our spiritual lives, stewardship, evangelism and outreach, and relations with others as we engage the world. Being a steward of the OCA goes beyond the financial gifts which support the work of our church. Being a steward is about caring for and knowing the history of the mission of the Orthodox Church here in North America and finding your place in that history. Having received this great gift of our Orthodox Faith, we bear the responsibility to continue the legacy of Saint Herman and Saint Tikhon; Saint Innocent and Saint Alexis and all the other saints known and unknown who have worked to build up and expand Christ's Church here in North America. Please consider being a part of that mission today by giving to the Stewards of the OCA. For more information, please visit The OCA Website: <https://oca.org/become-a-steward>

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**An Invitation to Support the Ministry of the DDB!**

In order to fund necessary ministries and fulfill the work of the Church in the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors** generously contribute financial support. To learn more about the DDB, please go to the following link: <http://vimeo.com/71021182> and watch a 60 second video inviting you to join the ever-growing list of Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors of The Diocese of New York and New Jersey who joyfully support the on-going work of our diocese. Their support allows us to provide assistance to new mission parishes, scholarships to seminarians, support the departments of The Diocese, and much-needed encouragement to older struggling parishes. How about you? Our parish is a member of the DDB. If anyone would like to join, please see Fr. Jason as well as take a pamphlet from the table in the back of the church. May God continue to bless and guide you for your continued support. The Diocese of New York and New Jersey has two monthly newsletters: "**First Fruits**" and "**Beyond the Plateau**." The goal, as expressed by Archbishop Michael, is to increase communication and grow the communal spirit of diocesan fellowship in the building-up and strengthening of our parish communities. To learn more about these monthly diocesan publications, please refer to the diocesan website: <http://www.nynjoca.org/newsletters.html>.

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**"Lessons in Our Faith" Video presented by His Eminence Archbishop MICHAEL**

His Eminence Archbishop Michael presents a series of talks on matters of faith, belief, and the teachings of the Church. These instructional videos are concise and "to the point," offering Orthodox Christians much-needed information, helpful advice for their spiritual journey, and assistance in answering questions that may come from non-Orthodox friends or acquaintances. The goal is that we might better know and better live our faith. These instructional videos can be found at the Diocesan Website: <http://www.nynjoca.org>! For those who do not have internet, please see the handouts from each lesson which are located on the table in the back of the church. **There are 14 videos! Be sure to check them out!**

love of Our Lord to every aspect of our lives as gifts from Him through our time, talents, and treasures. During this year, let us come together as a parish family and recommit ourselves to both spiritual growth of our Life in Christ as well as through Orthodox Christian Stewardship by attending the Divine Services, attending the many opportunities of Education for both Adults and Children through Retreats, gatherings, and fellowship and by supporting our Parish in her many endeavors through which, by the Grace of God, we will bring the light and love of Our Lord to all!

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**\*Please refer to the Weekly Bulletin and Church Website for any changes to the calendar!\***

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**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH BOOKSTORE**

As you are in the Parish Fellowship Hall for coffee hour, don't forget to check out our newly-formed Bookstore. We have some new items that just arrived. These items include: Icon ornaments, jewelry, Icons, prayer books, prayers ropes, and much more. If you need a Gift, come check out the Bookstore...you may find something you like!! We are now also offering Gift Certificates for our Bookstore. Please speak with Dave or Andrea for more details/information!! We thank David and Andrea Chmiel who are managing of our Bookstore for us. If you have any questions or if you would like to order something that you do not see, please see or contact David or Andrea Chmiel and they will be able to assist you. You may also email them at: bookstore@stgeorgebuffalo.com. May GOD continue to bless and guide all of you.

**Also in the Parish Fellowship Hall, we have the Giving Tree! If anyone would like to sign up for Coffee Hour Readers Bulletin Collection, Communion Cloth, Home Blessing, please see or contact Fr. Jason!**



**A SINCERE AND HEARTFELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION FOR THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS TO THE PARISH FROM OUR PARISH GIVING TREE**

Please be sure to check out "The Giving Tree" in the Parish Fellowship Hall as well as on our parish website ([www.stgeorgebuffalo.com](http://www.stgeorgebuffalo.com)) to see how we may be able to donate towards the needs of our parish through our continued support and stewardship for our beloved parish.

Some of the items on the leaves are as follows:

- Candles
- 7-Day Vigil Candles
- Flowers for Feast Days
- Charcoal
- Altar Wine
- Cups for Zapifka
- Snack Baggies for the Antidoron (Church Bread)
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper

If anyone has any questions, please see or contact Fr. Jason or Barbara.

Thank you for your continued prayerful support and stewardship. May God continue to bless and guide all of you, your families and our entire Parish family and keep all of us in His Loving Care!

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**Scriptural Readings for the Week**  
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**Monday**  
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5  
Luke 17:20-25

**Tuesday**  
Galatians 5:22-6:2  
Matthew 11:27-30  
1 Thessalonians 1:6-10  
Luke 17:26-37

**Wednesday**  
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8  
Luke 18:15-17, 26-30

**Thursday**  
Hebrews 9:1-7  
Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-14  
Luke 18:31-34

**Friday**  
1 Thessalonians 2:14-19  
Luke 19:12-28

**Saturday**  
2 Corinthians 8:1-5  
Luke 10:19-21

**Sunday**  
Ephesians 2:4-10  
Luke 13:10-17



**Remember our Loved Ones during Our Daily Prayers**

*'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.'*

{Matt. 25:40}

As we say our daily prayers, let us also take time out to remember our loved ones who are homebound, who are in hospitals and who are in nursing homes. Let us remember them that GOD will continue to watch over them and protect them. Also, during the Year, let us take to either send them a card, give them a call, or visit them to let them know how much we love them, how much we remember them, and how much we pray for them.

Please refer to the of our Parish Shut-Ins below.

If anyone has any questions or would like to add someone to our List of Parish Shut-Ins, please see or contact Fr. Jason. May God continue to bless you and guide you!

