

## Afterfeast of the Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple (November 24)

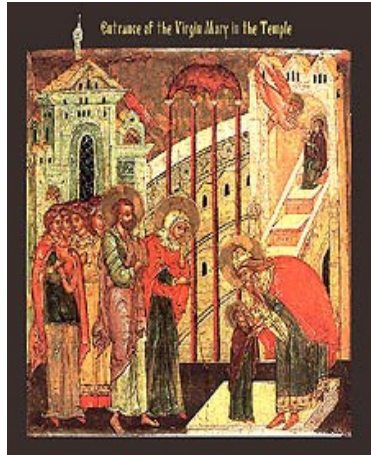
According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed 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). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. 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, through inspiration from above, 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.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture, 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."

Text & icon <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2024/11/23/103374-afterfeast-of-the-entry-of-the-most-holy-mother-of-god-into-the>



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



## ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Antiochian Archdiocese

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*His Grace Bishop THOMAS*



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**November 24, 2024**

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY OF LUKE  
AFTER-FEAST OF THE ENTRANCE  
OF THE THEOTOKOS

### COMMEMORATIONS:

OUR HOLY FATHER CLEMENT, POPE OF ROME,  
PETER, ARCHBISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA,  
HERMOGENES, THE MARTYR, AFTERFEAST OF  
THE ENTRY OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE  
TEMPLE, PHILOUMENOS AND CHRISTOPHER THE  
MARTYRS

**Tone 5 - Eothion 11**

Orthros Gospel: St. John 21:14-25

Epistle: Galatians 6:11-18

Liturgy Gospel: St. Luke 18:18-27

**TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION - 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 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:

- ✦ ORTHROS - 8:15 a.m.
- ✦ Ft. Washington Mission Chapel Liturgy - 9:00 a.m.
- ✦ Divine LITURGY - 9:30 a.m.
- ✦ Coffee Hour & Sunday School following Liturgy

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Office Hours: Monday through Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. Please contact them directly or call the church office.

