

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	John
Hieroschemonk Ambrose	Vivian
Archpriest Eugene	Jung Sook
Priest John	Thomas
Reader Aleksei	Randall
Monk Philaret	Don
Matushka Priscilla	Norma
Elizabeth • Marie • Marie	James
Virginia • Ignatius • Anne	
Thomas • John • Theodore	
Katherine • Roman	

Catechumens: Andrew, David,
Michael, Sergio, Rachel,
Jennifer, and Rebecca

The repose and salvation of –

Archpriest Joseph (November 9)	Reagan (November 22)
Priest Athanasius (November 29)	Kieran (November 26)
Priest James (November 30)	
Protodeacon Dennis (November 11)	
Matushka Helen (November 11)	
Amvrosy (November 30)	

Please let Father know if there are any names you would like added to the list.

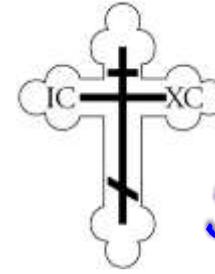
Monday, December 24, 1:00 PM – Vespers Divine Liturgy

Monday, December 24, 5:00 PM – Vigil for the Nativity

Tuesday, December 25, 9:30 AM – Festal Divine Liturgy

Saturday, December 29, 5:30 PM – Great Vespers & Confession

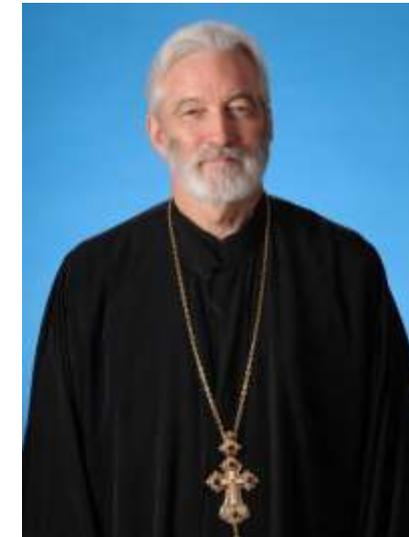
*A mission parish under the omophorion of His Eminence Benjamin,
Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West,
Orthodox Church in America*



ST TIKHON ORTHODOX
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Conception of the Most-Holy Theotokos



Welcome to Fr Matthew Tate!

Sundays at 9:10 AM – Hours & Divine Liturgy, followed by agape potluck
Wednesdays at 6:30 PM – Evening Prayers & Saints of the Day
Saturdays at 5:30 PM – Great Vespers
Other services as announced

Priest Alexander Vallens, *Rector*

priest@sttikhonparker.org • (720) 295-7715

Deacon John Manutes, *Attached*

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Conception by the Righteous Anna of the Most-Holy Theotokos

Saint Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married Saint Joachim, who was a native of Galilee. For a long time Saint Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as Saint Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter Two of his Commentary on Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although she committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, she would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary by Saint Anna took place at Jerusalem. In the icon Saints Joachim and Anna are usually depicted with hands folded in prayer; their eyes are also directed upward and they contemplate the Mother of God, who stands in the air with outstretched hands; under her feet is an orb encircled by a serpent (symbolizing the devil), which strives to conquer all the universe by its power. There are also icons in which Saint Anna holds the Most Holy Virgin on her left arm as an infant. On Saint Anna's face is a look of reverence. A large ancient icon, painted on canvas, is located in the village of Minkovetsa in the Dubensk district of Volhynia diocese. From ancient times this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women in Russia.

Also this week: Holy Martyrs Menas, Hermogenes and Eugephus of Alexandria (December 10); Ven. Daniel the Stylite (December 11); St Spyridon the Wonderworker, Bp of Tremithus (December 12); REPOSE OF VEN HERMAN OF ALASKA, WONDERWORKER OF AMERICA (December 13); Martyrs Thyrsus, Leucis, and Callinicis of Apollonia (December 14); Hieromartyr Eleutherius, Bp of Illyria, and his mother Martyr Anthia (December 15).

*** NATIVITY FAST: Wine and oil allowed on Tuesday; fish, wine, and oil allowed on Thursday and Saturday ***

Epistles: Colossians 1:12-18 (Sunday) / Galatians 4:22-31 (St Anna)

Gospels: Luke 17:12-19 (Sunday) / Luke 8:16-21 (St Anna)

Troparion – Tone 3 (Resurrection)

Let the heavens rejoice! /
Let the earth be glad! /
For the Lord has *shown* strength with his arm! /
He has trampled down death by death! /
He has become the first-born of the dead! /
He has delivered us from the *depths* of hades, /
And has granted to the world ///
Great mercy!

Troparion – Tone 4 (Conception)

Today the bonds of barrenness are broken, /
God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna; /
And He has promised them beyond all their hopes /
That they should bear the Maiden of God /
By whom the Infinite One was born as mortal man, /
Who commanded the angel to cry out to her: ///
“Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, the Lord is with thee!”

Kontakion – Tone 3 (Resurrection)

On this day Thou didst rise from the *tomb*, O Merciful One, /
Leading us from the gates of death. /
On this day Adam exults as *Eve* rejoices; /
With the prophets and patriarchs ///
They unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Kontakion – Tone 4 (Conception)

Today the universe rejoices /
For Anna has conceived, the Mother of God by divine grace. ///
The One who is to bear the Word of God ineffably.