

# The Forerunner

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HE MUST INCREASE.....AND I MUST DECREASE. (JOHN 3:30)

## Entrance of the Theotokos to the Temple

The second great feast of the Theotokos is the celebration of her entrance as a child into the Jerusalem Temple which is commemorated on the twenty-first of November. Like the feast of her nativity, this feast of Mary is without direct biblical and historical reference. But like the nativity, it is a feast filled with important spiritual significance for the Christian believer.

The texts of the service tells how Mary was brought as a small child to the temple by her parents in order to be raised there among the virgins consecrated to the service of the Lord until the time of their betrothal in marriage. According to Church tradition, Mary was solemnly received by the temple community which was headed by the priest Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. She was led to the holy place to be nourished there by the angels in order to become herself the “*holy of holies*” of God, the living sanctuary and temple of the Divine child who was to be born in her.

There is no doubt that the verses of the Old Testamental Psalm 45, used extensively in the services of the feast, provided a great inspiration for the celebration of Mary’s consecration to the service of God in the Jerusalem Temple.

*Hear, O Daughter, 'and consider and incline your ear; forget your people and your father's house, and the king will desire your beauty. Since he is your Lord, bow to him...*

*The princess is decked in her chamber with gold-woven robes, in many-colored robes she is led to her king, with her virgin companions, her escort, in her train.*

*With joy and gladness they are led along, as they enter the palace of the king.*

*Instead of your fathers shall be your sons; you will make them princes in all the earth. I will cause your name to be celebrated in all generations, therefore, the peoples will praise you forever and ever.*

*(Psalm 45:10-17)*

The Orthodox Church understands these words of the psalm to be a prophecy directly related to Mary the Theotokos. According to the Gospel of Saint Luke which is read at the Vigil of each of her feasts, Mary herself speaks the following words:

*My soul magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, hence-forth all generations shall call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation.*

*(Luke 1:47-50)*

The main theme of the feast of Mary's entrance to the Temple, repeated many times in the liturgical services, is the fact that she enters the Temple to become herself the living temple of God, thus inaugurating the New Testament in which are fulfilled the prophecies of old that "the dwelling of God is with man" and that the human person is the sole proper dwelling place of the Divine Presence. (Ezekiel 37:27; John 14:15-23; Acts 7:47; II Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 2:18-22; 1 Peter 2:4; Revelation 22:1-4)

*Today is the preview of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The Virgin appears in the temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: Rejoice, O Divine Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.*

*(Troparion)*

*The most pure Temple of the Saviour, the precious Chamber and Virgin, the Sacred Treasure of the Glory of God, is presented today to the house of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, which the angels of God do praise. Truly this woman is the Abode of Heaven!*

*(Kontakion)*

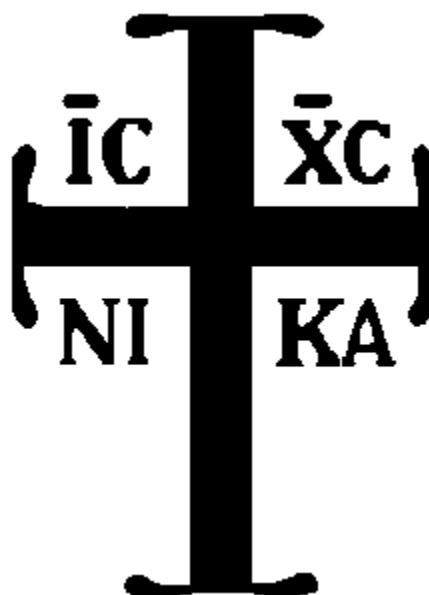
The fortieth chapter of Exodus about the building of the tabernacle is read at Vespers, together with passages from the First Book of Kings and the Prophecy of Ezekiel. Each one of these readings all end with exactly the same line, *"for the glory of the Lord filled the house (tabernacle) of the Lord God Almighty."* (Exodus 40:35; I Kings 8:11; Ezekiel 44:4)

Once again on this feast, the Old Testament readings are interpreted as symbols of the Mother of God. This “*glory of the Lord*” is referred to the Mother of Christ and it “*fills*” her and all people after her who “*hear the word of God and keep it*” as the Gospel of the festal liturgy proclaims. (Luke 11:37-28) The epistle reading at the Divine Liturgy also proclaims this very same theme. (Hebrews 9:1-7)

Thus, the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple is the feast which celebrates the end of the physical temple in Jerusalem as the dwelling place of God. When the child Mary enters the temple, the time of the temple comes to an end and the “*preview of the good will of God*” is shown forth. On this feast we celebrate-in the person of Christ’s mother-that we too are the house and tabernacle of the Lord.

