

# The Nativity of the Theotokos

September 8

## Services:

### At St Philip Church

*Thursday, September 7, 2017*

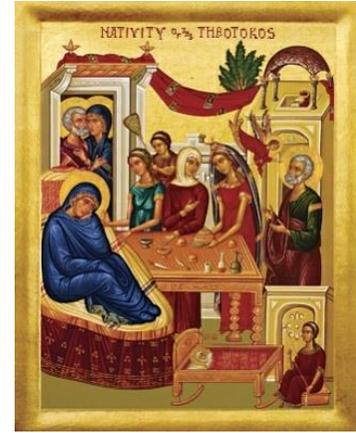
6:00 pm - Vespers & Artoklasia

7:00 pm - Orthros

*Friday, September 8, 2017*

10:00 am - Divine Liturgy

11:30 am - Potluck luncheon (fish, wine, and oil)



### Scripture readings:

Lk 1:39-49, 56; Phil 2:5-11; Lk 10:38-42, 11:27-28

## The Synaxarion:

On September 8 in the Holy Orthodox Church we celebrate the Nativity of our Most-holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary.

### Verses:

Truly, O Anna, thou surpassest all mothers,  
Until that day thy daughter shall become a mother.  
On the eighth Anna brought God's Mother into the light.

The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams; for He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. She was Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, and the Fount of virginity and purity. Through the intercessions of Thy Mother, O Christ God, have mercy upon us. Amen.

### **Apolytikion of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone Four)**

Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

## **Kontakion**

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

## **Doxasticon (Tone Six)**

This is the day of the Lord; wherefore, rejoice ye nations; for behold the chamber of Light, the scroll of the Word of life hath come forth from the womb; the gate facing the east hath been born. Wherefore, she awaiteth the entrance of the High Priest. And she alone admitted Christ into the universe for salvation of our souls.

## **More Resources:**

<http://www.antiochian.org/nativityoftheotokos>

<https://www.goarch.org/en/nativity-theotokos>

## **How to Celebrate the Feast:**

Invite a friend to church.

A festal meal with your family and god family.

Give Alms. Help someone. Be bold in generosity!

Visit relatives, friends and neighbors (especially those in assisted living, who are homebound, or in the hospital).

Listen to an AncientFaith.com podcast on the Nativity.

Have an extended amount of prayerful silence with the Jesus Prayer.

Be more childlike.