

daughter of the Hebrews that are undefiled, and let them each take a lamp, and let them stand with the lamps burning, that the child may not turn back, and her heart be captivated with the temple of the Lord.’ The priest received her, and kissed her, and blessed her saying: ‘The Lord has magnified your name in all generations. In you, in the last days, the Lord will manifest His redemption to the sons of Israel.’ And he set her down upon the third step of the altar, and the Lord God sent grace upon her” (Protoevangelion of James).

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- ✧ Come to Church as a family to celebrate the Feast Day. If you cannot come on the Feast itself, come on the eve of the Feast.
- ✧ As a family, read the Protoevangelion of James and explain the event of the Feast to your children.
- ✧ Discuss the festal icon with your children. Teach them about all the figures represented. If you have this icon in your home, display it in your family’s place of prayer for veneration.
- ✧ This feast has an “afterfeast” period of 4 days. Use the Troparion and Kontakion Hymn inside this pamphlet as prayers at meals and as evening prayers.
- ✧ Have your children, with your guidance, make a reasonable promise to God during the festal period. Explain that God keeps His promises with us and is happy when we keep ours to Him.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
PLEASE
CONTACT:



COME CELEBRATE THE FEAST: THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE





THE ENTRANCE OF THE THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE CELEBRATED ON NOVEMBER 21

The main theme of the feast of Mary's entrance into the Temple, repeated many times in the liturgical services, is the fact that she enters the Temple to become herself the living Temple of God, thus inaugurating the New Testament in which are fulfilled the prophecies of old that "the dwelling of God is with man" and that the human person is the sole proper dwelling place of the Divine Presence (Ezek 37:27; Jn 14:15-23; Acts 7:47; 2 Cor 6:11; Eph 2:18-22; 1 Pet 2:4; Rev 22:1-4)...

Thus, the feast of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple is the feast which celebrates the end of the physical temple in Jerusalem as the dwelling place of God. When the child Mary enters the temple, the time of the temple comes to an end and the "preview of the good will of God" is shown forth. On this feast, we celebrate—in the person of Christ's mother—that we too are the house and tabernacle of the Lord (Fr. Thomas Hopko, *The Orthodox Faith: Volume 2, Worship*).

THE ENTRANCE IN SCRIPTURE AND HYMNS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42; 11:27, 28

Vespers, Aposticha, Sticheron 2

Anna, truly blessed by God's grace, led with gladness into the temple of the Lord the pure and Ever-Virgin, who is full of grace, and she called the young girls to go before her, lamps in hand. "Go, child," she said, "to Him who gave you to me; be to Him

an offering and a sweet smelling incense. Go into the place which none may enter; learn its mysteries and prepare yourself to become the pleasing and beautiful dwelling place of Jesus, who grants the world great mercy.

Matins, Sessional Hymn 2, Tone 4

Before your conception, O Pure Virgin, you were consecrated to God; and now after your birth you are offered as a gift to Him, in the fulfillment of your parents' promise. To the divine temple you are brought, yourself a divine Temple, innocent from the time you were born; you have appeared in the sanctuary accompanied by brightly burning lamps, since you are the receiver of the Divine Light. Your entry into the temple is wonderful, O Virgin and Bride of God.

Divine Liturgy, Troparion, Tone 4

Today is the preview of the good will of God, of the preaching of the salvation of mankind. The virgin appears in the temple of God, in anticipation proclaiming Christ to all. Let us rejoice and sing to her: Rejoice, O Fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation.

Divine Liturgy, Kontakion, Tone 4

The most pure Temple of the Savior; the precious Chamber and Virgin; the sacred Treasure of the glory of God, is presented today to the house of the Lord. She brings with her the grace of the Spirit, which the angels of God do praise. Truly this woman is the Abode of Heaven!

TRADITION

"And the child (Mary) was two years old, and Joachim said: 'Let us take her up to the temple of the Lord, that we may fulfill the promise we have made, lest the Lord warn us, and our offering not be received.' And Anna said: 'Let us wait a third year, in order that the child may not seek father or mother.' And Joachim said: 'Invite the

