

Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

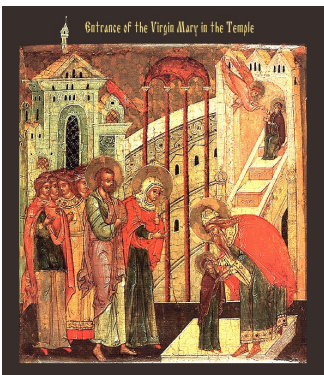
When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents fulfilled their vow, gathering together relatives and acquaintances, and dressing the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15) where the High Priest and several priests met her. Fifteen high steps led up to the sanctuary. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, by inspiration, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1:28; Luke 2:37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said Saint Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian."

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. St. Gregory of Nyssa, in the 4th century, also mentions this Feast. In the 8th century Sts. Germanus and Tarasius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, delivered sermons on the Feast of the Entry.

(Taken from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/11/21/103357-the-entry-of-the-most-holy-mother-of-god-into-the-temple>)



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor

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November 21, 2021

FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE



Tone 5 - Eothion 11

Orthros Gospel: St. John 21:14-25

Epistle: Hebrews 9:1-7

**Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 10:38-42;
11:27-28**

RESURRECTION TROPARION - Tone 5 - Let us believers praise and worship the Word, coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation; for he took pleasure in ascending the cross in the flesh, to suffer death, and to raise the dead by his glorious resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS - Tone 4 - Today the Virgin is the foreshadowing of the pleasure of God, and the beginning of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. Thou hast appeared in the Temple of God openly and hast gone before, preaching Christ to all. Let us shout with one thrilling voice, saying: Rejoice, O thou who art the fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

TODAY: *Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission, 9 a.m.*
ORTHROS & Confessions 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Sunday School, Catechism, & Coffee Hour
Parish Council

40 Days of Growth in Stewardship continues!!

Theme: "I Seek Not Yours, but You"

****PLEASE RETURN YOUR PLEDGE CARDS****

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday 10:00 - 3:00

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. If you or anyone you know is in the hospital or homebound and would like a visit, please call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

	This Week:	Next Week (Nov 28):
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabi & Catalin T.	MaryLynne B.
ALTAR CANDLES:	----	----
USHERS:	Dan M. & Rdr. Nick Muz.	Steve K. & Bill H.
ALTAR BOYS:	“Archangel Gabriel”	“Archangel Michael”
CLEANING TEAM:	Sdn. John & Maxine	Moodys & Natalia M.
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Angie; Conor; Nathan, Rebecca, & Teens	Chris H.; Maria S.; Amelia

Mark Your Calendar:

Liturgy (St. Katherine & Thanksgiving)

Thursday, November 25, 9 a.m.

St. Nicholas Services

Sunday, December 5

Vespers & Kids Activity, 6:30 pm

Monday, December 6

Orthros 9am & Liturgy 10 am

Feast of the Nativity of Christ

Friday, December 24

Royal Hours, 7:45 am

Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil, 9 am

Festal Orthros, 9:30 pm

Divine Liturgy, 11 pm

Saturday, December 25

Vespers for the Synaxis

of the Theotokos, 12 pm

Sunday, December 26

Orthros 8:45 am; Liturgy 10 am

Pray For:

Living	Departed
Jack	
Nicole	(November Parish
Sze Tatiana	Diptychs)
Joanne	+Joseph
Mona-Rebecca	+Peter
Patrick	+Ellen
Doris	+Evelyn
John	+Ksenia
James	+William
Lasha B	+Elizabeth
Otari B	
Peter	
Anesia	
Madelyne	
Mark	
Nancy-Anna	
Paraskevas	
Victoria	
Gloria	
Helen	
	<u>Catechumens</u>
Priest Thomas, Elizabeth,	Shaun,
Jesse, Bill, Elaine	Laura,
& all Missionaries	Taylor,
New & Expectant Mothers	Tim & Luke,
& their children	Kate,
For the people of our	Tyson,
land and their	Joseph & Alana,
repentance, healing &	Ryan,
unity	Michael, Tina

OFFERINGS 11/14: Candles, \$390. Collections, \$245. Youth, \$1. Book Shelf Ministry, \$159. Classical School Fund, \$588. Needy Fund, \$220.50. Building Fund, \$764. Ukrainian Orphanage, \$151. Stewardship, \$4,817.52. Total received: \$.

We have 40 pledges toward 2022 totaling \$89,144 or 28.1% of our 2022 budget.

THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



THANK YOU TO ALL WHO MADE OUR FESTIVAL POSSIBLE THIS YEAR!!

Despite the challenges with rescheduling and weather, our 9th International Food Festival was a success! May God bless our efforts.

This Week:

NATIVITY FAST CONTINUES – Nov 15–Dec 24

Mon, Nov 22: Church open

Tues, Nov 23: 6th Hour Prayers 12 noon
Matushka Olga Sewing Club 1 p.m.

Office closed – Nov 24-26

Wed, Nov 24: Little Compline 6:30 p.m.
Patristic Reading Group 7 p.m.

Thurs, Nov 25: Liturgy for St. Katherine & Thanksgiving
9 a.m.

Friday, Nov 26: Advent Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.

Sat, Nov 27: Great Vespers & Artoklasia 6:30 p.m.
Confessions 7:30 p.m.

Sun, Nov 28: ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Sunday School & Catechism
Coffee Hour

NOVEMBER OUTREACH COLLECTION: TURKEYS & HAMS

CHALLENGE FOR 2021:

“Your Body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit”

The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts 11:26)