

Confession, the Forgiveness of Sins

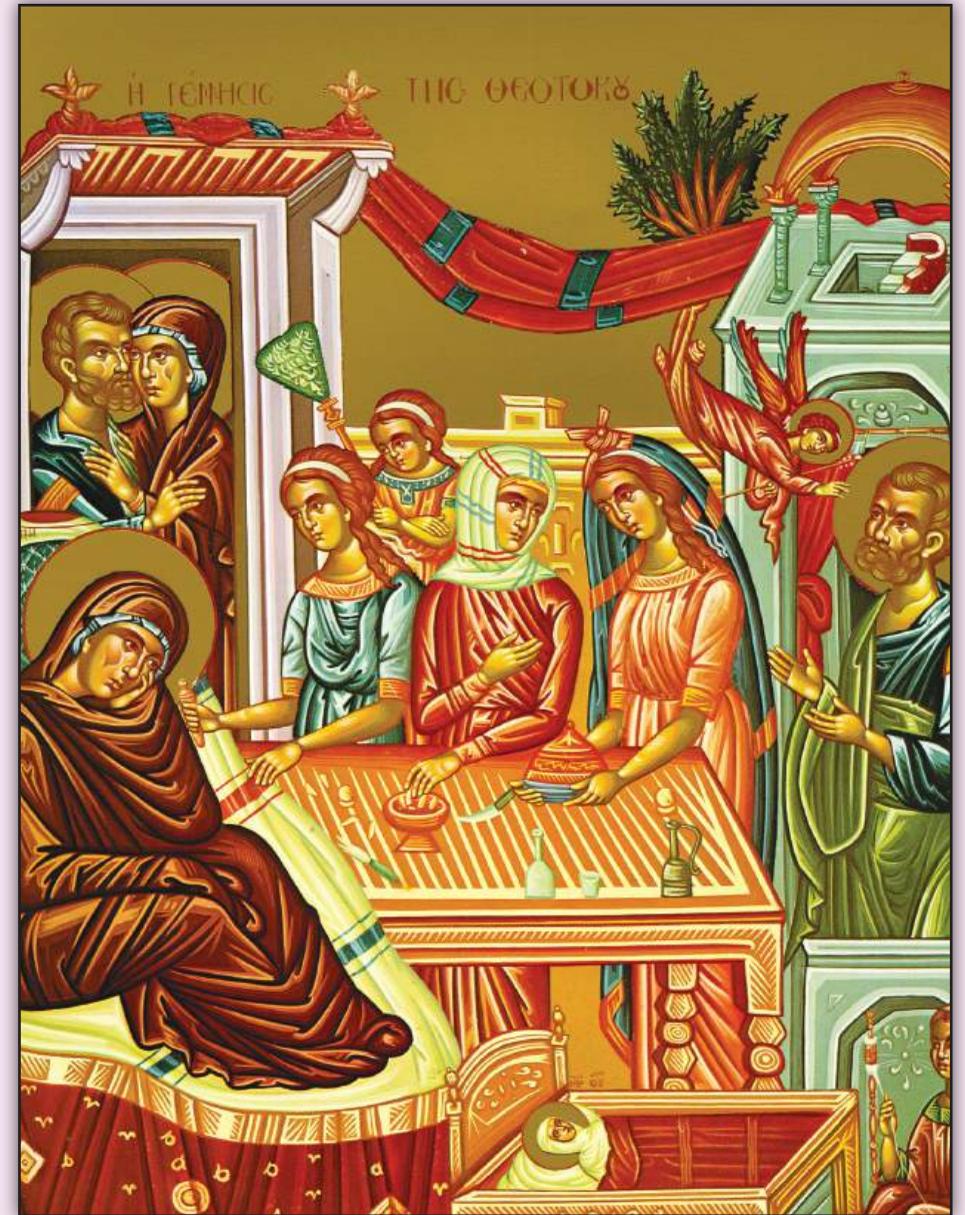
“On the evening of that first day of the week, when the doors were locked, where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. [Jesus] said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.’” (John 20:19-23)

There, the risen Christ gives to His disciples the power of binding and loosing sins – a juridical power. This task of binding and loosing was transmitted from the apostles to their successors, the bishops. In the early church, the

administration of penance was something public; it didn’t involve the private giving of counsel or advice. It was something exceptional. You hoped, by God’s mercy, that you wouldn’t have to be involved in penance. Indeed, the penances that were imposed were by our standards extremely severe. It often requires a leap of the imagination on our part to think of how life was in the ancient church. For example, for fornication – I mean, sex outside of marriage – St. Gregory of Nyssa assigns a penance of nine years without communion. St. Basil is a little more merciful, he says seven years without communion. Finally, in the sixth and seventh century, in the canonical legislation of St. John the Faster, it’s been reduced to two years. Even so, by our standard, that may well seem severe.

Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware)

SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS



Icon of the Birth of the Theotokos -- September 8th



Українська Греко-Католицька Церква Парафія Святих Йоакима та Анни
SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNA UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Mission Parish of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. All are welcome!
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Fr Robert Hitchens, Administrator Fr Mykola Dziurakh, Parochial Vicar
 Subdeacon Kyle Hayes Subdeacon David Wallace

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever! Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава навіки!

Reader Great Vespers: 2nd & 4th Saturdays, 5:00pm

Divine Liturgy in English, Sundays 10:30am

Holy Mystery of Repentance (Confession): Sundays, 9:45am

The church is open for prayer M-F, 9-5, unless otherwise announced.

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2025 – PATRONAL FEAST OF THE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS AN-
 CESTORS OF GOD JOACHIM AND ANNA; SUNDAY BEFORE THE EXALTATION
 OF THE HOLY CROSS; 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (TONE 4);
 FORE-FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**

GIVING REPORT – The in-pew collection for August 31 was \$1,245.40. E-giving for August was \$6,805.60. We invite you to help support the ministry of our parish as the baskets are passed on Sundays, or find us on tithe.ly, our e-giving platform. Thank you for your generosity!

THIS SUNDAY! We will have our annual anniversary celebration with food, fun, and a bounce house! Check your email for the sign-up link. 2025 marks 10 years since the parish's founding!

DIVINE LITURGY FOR THE GREAT FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
 – Monday, September 8, 6:00pm. We will also celebrate the After-feast on Wed, Sept 10, 6pm.

Today is the beginning of our salvation, O ye people! For, lo! the Virgin Mother, who was foretold from generations of old as the receptacle of God, cometh forth to be born of a barren woman. The flower of Jesse and the rod of his root have sprung forth. Let Adam our forefather rejoice, and let Eve revel in jubilation! For, behold! she who was fashioned of the rib of Adam manifestly blesseth her daughter and descendant, saying: "Deliverance hath been born in me, for which cause I am freed of the bonds of hades!" Let David rejoice, striking his harp, and let him bless God: for, lo! the Virgin issueth forth from the womb of the barren woman, unto the salvation of our souls!



The Queen of all who hath been foretold, the habitation of God, the divine dwelling place of the eternal Essence, hath come forth today from the barren womb of the glorious Anna, and by her shameless hades hath been trampled down, and Eve, the mother of our race, is led into everlasting life. To her do we cry out, as is meet: Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb!

On the right excellent day of our feast let us strike the spiritual harp; for the Mother of Life is born today of the seed of David, dispelling the darkness: the renewal of Adam, the restoration of Eve, the Well-spring of incorruption, our release from corruption. Because of her we have been defied and delivered from death. And we, the faithful, cry out to her with Gabriel: Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, the Lord is with thee, granting us great mercy for thy sake!

The joy of the whole world hath shone forth upon us from the righteous Joachim and Anna: the most laudable Virgin who, because of her surpassing purity, becometh the animate temple of God and is known as the one true Theotokos. Through her prayers, O Christ God, send down peace upon the world and great mercy upon our souls.

Today let the barren and childless Anna clap her hands with splendor, let those on earth bear lamps, let kings leap for joy, let hierarchs be glad in blessing, and let all the world keep festival; for, behold, the Queen, the immaculate Bride of the Father, hath sprung forth from the root of Jesse. No longer will women bear children in grief, for Joy hath blossomed forth and Life shall live in the world for all men. No longer will the offerings of Joachim be rejected, for the lamentation of Anna hath been changed to joy, and she saith: "Rejoice with me, all ye chosen Israel, for, lo! the Lord hath given me the animate palace of His divine glory, for our common gladness and joy, and the salvation of our souls!"

