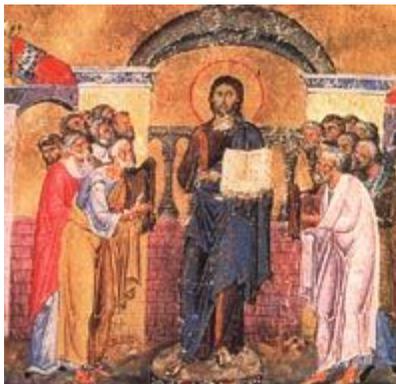




NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

15th Week after Pentecost

Monday, September 14 — Sunday, September 20, 2020



Church New Year



Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth, parents of Saint John the Baptist



Forefast of the Nativity of the Mother of God

~ CONTENTS ~

A Note from Fr. John	2	Ponder This	5
“Twitter Summary”	3	Look It Up!	5
Thoughts for Every Day	3	Prayer Corner	6

~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

As we approach the New Year in the Orthodox Church, we are thankful for all God’s Blessings. He has Blessed us to bring sight to the blind, to heal the broken hearted, to minister to those in jail’s, visit the sick and the suffering and to help heal the broken hearted. We live in an amazing time. We are surrounded by civil unrest, a worldwide pandemic that threatens our very existence. As a result, we are finding our brothers and sisters in despair and broken. We can no longer take for granted simple things like going to a movie or a sporting event or a concert. Getting one’s hair cut is a major ordeal. As we look around, we see there is great need to serve. Especially now, we are Blessed to Serve the Divine Liturgy throughout the week, celebrate vespers, read Akathist’s, and most especially, pray for everyone. We must allow the Grace of God to bring the gift of the Holy Spirit to all of our neighbors. Wherever and whoever the person is, the Blessings of God can always prevail.

Glory to Jesus Christ: Glory Forever

~ “TWITTER SUMMARY” ~

The main points from Sunday’s sermon, in 280 characters or less!

The King is inviting everyone to the wedding feast, which is the Church and the Liturgy. There is nothing better or more important to do with our time than attend this feast and to, as best as possible, keep our garment clean. We must share the gospel, invite people to church, and be icons of Christ in the world while there is still time.

~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~

Scripture and liturgical readings to enrich your prayer life every day of the week

<p align="center">~ MONDAY~ (9/14)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Epistle, New Year Luke 4:16-22 Gospel, New Year</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Indiction, Troparion , Tone II — O Fashioner of all creation,/ Who in Thine authority hast appointed the times and seasons;/ bless Thou the crown of the year with Thy goodness, O Lord,/ preserving in peace Orthodox Christians and Thy city,// and save us through the prayers of the Theotokos.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Church New Year</p>	<p align="center">~ TUESDAY~ (9/15)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Galatians 2:21-3:7 Mark 6:1-7</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Holy Martyr Mamas, Troparion in Tone IV — In his suffering, O Lord,/ Thy martyr Mamas received an imperishable crown from Thee our God;/ for, possessed of Thy might,/ he set at nought the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons.// By his supplications save Thou our souls.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Martyr Mamas of Caesarea in Cappadocia (275), and his parents, Martyrs Theodotus and Rufina (3rd c.)</p>
<p align="center">~ WEDNESDAY~ (9/16)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Galatians 3:15-22 Mark 6:7-13</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Troparion of the Hieromartyr Anthimus in Tone IV — As thou didst share in the ways of the apostles/ and didst occupy their throne,/ thou didst find thine activity to be a passage to divine vision,/ O divinely inspired one./ Wherefore, ordering the word of truth,/ thou didst suffer for the Faith even to the shedding of thy blood.// O hieromartyr Anthimus, entreat Christ God, that our souls be saved.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day:</p>	<p align="center">~ THURSDAY~ (9/17)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Galatians 3:23-4:5 Mark 6:30-45</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Troparion of Prophet Moses in Tone II — Thou didst ascend to the heights of the virtues, O Prophet Moses,/ for which cause thou wast vouchsafed to behold the glory of God/ and didst receive the grace-filled tablets of the law./ And, bearing within thyself the lineaments of grace,// thou wast the honoured boast of the prophets and the great mystery of piety.</p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Holy Prophet and God-seer Moses (1531 B.C.)</p>

