



**Sunday December 9, 2018** 28th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3. *The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most-holy Theotokos. Prophetess Anna (Hannah), mother of the Prophet Samuel (ca. 1100 B.C.). St. Sophronius, Archbishop of Cyprus (6th c.). St. Stephen the “New Light” of Constantinople (10th c.). Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos, “UNEXPECTED JOY”.*

### This Week's Schedule

*Saturday 12/15 Great Vespers 5:00 p.m.*

*Sunday 12/16 Hours 8:40 a.m.*

*Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.*

*followed by coffee hour*

### Reader Schedule

<u>DATE</u>	<u>3<sup>RD</sup> HOUR</u>	<u>6<sup>TH</sup> HOUR</u>	<u>EPISTLE</u>
Dec 09	SULPIZI	SOUDER	CAREY
Dec 16	WALES	WALES	WALES
Dec 23	RILEY	RILEY	RILEY
Dec 25	NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST		

## Hymns and Prayers

### Tone 3 Troparion      (*Resurrection*)

Let the heavens rejoice!  
Let the earth be glad!  
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.  
He has trampled down death by death.  
He has become the first born of the dead.  
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,  
and has granted to the world//  
great mercy.

### Tone 4 Troparion      (*Conception of the Theotokos*)

Today the bonds of barrenness are broken:  
God has heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna.  
He has promised them beyond all their hopes to bear the Maiden of God,  
by whom the Uncircumscribed One was born as a mortal Man;  
He commanded an Angel to cry to her:  
“Rejoice, of full of grace,  
the Lord is with you!”

### Tone 3 Kontakion      (*Resurrection*)

On this day You rose from the tomb, O Merciful One,  
leading us from the gates of death.  
On this day Adam exults as Eve rejoices;  
with the Prophets and Patriarchs//  
they unceasingly praise the divine majesty of Your power.

### Tone 4 Kontakion      (*Conception of the Theotokos*)

Today the universe rejoices,  
for Anna has conceived the Theotokos through God’s dispensation,//  
for she has brought forth the one who is to bear the ineffable Word.

### Tone 3 Prokeimenon    (*Resurrection*)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King,  
sing praises! (*Ps 46/47:6*)

v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!  
(Ps 46/47:1)

## Tone 4 Prokeimenon

God is wonderful in His saints, the God of Israel. (Ps 67/68:35)

### Epistle Colossians 1:12-18

Brethren, giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

### Galatians 4:22-31 (Conception of the Theotokos)

For it is written that Abraham had two sons: the one by a bondwoman, the other by a freewoman.

But he who was of the bondwoman was born according to the flesh, and he of the freewoman through promise, which things are symbolic. For these are the two covenants: the one from Mount Sinai which gives birth to bondage, which is Hagar – for this Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia, and corresponds to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children – but the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all.

For it is written: “Rejoice, O barren, You who do not bear! Break forth and shout, You who are not in labor! For the desolate has many more children Than she who has a husband.”

Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are children of promise.

But, as he who was born according to the flesh then persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, even so it is now.

Nevertheless what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the bondwoman and her son, for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.”

So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.

### **Tone 3**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: In You, O Lord, have I hoped; let me never be put to shame! (Ps 30/31:1)*

*v: Be a God of protection for me, a house of refuge in order to save me! (Ps 30/31:2)*

### **Tone 1 (Conception of the Theotokos)**

*v. The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord, and He is their protector in time of affliction. (Ps 36/37:39)*

### **Gospel Luke 17:12-19**

*Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off.*

*And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!”*

*So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.*

*And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God,*

*and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.*

*So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine?*

*Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?*

*And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”*

### **Luke 8:16-21 (Conception of the Theotokos)**

*No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light.*

*For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light.*

*Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him.”*

*Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd.*

*And it was told Him by some, who said, “Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You.”*

*But He answered and said to them, “My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.”*

## **Communion Hymns**

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest! (*Ps 148:1*)  
Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous! Praise befits the just! (*Ps 32/33:1*)  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

### **This Week's Announcement**

**General Cleaning** Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. we will have a general church cleaning in preparation for the feast of Nativity. All help is welcome!

**Poinsettias for Nativity** It's time to order Poinsettias to beautify the church for our Lord's Nativity. Please see Fr. Dn. James if interested.

**Study Group** Our study group will resume this Thursday (Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>) with chapter 5 of the gospel of St. Matthew (*The Sermon on the Mount*). All are welcome to join us!

**Nativity Parish Holy Supper** Holy Supper on Nativity eve is a pious tradition from the Christian faithful of various Eastern European regions. The supper is observed on the eves of our Lord's Nativity in the flesh and His baptism by Saint John in the Jordan River. The meal is a fasting meal with 12 courses representing Christ's twelve apostles. We will once again have a Parish Holy Supper on the Eve of Nativity. We will begin at **5:00 p.m.** followed by Nativity Vigil at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us. Please see the sign up in the Narthex.

**2019 Church Directory** We are currently updating the church directory in preparation for 2019. We are asking parishioners to review the 2018 directory in the Vestibule and to make any necessary changes. For new members, or members not currently listed and would like to be included, please add your information--name(s), address, telephone number(s), email address and also birth date(s) for the Birthday List.

**Bookstore Nativity Gifts** Our Parish Bookstore has a wide selection of gifts for this Nativity season. Stop by and pick something up today!

