

September 15, 2019

13th Sunday After Pentecost

Upcoming Services:

Sun. Sept. 15, 9:00 am. - Divine Liturgy, Hours at 8:45

Sat. Sept. 21, 9:30 am. - Divine Liturgy, Birth of Theotokos

Sat. Sept. 21, 6:00 pm. - Great Vespers

Sun. Sept. 22, 9:00 am. - Divine Liturgy, Hours at 8:45

Fri. Sept. 27, 9:30 am. - Divine Liturgy, Elevation of the Cross

1 Corinthians: 16: 13-24

Matthew 21: 33-42

Reader Schedule:

Sun Sept. 15 - Jim Hamer

Sun Sept. 22 - Wesley Hatch

Sun Sept. 29 - Greg Kuzmenchuk

Sun Oct. 6 - Cynthia Neff

September 21 - Nativity of the Theotokos

Together, the Great Feasts serve to tell us the story of the Incarnation, which has its climax in the center of the year with the celebration of the “Feast of Feasts” – Pascha. It is therefore fitting that the first Great Feast of the Church year, which begins in September, is that of the Nativity of the Theotokos. The Mother of God’s birth was miraculous, not because she was born without original sin, nor because she was born of a virgin, but instead because she was born of a man and his barren wife: Joachim and Anna.

The icon of the feast more-or-less echoes the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ which Mary’s birth prepares the way for. Anna is reclining in a bed, similar to how Mary reclines in icons of Christ’s Nativity. Below Anna, the infant Mary is bathed by midwives, just as the infant Christ is washed by Salome in the icon of His birth. Likewise, just as Joseph is shown removed from the main scene in Nativity icons, Mary’s father Joachim is also shown apart from the scene. As for the differences, the main one is the surroundings. Whereas Christ’s birth is shown to be in a cave, the Mother of God’s birth is shown amid a beautifully decorated house, because Joachim was “a man rich exceedingly” (Protoevangelium). Instead of a cave, Mary is inside Anna’s bed-chamber, which according to the protoevangelium was made into a sanctuary until the time Mary entered the Temple. Whereas Mary and the Christ-child are attended by angels, around Anna is a hive of activity: the “undefiled daughters of the Hebrews” whom Anna brought into the bed-chamber to attend to her. A table by Anna shows the feast which Joachim prepared on Mary’s first birthday, to which were invited the scribes, priests and elders of Israel.

Other details which may be present are separate details of Anna, Joachim and the infant Mary together in a loving embrace. Scenes from before the Theotokos’ nativity may also be shown, such as the angel visiting Joachim in the desert to tell him of the upcoming conception, and Joachim and Anna embracing at the gateway to their house, an image also depicted separately as the “Conception of the Mother of God”. At the bottom of the Icon there is sometimes a fountain of water or water fowl in a small garden. This describes Anna’s “double lament” beneath the laurel tree of her garden, when she thought that she would neither conceive or see her husband again:

The icon of the Nativity of the Theotokos shows us the relatively exalted beginnings of Mary’s birth. Yet in her humility she does not expect the tidings that the Archangel Gabriel brings just a few years later, and bears with quietude the spartan surroundings of her own Son’s birth in Bethlehem.

Birthdays:

Sep. 17 - Yvonne Barlow

Sep. 18 - Anne Ruczhak

Sep. 20 - Joe Yevich

Upcoming Events:

Sun. Sept. 15 - Phoenixville Ukrainian Festival

Sun. Sept. 15 - Sisterhood Mtg. after Liturgy

Tues. Sept. 17 - 7:00 pm - Executive board meeting in the church hall.

Sat. Sept. 28 - Annual Sisterhood Tea Party Wagontown Hall 2- 4 pm

Sat. Nov. 9 - Holy Ghost Fall bazaar 10 - 2pm

Upcoming Bazaar Cooking Events:

Wed. Sept 18 – 6:30 pm. Nut Roll Prep

Thurs. Sept 19 – 8:30 am. Bake Nut Rolls

Mon. Sept 23 – 6:30 pm Halupki Prep.

Tue. Sept 24 – 8:30 am. Halupki Making

Mon. Sept 30 – 6:30 pm. Nut Roll Prep

Tues. Oct. 1 – 8:30 am. Bake Nut Rolls

Fri. Oct. 4 – 8:00 am. Haluski Making

Panahyda

On Sunday September 15th a Panahyda has been requested in memory of Ann Leveille, by her daughter Karen Lewis. It is the 5th year of Ann's repose in the Lord.

Holy Confession

Confession will be heard by Father Nicholas after Vespers on Saturdays, no later than 8:30am on Sunday, and by arrangement.

Prayer Corner:

For the Health of: Erin Bove, Richard Ziegler, Sandy Knisley, Peter Roccia, Toby Seip, & Max

Anniversaries:

None this week

Weddings:

Saturday October 5th - Matthew Mark Estes Sr., son of the late William and Betty Estes to Sherry Lynn Hostetter, daughter of Gerald and Dhelma Hostetter

Notices:

Ukrainian Day Festival

Ss. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Catholic Church, Phoenixville, Ukrainian Day Festival will be held on Sunday, Sept. 15, 11am - 5pm. On the church grounds at 301 Fairview Street.

Sisterhood Tea Party & Fashion Show

St. Anastasia Sisterhood is holding its' annual Tea Party on Saturday September 28, 2-4 pm at the Wagontown Fire Dept. Hall. Doors open at 1:30 PM

Sobor of the UOC of USA

The 22nd Regular Sobor of the UOC of USA will be held in South Boundbrook, New Jersey, October 16-19. Illaria Steele and Ron Hershey are selected delegates and Katie Thomas the alternate.

Coffee Hour- We need families to sign up and host our Sunday Coffee Hour.

September Charity Sneakers for Soldiers

Bulletin Additions

For bulletin additions please contact Wesley Hatch by Friday 9 pm