

September Notes: ... Friday the 1st is *Joshua Teter's* name day (Righteous Joshua, Son of Navi) ... Sunday the 3rd is sister *Phoebe's* (St Phoebe, Deaconess at Cenchrae) ... which is also *Ron (Euphrosynos) Kemper's* birthday ... *Ruslana (Nadezhda) Apreleva* celebrates hers on Tuesday the 5th ... *Small Compline* is at 6:30 PM on Wednesday the 6th ... *Great Vespers with Litya* is at 6:30 PM on Thursday the 7th ... Friday the 8th at 7:00 AM is *Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos* ... Saturday the 9th is *Robyn Myers' name day* (St Anna, Holy & Righteous Ancestor of God) ... there will be *church school* on Sunday the 10th after the Divine Liturgy ... on Monday the 11th *Ron Kemper* celebrates his name day (St Euphrosynos the Cook) ... *Great Vespers with Litya* is at 6:30 PM on Wednesday the 13th ... on Thursday the 14th at 7:00 AM is *Divine Liturgy for the Exaltation of the Cross* ... Sunday the 17th is *Ruslana Apreleva's* name day (Nadezhda/ Hope) and the anniversary of Father Alexander's ordination to the Holy Priesthood ... Tuesday the 19th is *Theodore Bell's* name day (St Theodore of Canterbury) ... *Small Compline* is at 6:30 PM on Wednesday the 20th ... Saturday the 23rd is *Rick & Shirley (Nina) Sandbothe's* anniversary, with *choir practice* at 4:00 PM followed by *Great Vespers* at 5:30 PM ... on Sunday the 24th after the Divine Liturgy is both *church school* and *strategic planning* ... and *Small Compline* is at 6:30 PM on Wednesday the 27th!

O King of all Thou art He Who is and Who abidest unto all ages, accept the prayers of sinners who ask for salvation; grant abundance to Thine earth, O Lover of mankind; and bestow temperate weather; assist Thy people as they battle against the enemy as once Thou didst for David when they entered into Thy dwellings and defiled that Holy place, O Savior. Grant us victories, O Christ God, through the prayers of the Theotokos for Thou art the victory and the boast of the Orthodox.



SEPTEMBER 2017

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

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 Saint 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. Saints 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 Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feasts 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.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint 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.



For your daily devotions, *The Prologue of Ochrid*, compiled by St Nikolai Velimirovic, offers brief descriptions of the lives of the primary saints of the day, followed by suggested reflections:

http://www.rocor.org.au/?page_id=925

Why do we cross ourselves the way we do, but Roman Catholics do it "backwards"?

Apparently, once upon a time, we all did it the same way:

<http://www.catholiceducation.org/en/culture/catholic-contributions/the-sign-of-the-cross.html>

Whatever happened to the Ark of the Covenant? Can't say for sure, but some intrepid archeologists have some fascinating evidence:

http://www.baseinstitute.org/pages/ark_of_the_covenant/21

Never been to Mount Athos? If you haven't seen it (or even if you have), this 60 Minutes documentary is really outstanding:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5D8OxrSZZU8>

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

(unaudited)

	July Actual	July Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 2,836.86	\$ 4,447.50	\$ 29,312.93	\$ 28,632.50
Expenses	\$ 3,489.54	\$ 4,111.64	\$ 26,265.49	\$ 28,151.48

Building Fund (*Net of Rent Reserves*): \$ 16,308.51