

DECEMBER 1, 2019

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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. 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 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."

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: EPISTLE-Ephesians 2:14-22 GOSPEL Luke 8:41-56

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UPCOMING SERVICES: On Wednesday, December 4th-The Entry into the Temple of the Most Holy Theotokos Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Saturday, December 7th- Vesper Service 5:30 pm-Bible Study following the service
CONFESSIONS during advent by appointment

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VISITS: Sam Bulat-At Home/Bessie Rocknick-Concordia of Wexford/Patricia Butler, Nell Semick- Franciscan Manor/Elizabeth Zarnich, George Vula,Linda McGeehan-Heritage Valley/Dorothy Maravich, Helen Belich, Carol Kascur/Robin Lapceovich/Richard Steinmiller-Brighton Rehab

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PARASTOS- The Cornerstone Men's Club will have their annual Parastos in loving memory of all their deceased members following Divine Liturgy today.

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CHOIR NEWS: Please see Marlene Volitich following Divine Liturgy to place your PSENICA ORDER. Pick-up will be Sunday, December 15th following Divine Liturgy. Anderson Candy orders may be picked up this day as well.



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COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE- The Communication Committee invites all St. Elijah members and visitors to access and manage their contact information, church involvement and so much more in our NEW and secure online member directory. Please scan the QR with your mobile device to learn how to sign up or visit or church website <https://StElijahAliquippa.com>



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SAVE THE DATES: St. Nicholas Party- December 15th and our Annual Church Assembly is on Sunday December 22nd following the Divine Liturgy in the church hall.

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FAST WITH US- Today is the last day to place your orders for this week's upcoming posno meals. Please complete a form and submit to Kathy Loverich following Divine Liturgy today! Pick-up is between 5:30 pm-6:00 pm Monday thru Saturday.

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THE FELLOWSHIP & MINISTRY COMMITTEE is thankful for the wonderful generosity of our parishioners in the way of food and monetary donations for Faith Restoration Food/Pantry and for monetary donations for college student care packages! Thank you for helping to serve the underserved and supporting our students through their finals.