



# Weekly Bulletin

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church

A Community of the Orthodox Church in America

Witnessing to the Ancient Faith in Trumbull County for over 80 Years

**Father Brian Crivella**, Pastor

2021

Number 44

**The Friend of the Bridegroom: "He Must Increase and I Must Decrease."**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Nov 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<i>22<sup>nd</sup> Sun aftr Pntcst / Tone 5 / Entry of the Theotokos Into the Temple</i> Readings: Hebrews 9:1-7 Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 9:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Nov 24<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Leavetaking of the Entry Into the Temple / Thanksgiving Eve</i> Readings: 1 Thessalonians 2:9-14 Luke 18:31-34 5:00 pm AA Meeting 6:00 pm Vespers Liturgy
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Nov 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<i>Greatmartyr James the Persian</i> 5:00 pm Great Vespers with Litya followed by Confessions
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Nov 28<sup>st</sup></b>	<i>23<sup>rd</sup> Sun aftr Pntcst / Tone 6 / Martyrs Stephen the New, Basil, &amp; Many Others</i> Readings: Ephesians 2:4-10 Luke 13:10-17 9:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour

**ATTENDANCE / STEWARDSHIP / November 14<sup>th</sup>**

Attendance: (Adults: 50, Children 11)	61
Weekly Offering	\$1277.00
Candle Offerings	\$60.00
OCMC Adopt a Priest	\$25.00
Sausage Sale	\$780.00

**Confessions**

During the fasting period of Advent, confessions are in order for all Orthodox Christians who are preparing for the Nativity of Our Lord. Confessions are held every Saturday after Great Vespers, and by appointment.

**Archbishop Paul Visit**

We will be welcoming His Eminence Archbishop Paul for a visit to our parish the weekend of December 19<sup>th</sup>. Eis Polla Eti Despota!

**Giving Tree for Children in Need**

We still have five children on our giving tree to bless with gifts this Christmas. Please make sure to also sign up on the list at the candle stand if you take one or already have one so we can keep track of who is sponsoring which child. All gifts should remain unwrapped (Trumbull County Children Services inspects and wraps the gifts) and brought in bags labeled for which child they're for. *The gifts will be picked up on December 15<sup>th</sup>.*

**PRAYER CORNER + + + + +**

Fr. Mark Leasure / Brother Andrew / Kay Eckrote & Annette Moy / Virgil / Carol Bobosh / John Michael / Claudia Maksimoff / Richard Alberini / Jeremiah Roscoe / Dana Ronyak / Donnie & Cherie Davidson / Jennifer Brainard / Michael, Catherine, & Zoe Stan / Dana Lutz / Ellen Marie / Joanne Kaschak / Lilian / Alice & Matthew / Magie & Kenny Sanders / Bill Paluch / Nina Lowry / Alyssa Angle / Josephine Grabko / James Livermore / Sarah Crivella / The Faculty, Teachers, and Students of Holy Trinity Orthodox Academy