*... We are the temple of the living God, as God said, “I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”*

*(II Corinthians 6: 11; Isaiah 52:1 1)*



## FALL SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL

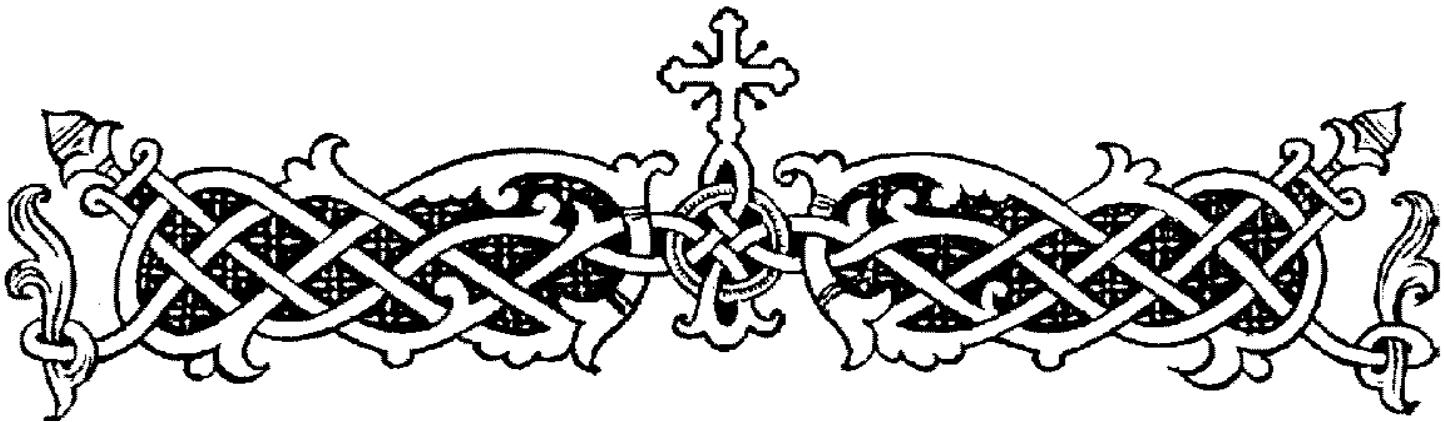
The Fall Festival this year is set for **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19<sup>th</sup>**. Foods will be prepared the entire week leading up to the event. Mark your calendar for that week, and do your part to support this major fund-raising effort of St. John's Church. Because this is only a one day event, it should be possible for everyone to do something for the festival.

Cash donations to help offset the cost of the event are welcome. The expenses will run somewhere around \$2,000. An envelope is attached to the last page of this newsletter. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated.

An additional part of our festival will be the bake sale. There will be several types of Pies and Rolls available, but this alone is not enough to fill our tables. We need all bakers to make various cookies, cakes, bars, and breads to make a good selection of things to sell to the public. As is the case with everything else, cash donations to offset the cost of purchased baked goods are welcome.

Since we need as many workers as possible, a job sign-up sheet will be posted in the parish hall with a list of tasks open. Parishioners are encouraged to sign up freely so that they don't have to be assigned to something they might not like.

