

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR ...

The health and salvation of –

Abducted Bishops Paul & John	John
Hieroschemamonk Ambrose	Vivian
Archpriest Eugene	Jung Sook
Priest John	Thomas
Deacon Gregory	Randall
Reader Aleksei	Don
Monk Philaret	Norma
Matushka Priscilla	James
Elizabeth • Mary • Marie & child	Matthew
Virginia • Joshua • Phoebe	Ivars
Ignatius • Anne • Anna • Anne	Ruth
Thomas • John • Theodore • David	
Katherine • Roman • Joseph	
Kira • John • Ephrosynos	
Catechumens David and Rebecca	

The repose and salvation of –

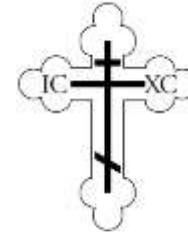
Archbishop Nikon (September 1)	Louis (August 18)
Archpriest Stephen (August 7)	
Archpriest Constantine (August 14)	
Archpriest John (August 15)	
Margarita (August 6)	
Francis (August 14)	
John (August 27)	

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

This Friday September 13, 6:00 PM – Great Vespers & Lituya

***This Saturday, September 14, 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy for
the Exaltation of the Precious Cross***

*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, September 8, 2019

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



Reputed birthplace of the Theotokos at the Church of St Anne

Sunday Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:10 AM, followed by agape potluck
Wednesdays at 6:00 PM – Evening Prayers & Saints of the Day
Other services as announced

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

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 Nazareth, Galilee. 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 St 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. They 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 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. St Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. St 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 Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

Also this week: *Holy Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; St. Ciaran of Clonmacnoise (September 9); Martyrs Menodora, Nymphodora, and Metrodora (September 10); St. Euphrosynus the Cook (September 11); Leavetaking of the Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos; Hieromartyr Autonomos, Bp in Italy (September 12); Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulchre) at Jerusalem (September 13); UNIVERSAL EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS AND LIFE-GIVING CROSS; Repose of St John Chrysostom (September 14).*

*** regular fasting this week, except strict fast† on Saturday with wine and oil allowed ***

Epistles: Galatians 6:11-18 (Sunday Before Cross) / I Cor. 15:1-11 (Sunday) / Philemon 2:5-11 (Feast)

Gospels: John 3:13-17 (Sunday Before Cross) / Matthew 19:16-26 (Sunday) / Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Feast)

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 (Feast)

Thy nativity, O Virgin, /
Hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe! /
The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, /
Hath shone from thee, O Theotokos /
By annulling the curse /
He bestowed the blessing. ///
By destroying death, He hath granted us eternal life.

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 (Feast)

By thy nativity, O most-pure Virgin, /
Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; /
Adam and Eve, from the corruption of death. /
And we, Thy people, freed from the bondage of sin, celebrate and cry out to thee: ///
The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.

† *The Church permits wine and oil although, according to the Holy Fathers, it is more fitting that only a little nourishment (vegetables) with olive oil, together with one cup of wine (for the glory of God), be eaten.*