

**ST. ELIJAH SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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December 3, 2017

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**Monday Dec 4th - The Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple Divine Liturgy 9:30am**

The Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Mother of God happened, according to the preserved accounts of Holy Tradition, in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Righteous Joachim and Anna, in praying for a solution to their childlessness, gave a vow that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached three years of age, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. Having gathered together their kinsfolk and acquaintances, and having dressed the All-Pure Mary in Her finest clothes, and with the singing of sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands they carried Her to the Jerusalem Temple. There the high-priest met the maiden of God. In the Temple, the stairway led up fifteen high steps. The Child Mary, so it seemed, could not Herself make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly made it up over the remaining steps and ascended to the highest. Then the high-priest, through an inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, and herein of all people it was only the high-priest that entered one time a year with a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

Righteous Joachim and Anna, having entrusted their Child to the will of the Heavenly Father, returned home. The Most Blessed Mary remained in the domicile for girls, situated near the Temple. Round about the Temple, through the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Lk. 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters, in which dwelt those dedicated to the service of God.

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

But in the Church tradition there were preserved accounts, that during the time of the stay of the All-Pure Virgin at the Jerusalem Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, read diligently the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handcrafts, prayed constantly and grew in love for God. In remembrance of the Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Jerusalem Temple, Holy Church from ancient times established a solemn feast day.

The feast of the Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Mother of God – foretells the blessing of God for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.

**The Scripture Readings: EPISTLE - Ephesians 5:8-19 GOSPEL - Luke 12:16-21**

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**VISITS:** *Friendship Ridge - Brighton Rehab:* Ted Belich, Cynthia Bratich, Robin Lapceovich, Richard Steinmiller, Sara Jerich Ann Belich Helen Belich Joe & Carol Kascur

*Beaver Medical Center -George Tadich*

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**FUNERAL:** Give rest O Lord to thy departed servant **KATHARINA KOIN** and make her memory to be eternal. Our deepest sympathy is extended to her family, kumovi and friends. **VJECNAJA PAMJAT!**

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**REMINDER** KCC Annual Bake Sale, order forms are located next to the bulletin. **TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO PLACE YOUR ORDERS noodles, nutrolls, sarma and cookies!** We also have frozen strudels for sale forms are also located next to the bulletin. Place your order this week, for strudels and you may pick it up next week. Our sisters thank you!

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**ST. ELIJAH CHOIR NEWS:** We will take orders **TODAY** for our annual **PSENICA KITS** donation is still \$5.00 in advance if you do not need a ribbon \$6.00 if you require a ribbon; see Marlene Volitich to place your pre-paid order. Kits will be distributed on Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> just in time to plant them for Sveti Nikola! We are also selling **ANDERSON CANDY** for Christmas. Please see Cheryl Leydig to place your order today following Divine Liturgy. For those who ordered the **2017 ORNAMENTS** they are available after Liturgy today as well.



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**Our ANNUAL ASSEMBLY will be held on Sunday, December 31, 2017 also immediately following Divine Liturgy. A light lunch of posno soup and pogaca will also be available to partake of before the start of the meeting. PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!**

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**Beaver County's Children and Youth Services-**Once again, we the parishioners of St. Elijah are here to help the Beaver County's Children and Youth Services. Beaver County Children and Youth Services is a state-mandated agency that is a child-centered service dedicated to protecting children from abuse and neglect, while at the same time working to preserve the family unit. We have been given the names of children who have been removed from their homes, and this gift from us will be an unexpected and welcomed brightness in what could be a child's bleakest time. 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 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](mailto:georgette.osman@comcast.net).

All gifts must be wrapped and in the church by Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup> so that we can deliver them to CYS for distribution.

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**ADVENT BEGAN ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup> CONFESSIONS will be heard preferably by appointment on Saturday night, or be in church before 9:00 a.m. on Sunday.**