A Chinese Auction will also be held, and since the day will soon be upon us, it's not too early to donate a basket, or put money toward a basket.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### OCTOBER

Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers (Pokrov) – 6:30 PM

**Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> – Protection of the Mother of God (Pokrov)**

– Festal Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM

Thursday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> – Panihida (Vicki Kiproff's 9<sup>th</sup> day) - 6:30 PM

**Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM**

**Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

– Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup> – Daily Vespers – 6:30 PM

**Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM**

**Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

– Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup> – Perogie Workshop

Morning Shift – 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Evening Shift – 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> – Perogie Workshop – 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> – Stuffed Cabbage Making – 8:00 AM

Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup> – FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR FESTIVAL

**Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – FOOD FESTIVAL – 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

**NO VESPERS**

**Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

– Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

**Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> – Daily Vespers – 6:30 PM**

**Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM**

**Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

**- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

**Wednesday, October 30<sup>th</sup> – Daily Vespers – 6:30 PM**

**Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup> – Moleben to St. Panteleimon – 6:30 PM**

## **NOVEMBER**

**Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> – ARCHDIOCESAN ASSEMBLY**

**- HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY – TBA**

**- ASSEMBLY – After Divine Liturgy**

**- Great Vespers and Confession – 6:00 PM**

**Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

**- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

**Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> – Daily Vespers – 6:30 PM**

**Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confession – 6:00 PM**

**Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

**- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

**Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup> – Daily Vespers – 6:30 PM**

**Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup> - Moleben to St. Panteleimon - 6:30 PM**

**Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup> – BEGINNING OF NATIVITY FAST**

**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup> - Great Vespers & Confession - 6:00 PM**

**Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

**- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

**Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers (Entry) – 6:30 PM**

**Thursday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup> – Entry of the Mother of God into the Temple**

**- Festal Divine Liturgy – 9:00 AM**

**Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> - Great Vespers & Confession - 6:00 PM**

**Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

**- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

**Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> – Daily Vespers – 6:30 PM**

**Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> - THANKSGIVING**

**Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup> – Great Vespers & Confession – 6:00 PM**

**Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pentecost**

**- Resurrection Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**

## **ALTAR CANDLES**

**Thursday, August 1<sup>st</sup>** - donated by Mark, Susan, Jayme, and Megan Kennedy for the health and well-being of Alan Miller on his Birthday!

**Sunday, August 4<sup>th</sup>** - donated by Julianne and Lon Dailey for the health and well-being of Damian James Ziatyk on the occasion of his Baptism!

**Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>** - donated by Valerie Kennedy in memory of Mary Fritzky on her Birthday.

**A New Resurrection Candle** was donated by Valerie Kennedy in memory of Alan Kennedy as well as Pearl and Stanley Zalupski.

**Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup>** - donated for the health and well-being of Hope Cain on her birthday!

**Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>** - donated by Marlene Wray and Linda Soulcheck for the health and well-being of Janet Soulcheck on her Birthday.

**Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>** - donated by Fr. Paul and Matushka Helen Ziatyk in memory of John Ziatyk.

**3 Candles in Front of the Golgotha** were donated in memory of Alex Papaila, donated by Subdeacon Harry and Catherine Papaila.

**3 Candles at St. Panteliemon's shrine** were donated for the

health and well-being of Fr. Paul Ziayk by Subdeacon Harry and Catherine Papaila.

**Thursday, August 29<sup>th</sup>** - donated by Fr. Paul and Matushka Helen Ziatyk for the health and well-being of Matushka Helen, Julliane Daily, Jacqueline and Zachary Ziatyk on their birthdays!

**Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>** - donated for the health and well-being of Fr. Dn. Joseph and Matushka Katherine Rabickow on their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** - donated for the health and well-being of Fr. Paul and Matushka Helen on their 52<sup>nd</sup> wedding anniversary.

**Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>** - donated by Valerie Kennedy in memory of Harry Fritzky.

**Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>** - donated by Anne Smurhat for the health and well-being of Giovanni Costanzo on his 9th Birthday!

**Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>** - donated by The Parish Youth Group for the health and well-being of Fr. Paul Ziatyk

**Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>** - donated in memory of Alan Kennedy as well as Pearl and Stanley Zalupski by Valerie Kennedy.

**FALLING ASLEEP:** Vacilika "Vicki" Kiproff passed away Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> after a sudden stroke. A Panikhida will be served for her 9<sup>th</sup> day on Thursday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 PM.

