

Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

25636 N. Mosiertown Rd Crossingville, PA 1641

Archpriest Fr. Daniel Mathewson – *Rector*

V. Rev. David Smoley – *Retired*

Lord's Day – 12-09-2018 Parish phone: 814-734-3801

Find us on the Web at: www.orthodoxcrossingville.org

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!

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”.

PLEASE INCLUDE THESE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS:

Those in need – Fr. Samuel, Fr. Andrew, Fr. David, Fr. Anthony, Mat. Gail, Mat. Donna, Mat. Pirsilla, Pearl, William, Karen, John, Mary, Stavros, Theona, Ann, Timothy, Theresa, Judy, Delani, Jeremiah, Megan, Russell The Homebound..., Tanya, Richard, Helen, Ruth, William, Claudia... Travelers... Newly Illumined Charlotte Catechumens—Grace and Christian ...Our Missionaries Abroad... Fr. David and Mt. Rozanne, Military servers... Greg ...Newly Departed – Josephine Olnik – Marilyn Filipos, Irene Hoovler,., ...Departed Orthodox Catherine, John B., John S., Nickoli, Ann, Katherine, Vernon, Paul, James, Andrew, Peter, Paul, Margaret, Michael Mary Ann, Timothy... Special requests..., Bill, Kathy, Anthony, Ian, Paul, Daleen, James, Sean, Liam, Susan, James, Joel, Jen, Roger, Jasmine, Cassandra, Raquel, Zera, Kim, Jim, Margaret, Loren, Nick,

Today's 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)

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)

Today's Scripture Readings:

Galatians 4:22-31 (Epistle, St. Anna) 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.

Colossians 1:12-18 (Epistle) (G)iving 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.

Luke 8:16-21 (Gospel, St. Anna) 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.”

Luke 17:12-19 (Gospel) 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."



MEMORY ETERNAL
For the Handmaiden of God
Josephine Sophia Olyink, may her
memory be eternal!

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

Today >> Bake Sale in the hall,
Catechisis of the Good Shepherd for all ages.

This Week>>>

Monday, December 10th - LAS Meeting - Karen's Place 11am
Wednesday, December 12th - Vespers/Akathist to St. Herman -
(Confession available following) - 6pm

Friday, December 14, Mom's Group 10am
Miraculous Myrrh-Streaming icon of the Kardiotissa - St
Nicholas in Erie. 7pm All are welcome!

Wednesday, December 19th - Daily Vespers 5:30pm
Parish Council Meeting - 6pm

Nativity Services:

Sunday, December 23rd -
Divine Liturgy 9:30am Hours 9:15

Monday, December 24th
Royal Hours - 8am
Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil - 10am
Children's presentation - 4pm
Holy Supper - 5pm
Nativity Vigil Service - 6:30pm

Tuesday, December 25th - Divine Liturgy of Holy Nativity
9:30am

+Missions Team will be collecting for the "Victims of Human trafficking" sponsored by the Saxonburg monastery. And we will continue to collect food pantry items for EU. See Anna R. or Debbie K. for more details.

+Hospitality Team requests that all food donations for Coffee Hour follow the fasts of the Church found on the calendar.

+Design/Grounds Team please stay after services today for some furniture moving... Install of new flooring begins tomorrow morning.

Bareness and Fertility

St Anna's Conception of the Mother of God

"Sing, O barren,
You *who* have not borne!
Break forth into singing, and cry aloud,
You *who* have not labored with child!
For more *are* the children of the desolate
Than the children of the married woman," says the Lord.
(Isa. 54:1)

On December 9th, the Church commemorates the conception of the Virgin Mary. This is another story that is nowhere to be found in the Old or New Testaments, but it was known to the early Christians, and is also to be found in the Gospel of James.

Mary's mother, Anna was barren, but God heard her prayer and gave her a daughter in the person of Mary, whom Anna vowed to dedicate completely to God. The birth of significant people by barren women is a miracle we encounter several times in the Scriptures. Isaac, the son of Abraham, was conceived by the barren Sarah (Gen. 18;20); the prophet Samuel was conceived by the barren Hannah (1Kg, 1 Sam), and John the Baptist was conceived by the barren Elizabeth (Luke1).

This serves as a reminder of our own spiritual barrenness and, notwithstanding this sterility of virtue, the possibility of yielding fruits repentance, however late it is. The barren women of the Bible put their trust in God and prayed fervently with faith and hope. So too should we not despair of our own lack of spiritual fruit, but rather pray all the more ardently that God may help us nurture the seed of repentance. Just as the holiest of men and women came forth from barren wombs, so can the greatest fruit of repentance spring forth from a single mustard seed (Matt. 13:32).

With but one talent of grace, we can increase in virtue and holiness, if we turn to God in faith and repentance. The barren Sarah became the mother of many nations; the barren Anna became the mother of the woman who would give birth to the salvation of the human race; and all who lack virtue can become holy. Even the greatest sinner can become the greatest saint.

---Meditations for Advent -Preparing for Christ's Birth- Fr. Vassilios Papavassiliou

Quotes from the Fathers...

If a person wants to get an idea about the pyramids of Egypt, he must either trust those who have been in immediate proximity to the pyramids, or he must get next to them himself. There is no third option. In the same way a person can get an impression of God: He must either trust those who have stood and stand in immediate proximity to God, or he must take pains to come into such proximity himself.
(St. Nicholas of Serbia, Thoughts on Good and Evil)

Having God, fear nothing, but cast all of your care upon Him, and He will take care of you. Believe undoubtingly, and God will help you according to His mercy.
(St. Barsanuphius the Great, Instructions, 166)