

Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross

Fr. John Shimehiek, Rector ☎ (856) 665-2491

www.holygrossofmedford.org

12th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 4, 2022

At a Glance

Unburnt Bush –
p2

Coffee Hr Hosts
– p2

Helpers – Last
day!

CropWalk – p3

Prayers requested for His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman

His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon is asking for the prayers of the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America on behalf of His Beatitude Metropolitan Herman who is drawing to the close of his earthly life. Metropolitan Herman is currently in his home on the grounds of Saint Tikhon's Monastery.

Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos

Commemorated September 8

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. **Cont. page 2**

Liturgical and Events Schedule

Sunday, September 4

9:00 AM: Divine Liturgy followed by
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, September 7

7:00 PM: Vespers Liturgy for Nativity
of the Theotokos

Saturday, September 10

9:00 AM: Community Luncheon
5:00 PM: Great Vespers

Sunday, September 11

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy followed by
Coffee Hour

Monday, September 12

7:00 PM: Women2Women Mtg.
Location: TBD

Helpers of God's Precious Infants

Today is the last day for Walmart Gift Cards
Thank you to everyone who has donated!

CROP Hunger Walk

Six weeks from today, we will gather with others in our community to fight hunger both here and around the world. We need Walkers and sponsors for the Medford CROP Hunger Walk on October 16. Please see the flier for contact details and to sign up to be a Walker, a sponsor, or both.

Thanks for helping feed the hungry both in our community and throughout the world.

Coffee Hour

September 4 Marie Clifton
September 11 *Open*
September 18 Mary Stosuy
September 25 Trudy Ellmore

Hosts are needed.

See Marie Clifton to sign up!

Theotokos, cont'

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.

"Unburnt Bush" Icon of the Mother of God -

Commemorated on September 4

Troparion — Tone 1

The miracle which Moses witnessed on Sinai in the burning bush / foretold your virginal childbearing, O pure Mother. / We the faithful cry to you: / Hail, O truly living bush! / Hail, O holy mountain! / Hail, O sanctified expanse, Most Holy Theotokos!

Troparion — Tone 4

O Christ God, You showed Moses / an image of your most pure Mother / in the bush that burned yet was not consumed, / for she herself was not consumed / when she received in her womb the fire of divinity! / She remained incorrupt after her pure childbearing! / By her prayers, O greatly merciful One, / deliver us from the flame of passions, / and preserve your people from all harm!

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME CROP HUNGER WALK



Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross
Medford, New Jersey
www.holycrossmedford.org

Our Parish Team will gather with others in our community to fight hunger both here and around the world.

Medford CROP Hunger Walk
At Freedom park
1:00 PM - October 16, 2022

Need more details ?
Want to be a Walker?
Want to be a Sponsor?
Want to be Both?



Contact: Diana Bisinger Email: dbisinger1@verizon.net

2022 Goal

25 walkers to raise \$1,750

Thank you to our Sponsors!



CROPHUNGERWALK.ORG