

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



Icon of Saints Joachim and Anna

Conception of the Theotokos

In the land of Galilee, in the city of Nazareth, there lived the righteous couple Joachim and Anna, who were descendants of kings and high priests. By their pious life this couple so pleased God, that He chose them to become the parents of the Holy Virgin Who had been destined to become the Mother of God. But just as the Lord Himself was to become incarnate from a most holy Mother, so the Mother of God was to come from holy and pure parents.

In accordance with God's providence, the venerable Joachim and Anna remained childless until a very old age, so that in the conception and birth of their daughter from barren and extremely aged parents the power of God's grace would be manifested. The righteous Joachim and Anna wept and sorrowed for a long time over their childlessness, and

were subjected to mockery and scorn from those around them, but they never lost hope in God's mercy, for which their sorrow finally turned into joy, and their dishonor into great honor and worthiness. Once, when Saint Anna in great sorrow prayed to God in her garden, the Lord sent her an Angel who foretold her of the forthcoming conception and birth of a Maiden, which soon came to pass.

Thus was conceived and born the holy Virgin Mary in accordance with God's pledge, albeit through a physical union, so that the Lord in His incarnation could fully draw upon human essence from His Holy Mother. In the conception and birth of the Holy Virgin it was not only her righteous parents who received a pledge of salvation, but also the entire world.

Based on the *Protoevangelium of James*

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"Glory to Jesus Christ!"
"Slava Isusoo Khristoo!"

December 8, 2013
The 29th Sunday

THE ANCIENT FEAST of the Conception of Mary by her mother St. Anna will be celebrated this weekend. This holyday honors Mary, who was conceived without sin, as well as her saintly mother Anna and father Joachim. We will sing our hymns to Mary and anoint all the faithful both Saturday evening and Sunday morning Liturgies.

OUR ADULT SEMINAR, "Sundays with father" will take place Sunday, in the School Lounge at 10:15 this week. This is the final session of the year, 2013, so come and share your insights on the topic "Our Celebration of Christmas". It's all free and all for you!

OUR PARISH HAS BEEN INVITED to sing our Ukrainian Christmas carols at the local Presbyterian Church today, Sunday, at 3 pm. Come and sing with us Sunday and help spread the news of Christ's Birth in our beautiful traditional way. Sign up today for this worthy cause!

THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY AND DINNER will be held for all parish workers and volunteers next Saturday, Dec. 14, at Chick's Tavern, Fourth St., Bridgeport, 3:30 pm. We invite all our Sunday School Staff, Parish Auxiliary, Church Ushers and Officers, Sodality Moderators, St. John Society Singers. Let's eat, drink and be holy!

AND THE PARISH CHRISTMAS FEAST for all the Faithful is set for next Sunday, Dec. 15, at 10:30 am in our Parish Hall. Our School Staff and Students will perform on stage and then we all will greet St. Nicholas with his bag-full of gifts for the children. Afterwards we will share a sampler of the twelve dishes of Holy Supper, the traditional Christmas Eve meal. Be with us next Sunday and support our School and our dear students. They work so hard to please us and, especially, to please the Lord on His Holy Birthday.

A QUESTIONNAIRE has been printed for your input into various areas of family life. Please take a copy home and fill it out and mail the same to our Archbishop Stefan. The world's bishops will meet with Pope Francis next fall in Rome to discuss these matters.

DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, 6 pm +Georgine Sedor (Mother Marie)

Sunday, 9 am +Marusia Stercho (Mother Irena, Brother Yurij)

Thursday, 7 am Health of Lori (Mother Joanne, Aunt Gina)

Friday, 7 am +Sue Thomas (Jim Deskiewicz)

Saturday, 8 am +Steven Burry (Andy and Bridget)

Saturday, 6 pm +Maria Maniuszyn (Daughter Marianna)

Sunday, 9 am +Nicky Bracaglia (The Parish Sunday School)

MARY'S TROPAR: Today the bonds of childlessness are broken, for God has heard the prayer of Joachim and Anna. He told them that they would give birth to a holy Virgin, of whom the Indescribable Word of God, Jesus Christ, shall be born by becoming man. He ordered the angels to sing to her: "Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you."

GLORY BE TO THE...

MARY'S KONTAK: Today the whole universe celebrates St. Anna's conception brought about by God Himself. She gave birth to the One Mary, who mysteriously has borne the Word Jesus, Our Lord and the Christ.

MARY'S PROKIMEN: God is admirable in His Saints, the God of Israel.