**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PARISH SHUT-INS (2021)**

Mrs. Diane Salvamoser 147 West Hazeltine Avenue Kenmore, NY 14217 716.875.9503	Reader Victor Shanchuk McAuley Residence 1503 Military Rd. Buffalo, NY 14217 716.881.3096	Mrs. Luba Japadjief Elderwood Nursing Home (Memory Care Unit) 245 Bassett Road Williamsville, NY 14221 (Room 30)
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Mrs. Bonnie Dan 15 Pine Street North Tonawanda, NY 14150 716.693.1377	Mr. Albert Fadell 317.376.2562
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Andrew Wityk Ellicott Center 200 Seventh Street Buffalo, NY 14201	Mrs. Tita Abraham 84 Stonington Lane Getzville, NY 14068
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**WEEKLY VIDEO SERMONS GIVEN BY HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP MICHAEL**

These sermons offered to us by The Diocese via video can be found on the Diocesan Website: <http://www.nynjoca.org>! There are videos for each week beginning with The Feast of Feasts – Holy Pascha! Be sure to check them out!

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**IMPORTANT PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- We will continue with our on-going collections for The Buffalo City Mission, Hearts for Homeless, Mats for Mission, HomeSpace, Feed More of WNY, Baker Victory as well as our other outreach ministry projects.
- **WE CONTINUE TO CONTACT ALL OF OUR PARISHIONERS ON A REGULAR BASIS TO ENSURE THAT EVERYONE IS OKAY, SAFE AND HEALTHY.**

**\*\*Please be on the lookout for emails this week with the following items:**

- 1) Reader Outlines for ALL weekend SERVICES**
- 2) Zoom information for Education Classes and Book Club**
- 3) Updates on Schedule of Services Events**
- 4) Pastoral Video for Parish Monthly Update**

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**EACH WEEK WE WILL BE RECORDING THE WEEKLY INCOME FOR EACH SUNDAY AS WELL AS POSTING THE MONTHLY INCOME and EXPENSE FOR OUR PARISH FOLLOWING THE MONTHLY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS!**

**INCOME FOR SUNDAY NOVEMBER 14, 2021 – \$1, 235.00  
 Commercial Savings Account Deposit - \$5008.00  
 DONATION TO THE CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT FUND (Kitchen) - - \$200.00**

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**MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU AND GUIDE YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT AND PRAYERS!**

**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH NATIVITY PARISH OUTREACH MINISTRY**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:  
Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

Greetings to all of you, your families, and our entire parish family as we prepare to begin The Nativity Fast in just a few short weeks!

Once again, this year, as part of our parish outreach ministry during The Nativity Fast and Christmas Season, we are holding collections for the following Ministries within our Greater Buffalo Area:

- 1) **Baker Victory** – Christmas Gifts for Children  
**BY SUNDAY DECEMBER 5**  
**\*More information will be emailed out this week**
- 2) **Roswell Park** – New Pajamas for the Patients  
(adult men and women s-m-l-xl/ children boys and girls s-m-l-xl)  
**BY SUNDAY DECEMBER 12**
- 3) **Hearts for Homeless** – Christmas Cookies and Canned Goods/Non-Perishable Items –  
**BY SUNDAY DECEMBER 12**
- 4) **Mats for Mission** - Boxed Thanksgiving Dinner (1 boxed stuffing, 1 boxed mashed potatoes, and dessert 2 cans of corn, 2 cans of green beans, 1 can of cranberry sauce, and 1 can of gravy, and 1 box dessert – brownies or cake mix) – **New Pairs of Winter Gloves – AT LEAST 15 PAIRS BY SUNDAY DECEMBER 5**

**ST. GEORGE ORTHODOX CHURCH PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD**

Continuing with our Annual Parish Tradition with the sending of a Parish Christmas Card, we come to all of you – our dear Parish Family for your support in bringing the Love and Joy of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ to everyone during this Holy Season. The cost is only \$20 per family.

If we would like to have our name in the Christmas Card, please fill out the enclosed form with how we would like our name to appear in the card and hand it in to Fr. Jason, Matushka Katia, or Matushka Fran no later Sunday December 5 along with your payment of \$20.00. Besides our names, we will also have a Nativity Message and Greeting from our parish family.

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself (716-875-4222)/jvansuch@hotmail.com or Matushka Katia (609-851-3811) / katia.vansuch@gmail.com or Matushka Fran (610-698-1666)/fances.vansuch@yahoo.com

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Thank you for your continued love, prayers, support, generosity and stewardship for our Annual Parish Nativity Outreach Ministry Projects, and for all that you do for our parish and throughout the year as well as for the community in which we live, serve, and dwell.

Looking forward to another wonderful blessed Nativity Season of bringing the joy, the love, and the peace of The Nativity of Our Lord to everyone Be assured of my continued love and prayers for you, your families, and our entire parish family. May God continue to bless and guide all of you, your families, and our entire parish family and keep all of us in His Loving Care today and always.

I remain, with love in Christ  
Your Humble Servant,  
Fr. Jason

## **SAFETY GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS FOR OUR PARISH**

We are celebrating The Divine Services with FULL CAPACITY in The Church. ALL Pews will be open and available for everyone to stand together. So that we can, to the Glory of God, pray together, sing together and stand together as parish family, as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Until further notice, we continue to follow the following guidelines based upon The Diocesan Directives/Guidelines and the new directives and announcements