Come, all ye faithful, let us make haste to the Virgin! For, lo! she is born who was foreseen before the womb as the Mother of our God, the vessel of virginity, the rod of Aaron which sprang forth from the root of Jesse, the proclamation of the prophets, the offspring of the righteous Joachim and Anna! She is born, and with her the world is restored! She is born, and the Church adorneth herself in her majesty! She is the holy temple and receptacle of the Godhead, the vessel of virginity, the bridal-chamber of the King, wherein was wrought the all-glorious and perfect mystery of the ineffable union of the natures which have come together in Christ! And worshipping Him, we hymn the nativity of the most immaculate Virgin.

(Selected stichera of litiya from Vespers of the Nativity of the Mother of God)

READER GREAT VESPERS – Join us for Reader Great Vespers on Saturday, Sept 13, 5:00pm, as we begin the celebration of the Great Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Nancy & Jon Anderson, Julie, Lisa Behnke, Alison Bernhoft, Yevhenia Borys, Robert Matthew, Carrie Chuff, Elizabeth Deegan, Clara Anne Duda, Fr Michael Duesterhaus, Robert Dulaine, Pat Fagan, Danylo (Neyko) Fedoryka, Emma Flournoy, Katie Flynn, Patricia Fogarty, Lilian Garland, Jerry Gawron, CR Gaush, Samuel Gaush, Josie Hacker, Brigid and Marlena Hess, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Oksana Horszynska, Ihor Hulawyj, Sarah Kelt, Dixie Lane, Catherine Luckey, Destiny Makins, Michael Marshner & Family, Bridget McDonald, Laura McMahan, Vince McLaughlin, Thomas Pavick, Robert Rice, Chris Saboe, Betsy Sayre, Truman L Sayre, Jr, CJ & Theresa Sidrow, Amy Smith, Kitty Smith, Karena Tap-sak, and Fr George Worschak. *Teresa Fedoryka is our prayer coordinator; please email bulletin prayer requests to ssjoachimandannauc@gmail.com.*

Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross (Tone 4); Fore-feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God; Parish Patronal Feast of the Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God Joachim and Anna

Troparion, Tone 4 (p. 341). When the disciples of the Lord learned from the angel* the glorious news of the resurrection* and cast off the ancestral condemnation,* they proudly told the apostles:* “Death has been plundered!* Christ our God is risen,* granting to the world great mercy.” **Troparion, Tone 4.** Today is born to us, from the stem of Jesse and from the loins of David* Mary the Maiden of God.* Therefor the whole creation rejoices and is renewed;* and you peoples of the world, sing to her a joyful hymn of praise.* Joachim is elated and Anna shouts for joy:* The barren one gives birth to the Mother of God,* the Sustainer of our life. **Troparion, Tone 1.** The just couple who lived in the state of grace,* Joachim and Anna gave birth to this holy child for us.* The Church solemnly honors this feast in glory* and celebrates your precious memory today.* She glorifies God Who has lifted up the horn of salvation in the house of David. **Kontakion, Tone 4 (p. 342).** My Saviour and Deliverer from the grave* as God raised out of bondage the children of the earth* and shattered the gates of Hades;* and as Master, He rose on the third day. *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.* **Kontakion, Tone 3.** Today the holy Virgin and God-bearer Mary,* is born from a barren womb by divine counsel.* She is the everlasting bridal chamber of the heavenly Bridegroom,* Today the chariot of the Word is adorned, and the door for God is foretold* she is called the Mother of Life. *Now and for ever and ever. Amen.* **Kontakion, Tone 2.** The chains of sterility are broken and Anna rejoices.* She nurses the most pure Lady and invites us to sing with her* to the virgin Mother who is born for all people.

Prokeimenon, Tone 6. Save Your people, O Lord,* and bless Your inheritance. *verse:* Unto You I will cry, O Lord, my God, lest You turn from me in silence.

Epistle: Galatians 6:11–18

Brothers and Sisters, see what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised—only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule—peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God. From now on, let no one make trouble for me; for I carry the marks of Jesus branded on my body. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Alleluia, Tone 1 (p. 332).

verse 1: I have exalted one chosen from among My people; with My holy oil I have anointed him. *verse 2:* My hand shall sustain him, and my arm shall make him strong.

Gospel: John 3:13–17

The Lord said, “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Communion Verse (special music, p. 1080). Praise the Lord from the heavens;* praise Him in the highest.* Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.