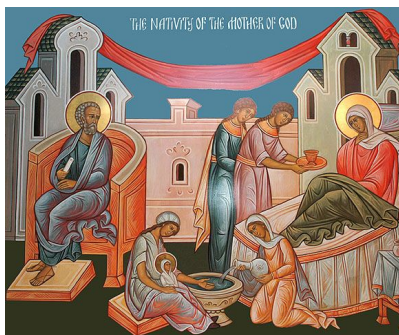




## NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

**16th Week after Pentecost**

**Monday, September 21 — Sunday, September 27, 2020**



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



***Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna***



***The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross***

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## ~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

### Feast of The Nativity of the Mother of God

The Mother of God is woman who lived an incredible life. She was born of saintly parents, raised in the Temple in Jerusalem, conceived God in her womb, betrothed to Joseph, was forced into exile in Egypt until the death of Herod and then lived in Nazareth, and eventually watches her son fulfil every dot and tittle of the Jewish law. He was crucified, died and was buried where after three days He rose from the dead, ascended into Heaven and sent down the Holy Spirit to give us the birth of the Church. We have so much to be grateful for. God loves each person and offers us Resurrection unto life everlasting. He showed us the way. May we like the Theotokos continue to weave the Wedding Garment and be with Him forever. Glory to Jesus Christ!

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## ~ “TWITTER SUMMARY” ~

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

We live in a society that loves its comforts, whether it’s food, entertainment, or whatever else. While many people are on the couch watching TV, our job is to bear witness to the miraculous nature of how God transforms us. Remember brothers and sisters, Christ’s Kingdom is not of this world.

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**~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~**

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

<p align="center"><b>~ MONDAY~</b> <b>(9/21)</b></p> <p><b>Holy Scripture:</b> Philippians 2:5-11 Theotokos Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 Theotokos</p> <p><b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>Troparion of Nativity of the Theotokos in Tone IV —</b> Thy nativity, O Virgin Theotokos, / hath proclaimed joy to all the world; / for from thee hath shone forth Christ our God, / the Sun of righteousness, / Who having annulled the curse, / hath given His blessing, // and having abolished death, hath granted us life everlasting.</p> <p><b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary</p>	<p align="center"><b>~ TUESDAY~</b> <b>(9/22)</b></p> <p><b>Holy Scripture:</b> Galatians 4:22-31 Ancestors Luke 8:16-21 Ancestors</p> <p><b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>Saints Joachim and Anna, Troparion in Tone I —</b> Joachim and Anna, who were righteous in the law of grace, / have for us given birth unto a God-given babe. / Wherefore, the divine Church keepeth splendid festival today, / celebrating their honoured memory with gladness, / glorifying God Who hath lifted up the horn of salvation for us // in the house of David.</p> <p><b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna</p>
<p align="center"><b>~ WEDNESDAY~</b> <b>(9/23)</b></p> <p><b>Holy Scripture:</b> Galatians 6:2-10 Mark 7:14-24</p> <p><b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>Holy Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora, Troparion in Tone IV —</b> In their sufferings, O Lord, / Thy martyrs received imperishable crowns from Thee our God; / for, possessed of Thy might, / they set at nought the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons. // By their supplications save Thou our souls.</p> <p><b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora at Nicomedia (305)</p>	<p align="center"><b>~ THURSDAY~</b> <b>(9/24)</b></p> <p><b>Holy Scripture:</b> Ephesians 1:1-9 Mark 7:24-30</p> <p><b>Excerpt from the Menaion:</b> <b>Troparion — Tone 8</b> By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile, / and your longing for God brought forth fruits in abundance. / By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe! / O our holy fathers Sergius and Herman, pray to Christ our God to save our souls!</p> <p><b>Commemoration of the Day:</b> Translation of the relics of Venerables Sergius and Herman of Valaam</p>
<p align="center"><b>~ FRIDAY~</b> <b>(9/25)</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>~ SATURDAY ~</b> <b>(9/26)</b></p>

**Holy Scripture:**

Philippians 2:5-11 Epistle, Theotokos  
 Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 Gospel,  
 Theotokos

**Excerpt from the Menaion:****Troparion of the feast in Tone IV —**

*Thy nativity, O Virgin Theotokos,/ hath  
 proclaimed joy to all the world;/ for from  
 thee hath shone forth Christ our God,/ the  
 Sun of righteousness,/ Who having annulled  
 the curse,/ hath given His blessing,// and  
 having abolished death, hath granted us life  
 everlasting.*