- To ensure that everyone feels comfortable and safe while attending Divine Services and Fellowship Activities at our parish, we will make the wearing of masks a voluntary decision. If someone wishes to continue to wear a mask, that is their choice and their right to. If someone chooses not to wear a mask, that is their choice not to wear a mask. This is to ensure that we, as a parish family and as brothers and sisters in Christ, minister in every way possible through love to those who come to St. George Orthodox Church to grow in their faith and love of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. Out of love, care, concern, and the well-being of EVERYONE, The Clergy, when distributing Holy Communion and Holding The Cross at the Veneration of the Cross/Dismissal and whenever there is interaction between The Clergy and parishioners, The Clergy will be wearing a mask to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone. As a parish family, let us continue to love one another, respect one another, and pray for and with one another! As I have mentioned previously, the topic of vaccinated vs unvaccinated has no place in our parish. That is a private and individual matter and choice and above that is a HIPAA Privacy Law!
- We will also continue to have hand sanitizer and masks available for everyone who wishes to use them to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of everyone who comes to St. George Orthodox Church for Divine Services and Fellowship Activities. These precautions are for the health, safety, and well-being of everyone who comes and enters our Church to pray and worship God.
  - \* The choir will continue to sing up front until such time we can move them back to the choir area
  - \* The space in the back of the church (choir area and children's area) will remain open for the 15 chairs socially distant for those who wish to stand there.
    - \* We will continue to use the Common Communion Cloth. However, if anyone wishes to use the individual napkin to wipe their lips after receiving Holy Communion, they may do so.
    - \* We will be passing the Stewardship Collection Plate during The Litany before The Lord's Prayer
    - \* The Church will continue to be cleaned and sanitized every week
    - \* The Parish Fellowship Hall will continue to be cleaned and sanitized every week by hiring our Professional Cleaner (Rocco) who will come in every week on Saturday Night to clean and sanitize the Parish Fellowship Hall and Restrooms. When Hosting Coffee Hour, we will need to be wearing masks as well as use gloves and proper utensils. Following Coffee Hour, the table and chairs will need to be properly sanitized as well as put away properly along with the kitchen and countertops need to be cleaned and properly sanitized.
    - \* With this in mind, we will still need to sign up when we come to Church for THE DIVINE LITURGY on Sundays! This is to ensure the safety, health, and well-being of everyone attending our Parish for the Divine Liturgy. We do NOT need to sign-up beforehand but rather we will need to sign in at The Candle Desk when we come to church. This sign-up is important for us and our parish not only to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to come to Church to pray, participate in The Divine Liturgy and to receive Holy Communion but also to ensure that I have a record of everyone who attends the Divine Liturgy in case, God-forbid, someone becomes ill I would need to contact everyone who was in attendance. We are taking every measure that we can to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of our parishioners and of everyone that comes to our parish to pray. Together, with the Parish Council, we express our most sincere and heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your help, assistance, patience, and understanding and for your continued working together and praying together as a Parish Family for The Glory of God, To the Glory of God, and With the Glory of God!

\*\*If anyone has any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to see or contact Fr. Jason,

Paul or any member of the Parish Council!\*\*

May God continue to bless and guide all of you!\*\*

# FIND YOUR SPIRITUAL HOME In The Orthodox Christian Church

Saturday Great Vespers 4:00 PM

SUNDAY Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

~ All are Welcome ~

Do we have questions about our life, its meaning, purpose, destiny?

Are we desiring to know Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God?

Are we seeking forgiveness, healing, and wholeness?

Do we wonder where to go to find answers?

We can find the answers to these questions and so many other questions  
in The Holy Orthodox Church through Her Sacred Tradition,  
Holy Scriptures, Her Teachings and Dogmas.

The Orthodox Church is the original Christian Church, the Church founded by the Lord Jesus Christ and described in the pages of the New Testament. Her history can be traced in unbroken continuity all the way back to Christ and His Twelve Apostles, empowered and sent forth on the day of Holy Pentecost. Incredible as it seems, for over twenty centuries she has continued in her undiminished and unaltered faith and practice. Today her apostolic doctrine, worship, and structure remain intact. The Orthodox Church maintains that the Church is the living Body of Jesus Christ. Many of us are surprised to learn that for the first 1000 years of Christian history there was just one Church.

Where is "**The Church**" to be found and experienced today? Come Taste and See How Good The Lord is every Sunday by joining us for The Divine Liturgy at 10:00 AM.

What is Orthodox Christianity all about? How does it differ from other Christian confessions? This section will attempt to answer these questions and many more.

For a visual introduction to the Orthodox Church, please view the video link below:

[http://www.youtube.com/v/Gj4pUphDitA&color1=0xb1b1b1&color2=0xcfcfcf&feature=player\\_embedded&fs=1](http://www.youtube.com/v/Gj4pUphDitA&color1=0xb1b1b1&color2=0xcfcfcf&feature=player_embedded&fs=1)

For a brief introduction and in depth study to The Orthodox Faith and to find answers to: 'What we Believe?', 'Who we Are?', and 'How we Live?', please view the PDF link below:

<http://orthodoxdelmarva.org/files/studies/InquirersClassV1final.pdf>

or you may visit the OCA website by clicking the link below:

<http://oca.org/orthodoxy/the-orthodox-faith>

or you can begin a Journey Through Orthodoxy by clicking the link below:

<http://journeytoorthodoxy.com>

To learn more ways that we can teach our children about the Orthodox Faith, The OCA has provided a wonderful website for us to use that provides great resources such as (handouts, texts, articles, stories, and much more)! To see this great website, please view the PDF link below:

<http://dce.oca.org/page/resources/>

If you have any questions or would like to know more about The Orthodox Faith or needs and help or assistance, please contact our parish priest: V Rev. Jason Vansuch (jvansuch@hotmail.com) or 716.875.4222 and he will be able guide you.

## **THE FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE**

**November 21**

According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Sts Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God. When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.")

The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence. After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said St Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian." But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

St Gregory of Nyssa, in the fourth century, also mentions this Feast. In the eighth century Sts Germanus and Tarasius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, delivered sermons on the Feast of the Entry.

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.





# The Temple of Our Savior

The Virgin Mary is the mother of Jesus, which is why we call her **the Theotokos** (the Mother of God). An only child, she was born when her parents were very old, bringing joy into their lives.

## ◊ Our Temple

While still a very young child, she was led to the **Temple in Jerusalem**, where she would be cared for after Joachim and Anna died. Mary grew and matured, choosing to live a life of holiness, in purity and **faithfulness to God**. This is why we call her **the sinless one**.

Today's feast **celebrates her entrance** into the physical Temple in Jerusalem. Yet today's feast is more than remembering a historical event, it's an opportunity for us to understand that Mary's life prepared her to **become the spiritual Temple of Christ**, who is born of her on Christmas.

## Our Example

The hymns of this feast **celebrate Mary's life** and encourage us to **be like her**. We too can choose a life of holiness and purity. The Theotokos is our best example of how to live our lives if **we too want to become a dwelling place** for Jesus Christ.

Mary dedicated herself to learning God's teachings, which she then exhibited through caring and loving others. In this way, Mary shows how **we can be examples** of Christ's love in the world.

## Our Intercessor

Mary is rarely quoted in scripture, but when she does speak, it's always to lead us back to her Son. At the marriage in Cana, **her intercessions before Jesus** result in the best wine being served. Mary watches over each of us, ready to respond to our prayers, transforming our cries for help into **songs of gratitude** for God's blessings.