**Expecting:** Lauren Mihalyo, Matushka Carly Koranda, & Their unborn Children

**Newborn:** Lila & her parents Mat. Jen & Fr. Joseph

**Birthdays:** Greg Zylka (Wed), Mary Gearhart (Thurs), Darla Loychik (Fri)

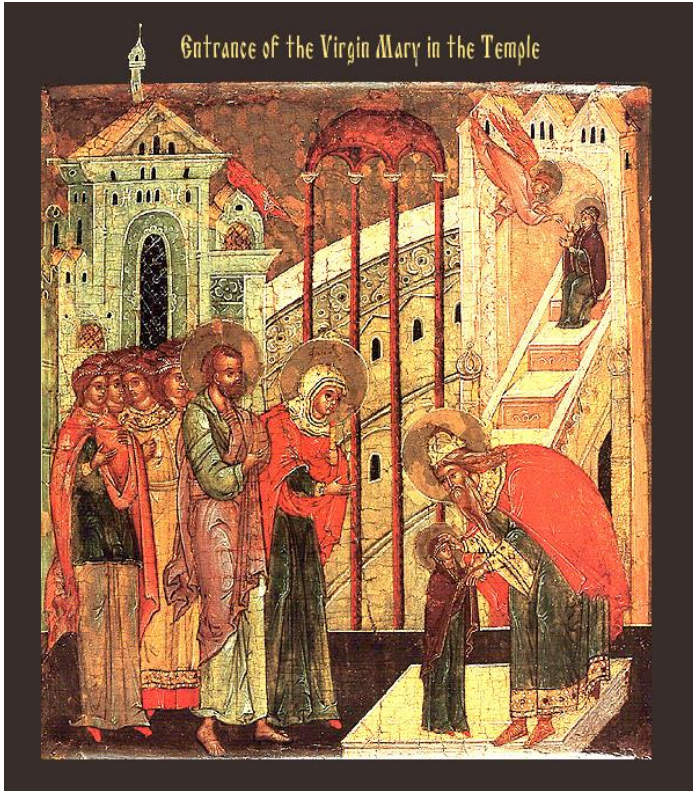
**Anniversaries:** xx

**Candle Commemorations**

**Theotokos** Health of Mat. Jen & Newborn Lila  
**Altar** In Memory of Margeret Yenchachik & Margeret Quinn  
**Christ** Thanks be to God for all His Blessings

# The Entry of the Most Holy Mother of God into the Temple

Commemorated on [November 21](#)



According to Holy Tradition, the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple took place in the following manner. The parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anna, praying for an end to their childlessness, vowed that if a child were born to them, they would dedicate it to the service of God.

When the Most Holy Virgin reached the age of three, the holy parents decided to fulfill their vow. They gathered together their relatives and acquaintances, and dressed the All-Pure Virgin in Her finest clothes. Singing sacred songs and with lighted candles in their hands, virgins escorted Her to the Temple (Ps. 44/45:14-15). There the High Priest and several priests met the handmaiden of God. In the Temple, fifteen high steps led to the sanctuary, which only the priests and High Priest could enter. (Because they recited a Psalm on each step, Psalms 119/120-133/134 are called "Psalms of Ascent.") The child Mary, so it seemed, could not make it up this stairway. But just as they placed Her on the first step, strengthened by the power of God, She quickly

went up the remaining steps and ascended to the highest one. Then the High Priest, through inspiration from above, led the Most Holy Virgin into the Holy of Holies, where only the High Priest entered once a year to offer a purifying sacrifice of blood. Therefore, all those present in the Temple were astonished at this most unusual occurrence.

After entrusting their child to the Heavenly Father, Joachim and Anna returned home. The All-Holy Virgin remained in the quarters for virgins near the Temple. According to the testimony of Holy Scripture (Exodus 38; 1 Kings 1: 28; Luke 2: 37), and also the historian Josephus Flavius, there were many living quarters around the Temple, in which those who were dedicated to the service of God dwelt.

The earthly life of the Most Holy Theotokos from Her infancy until She was taken up to Heaven is shrouded in deep mystery. Her life at the Jerusalem Temple was also a secret. "If anyone were to ask me," said Saint Jerome, "how the Most Holy Virgin spent the time of Her youth, I would answer that that is known to God Himself and the Archangel Gabriel, Her constant guardian."

But there are accounts in Church Tradition, that during the All-Pure Virgin's stay at the Temple, She grew up in a community of pious virgins, diligently read the Holy Scripture, occupied Herself with handicrafts, prayed constantly, and grew in love for God. From ancient times, the Church has celebrated the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple. Indications that the Feast was observed in the first centuries of Christianity are found in the traditions of Palestinian Christians, which say that the holy Empress Helen (May 21) built a church in honor of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa, in the fourth century, also mentions this Feast. In the eighth century Saints Germanus and Tarasius, Patriarchs of Constantinople, delivered sermons on the Feast of the Entry.

The Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple foretells God's blessing for the human race, the preaching of salvation, the promise of the coming of Christ.