

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST THE ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE

Troparion of the Resurrection – TONE 8:

From on high didst Thou descend, O Compassionate One. / To burial of three days hast Thou submitted / That Thou mightest free us from our passions. / O our Life and Resurrection, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos – TONE 4:

Today is the prelude of God's good will / and the heralding of the salvation of mankind. / In the temple of God, the Virgin is presented openly, / and she proclaimeth Christ unto all. / To her, then, with a great voice let us cry aloud: / Rejoice, O thou fulfillment // of the Creator's dispensation.

From the Book "300 Sayings of the Ascetics of the Church":

Having God, fear nothing, but cast all of your care upon Him, and He will take care of you. Believe undoubtingly, and God will help you according to His mercy.

(St. Barsanuphius the Great, Instructions, 166)

Schedule of services for the following week:

- + **Tuesday Catechism – Dec. 6 from 6 pm**
- + **Wednesday – Dec. 7 – Bible Studies from 6 pm.**
- + **Thursday – Dec. 8 – Liturgy from 8:30 St. Clement of Rome**
- + **Friday – Dec. 9 – Paraklisis from 6:30 pm**
- + **Saturday – Dec. 10 – Vespers from 6 pm.**

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: Eph. 4: 1-6 & Heb. 10:25-37.

Gospel: Luke 10:25-37; 10: 38-42; 11: 27-28.

In Our Prayers: Anna Marie Slovesko, Presbytera Lisa Wermedic, Peter and Monica Mikheil, Jovanka Ebling, Alejandro Gonzales, Noah Martinez, Katie Branding, Nick Dutko, Helen and John Gingrich, Bill and Ruth Yovanovich, Diann Bernie and Dominic & Destin, Daria Miletich, Joan Babinski, Amanda Rahalewich, Robert Sentz, Wayne Buchter, Jessica Clements.

May God remember the souls of the departed servants: Fr. Michael Slovesko, Miroslav Pantelich, Gregory Anstine, Jan Zaprudnik, Cathy Brensinger, Nenad Pantlich, Tracy Stanovic, Thomas Vracharich. William Yovanovich.

Those that need special care: Barbara Pantelich, Antony Vracharich, Stacy Stanovich, John Marinkov, Dorothy Kerestter, Tom (Atanasij) Maransky, Dewey Yetter, Lillian and Bob Sentz.

From the Synaxarion...

THE ENTRY INTO THE TEMPLE OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS

When the Most-holy Virgin Mary reached the age of three, her holy parents Joachim and Anna took her from Nazareth to Jerusalem to dedicate her to the service of God according to their earlier promise. It was a three-day journey from Nazareth to Jerusalem but, traveling to do a God-pleasing work, this journey was not difficult for them. Many kinsmen of Joachim and Anna gathered in Jerusalem to take part in this event, at which the invisible angels of God were also present. Leading the procession into the Temple were virgins with lighted tapers in their hands, then the Most-holy Virgin, led on one side by her father and on the other side by her mother. The virgin was clad in vesture of royal magnificence and adornments as was befitting the "King's daughter, the Bride of God" (Psalm 45:13-15). Following them were many kinsmen and friends, all with lighted tapers. Fifteen steps led up to the Temple. Joachim and Anna lifted the Virgin onto the first step, then she ran quickly to the top herself, where she was met by the High Priest Zacharias, who was to be the father of St. John the Forerunner. Taking her by the hand, he led her not only into the Temple, but into the "Holy of Holies," the holiest of holy places, into which no one but the high priest ever entered, and only once each year, at that. St. Theophylact of Ohrid says that Zacharias "was outside himself and possessed by God" when he led the Virgin into the holiest place in the Temple, beyond the second curtain--otherwise, his action could not be explained. Mary's parents then offered sacrifice to God according to the Law, received the priest's blessing and returned home. The Most-holy Virgin remained in the Temple and dwelt there for nine full years. While her parents were alive, they visited her often, especially Righteous Anna. When God called her parents from this world, the Most-holy Virgin was left an orphan and did not wish to leave the Temple until death or to enter into marriage. As that would have been against the Law and custom of Israel, she was given to St. Joseph, her kinsman in Nazareth, after reaching the age of twelve. Under the acceptable role of one betrothed, she could live in virginity and thus fulfill her desire and formally satisfy the Law, for it was then

unknown in Israel for maidens to vow virginity to the end of their lives. The Most-holy Virgin Mary was the first of such life-vowed virgins, of the thousands and thousands of virgin men and women who would follow her in the Church of Christ.

REFLECTION

Submit yourself to the will of God and do not pry too closely into God's judgments, for you can lose your mind. The judgments of God are innumerable and unfathomable. A monk in the wilderness, imagining that he had attained perfection, prayed to God that He would reveal to him His various judgments in the lives of men. God put the thought in his mind to go to a distant place to inquire of a spiritual elder concerning this. However, while the monk was on his way, an angel of God in the form of an ordinary man joined him, saying that he too wanted to go to that elder. Thus traveling together, they came upon the house of a God-fearing man, who treated them well, giving them to eat from a silver platter. When they had eaten, the angel took the platter and threw it into the sea. The monk found this both amazing and unjust, but he remained silent. The second day they came upon the house of another hospitable man who cordially received and treated them as kinsmen. Before leaving, that man brought out his only son for the travelers to bless. The angel of God then took the child by the throat and strangled him. The monk was greatly angered and asked the angel who he was, and why he had committed such misdeeds. The angel meekly replied to him: "The first man was pleasing to God in all things and had nothing in his house that was attained by injustice except that silver platter. By God's judgment, I threw that stolen platter away, so that the man would be righteous before God in all things. The other man was pleasing to God and had nothing in his house that would bring down the wrath of God except his son, who--had he matured--would have become a great criminal and a demonic vessel. Therefore, by God's judgment, I strangled that child in time to save his soul, for the sake of his father's goodness, and to save the father from many miseries. Behold, such are the mysteries and the unfathomable judgments of God. And you, elder, should return to your cell and not strive vainly by inquiring into that which is in the authority of the One God."

CHURCH BULLETIN

DECEMBER 4TH, 2022

25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

THE ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE



HOLY RESURRECTION OF CHRIST SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

120 East Weidman Street
Lebanon, PA 17046

Parish Priest - Fr. Borjan Vitanov

Phone: 240-367-2130

e-mail: o.borjan@gmail.com

holyresurrectionofchrist.com