As Orthodox Christians, we are blessed to have the Theotokos with us every day of our life. Her icon is prominent in our homes, as encouragement for how we should live our lives, **holding Christ close to our hearts**.

## Our Spiritual Mother

As we draw closer to Christ's birth, we can prepare to **receive Him into our hearts** by reflecting on the life of the Theotokos. Her time in the temple guides (and reminds) us that staying **focused on the Source of our Salvation**: her son, Jesus Christ should always be our first priority.

Praying to Mary, and thinking about her life means we have the most important and powerful **intercessor praying to God for us**. Most Holy Theotokos, pray to God for us!

## The Scripture Readings

to be read on the feast of the  
Entry of the Mother of God in the Temple  
November 21

Epistle: **Hebrews 9:1-7**

Gospel: **Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28**

## ◊ The Festal Hymns

to be sung or read on the feast of the  
Entry of the Mother of God in the Temple  
November 21

### Troparion — Tone 4

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."

### Kontakion — Tone 4

The most pure Temple of the Savior; the precious Chamber and Virgin; the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, is presented today to the house of the Lord.

She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, therefore, the angels of God praise her:

"Truly this woman is the abode of heaven."

Parents, Church School Teachers & Youth Directors:  
Watch for the ◊ to indicate topics/questions you can use to inspire conversations with youth. Or use the corresponding study guide for this resource.



Icons are often called windows to Heaven, because they show and teach us how historic events and the saints are to be understood in the saving message of Jesus Christ.

Icons do not portray people like we see them in person or in photos, but instead transfiguring them with the light of Christ, emanating from within, by their encounter with God. Likewise, each element of an icon has a purpose or meaning.

Let's take a closer look at the icon for the feast of The Entrance of the Mother of God into the Temple.

Can you use the word list below to identify who's who, and what's what?

# Who's Who in the Icon

## Buildings and Draping

Icons portray events in the lives of the \_\_\_\_\_ whether indoors or \_\_\_\_\_. For events taking place inside, draping between \_\_\_\_\_ is used in icons. In this icon, \_\_\_\_\_ canopies and roofs represent the \_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem. The High \_\_\_\_\_ stands before two closed \_\_\_\_\_, while the Theotokos is \_\_\_\_\_ in the Holy of Holies. The image teaches us that \_\_\_\_\_ herself becomes the Holy of Holies, when Jesus Christ was born of her. Icons therefore show historical \_\_\_\_\_ and theological \_\_\_\_\_ which help us better understand our own relationship to God.

## Virgins

In \_\_\_\_\_ temple rites, young \_\_\_\_\_ looked after the robes, vestments, and liturgical cloths used in the Temple.

Their service to \_\_\_\_\_ was most likely guided by widows like the \_\_\_\_\_ Anna who would oversee the proper care of the liturgical items, and education of the young \_\_\_\_\_ who resided in the temple, including the young Virgin Mary.

The women carry \_\_\_\_\_ in procession as atonement for Eve's sin, but God's \_\_\_\_\_ for humanity is revealed through the Virgin Mary's Son: Jesus Christ.

## Joachim

As Mary's \_\_\_\_\_, he is portrayed holding a candle, standing next to Anna, her mother.

His devotion, along with Anna, is an example of their \_\_\_\_\_ to God. In gratitude for the blessing of Mary's \_\_\_\_\_, they fulfilled their promise, presenting her to Zachariah the High Priest, to live a life dedicated to God through service in the Temple until she would be betrothed (to \_\_\_\_\_).

## Anna

The \_\_\_\_\_ of Mary looks back lovingly at Joachim, in humble \_\_\_\_\_, thankful that God has blessed them with this beautiful daughter, who they now offer to God for service in His \_\_\_\_\_ Temple. Joachim and Anna's godly lives prepared Mary for a \_\_\_\_\_.



## Angel

According to \_\_\_\_\_ Tradition, angels ministered to Mary while she lived in the Temple, since the High Priest would only enter the Holy of Holies \_\_\_\_\_ a year. As God's \_\_\_\_\_, angels care for His faithful believers, guiding and interceding for their \_\_\_\_\_, as they did for the young child Mary.

## The Virgin Mary

Mary was presented to the Temple as a three year old \_\_\_\_\_. In icons, she is shown as a smaller version of her \_\_\_\_\_ self, wearing the same red and blue robes (\_\_\_\_\_ symbolic of her humanity, and \_\_\_\_\_ symbolic of taking on the divine role as Mother of God).

Mary is shown being greeted by \_\_\_\_\_ the high priest, and also seated in the Holy of \_\_\_\_\_ - the sacred altar of the temple - which the high priest only entered once a year.

This affirms Mary's holiness, being ministered to by \_\_\_\_\_ in the most sacred place of God's temple, prefiguring her becoming the God-bearer.

## Zachariah

The High Priest is shown in his temple \_\_\_\_\_, welcoming the Virgin Mary. He stands before the doors which are \_\_\_\_\_, signifying that Mary would be ever-virgin before, during, and \_\_\_\_\_ the birth of Jesus Christ.

Adult	Blue	Closed	God	Joy	Miracle	Outdoors	Saints
After	Buildings	Doors	Holies	Love	Mother	Priest	Seated
Angels	Candles	Events	Holy	Maidens	Needs	Prophetess	Temple
Beliefs	Child	Faithfulness	Jewish	Mary	Once	Red	Women
Birth	Church	Father	Joseph	Messengers	Ornate	Robes	Zachariah

# Entry of Mary



**#1.** We often call the Virgin Mary by a special name which is **Theotokos**, a word the Church treats as very important. What does the word mean in English?

