

priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams. For He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. He illumined them not only with temporal joy, but with eternal joy as well. God gave them just one daughter, and she would later give them just one grandson—but what a daughter and what a Grandson! Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, the Fount of virginity and purity—this was the daughter given by God to Joachim and Anna. She was born in Nazareth, and at the age of three, was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem. In her young womanhood she returned again to Nazareth, and shortly thereafter heard the Annunciation of the Holy Archangel Gabriel concerning the birth of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, from her most-pure virgin body.

Reflection

St. Dionysius the Areopagite writes of the immeasurable joy, the outer and inner radiance, and the indescribable fragrance that he sensed in the presence of the Holy Theotokos when he visited her in Jerusalem. In his zeal, he says that if he had not known the One True God, he would have recognized her, the Holy Virgin Mary, as God. The Holy Virgin made such a powerful and unique impression on men during her earthly life--and she received an incomparably greater power and glory after her physical death when, by the will of God, she was exalted above the heavenly hosts. Her power comes from her ceaseless prayer for the faithful, for all those who turn to her for help. When St. John of Novgorod and his people prayed to her for help against a hostile army, he understood that she was simultaneously praying to the Lord with tears in their behalf, and Novgorod was miraculously saved. As she was compassionate toward her crucified Son, so the Holy Most-pure One is also compassionate toward all those in need, and who turn to her for help. It could be said that the entire earth is covered by the miracles of her mercy. Even today, there lives in Belgrade a café owner (C.J.), who was born in the village of Labunište (Macedonia) outside Struga. His mother brought him blind to the Monastery of Kališto, where, after the priest prayed over him before the icon of the Holy Theotokos, he received his sight. The first monk at Pochaev saw a fiery pillar extending from earth to heaven, and in that flaming pillar he saw the Holy Theotokos. She was standing on a rock. On the spot where she stood, a spring of healing water sprang forth: even today, it heals many of the sick.

Archangel Michael Greek Orthodox Church Bulletin

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September 8, 2024

Sunday Holy Scripture Reading

Apostolic Reading: Galatians 6:11 – 18

Gospel: St. John 3:13 – 17

Services: *Sunday*-8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy, *Weekdays* 8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy when scheduled.

Saints of the Day: Nativity of the Theotokos, Sunday Before the Elevation of the Holy Cross.

Hymns of the Day

Apolytikion of the Resurrection Tone 2

When You descended unto Death, O Lord, You who are immortal Life put Hades to death, by the lightning of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the hosts of heaven sang aloud to You, “O Christ God, Giver of life, glory to You!”

Apolytikion for the Nativity of the Theotokos Tone 4

Your Nativity, O Theotokos, imparted joy to the entire earth, for out of you has risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God. He nullified the curse and instead gave His blessing; and causing death to be neutralized, He granted us eternal life.

Kontakion for the Nativity of the Theotokos Tone 4

Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility's stigma, and Adam and Eve from their mortality's ruin have been set free, O immaculate Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration, redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you, The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.

Hymn to the Theotokos Tone 8

Virginity is a state alien to mothers, * and childbirth is foreign to those who are virgins. * But in you, Theotokos, have both of these been accomplished. * Indeed all generations everywhere * now call you blessed evermore.

Communion Hymn: I will take up the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord. Alleluia.

Divine Services

Wed. Sept. 11: Paraklesis 5pm

Sat. Sept 14: Orthros 8am and Liturgy 9am for the Elevation of the Holy Cross (*This is a strict fast day*). Vespers 5pm.

Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church

Holy Communion of the Orthodox Church is the Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is "*With the fear of God, faith and love*" that we approach the Divine Mysteries. Therefore, Holy Communion is reserved only for those baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer and fasting, as prescribed by the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church. We ask that women, before approaching to receive from the Holy Cup, in respect of our Lord, to please remove lipstick.

Memorial Eternal!

We are very sad to hear the falling asleep of the servant of God +Timothy Luther early Wednesday morning. He is the son of Glen Luther, brother of Ben Luther, Sara LaBrie and Teresa Manesiotis. Services will be announced at a later date. *Everlasting be his memory!*

Coffee Hour Signup

Please consider sponsoring a coffee hour. Donations are welcome!

Sept. 8: Medina and Abdallah Families **Sept. 15:** Georgescu Family

Sept. 22: Sponsor Needed **Sept. 29:** Sponsor Needed

Scam Alert and Cyber Security

We received from our Chancellor, Fr. Lou, there are active and aggressive cyber-actors targeting our Metropolis of Denver and Greek Orthodox Churches across the country. The cyber-criminals are impersonating our Metropolitan, Chancellor and even me, your parish priest. The scammer posing as one of the above named, may ask for money or gift cards. A few of our parishioners over the years have been contacted by a scammer posing as me. **Please know I would not do this or solicit gift cards.** If this happens let me know with a phone call and do not reply to any of these inquiries.

Bookstore and Library

Come downstairs and browse our wonderful selection of new books, Icons, and Orthodox gift items in our well-stocked bookstore. There is something for everyone! *Read often and insatiably the books of the teachers of the Church... ~St. Isaac the Syrian*

Capital Campaign

King Soopers Cards has a Loyalty Card Program that offers 5% of your purchase sent to a designated charity which Archangel Michael is an eligible recipient. You may sign up online or go to the customer service desk.

Inquirers Welcome

Those visiting our parish are welcome to set up a time to speak with Fr. Dennis about the Orthodox faith. Please see Fr. Dennis. Following services or call him on his cell phone listed on the front of the bulletin.

Stewardship 2024

Remember to be current with your stewardship. If you did not receive a 2024 packet, please see Ruxandra Georgescu.

Church School

Today classes for Church School begins. Classes meet following Holy Communion. Please allow the Church School students receive Holy Communion first. See Sara LaBrie for more information.

50th Anniversary of Holy Theophany

Congratulations to our sister parish Holy Theophany/Saints Constantine and Helen Orthodox Church on their 50th Anniversary. They are having a celebratory coffee hour reception today and we are invited to attend. May our Lord grant them more blessed and spiritually productive years!

Greek School

Alex Ellis offering Greek language classes free of charge. Classes began on September 7, 2024. For more information call him at 719.471.015.7

Orthodox Catechism Class

Class will meet September 15, following coffee hour. *All are welcomed to attend!*

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology Appeal

On Sunday, September 8 and 15, we will have a collection for our theological students from the Metropolis of Denver.

13th Annual Greek Night

Our sister parish, St. John the Baptist will be holding their Annual Greek Night on October 12, 2024. This event will be held at Pueblo's Historic Union Depot, 132 West B Street, 5:30 p.m. Cocktail Hour, 6:30 Greek Banquet, 7:30 Greek Dancing. Also, Authentic Greek Desserts, Greek Music, Greek Dancing, Door Prizes, and Cash Drawings. Adults - \$75 Children (12 and under) -\$25. **Please RSVP by Oct. 1, piacoben647@gmail.com** or 719-252-9446, there will be a \$10/person charge for late reservations.

Slavic Fest: October 12-13 at St. Mary's Orthodox Church in Calhan

Saints of the Day

The Nativity of the Most-Holy Theotokos: The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father, and of