



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

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The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Mother of God December 9, 2018

Troparion – Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice! Let the earth be glad! For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. He has trampled down death by death. He has become the first born of the dead. He has delivered us from the depths of hell, and has granted to the world// great mercy.

Troparion – Tone 4

Today the bonds of barrenness are broken: God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna. He has promised them beyond all their hopes to bear the Maiden of God, by whom the Uncircumscribed One was born as a mortal Man; He commanded an angel to cry to her: “Rejoice, thou who art full of grace, // the Lord is with thee!”

Kontakion – Tone 3

On this day Thou didst rise from the tomb, O Merciful One, leading us from the gates of death. On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices; with the Prophets and Patriarchs// they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Thy power.

Kontakion – Tone 4

Today the universe rejoices, for Anna has conceived the Theotokos through God’s dispensation, // for she has brought forth the one who is to bear the ineffable Word.

Prokeimenon – Tone 3

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing praises!
v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

Prokeimenon – Tone 4

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel.

The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Mother of God

Saint Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married Saint Joachim (September 9), who was a native of Galilee.

For a long time Saint Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, Who would bring blessings to the whole human race. The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of Her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as Saint Ambrose of Milan teaches in Chapter Two of his Commentary on Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in Her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although She committed no personal sins. She was not a defiled creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, She would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from Her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary by Saint Anna took place at Jerusalem. The many icons depicting the Conception by Saint Anna show the Most Holy Theotokos trampling the serpent underfoot.

“In the icon Saints Joachim and Anna are usually depicted with hands folded in prayer; their eyes are also directed upward and they contemplate the Mother of God, Who stands in the air with outstretched hands; under Her feet is an orb encircled by a serpent (symbolizing the devil), which strives to conquer all the universe by its power.”

There are also icons in which Saint Anna holds the Most Holy Virgin on her left arm as an infant. On Saint Anna’s face is a look of reverence. A large ancient icon, painted on canvas, is located in the village of Minkovetsa in the Dubensk District of Olhynia Diocese. From ancient times this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women in Russia.

Epistle: Colossians 1:12-18

Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Epistle: Galatians 4:22-31

For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar – for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children – but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written: “Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband.” Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise. But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.” So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

Gospel: Luke 17:12-19

Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner? And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”

Gospel: Luke 8:16-21

No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.” Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. And it was told Him by some, who said, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You.” But He answered and said to them, “My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.”

Service Schedule for the week of December 9

Today – 9:00 AM Sunday School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Saturday December 15 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday December 16 – 9:00 AM Sunday School, 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by the Sunday School children’s Christmas Yolka, Senior R Club Soup Sale, and Coffee Hour in Daria Hall.

Weekly Giving

December 2 – 35 adults, 18 youth, \$2,054

Parish Announcements

Please remember to partake in the Holy Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion during the Nativity Fast in preparation for the Nativity of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Confession is available Saturdays before and after Vespers, or early Sunday morning before 9:30 AM if you cannot attend Vespers on Saturday. If you need a special time for Confession please see Father Volodymyr.

Matushka Mary is continuing her post-surgery rehab at Greenwood House, 53 Walter Street, Ewing. Visitors are welcome starting very early in the morning 6:00 AM until around 5 PM. Matushka goes for physical therapy around 9 AM for an hour or so.

Bible Study classes will be held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 7:00 PM in the church basement. The next classes will be held on Wednesday December 12 and Wednesday December 26. All are welcome to attend!

The church bake sale will be held in Daria Hall next Saturday December 15 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM and Sunday December 16 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. Cookies may be placed in the freezers in the coatroom – please clearly mark if there are nuts or peanuts in the cookies, and also include your name. We will need help assembling the cookie trays in Daria Hall Friday evening December 14 at 6:00 PM if you are available to help. All baked items should be delivered to Daria Hall no later than 6:00 PM Friday night so they can be placed out and priced. Bake sale flyers are on the table in the back of the church – please take some copies and post them in your local stores and let your friends and family know! All proceeds will be donated to the church.

The Sunday School Yolka program will be held next Sunday December 16 during coffee hour along with the Senior R Club soup sale.

There will be a Senior R Club meeting today during Coffee Hour and the Parish Council meeting on Thursday December 13 at 7:00 PM.

A sign-up sheet is on the table in the back of the church for Christmas Eve Supper, which will be held on Monday December 24 at 5:00 PM before services. Please if you will attend and what Lenten dish you will bring to share with everyone. Last year we had about 25 people in attendance.