- a. Mother of God
- b. One who gave birth to God
- c. Holy One of Israel
- d. Birth-giver of God

**#2.** How can we interact with the Virgin Mary in our daily lives?

- a. Pray to her
- b. Have an icon of her in our home or in our room
- c. Sing hymns to her
- d. Light a candle when we pray at her icon in church

**#3. True or False:** Everything we believe as Orthodox Christians is based on scripture and the Holy Bible.

**TRUE                  FALSE**

**#4.** Circle the words we use to describe the Virgin Mary:

- |                       |             |               |                 |               |          |       |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|----------|-------|
| Special               | Ever-Virgin | Lady          | Queen of Heaven | Diamond       |          |       |
| Joy of All Who Sorrow | Precious    | Full of Grace | Angelic         | Savior        |          |       |
| Intercessor           | God         | Mother        | Protectress     | Mediator      |          |       |
| Counselor             | Pure        | Ruler         | Holy            | Mother of God | Disciple | Saint |

**#5.** What are the names of the Virgin Mary's parents:

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**#6.** After the Entry of the Theotokos in the Temple, this is the next feast of the Virgin we will celebrate honoring her holy and pure life:

- a. The Annunciation
- b. Presentation in the Temple
- c. Nativity of Christ
- d. Dormition

**#7.** We know Zachariah is the High Priest, and he is also:

- a. The cousin of Jesus Christ
- b. The father of St. John the Baptist
- c. The father of the Apostles James and John
- d. The cousin of St. John the Baptist

## One BIG Question

⇨ What are the answers?!?!

**Why is the Virgin Mary's ever-virginity so important?**

1. If she had other \_\_\_\_\_, she would've lost her virginity and people could \_\_\_\_\_ whether she had been a virgin when she gave birth to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. If Mary had other \_\_\_\_\_ they'd have a claim to Christ's \_\_\_\_\_ (as certain slanderous fictional books/films have tried to assert).
3. \_\_\_\_\_, like His symbolic prototype, the Great High Priest \_\_\_\_\_, (see Hebrews 7), had no biological successors or \_\_\_\_\_; we are His spiritual \_\_\_\_\_! (Romans 8:15-17)
4. The Theotokos shows \_\_\_\_\_, we can lead a "\_\_\_\_\_ " life, and Mary proves \_\_\_\_\_ and earth are no longer at odds with each other as they were after \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ sinned.

**Use these words to complete the sentences above!**

- |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| Adam      | Heirs       |
| Authority | Heaven      |
| Children  | Heavenly    |
| Children  | Jesus       |
| Children  | Melchizedek |
| Christ    | Question    |
| Eve       | Us          |





# Understanding the Feast

Today's feast is a celebration of the Mother of God. While we don't worship the Virgin Mary, we honor her because she gave birth to Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Therefore, she holds a special place in the heart of every Christian, watching over and praying for us.

In icons, Mary is directing us to look at her Son, reminding us to focus on Him, as our Savior. The same occurs in the liturgical texts and hymns of our services for the feast, directing us to worship God.

Even if we are unable to be in church for the festal services, we can sing/read these prayers at home to honor the birth of the Virgin Mary, sharing in the joy of the feast!

☞ From **Vespers** (the evening service) before the Feast: Describe what each liturgical text is saying:

At "Lord, I have Called..." Tone/Mode 1

Today the Living Temple of the holy glory of Christ our God:  
 She, who alone among women is pure and blessed  
 is offered in the temple of the law,  
 That she may make her dwelling in the Sanctuary.  
 Joachim and Anna rejoice with her in spirit,  
 and choirs of virgins sing to the Lord,  
 chanting psalms and honoring His Mother.

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From **Vespers**: At the *Litija*, Tone/Mode 4

Today the God-Bearing Temple, the Theotokos,  
 is offered in the temple of the Lord,  
 And Zachariah receives her!  
 Today the Holy of Holies exults  
 And the choir of angels mystically celebrates!  
 Today we celebrate with them and cry out with Gabriel:  
 "Rejoice, Full of Grace, the Lord of great mercy is with you!"

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☞ From **Matins** (the morning service) of the Feast:

Second Canon, Ode 5, Tone/Mode 1

Let us, the Orthodox faithful,  
 hasten to gather with our lamps!  
 Let us glorify the Mother of God,  
 for today she is offered to the Lord as an acceptable  
 sacrifice.

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From **Matins**: The Hymn of Light, Tone/Mode 3

Virgin Theotokos,  
 intercede for those who seek refuge with faith beneath your  
 compassion,  
 and who piously worship your Son as God and Lord of the  
 world.  
 That they may be delivered from corruption and danger  
 and from manifold temptations.

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☞ From the festal **Divine Liturgy**:

The festal Hymn to the Theotokos

The angels beheld the Entrance of the Pure One and were  
 amazed!  
 How has the Virgin entered into the Holy of Holies!

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As you are a Living Temple of God,  
 Let no impure hand touch you, Theotokos!  
 But let the lips of all believers sing,  
 Constantly magnifying you in joy with the angelic salutation:  
 "Truly you are above all creatures, O Pure One!"