**Commemoration of the Day:**

Apodosis of the Nativity of the  
 Theotokos

**Holy Scripture:**

Hebrews 3:1-4 Epistle, Church  
 Matthew 16:13-18 Gospel, Church

**Excerpt from the Menaion:****Troparion of the Dedication of the Church of the Resurrection in Tone IV —**

*Thou didst show forth the beauty of the  
 holy dwelling-place of Thy glory here below,  
 O Lord,/ like the splendour of the firmament  
 on high./ Establish it for all ages,/ and  
 through the Theotokos accept the  
 supplications we unceasingly offer unto Thee  
 therein,// O Thou life and resurrection of all.*

**Commemoration of the Day:**

Commemoration of the Founding of the  
 Church of the Resurrection (The Holy  
 Sepulchre) at Jerusalem (335)

**~ SUNDAY ~  
 (9/27)**

**Holy Scripture:**

1 Corinthians 1:18-24 The Universal  
 Exaltation

John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35 The  
 Universal Exaltation

**Excerpt from the Menaion :****Troparion of the Sunday, Tone VII —**

*By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy death! /  
 To the thief, Thou didst open Paradise! / For  
 the myrrhbearers, Thou didst change  
 weeping into joy! / And Thou didst command  
 Thy disciples, O Christ God, / to proclaim that  
 Thou art risen, / granting the world great  
 mercy!*

**Commemoration of the Day:**

The Universal Exaltation of the Precious  
 and Life-giving Cross

**“Their sound hath gone forth into all  
 the earth, \* their  
 words unto the ends of the world.”**

**[Prokeimenon of Pentecost, Tone 8,  
 Liturgy]**

**To read more:**

<https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/>

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**~ PONDER THIS ~**

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

<https://www.oca.org/fs/sermons/sermon-on-the-nativity-of-the-theotokos>

**Sermon on the Nativity of the Theotokos**

Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann

The Church's veneration of Mary has always been rooted in her obedience to God, her willing choice to accept a humanly impossible calling. The Orthodox Church has always emphasized Mary's connection to humanity and delighted in her as the best, purest, most sublime fruition of human history and of man's quest for God, for ultimate meaning, for ultimate content of human life.

If in Western Christianity veneration of Mary was centered upon her perpetual virginity, the heart of Orthodox Christian East's devotion, contemplation, and joyful delight has always been her Motherhood, her flesh and blood connection to Jesus Christ. The East rejoices that the human role in the divine plan is pivotal. The Son of God comes to earth, appears in order to redeem the world, He becomes human to incorporate man into His divine vocation, but humanity takes part in this. If it is understood that Christ's "co-nature" with us is as a human being and not some phantom or bodiless apparition, that He is one of us and forever united to us through His humanity, then devotion to Mary also becomes understandable, for she is the one who gave Him His human nature, His flesh and blood. She is the one through whom Christ can always call Himself "The Son of Man."

Son of God, Son of Man... God descending and becoming man so that man could become divine, could become partaker of the divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), or as the teachers of Church expressed it, "deified." Precisely here, in this extraordinary revelation of man's authentic nature and calling, is the source that gratitude and tenderness which cherishes Mary as our link to Christ and, in Him, to God. And nowhere is this reflected more clearly than in the Nativity of the Mother of God...

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

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## ~LOOK IT UP~

**Did you know:** Mary, the Mother of God, was revealed many times in Old Testament prophecy, such as: Jacob's Ladder (Gen 28:12), the Burning Bush (Ex 3:2), & the locked gate (Eze 44:2).

**Read more:** <https://orthochristian.com/124070.html>

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## ~ 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 ~

Monday	8am - Divine Liturgy 6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live)
Tuesday	8am - Divine Liturgy
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 (Facebook Live) 6:40 - Akathist: Joy of All Who Sorrow
Friday	8am - Divine Liturgy 6pm - Vespers (Facebook Live)
Saturday	7am - Matins 8:30 - Divine Liturgy 5pm - Vigil (Facebook Live)
Sunday	9am - Divine Liturgy

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**~ BOOKSTORE ~**

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

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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:

Archpriest John Tomasi \* (310) 749-0524 \* [frjohn\\_tomasi@yahoo.com](mailto:frjohn_tomasi@yahoo.com)

Matushka Deborah Tomasi \* (310) 849-9451 \* [deborah\\_tomasi@yahoo.com](mailto:deborah_tomasi@yahoo.com)

**Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!**