



# St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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## THE NATIVITY OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY, THE MOTHER OF GOD AND EVER-VIRGIN MARY

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

### TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

#### **Troparion – Tone 2**

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out:// “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

#### **Troparion – Tone 4**

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

#### **Kontakion – Tone 2**

Hell became afraid, O almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb! The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee,// and the world, my Savior, praises Thee forever.

#### **Kontakion – Tone 4**

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 guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee:// “The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

#### **Prokeimenon – Tone 6**

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance!  
V. *To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!*

#### **Prokeimenon – Tone 3**

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.

### LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

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

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 feast days 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.

## **EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS**

### **Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18 / 1 Corinthians 9:2-12**

See with what large letters I have written to you with my own hand! As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised, only that they may not suffer persecution for the cross of Christ. For not even those who are circumcised keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation. And as many as walk according to this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God. From now on let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

**Epistle: Philippians 2:5-11**

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death on the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Gospel: John 3:13-17 / Matthew 18:23-35**

No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."

**Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28**

Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED**

To add a name, please email Darice at daricekeyes@gmail.com.

**For the Sick / Caregiver**

**For the Deceased**

Kelly (8/18)	Michael (9/1)
Liam (8/18)	Charlotte (9/1)
Bonnie (8/18)	Thomas (9/8)
Carmine (8/25)	Chris (9/8)
Marianne (8/25)	Matushka Mary (9/8)
Anthony (8/25)	Father Paul (9/8)
Subdeacon Serge (9/1)	Alexandra (9/8)
Melody (9/1)	

## **SERVICES**

### **Service Schedule for the Week of September 8**

**Sunday September 8 – NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS** 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

**Friday September 13 – EXALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS** 7:00 PM Vespers with Litya

**Saturday September 14 – EXHALTATION OF THE PRECIOUS CROSS** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy; 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

**Sunday September 15 –** 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

## **DONATIONS**

### **Weekly Giving**

September 1 – 80 adults, 26 youth, \$3,106

## **PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

At the end of Divine Liturgy today, Father will bless the children for the opening of Sunday School.

Sunday School lessons will commence next Sunday, September 15. Children will leave services every Sunday after Holy Communion and go to the classrooms in the basement of Daria Hall. The teachers and parents will escort the children to Daria Hall.

There will be a Parish Council Meeting this Wednesday, September 11, at 7:00 PM in the church basement.

The annual Parish Picnic will be held after services on Sunday September 22 at the church picnic grounds on Rt. 33 in Hamilton. **There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for items/food needed for the picnic.** The church will provide burgers, hot dogs, and roasted pig.

Catechumen classes will begin in October – dates to be announced. Please let Father Volodymyr know if you are interested in attending. Parishioners are more than welcome to attend along with those studying to convert to the Orthodox faith.

Starting September 7 through November 2, on Saturdays only from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, there will be a large Farmer's Market held at our church picnic grounds on Rt. 33 in Hamilton.

Gift cards and other items for the Annual Turkey Social are needed. Please refer to the papers on the tables in Daria Hall. If you have questions or a donation, please see Nina Laushell. All gift items will be needed by Sunday October 6. Thank you!

The next meeting of the Men's Club will be this coming Friday September 13 at 7:00 PM in Daria Hall. All men of the parish are invited!

## **BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK**

Francine Meyer – September 9

Mark Ortiz – September 9

Justina Meyer – September 13

Lizabeth Kasmer – September 13

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

## **COFFEE HOUR**

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. **PLEASE NOTE:** Your assigned Coffee Hour Support

Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky or Alla Strauss.

**SUGGESTED MENU:**

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts are available to use from the two freezers in Daria Hall

Fruit

Salads

Tortilla chips & Salsa

Hummus

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (non-dairy)

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

- Sept. 8 Alex Godun, Blake & Jessica Kilgore  
Sept. 15 James & Monia Pitra, Anne Cheslock  
Sept. 22 **ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC – NO COFFEE HOUR**  
Sept. 29 Sami Bachir, Nour Ragab  
Oct. 6 Virgiliu & Gabriela Plesa, Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav  
Oct. 13 **ANNUAL TURKEY SOCIAL – NO COFFEE HOUR**  
Oct. 20 Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick, Amber Touch  
Oct. 27 Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun  
Nov. 3 Tyler Burger, Ludwin Lopez  
Nov. 10 Galina Shubina, Alan & Mimi Berck  
Nov. 17 **FAST** Fiyori Habtesillasse, Lemlem Woldearegay  
Nov. 24 **FAST** Peter Abdallah, Jim Galcik  
Dec. 1 **FAST** Natalia Kolomatskaia, Trudy Ellmore  
Dec. 8 **FAST** Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Hannah Dougherty  
Dec. 15 **FAST** Vera Pschenyczny, Amleset Gebrekvistas  
Dec. 22 **FAST** Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana, Svetlana Sosedov  
Dec. 29 Valeria & Timothy Srock, Guy Radcliffe  
Jan. 5 Darice Keyes, Bill & Margie DiCicco  
Jan. 12 Aftan Chowansky, Matthew & Nana Barrett

***Have a healthy, blessed week!***