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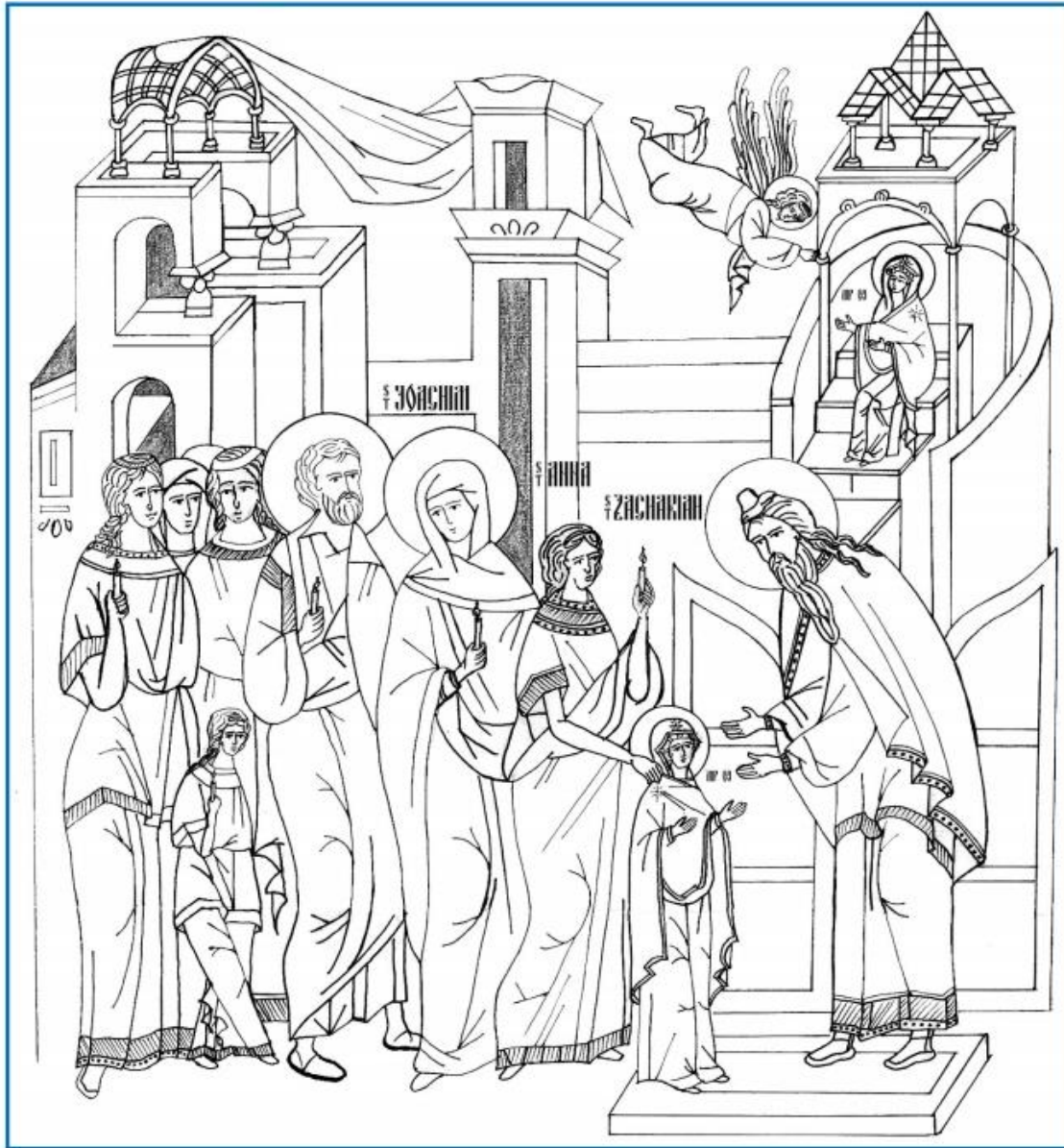
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- 34 Children
- 40 Heaven
- 46 Eve
- 14 Children
- 15 Child
- 24 Children
- 34 Adam
- 35 Halleluiah
- 36 Psalms
- 37 Theotokos (Mother of God, Mary, Mother of God, Saint, Virgin, Queen)
- 38 Liturgical Question
- 39 The Holy of Holies
- 40 Theotokos (Mother of God, Queen of Heaven, Full of Grace, Lord of great mercy)
- 41 Once
- 42 Zachariah
- 43 Theotokos
- 44 After
- 50 Adult
- 51 Theotokos
- 52 Zachariah
- 53 Angels
- 54 Angel
- 55 Church
- 34 Joseph
- 44 Father
- 45 Joy
- 46 Entrance
- 47 The Virgin Mary
- 48 Church
- 21 Prophecy
- 22 Creation
- 23 Light
- 24 Father
- 25 Purification
- 26 Birth
- 21 Sanctified
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# Color the Icon of the Entry

- Can you add color to the icon below? Use your favorite markers, colored pencils, or paints to bring the icon to life!
- When you're finished, take a photo of your drawing and email it to [orthodoxjourneys@gmail.com](mailto:orthodoxjourneys@gmail.com) to be featured in our youth art gallery, where we celebrate your talents!
- Trim the page to the shape of the icon, and place it in your icon corner to celebrate the feast!
- On the last day of the feast, November 25, the icon can be removed from your icon corner and placed in a safe place with your other festal icons for use next year.



Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

## **A Prayer for Thanksgiving Day**

O Master, Lord, God Almighty, we have gathered together to praise Thy majesty, to bless Thee, to glorify Thee, the only true God, and to offer thanks unto Thee with a grateful heart for all the blessings Thou hast bestowed upon us, and for all of Thy mercies seen and unseen which Thou graciously continues to pour out upon us. We thank Thee for Thy blessings Thou hast bestowed upon us during this past year. We ask forgiveness of and from Thee for our sins and transgressions.

O Lord, we find ourselves in this land as Jonah did in the boat, when, in time of danger, all of the sailors and passengers, though of different faiths, yet with one heart and one mind, they raised supplicatory arms in prayer. Thou, the only true and living God, did not despise their prayers but answered their prayers, revealing to them Thy holy will, and rescuing them from danger.

We too, O God of our fathers, as we are about to sit down and partake of these gifts which Thou hast set before us, we raise up our arms unto Thee and do humbly ask that Thou dost accept our prayer of thanksgiving, along with people of every faith on this land. We unite our prayer together in one mind and one heart, thankful for the religious freedom we enjoy in which we use it to learn about Thee, the true God, in order to know Thee, love Thee and worship Thee in truth. We are especially thankful, Almighty God, for Thine ineffable love toward us, Thine unworthy servants that we are, and for the sacrifice on the Cross of Thy only begotten Son, our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, and for the gifts of Thy all Holy Good and Life-giving Spirit.

Gratefully we unite our voices and we pray to Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, the God of all mercies and bounties Whose mercy is immeasurable, and whose love for mankind is an unfathomable deep: falling down in adoration before Thy majesty, with fear and trembling, as unprofitable servants, and now humbly rendering thanks unto Thy loving-kindness for Thy benefits bestowed upon Thy Servants we glorify Thee, we praise Thee, we sing Thee and we magnify thee as our Lord, and Master, and Benefactor; and again falling down before Thee, we humbly thank Thee, supplicating Thy boundless and inexpressible mercy. And in that Thou hast graciously vouchsafed to accept the petitions of Thy servants and to fulfill them, so also grant that henceforth thy Holy Church and this city may be delivered from every hostile assault, and may be vouchsafed peace and tranquillity, and that increasing in true love of Thee, and in all virtues, all Thy faithful people may receive Thy benefits; and that we may ever offer thanksgiving unto Thee, We ask that you grant rest eternal and blessed repose to all of our loved ones who now lie asleep in The Lord, especially Thy Servants of God\_\_\_\_\_. May their Memories be Eternal!