**Memorial Donation in Memory of Ida Rabickow**  
From Evelyn Herrick

# THANK YOU!

**PEROGIES 8/12:** Don and Dorothy Chlodney, Nick Bia, Valerie Kennedy, Fr. Nikolai, Matushka Mila, Don Rywak, Harry Papaila. Leon and Ellie Parshook, Richard and Elaine Duncan, Vicki and Peter Kiproff, Kita Georgevich, Becky Hanes, and Mike Danny

**PEROGIES 9/8-10:** Frank Kaminsky, Don and Dorothy Chlodney, Barbara Haught, Annette Smurphat, Nick Bia, Carolyn and Bobbie Blazina, Don Rywak, Valerie Kennedy, Bruce, Linda, and Alexis Parshook, Hope Cain, Joan Hughes, Becky Hanes, Becky Hixson, Mark and Susan Kennedy, Fr. Nikolai, Matushka Mila, Vicki and Peter Kiproff, Ron Trebilcock, Kita Georgevich, Fr. Paul, Evelyn Herrick, Richard and Elaine Duncan, and Harry Papaila

**APPLE PIE PROJECT 9/17:** Barbara Haught, Don and Dorothy Chlodney, Fr. Nikolai, Becky Hixson, Kita Georgevich, Richard and Elaine Duncan, and Joan Hughes

**The Anonymous Donor** who donated \$1250 for two new Freezers, THANK YOU!

**Karen Kaminsky** – Who donated the Planters on the steps in the front of the Church.

## Thanksgiving Pies

Apple, Pumpkin, Cherry, and Peach Pies will be sold on Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. To Order, Please call Fr. Nikolai at the Parish Office - (724) 337-8162 or Email: [saintjohnnewken@gmail.com](mailto:saintjohnnewken@gmail.com)

# VIGIL LIGHTS 4/07 - 8/25

Alan Kennedy – 18	George Eror – 1
Donald Chlodney - 16	Oklahoma Tornado Victims – 1
Edward and Dorothy Strochman – 12	Deacon Joseph – 1
Janie Borichevsky – 1	Matushka Katherine – 1
Elaine and Richard Duncan – 1	Faith Hughes – 1
Fr. Paul and Matushka Helen – 13	Baby Damian Ziatyk – 9
Fr. Nikolai and Matushka Mila – 13	Mia Scarano – 1
Adrian Zola – 1	Nineteen Arizona Firefighters – 1
Vera Scott – 1	Patricia Croissant – 1
Elaine Boris – 2	John McNally – 1
Eric, Tammie, Dominic Scarano – 1	Harry Papaila – 1
Mary Eror and Christine Scott – 2	Catherine Papaila – 1
George Eror & George and Mary – 1	Dawn Miller – 1
Nick Fitsames – 1	Father Nikolai – 1
Val Zola and Family - 1	Judith Goldberg – 1
Boston Marathon Victims – 1	David Gregory Villella – 1
Texas Explosion Victims – 1	Polly Hwostow – 1
Mathew Zalupski – 1	Sergei and Marina – 1
Anthony Hwostow – 1	John Hicks – 1
Vicky Kaminsky Baker – 2	Hope Cain – 1
Willaim Croissant – 2	Jeanette McDoragh – 1
Beverly Bush -1	Eric, Tommie, Dominic & Miabella
Mary Hatalsky -2	Scarano – 1
Edward Sirochman – 4	Julia Lodge - 1

## ADDITIONAL MOTHER'S DAY VIGILS

<u>Living</u> Matushka Helen Julianne Dailey Genevieve Ziatyk	<u>Departed</u> Pauline Ziatyk Rose Thomas Mary Ziatyk Pauline Radon Catherine Radon
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# Fall Slavic Food Festival

Saturday,  
October 19<sup>th</sup> 2013  
9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

**St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church  
150 Elmtree Road, New Kensington, PA 15068**

**Delicious Ethnic Foods: Stuffed Cabbage! Perogies! Holushki!  
Kolbasi and Kraut! Homemade Borscht and Vegetable Soup!**

**Delectible Baked Goods: Nut, Poppyseed, Apricot, and Cream Cheese  
Rolls! Breads, Pies, and Cakes! As well as much more!**

**TAKE-OUTS AVAILABLE!**