**The Nativity Fast** This is just a reminder that the Nativity fast continues until Dec. 25th .(please make an effort) The celebration of the feast of the Nativity of Christ in the Orthodox Church is patterned after the celebration of the feast of the Lord's Resurrection. A fast of forty days precedes the feast, with special preparatory days announcing the approaching birth of the Savior. Thus, on Saint Andrew's Day (November 30) and Saint Nicholas Day (December 6) songs are sung to announce the coming birthday of the Lord: 'Adorn yourself, O Cavern. Make ready, O Manger. O Shepherds and wisemen, bring your gifts and bear witness. For the Virgin is coming bearing Christ in her womb' (Vesperal Hymn of Saint Nicholas Day)

**Family Promise** We'll be co-hosting Family Promise January 14, 15 and 17 at St Philips Lutheran Church, 5320 Limestone Rd, Wilmington 19808. Please sign up on the Family Promise board in narthex. We will serve home cooked meals and share fellowship with 4 homeless families in our community. Please see Ellen Gundersen or email her at [puffins1000@gmail.com](mailto:puffins1000@gmail.com) with questions.

**Prophora Baking Lead** We would like to thank our outgoing prophora baking lead Cathy Souder for her work in organizing and leading our prophora baking ministry. We would especially like to thank her for baking much of the small prophora that helps support an Orthodox priest in Africa. May God grant Cathy many years for her service to Christ's Holy Church. With this in mind, we are currently looking for an individual(s) willing to lead and organizing our prophora baking ministry. Please see Fr. Barnabas if interested.

### ***Resisting Royal Temptations***

*In Luke 14: 1-11, Jesus has gone on the Sabbath to dine at the home of one of the rulers of the Pharisees. As usual, they are "watching Him" to see what He will do and whether He might make a mistake. But Jesus is also watching them, and He notices how they choose the places of honor at the table. As a result of His observation, He tells them a parable. The parable cautions against taking a place of honor at a wedding feast, and then having to give it up when a more eminent guest arrives. Rather, you should humbly take the lowest place, and the host will honor you by moving you to a higher one. Jesus' final words in the parable are, "For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."*

*In Galatians 5:22-6:2 Saint Paul lists the fruits of the Spirit, and then writes words that form the basis of fasting: "And those who belong to Christ have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."*

*The prophet Daniel, as an exile in Babylon, had to deal with proud foreign kings. Daniel resisted the temptations these strong-willed royals put in his path, by living up to both the passages we have noted. He humbled himself, and put away the "passions and desires" of the flesh. In Daniel 2, King Nebuchadnezzar has had a troubling dream, and promises great rewards to whoever can interpret it. But none of his wise men can tell him what he dreamed or what it meant. Furious, he threatens that they must find the answer or be "torn limb from limb." The threat includes Daniel.*

*God reveals the dream and its meaning to Daniel, who then comes before the king with the tempting chance to gain untold riches as the great interpreter. Instead, he tells Nebuchadnezzar that no wise men can find the answers, but that "there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries." Daniel goes on: "...not because of any wisdom that I have more than all the living has this mystery been revealed to me, but in order that the interpretation may be known to the king" (2:30). Daniel directs Nebuchadnezzar's attention and thanks to God, humbly refusing to claim special insight.*

*In Daniel 1: 1-15, Nebuchadnezzar favors Daniel with the offer of the same rich food that his courtiers enjoy. Daniel resists this temptation, and persuades the steward to let him observe the Jewish dietary laws. After ten days, seeing how much "better in appearance" Daniel is than the youths who eat richly, the steward begins giving them all vegetables and water. Daniel's fasting thus benefits the whole court.*

*Our temptations may not come from royal sources, but we can still use them, as Daniel used his, to glorify the God we all worship.*

### **Kontakion - Tone 3**

*When your pure heart was purged by the Spirit  
you became a vessel of clear prophecy;  
you saw things far away as though they were near at hand.  
When cast into their den you tamed the lions.*

*Therefore, we honor you, blessed prophet, glorious Daniel.*

*This weekly bulletin insert complements the curriculum published by the Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America. This and many other Christian Education resources are available at*

*<http://dce.oca.org>.*

**Prayers for the Departed:** Archpriest Joseph Martin, Virginia Sekerak  
Marie Holowatch, Maria Proch, Mark Gundersen, John Berket, George  
Sarmousakis, Alfred Mokhiber

**Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need:** Fr. John Zabinko, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Josef Petranin, Fr. John Nightingale, Fr. Deacon James Carpenter, Mat Julia Petranin, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Lemlem Resat, Peter Melnik, Olga Riley, Marie Karawulan, Barbara Hicks, James Hicks, Anna Herko, Luke & Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Maria & Doug Dozier, Mona Elia, Mary Anne Farrell, John Griffith, Cynthia Griffith, Benjamin, Patrica, Lubov Baldychev, Stephanie Hojnicki, Michael Sinovich, Laura Cristina Najemy, Harry Kutch, Dimitrios Jim Petrides,

**Prayers for Catechumen:** Robert Jaquette

**Prayers for Women and the Child to be born:** Ruth Kendall, Catalina Mary Finck

Date	<u>Coffee Hour</u>	<u>Service Duty</u>	<u>Church Clean</u>	<u>Library</u>
<b>9-Dec</b>	Bacuta/Fravel	Hojnicki/Souder	General Cleaning	Farrell
<b>16-Dec</b>	Najemy/Kendall	/Baldychev	Suplizi	Skomorucha
<b>23-Dec</b>	Hojnicki/Flynn/Roberts	Bunitsky/Lewis	Riley	Maloney
<b>30-Dec</b>	Pacienza/George	Elia/Morjana	Bunitsky	Lewis
<b>6-Jan</b>	C. Peck/Sulpizi/Skomorucha	Riley/Riley	Farrell	Gundersen