O Lord Jesus Christ our God Who didst bless The five loaves in the wilderness and didst feed the five thousand, do Thou the same Lord bless these gifts and this Thanksgiving Table and bless those who have no home or family to share this meal with and protect them and all of us in Thy loving care all the days of our life unto ages of ages.

## Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann

### Final words

Father Alexander Schmemmann celebrated the Divine Liturgy for the last time on Thanksgiving Day. This was particularly appropriate since Father Alexander had devoted his whole life to teaching, writing and preaching about the Eucharist; for the word eucharist in Greek means thanksgiving. At the conclusion of the liturgy, Father Alexander took from his pocket a short written sermon, in the form of a prayer, which he proceeded to read. This was a strange occurrence since Father never wrote his liturgical homilies, but delivered them extemporaneously. These were his words, which proved to be the last ever spoken by him from the ambo in Church.

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### ***“Thank You, O Lord!”***

Everyone capable of thanksgiving is capable of salvation and eternal joy.

Thank You, O Lord, for having accepted this Eucharist, which we offered to the Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and which filled our hearts with the joy, peace and righteousness of the Holy Spirit.

Thank You, O Lord, for having revealed Yourself unto us and given us the foretaste of Your Kingdom.

Thank You, O Lord, for having united us to one another in serving You and Your Holy Church. Thank You, O Lord, for having helped us to overcome all difficulties, tensions, passions, temptations and restored peace, mutual love and joy in sharing the communion of the Holy Spirit. Thank You, O Lord, for the sufferings You bestowed upon us, for they are purifying us from selfishness and reminding us of the "one thing needed;" Your eternal Kingdom. Thank You, O Lord, for having given us this country where we are free to Worship You. Thank You, O Lord, for this school, where the name of God is proclaimed. Thank You, O Lord, for our families: husbands, wives and, especially, children who teach us how to celebrate Your holy Name in joy, movement and holy noise. Thank You, O Lord, for everyone and everything. Great are You, O Lord, and marvelous are Your deeds, and no word is sufficient to celebrate Your miracles.

Lord, it is good to be here! Amen.

# The History and Meaning of Thanksgiving Day

## Thanksgiving at Plymouth

In September 1620, a small ship called the Mayflower left Plymouth, England, carrying 102 passengers—an assortment of religious separatists seeking a new home where they could freely practice their faith and other individuals lured by the promise of prosperity and land ownership in the New World. After a treacherous and uncomfortable crossing that lasted 66 days, they dropped anchor near the tip of Cape Cod, far north of their intended destination at the mouth of the Hudson River. One month later, the Mayflower crossed [Massachusetts Bay](#), where the Pilgrims, as they are now commonly known, began the work of establishing a village at Plymouth.

### Did You Know?

Lobster, seal and swans were on the Pilgrims' menu.

Throughout that first brutal winter, most of the colonists remained on board the ship, where they suffered from exposure, scurvy and outbreaks of contagious disease. Only half of the Mayflower's original passengers and crew lived to see their first New England spring. In March, the remaining settlers moved ashore, where they received an astonishing visit from an Abenaki Indian who greeted them in English. Several days later, he returned with another Native American, Squanto, a member of the Pawtuxet tribe who had been kidnapped by an English sea captain and sold into slavery before escaping to London and returning to his homeland on an exploratory expedition. Squanto taught the Pilgrims, weakened by malnutrition and illness, how to cultivate corn, extract sap from maple trees, catch fish in the rivers and avoid poisonous plants. He also helped the settlers forge an alliance with the Wampanoag, a local tribe, which would endure for more than 50 years and tragically remains one of the sole examples of harmony between European colonists and Native Americans.

In November 1621, after the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, Governor [William Bradford](#) organized a celebratory feast and invited a group of the fledgling colony's Native American allies, including the Wampanoag chief Massasoit. Now remembered as America's "first Thanksgiving"—although the Pilgrims themselves may not have used the term at the time—the festival lasted for three days. While no record exists of the historic banquet's exact menu, the Pilgrim chronicler Edward Winslow wrote in his journal that Governor Bradford sent four men on a "fowling" mission in preparation for the event, and that the Wampanoag guests arrived bearing five deer. Historians have suggested that many of the dishes were likely prepared using traditional Native American spices and cooking methods. Because the Pilgrims had no oven and the Mayflower's sugar supply had dwindled by the fall of 1621, the meal did not feature pies, cakes or other desserts, which have become a hallmark of contemporary celebrations.

## Thanksgiving Becomes an Official Holiday

Pilgrims held their second Thanksgiving celebration in 1623 to mark the end of a long drought that had threatened the year's harvest and prompted Governor Bradford to call for a religious fast. Days of fasting and thanksgiving on an annual or occasional basis became common practice in other New England settlements as well. During the [American Revolution](#), the Continental Congress designated one or more days of thanksgiving a



year, and in 1789 [George Washington](#) issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation by the national government of the United States; in it, he called upon Americans to express their gratitude for the happy conclusion to the country's war of independence and the successful ratification of the U.S. Constitution. His successors [John Adams](#) and [James Madison](#) also designated days of thanks during their presidencies.

In 1817, [New York](#) became the first of several states to officially adopt an annual Thanksgiving holiday; each celebrated it on a different day, however, and the American South remained largely unfamiliar with the tradition. In 1827, the noted magazine editor and prolific writer Sarah Josepha Hale—author, among countless other things, of the nursery rhyme “Mary Had a Little Lamb”—launched a campaign to establish Thanksgiving as a national holiday. For 36 years, she published numerous editorials and sent scores of letters to governors, senators, presidents and other politicians. [Abraham Lincoln](#) finally heeded her request in 1863, at the height of the Civil War, in a proclamation entreating all Americans to ask God to “commend to his tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife” and to “heal the wounds of the nation.” He scheduled Thanksgiving for the final Thursday in November, and it was celebrated on that day every year until 1939, when [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) moved the holiday up a week in an attempt to spur retail sales during the Great Depression. Roosevelt's plan, known derisively as Franksgiving, was met with passionate opposition, and in 1941 the president reluctantly signed a bill making Thanksgiving the fourth Thursday in November.

