

September 8, 2019

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

Diocese of Toledo - Orthodox Church in America

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The Gospel according to Luke

1:39-49, 56 (Matins Gospel for Nativity of the Theotokos)

Now Mary arose in those days and went into the hill country with haste, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spoke out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord.” And Mary said: “My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed. For He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And Mary remained with her about three months, and returned to her house.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019 12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary . Sunday before Elevation. Icons of the Most-holy Theotokos: “KURSK-ROOT” Icon of the Sign (1259), “POCHAEV” (1559), “KHOLMSK”, and others.

FIRST ANTIPHON

O Lord, remember David // and all his meekness.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Lo, we heard of it in Ephratha: // we found it in the woods!

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Glorious things are spoken of you, // O City of God!

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved; // God shall help her right early!

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

SECOND ANTIPHON

The Lord has sworn and oath to David // from which He shall not turn back!

O Son of God, who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!

Of the fruit of your body // I will set upon your throne!

O Son of God, who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!

There I will make the horn of David to flourish: // I have ordained a lamp for My anointed!
O Son of God, who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!

For the Lord has chosen Zion, // He has desired it for His habitation!

O Son of God, who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee! Alleluia!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.
Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and wast crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us!

THIRD ANTIPHON

Here will I dwell for I have desired it!

(Tone 4) Your nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

Your birth, O Theotokos, has brought joy!

(Tone 4) Your nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

The Most High has sanctified His tabernacle!

(Tone 4) Your nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

TROPARIA

(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.

(Tone 4) Your nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from you, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

KONTAKION

(Tone 4) By your nativity, O most pure Virgin, Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness; Adam and Eve from the corruption of death. And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to you: the barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our Life.

The Prokeimenon in the Sixth Tone: O Lord, save Thy people / and bless Thine inheritance!

v. To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE GALATIANS (6:11-18) *Brethren:* See with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Alleluia, Tone 1

v. **I have exalted one chosen out of My people.**

v. **For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN (3:13-17) Jesus answered Nicodemus, saying: “No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And 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, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.”

Instead of “It is truly meet...” we sing, “Magnify, O my soul” Magnify, O my soul, the most glorious Nativity of the Mother of God. Virginity is foreign to mothers; childbearing is strange for virgins. But in you, O Theotokos, both were accomplished! For this, all the earthly nations unceasingly magnify you!

COMMUNION HYMN

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary (September 8) The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind. The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God’s mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feastsdays at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God’s mercy on her family.

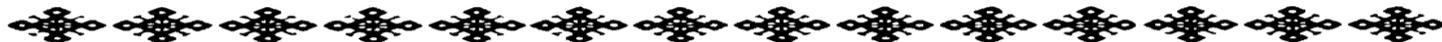
The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: “the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls” (2nd Stikhera on “Lord, I Have Cried”, Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Theotokos marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Theotokos is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion. www.oca.org

September 8, 2019



CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR THE HEALTH AND BLESSINGS OF

Fr. Tom, Fr. Paul, Fr. Joe, Fr. Dimitrie, Fr. Anthony, Matushka Rose Marie, Joan, Angelo, Christine, Dorothy, Peter, Reggie, Anna, Alex, Irene, Allen, Deborah, Rimi, Susan, Luba, Kosta, Stojan, Mira, Bosa, Christopher, Allison, Jeanette, Nicholas, Margaret, Joseph, Ted, Marlene, Gladys, my family and friends

Joe Tome
Joe Tome

Special Intention

God's blessing for health & healing for Mary Popoff after surgery. Health & blessings for Angelo Popoff

Helen Popoff
Alex & Magda Popoff
Mom
Baba

Mary, Angelo, Anna & Alex

David & Ashley Goodman Happy Anniversary~blessings

Joe Neely Happy Birthday~blessings

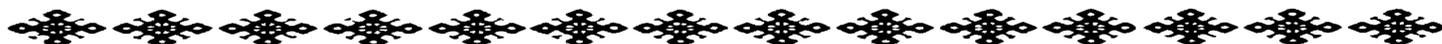
CANDLE INTENTIONS FOR BLESSED REPOSE

Rose Goodman~Blessed Repose

Peter Popoff

Joe Goodman (5 yrs.) Blessed Repose~Memory Eternal

Goodman family
Alex & Magda Popoff
Dorothy & family



WELCOME to all our friends and visitors. Please join us in our fellowship hall for lunch & Bingo.

