

December 2, 2018
Upcoming Services:

Sun. Dec. 2, 9:00 am. - Divine Liturgy, Hours at 8:45
Mon. Dec. 3, 5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Tues. Dec. 4, 9:30 am. - Divine Liturgy, Entry of the Theotokos
Sat. Dec. 8, 5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sun. Dec. 9, 9:00 am. - Divine Liturgy, Hours at 8:45, Adult religious education following
Sat. Dec. 15, 5:00 pm - Great Vespers
Sun. Dec. 16, 9:00 am. - Divine Liturgy, Hours at 8:45

Entry of Theotokos into the Temple:

From ancient times the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. The justification for the occasion lies with the parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, who, having prayed for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if ever a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the holy virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the holy virgin in her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and holding lighted candles, virgins escorted her to the temple (*Psalms 44:14-15*). There the high priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God.

In this temple fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and high priest entered. No one thought the child Mary was capable to make it up this stairway, but once placed upon the first step, she lithely ascended the remaining steps to the top, and in the astonishment of the moment, the high priest then led her into the holy of holies, trodden only by the holiest of orders.

After entrusting their child to the heavenly father, Joachim and Anna returned home, with the holy virgin remaining at the temple, in quarters shroud in mystery, where others dedicated to the service of God dwelt. No one knows how the remainder of her childhood was spent except God himself and the guardian Archangel Gabriel. Presumably she grew up in the surroundings of pious virgins, submerged in holy scripture and diligent handicrafts, engulfed in constant prayer and activities promoting the growth of love for God.

In Palestinian tradition this feast day has early Christian origins, with Princess Helen having a church built in her honor, "The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple".

Ephesians 6: 10-17
Luke 12: 16-21

Reader Schedule:
Sun, Dec. 2 - Greg Kuzmenchuk
Sun, Dec. 9 - Cynthia Neff
Sun, Dec. 16 - Joe Crescenz
Sun, Dec. 23 - Kurtis Lauser

Birthdays:

December 5 - Jane Thomas
December 8 - Bethany Kennedy

Upcoming Events

Tues. Dec. 4 - Divine Liturgy 9:30 - Entry of the Theotokos, Vespers Dec. 3, at 5:00 pm
Sun. Dec. 9 - Coatesville Community Caroling Event 1:45 - 4:00 pm
Tues. Dec. 11 - 10 am Decorating Church for Nativity
Wed. Dec. 12 - 6:30 pm Sauerkrut Pierogi prep.
Thu. Dec. 13 - 6:30 pm Sauerkraut Pierogi prep.
Sat. Dec. 15 - 8:30 am Srkraut Pierogi making
Sun. Dec. 16 - St. Nicholas Sunday

Adult Religious Education

Adult religious education at coffee hour Dec. 9. Topic to be Holy Tradition and the life of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Coatesville Community Caroling

Our church is invited to participate in a Coatesville Community Caroling Event Dec. 9, 1:45 P.M. - 4 P.M. starting at the Coatesville Senior Center. Details on hall bulletin board.

St. Nicholas Celebration

Dec. 16 following liturgy in the church hall. Parents please remember to bring a gift for St. Nicholas to give to your child that day.

Bulletin Additions

Get bulletin additions to Wesley Hatch by Friday at 4 pm

Anniversaries:

None this week

Notices:

Election of Sisterhood Officers

If you or someone you know would like to serve as an officer next year for the Saint Anastasia Sisterhood, please give the name to Illaria Steele. Election of officers will be at the next sisterhood meeting.

Christmas Flowers

St. Anastasia Sisterhood is collecting funds for poinsettias. Envelopes are included in your stewardship packet.

Bazaar Foods

There are still bazaar food items available:
Pierogies - potato & cheese -\$6 per box of 15
Halupki - stuffed cabbage - \$16 per dozen
Halushki - noodles & cabbage - \$5 per quart
Nut Rolls - \$12 per roll

Monastery Bread

Christmas and New Year's bread offered for sale by St. Nicholas Orthodox Church. Signup sheet on the hall door. Order by Dec. 9

December Charity - Handicrafters

Prayer Corner:

For the Health of: Lillian Maskula, Richard Ziegler, Sandy Knisley, Erin Bove, Rose Dymtryk, Matt Sparano, Mark Danczak, Zenon Forosty & Wes Hatch