

Saintly Notes

The Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8)

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 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.

(The Prologue from Ochrid, Lazarica Press, 1985)

Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross and Transference of the Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos

September 7, 2008



Sunday before Exaltation of the Cross

and

Transference of the Feast of Nativity of the Theotokos

All Saints Orthodox Church, Raleigh NC
(www.allsaintsnc.org)
919-859-1332

The V. Rev. Nicholas R. A. Sorensen, Archpriest
The Rev. Philip Pelikan, Priest
The Rev. David Keim, Deacon

September 7, 2008

This Week's Schedule

Today: 9:00a Orthros; 10:00a Divine Liturgy
Monday: Church Office Closed; 7:00p OBF Groups
Tuesday: 7:00p Parish Council
Wednesday: 9:15a Third Hour Prayers; 6:30p Vespers
Saturday: 1:30p Baptism; 5:30p Great Vespers
Sunday: 8:00a Orthros; 9:00a Church School; 10:00a Divine Liturgy

Third Antiphon

for the Nativity of the Theotokos
Tone 4

Here will I dwell, for I have desired it. The Most High hath sanctified His tabernacle. Holy is Thy temple, and wonderful in righteousness.

Troparion of the Nativity of the Theotokos: Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for from thee did shine forth the Sun of justice, Christ our God, annulling the curse, and bestowing the blessing, abolishing death and granting us life everlasting.

Entrance Hymn

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Troparion

for the Resurrection—Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and became the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

Troparion

for the Nativity of the Theotokos
Tone 4

See above.

Kontakion

for the Nativity of the Theotokos
Tone 4

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy

people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee, The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

The Trisagion

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal . . .

Epistle and Gospel

Today and Next Sunday

Today: (See insert)

Next Sunday:

Epistle: 1 Cor. 1:18–24

Gospel: John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30-35

Agalynarion

Tone 8

Magnify, O my soul, the Virgin Mary, born of a barren womb.

Verily, virginity, O Theotokos, is impossible for a mother, as birth-giving is impossible for virgins. Yet in thee hath the dispensation of both been accomplished. Wherefore, all we families of the earth ceaselessly bless thee.

Communion Hymn

Tone 8

I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. Alleluia.

Parish Notes

Altar Servers Today

Alexander Sieck, Alexander Haynes, Ethan Haynes, Rim Gibrealfa, John Pridgen, Jonah Sieck, Michael Fogg, Justin Fogg.

Special Attention

- **Church School and Adult Class to Begin.** Note that Church School and Adult Class will begin again next Sunday (September 14th). Plan now to enroll your children and, whether or

not you have children, to attend Fr. Nicholas' class in the nave. The knowledge that we gain in these classes will be beneficial for our spiritual growth. Please don't miss these educational opportunities in our parish.

- **Dismissal By Rows.** This morning the ushers will be dismissing the people by rows starting at the front of the nave. Please remain seated until your row is dismissed. This will be a trial period to determine if we can decrease the confusion and noise that erupts during our normal dismissal procedure. This should also help to eliminate the bottleneck that forms in the narthex while waiting to enter the parish hall for coffee hour.
- **Orthodox Book Fellowship.** The OBF groups this year will be studying and discussing the so-called Apocryphal books of the Bible using the New Orthodox Study Bible and its excellent notes. If you are interested in joining one of these groups this year, please see Deacon David Keim.
- **Introduction to Orthodoxy Class.** Fr. Nicholas will begin this fall class on Wednesday nights from 7:30–9:00p starting October 1. All are welcome to attend, especially the catechumens.
- **Thank You!** Khouria Barbara and I want to thank the entire parish for the wonderful surprise celebration of our 40th wedding anniversary last Sunday. The beautiful roses, the delicious cake and the very generous gift check, all touched us deeply and just confirmed again the truth that there is no place like All Saints. The love and respect that we share for each other is obvious and an amazing blessing from God. As you prayed for us, we pray for you—God grant every one of you many, many, many years!!!

Fr. Nicholas & Kh. Barbara

“And now abide faith,
hope, and love; but the
greatest of these is
love.”

Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenion:

O Lord, save Thy people and
bless Thine inheritance.

*To Thee, O Lord, I have cried, O
my God.*

†**Epistle: Gal. 6:11–18 (RSV)**

Brethren, see with what large
letters I am writing to you with my
own hand. It is those who want to
make a good showing in the flesh
that would compel you to be
circumcised and only in order that
they may not be persecuted for the
cross of Christ. For even those
who receive circumcision do not
themselves keep the Law, but they
desire to have you circumcised
that they may glory in your flesh.
But far be it from me to glory
except in the cross of our Lord
Jesus Christ, by which the world
has been crucified to me and I to
the world. For neither
circumcision counts for anything,
nor uncircumcision, but a new
creation. Peace and mercy be
upon all, who walk by this rule,
upon the Israel of God.
Henceforth let no man trouble me;
for I bear on my body the marks of
Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus
Christ be with your spirit,
brethren. Amen.

†**Gospel: John 3:13–17 (RSV)**

The Lord said, “No one has
ascended into heaven but He who

descended from heaven, the Son
of man. And as Moses lifted up
the serpent in the wilderness, so
must the Son of man be lifted up,
that whoever believes in Him
should not perish but have eternal
life. For God so loved the world
that He gave His only Son, that
whoever believes in Him should
not perish but have eternal life.
For God sent His Son into the
world, not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved
through Him.”

Epistle and Gospel Readings

Prokeimenion:

O Lord, save Thy people and
bless Thine inheritance.

