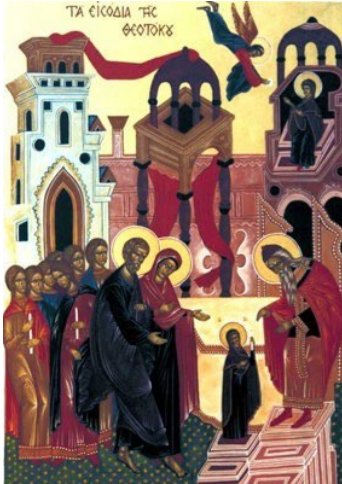




Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

306 W. Main Street Emmitsburg,
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Notes on the Demon Possessed Boy August 10, 2025

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever!

- The demon possessed boy – fire and water
 - It is the nature of evil to destroy that which God created
 - Personally this is true when we hurt ourselves
 - Addictions, drugs
 - When we make choices that are self-defeating
 - When we hurt others
 - But it's also true when we are selfish about the environment
 - Consuming needlessly
 - My neighbor's trash container
 - Discarding, wastefully replacing, consuming
 - We are not people, we are consumers
 - In the midst of this chaos there is a man who comes for his son to be healed
 - Whose faith?
 - The boy's? The father's? The apostles'?
 - The seriousness of the situation is abnormal
 - No mere Band-Aid will suffice. Evil consumed the boy and led him to self-destruction

- And it seems as if Jesus is angry at the apostles, but it's not clear. He seems to be denouncing the situation in which people have no faith at all, in which they try to solve the problem without the intervention of the only one Who can.
- And then, just as you think this is a passage about the intensity of faith, Matthew interjects the announcement of our Lord's Passion and death
 - It seems out of place, as if this little bit of a passage is glued onto the story of the boy's healing.
 - But really, it is not an afterthought. It is the main point of the passage
- Things in this world are so messed up that we cannot solve them ourselves.
 - Obviously, this is true of governments
 - But it's also true of our own lives in the world, is it not?
 - We all die; eventually something brings an end to our lives; we take our final breath and are gone. The Psalmist says, "the wind passes over the place where we had been, and the place thereof knows it no more"
 - It's amazing how many diseases cannot be cured by medications.
 - But the Holy Fathers realized that the problem was not disease or pain or suffering. The problem is death itself.
 - And only God can and has and will do something about that
- This miracle story is a reminder ...
 - That evil is that quality or being that seeks to destroy
 - That the situation in this world is hopeless apart from God
 - That the Lord is always ready to save and to deliver
 - That the root cause of our suffering, death, has been overcome by the self-giving of the Lord Himself to die upon the cross and to rise again.
- This is our faith.
 - Our salvation is offered to all who will receive it and cooperate with the One Who gives it freely
 - For the Son of Man came not to condemn the world, but that the world would be freed!

Fr. Elias

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