

ST. ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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December 4, 2016

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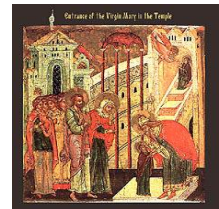
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The Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple

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 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. (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, 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 (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 Scripture Readings

1st Epistle - Ephesians 2:14-22 1st Gospel - Luke 12:16-21

2nd Epistle - Hebrews 9:1-7 2nd Gospel - Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28

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VISITS Monday - Mary Jovonovich - Good Samaritan Hospice Thursday - Robert Baron – home Theodore Belich - St Clair Hospital Mike Kozilina - Beaver Meadows Saturday - Joseph Mrkonja - West Hills

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FROM FR. BRANISLAV... ADVENT - Lent began on Monday, November 28th Confessions will be heard preferably by appointment on Saturday night. If you want confessions on Sunday morning be in church before 9 a.m. Confessions will not be heard after 9:30a.m.

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Our Annual Assembly will be held on NEXT Sunday, December 11, 2016 following Divine Liturgy in the church hall. Please note*: At the Nomination Meeting two (2) positions were not filled with a nomination that being TREASURER and one (1) more for MEMBER AT LARGE. A motion was made to fill these two (2) positions at the Annual Meeting. Anyone interested in filling these positions please attend!**

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KCC - TODAY FOLLOWING DIVINE LITUGY we will host a **POSNO BAKE SALE** to aid you through your Advent journey

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ST. ELIJAH CHOIR NEWS THREE THINGS!!!-We will take orders TODAY for our annual **PSENICA KITS** donation is still \$5.00 in advance; see Marlene Volitich to place your pre-paid order. Kits will be distributed on Sunday, December 18th just in time to plant them for Sveti Nikola!

Last day to place your **ANDERSON CANDY orders** for Christmas

Pre-ordered ornaments are ready for pick-up today



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POSNO SOUP AND POGACA will be available for sale the following Sundays: December 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th

Last Sunday being Sunday, January 1st

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Beaver County's Children and Youth Services As in the past, the Advent trees are adorned with ornaments, with a child's name and wishes, in the basement of the church. Please look over the tree and select a child's that you would like to sponsor this year. Please ensure to keep the tag with the child's wishes, and complete the other tag and leave it under the tree. If you have any questions, please contact Georgette Osman at 724-777-4615 or at georgette.osman@comcast.net.

All gifts must be wrapped and in the church by Sunday, December 11th so that we can deliver them to CYC for distribution.