*To Thee, O Lord, I have cried, O
my God.*

†**Epistle: Gal. 6:11–18 (RSV)**

Brethren, see with what large
letters I am writing to you with my
own hand. It is those who want to
make a good showing in the flesh
that would compel you to be
circumcised and only in order that
they may not be persecuted for the
cross of Christ. For even those
who receive circumcision do not
themselves keep the Law, but they
desire to have you circumcised
that they may glory in your flesh.
But far be it from me to glory
except in the cross of our Lord
Jesus Christ, by which the world
has been crucified to me and I to
the world. For neither
circumcision counts for anything,
nor uncircumcision, but a new
creation. Peace and mercy be
upon all, who walk by this rule,
upon the Israel of God.
Henceforth let no man trouble me;
for I bear on my body the marks of
Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus
Christ be with your spirit,
brethren. Amen.

†**Gospel: John 3:13–17 (RSV)**

The Lord said, “No one has
ascended into heaven but He who

descended from heaven, the Son
of man. And as Moses lifted up
the serpent in the wilderness, so
must the Son of man be lifted up,
that whoever believes in Him
should not perish but have eternal
life. For God so loved the world
that He gave His only Son, that
whoever believes in Him should
not perish but have eternal life.
For God sent His Son into the
world, not to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved
through Him.”

A Word from Our Fathers

One day the devil found Macarius [the great desert father] in the desert physically exhausted and said to him, “Look, you have received the grace of [Saint] Anthony. Why not use this privilege and ask God for food and strength for your journey?” Macarius replied, “ ‘The Lord is my strength and my song.’ As for you, you shall not tempt the servant of God.” The devil then conjured up a mirage for him, a baggage camel lost in the desert and laden with all kinds of useful provisions. When she [the camel] saw Macarius she came and couched in front of him. But realizing that this was a phantasm, which indeed it was, he began to pray. And immediately the camel was swallowed up into the ground.

*(Taken from The Lives of the Desert Fathers;
Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 1981)*

“He [the devil] was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44)

A Word from Our Fathers

One day the devil found Macarius [the great desert father] in the desert physically exhausted and said to him, “Look, you have received the grace of [Saint] Anthony. Why not use this privilege and ask God for food and strength for your journey?” Macarius replied, “ ‘The Lord is my strength and my song.’ As for you, you shall not tempt the servant of God.” The devil then conjured up a mirage for him, a baggage camel lost in the desert and laden with all kinds of useful provisions. When she [the camel] saw Macarius she came and couched in front of him. But realizing that this was a phantasm, which indeed it was, he began to pray. And immediately the camel was swallowed up into the ground.

*(Taken from The Lives of the Desert Fathers;
Kalamazoo: Cistercian Publications, 1981)*

“He [the devil] was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own *nature*, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” (John 8:44)

All Saints Picture Book

Ever had one of these moments??

* * * * *

A friend: I had a great conversation yesterday during coffee hour with John Doe. He and his wife are such interesting people.

You: John who? I don't think I know him

A friend: you know. They sit in the middle section, toward the front with the 2 cute kids. He has curly hair.

You: doesn't ring a bell...

An exasperated friend: they have been attending our parish for over 2 years!! Surely you have spoken with him.

You: I don't think... Oh... I know who you mean. I talk to them all the time. Never remembered their names.

* * * * *

The **All Saints Picture Book** will soon be available in the Narthex for your perusal. Over the coming months, we will be populating the book with photos of our church family. Paul Hydock, our resident volunteer photographer, will be coming to you soon to ask for a few minutes of your time. This is strictly voluntary, but we would love to have you captured for posterity.
Smile Pretty!!

All Saints Picture Book

Ever had one of these moments??

* * * * *

A friend: I had a great conversation yesterday during coffee hour with John Doe. He and his wife are such interesting people.

You: John who? I don't think I know him

A friend: you know. They sit in the middle section, toward the front with the 2 cute kids. He has curly hair.

You: doesn't ring a bell...

An exasperated friend: they have been attending our parish for over 2 years!! Surely you have spoken with him.

You: I don't think... Oh... I know who you mean. I talk to them all the time. Never remembered their names.

* * * * *

The **All Saints Picture Book** will soon be available in the Narthex for your perusal. Over the coming months, we will be populating the book with photos of our church family. Paul Hydock, our resident volunteer photographer, will be coming to you soon to ask for a few minutes of your time. This is strictly voluntary, but we would love to have you captured for posterity.
Smile Pretty!!



**NAME
TAG
SUNDAY**



**NAME
TAG
SUNDAY**

NAME TAG SUNDAY

What is it? ...It's a way to finally learn the name of that person you've been sitting next to in church for the past 6 months.

Why?Because it will bring us closer together as a church family. You know all the names of your relatives, right?

When?The first Sunday of every month.

Where?The parish hall during coffee hour after the Liturgy.

How?Just get a name tag from the counter in the Narthex. Print your name on it along with a brief "something" about yourself. You can fill it out as you wait in the coffee hour line.

**SAMPLE: MY NAME IS
Gamil
Go Duke!!**

NAME TAG SUNDAY

What is it? ...It's a way to finally learn the name of that person you've been sitting next to in church for the past 6 months.

Why?Because it will bring us closer together as a church family. You know all the names of your relatives, right?

When?The first Sunday of every month.

Where?The parish hall during coffee hour after the Liturgy.

How?Just get a name tag from the counter in the Narthex. Print your name on it along with a brief "something" about yourself. You can fill it out as you wait in the coffee hour line.

**SAMPLE: MY NAME IS
Gamil
Go Duke!!**