<p>Hieromartyr Anthimus, bishop of Nicomedia, and those with him: Martyrs Theophilus deacon, Dorotheos, Mardonius, Migdonius, Peter, Indes, Gorgonius, Zeno, the Virgin Domna, and Euthymius (302)</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">~ FRIDAY ~ (9/18)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: Galatians 4:8-21 Mark 6:45-53</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Troparion of Holy Prophet Zachariah in Tone IV — <i>In the vesture of a priest, according to the Law of God,/ thou didst offer unto Him well-pleasing whole-burnt offerings,/ as it befitted a priest, O wise Zacharias./ Thou wast a shining light, a seer of mysteries,/ bearing in thyself clearly the signs of grace;/ and in God's temple, O wise Prophet of Christ God, thou wast slain with the sword.// Hence, with the Forerunner, make entreaty that our souls find salvation.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Holy Prophet Zacharias and Righteous Elizabeth (1st c.), parents of St. John the Forerunner</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~ SATURDAY ~ (9/19)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 1 Corinthians 4:17-5:5 Matthew 24:1-13</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: Troparion of Holy Archangel Michael in Tone IV — <i>Supreme commander of the armies of Heaven,/ we, the unworthy, do ever entreat thee,/ that by thy prayers thou dost ever surround us/ with the protection of the wings of thine immaterial glory,/ preserving us that earnestly fall down before thee and cry aloud:/ Deliver us from misfortunes,// in that thou art the leader of the hosts on high.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Commemoration of the Miracle of the Archangel Michael at Colossae (Chonae) (4th c.)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ SUNDAY ~ (9/20)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:6-15 Matthew 22:35-46</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion : Troparion of Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos in Tone IV — <i>Mary the divine Maiden, is born unto us today/ from the root of Jesse and the loins of David;/ and all things rejoice and are made new through joy./ Rejoice, together, O heaven and earth!/ Praise her, ye lands of the gentiles!/ Joachim maketh glad, and Anna holdeth festival, crying aloud:// A barren</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, * their words unto the ends of the world.”</p> <p>[Prokeimenon of Pentecost, Tone 8, Liturgy]</p> <p>To read more: https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/</p>

woman giveth birth to the Theotokos, the
Nourisher of our Life!

Commemoration of the Day:

Forefeast of the Nativity of the
Theotokos

~ PONDER THIS ~

A few thoughts to ponder in light of this week's lessons and sermons.

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2014/09/05/102502-holy-prophet-zachariah-and-righteous-elizabeth-parents-of-saint>

**Holy Prophet Zachariah and Righteous Elizabeth,
parents of Saint John the Baptist**

When King Herod heard from the Magi about the birth of the Messiah, he decided to kill all the infants up to two years old at Bethlehem and the surrounding area, hoping that the new-born Messiah would be among them.

Herod knew about John's unusual birth and he wanted to kill him, fearing that he was the foretold King of the Jews. But Elizabeth hid herself and the infant in the hills. The murderers searched everywhere for John. Elizabeth, when she saw her pursuers, began to implore God for their safety, and immediately the hill opened up and concealed her and the infant from their pursuers.

In these tragic days Saint Zachariah was taking his turn at the services in the Temple. Soldiers sent by Herod tried in vain to learn from him the whereabouts of his son. Then, by command of Herod, they murdered this holy prophet, having stabbed him between the temple and the altar (MT 23: 35). Elizabeth died forty days after her husband, and Saint John, preserved by the Lord, dwelt in the wilderness until the day of his appearance to the nation of Israel.

(... TO CONTINUE READING, CLICK ON THE LINK ABOVE)

~LOOK IT UP ~

Did you know: Our Church Year begins and ends with the life of Mary. The Nativity of Mary is the first Great Feast of the year, while her Dormition or “falling asleep” is the last.

Read more: <http://orthochristian.com/81756.html>

~ PRAYER CORNER ~

- Father John and Matushka Deborah.
 - Please keep in prayer our older parishioners who, if they contract the COVID-19 virus, will be in greater risk of serious health complications.
 - Please keep in prayer our heroic parishioners who work in the health care profession and are on the front lines of our society’s fight against the Novel Corona Virus and COVID-19 disease.
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~ THIS WEEK’S SERVICES ~

Wednesday	6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live) 6:30 - Akathist: St. Nicholas the Wonderworker 7pm - Studies in the Faith Class (Facebook Live)
Thursday	8am - Matins (Facebook Live) 6pm - Vespers 6:40 - Akathist: Joy of All Who Sorrow (Facebook Live)
Friday	8am - Divine Liturgy 6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live)
Saturday	7am - Matins 8:30 - Divine Liturgy 5pm - Vigil (Facebook Live)
Sunday	9am - Divine Liturgy 12pm - Vigil: Birth of Theotokos (Facebook Live)
Monday	8am - Divine Liturgy 6pm - Vespers

~ BOOKSTORE ~

- New extra-large icons from Russia!
- *The Heavenly Banquet: Understanding the Divine Liturgy* by Fr. Emmanuel Hatzidakis now in stock!

To submit **commemorations for the next Divine Liturgy**, to make an appointment with Fr. John to give **confession by telephone**, to alert us to any pastoral needs, to submit an item for the **Prayer Corner**, or just to chat, please contact Fr. John or Mat. Deborah using the following contact information:

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Matushka Deborah Tomasi * (310) 849-9451 * deborahTomasi@yahoo.com

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!