## Thanksgiving Traditions

In many American households, the Thanksgiving celebration has lost much of its original religious significance; instead, it now centers on cooking and sharing a bountiful meal with family and friends. Turkey, a Thanksgiving staple so ubiquitous it has become all but synonymous with the holiday, may or may not have been on offer when the Pilgrims hosted the inaugural feast in 1621. Today, however, nearly 90 percent of Americans eat the bird—whether roasted, baked or deep-fried—on Thanksgiving, according to the National Turkey Federation. Other traditional foods include stuffing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie. Volunteering is a common Thanksgiving Day activity, and communities often hold food drives and host free dinners for the less fortunate.

Parades have also become an integral part of the holiday in cities and towns across the United States. Presented by Macy's department store since 1924, New York City's Thanksgiving Day parade is the largest and most famous, attracting some 2 to 3 million spectators along its 2.5-mile route and drawing an enormous television audience. It typically features marching bands, performers, elaborate floats conveying various celebrities and giant balloons shaped like cartoon characters.

Beginning in the mid-20th century and perhaps even earlier, the president of the United States has “pardoned” one or two Thanksgiving turkeys each year, sparing the birds from slaughter and sending them to a farm for retirement. A number of U.S. governors also perform the annual turkey pardoning ritual.

## Thanksgiving Controversies

For some scholars, the jury is still out on whether the feast at Plymouth really constituted the first Thanksgiving in the United States. Indeed, historians have recorded other ceremonies of thanks among European settlers in North America that predate the Pilgrims' celebration. In 1565, for instance, the Spanish explorer Pedro Menéndez de Avilé invited members of the local Timucua tribe to a dinner in St. Augustine, [Florida](#), after

holding a mass to thank God for his crew's safe arrival. On December 4, 1619, when 38 British settlers reached a site known as Berkeley Hundred on the banks of Virginia's James River, they read a proclamation designating the date as "a day of thanksgiving to Almighty God."

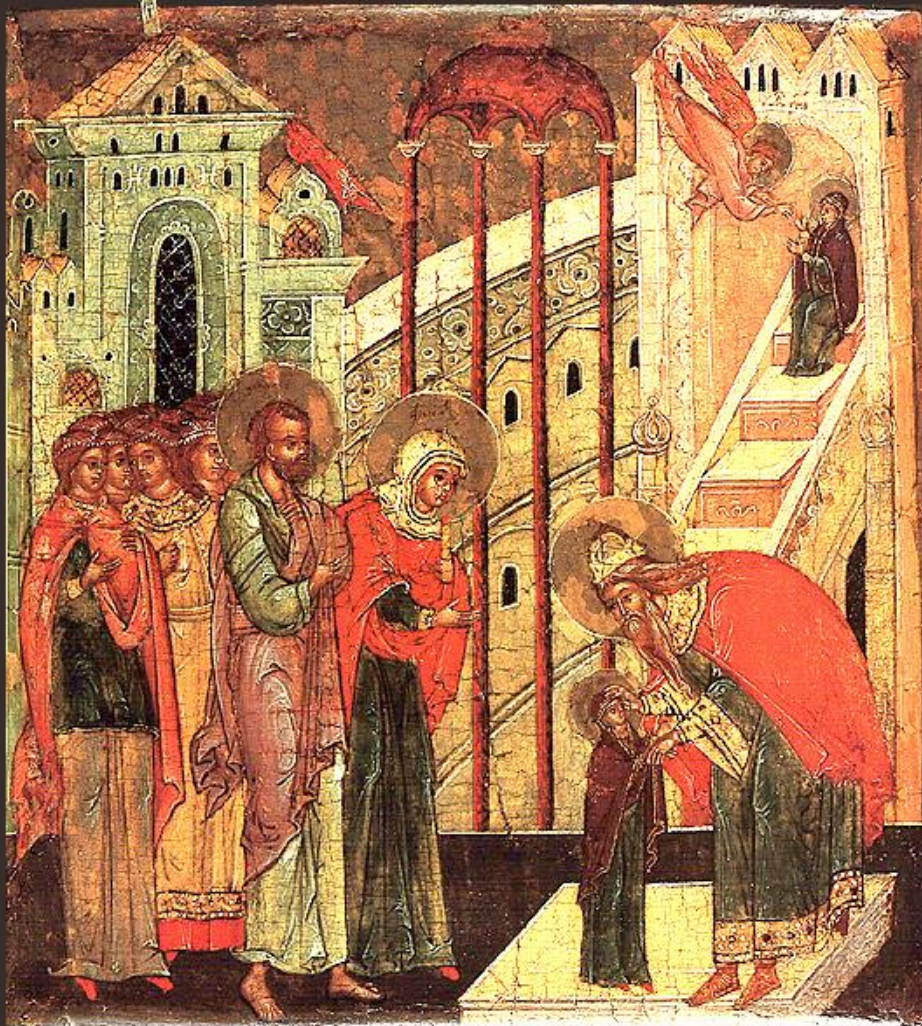
Some Native Americans and others take issue with how the Thanksgiving story is presented to the American public, and especially to schoolchildren. In their view, the traditional narrative paints a deceptively sunny portrait of relations between the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag people, masking the long and bloody history of conflict between Native Americans and European settlers that resulted in the deaths of millions. Since 1970, protesters have gathered on the day designated as Thanksgiving at the top of Cole's Hill, which overlooks Plymouth Rock, to commemorate a "National Day of Mourning." Similar events are held in other parts of the country.

## **Thanksgiving's Ancient Origins**

Although the American concept of Thanksgiving developed in the colonies of New England, its roots can be traced back to the other side of the Atlantic. Both the Separatists who came over on the Mayflower and the Puritans who arrived soon after brought with them a tradition of providential holidays—days of fasting during difficult or pivotal moments and days of feasting and celebration to thank God in times of plenty.

As an annual celebration of the harvest and its bounty, moreover, Thanksgiving falls under a category of festivals that spans cultures, continents and millennia. In ancient times, the Egyptians, Greeks and Romans feasted and paid tribute to their gods after the fall harvest. Thanksgiving also bears a resemblance to the ancient Jewish harvest festival of Sukkot. Finally, historians have noted that Native Americans had a rich tradition of commemorating the fall harvest with feasting and merrymaking long before Europeans set foot on their shores.

## Entrance of the Virgin Mary in the Temple



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