FLOWERS FOR THE CROSS Would you like to help defray the cost (\$130) of the wreath for the Elevation of the Cross celebration on September 15th? If so, just mark your donation "flowers". You can also use Givelify or call the office to use a credit card.

PROSFORA FOR DIVINE LITURGY is needed. Anyone who can bake some it would be greatly appreciated. There is a prosfora seal available if anyone needs to borrow one.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING on Tuesday, September 10th at 6 pm.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Tuesday, September 10th at 6:30 pm. Please email or call the office if you cannot attend. Meeting information will be emailed on Monday.

COMMUNITY PET BLESSING September 10th at 6:30 at Adopt-A-Pet in Fenton. St. Mary Magdalene provides a pet blessing in conjunction with adopt-a-pet.

CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS



❖ Church School will begin on Sunday, September 15th. The New Year will begin with prayers during the Liturgy for the teachers and students and a blessing after Communion for them as they go to class. Remember the Noisy Offering. See you then!

KONEVETS QUARTET Tuesday, September 17th at 6:30 pm. We need desserts for the reception afterwards (preferably finger foods) as well as help serving & cleaning up. There is a signup sheet in the parish hall. Please spread the word! There are also flyers you can take to post in your community.

MIDDLE EASTERN LUNCHEON & BAKE SALE September 19th 11 am – 3 pm at St. George. Flyers are in the parish hall.

OUR CHARITY MINISTRIES

HOPE IN A BOX is collecting bar & hand soap for the month of September. Place the items in the blue box in the hall. Catholic Charities Community Closet will distribute the items.

FOOD DRIVE Place non-perishable food items in the other blue box in the hall.



ORTHODOX WOMEN 27th ANNUAL RETREAT October 4, 5 & 6 at the Holy Dormition Monastery.

DIOCESAN CONFERENCE DINNER is on Saturday, October 5th. Guest price for tickets will be \$25 per person.

To my Family at St. Nicholas,

I wanted to start by saying thank you to everyone for all that they have done over the past 12 years or so since moving to the Flint area. It has helped me to become who I am today, and I am forever grateful.

As I write this (Aug 31), I have just finished my first week of classes, and have gone through one gameday here at Iowa State. The overall atmosphere here is different than anything at Michigan State, Michigan, or that certain team a few hours south from the church. I have been lucky enough to be surrounded by an amazing group of people on my floor, and lots of great things have happened.

Classes have been fun and invigorating so far. Thankfully, I don't have to walk too far to get to classes, but I'm still putting in about 5 miles of walking a day while classes are in session. One of the dining halls had spanikopita and lamb for dinner, and while they were good for a college campus, it was nothing compared to what's made at St. Nicholas.

The OCF here at ISU will be starting up meetings sometime after September 11th, but I have been able to meet with some of the current members of the OCF and freshmen like me who are Orthodox.

I hope everyone is doing well, and I send prayers from my dorm room in Ames.

God Bless, Taras

Weekly Schedule:

Today Bingo after Liturgy. 3 bingo cards & lunch is only \$10 or just lunch for \$5. Plenty of prizes & fun fellowship.

Tuesday, Sept 10

6 pm Nominating Committee Meeting
6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, Sept 11

9:30 am Divine Liturgy
11:30 am Adult Ed Class

Friday, Sept 13

7 pm OCF at St. George. Guest speaker is Fr. Matthew

Saturday, Sept 14

10 am **Elevation of the Cross**
Pan-Orthodox Liturgy at St. George followed by Lenten lunch and Pan-Orthodox Vespers

Sunday, Sept. 15

9:30 am Hours
10 am Divine Liturgy / Noisy Offering / Church School begins / Parastas for Luka Prusac (1 yr.)

Offerings for the week September 1st, 2019

Weekly Offerings	\$ 2,677.00
Estimated Average Weekly Expenses	\$ 3,236.00
	\$ -559.00

80 people were in attendance on Sunday, September 1st.

Your Nativity, O Virgin, has proclaimed joy to the whole universe! The Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, has shone from You, O Theotokos! By annulling the curse, He bestowed a blessing. By destroying death, He has granted us eternal Life.. – **Troparion of the Nativity of the Theotokos**