

St. John of Damascus: “On Christ’s Conception”

“After the normal nine-month gestational period, Christ was born at the beginning of the tenth, in accordance with the law of gestation. It was the birth that surpassed the established order of birth-giving, as it was without pain; for, where pleasure had not preceded, pain did not follow. And just as at His conception He had kept her who conceived Him virgin, so also at His birth did He maintain her virginity intact, because He alone passed through her and kept her shut [Ezekiel 44:1-3].

While the conception was by ‘hearing’, the birth was by the usual orifice through which children are born, even though there are some who concoct an idle tale of His being born from the side of the Mother of God. For it was not impossible for Him to pass through the gate without breaking its seals. Hence, the Ever-Virgin remained virgin even after giving birth and never had converse with a husband as long as she lived.”

St. Germanus:

“Today she who will receive the Holy of Holies”

“Today she who will receive the Holy of Holies, that is the Christ, through the sanctification of the Holy Spirit is, through an even greater sanctification, placed in the Holy of Holies with holiness and majesty.”

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



March 25, 2018

5th Sunday of Great Lent/Annunciation

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5th Sunday of Great Lent/Annunciation

Commemoration of: Annunciation of the Theotokos

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

Simeron tis sotirias (Annunciation) Tone 4

Today is the summary of our salvation, and the revelation of the age-old mystery. For the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces the good news of grace. Therefore, let us join him, and cry aloud to the Theotokos: "Rejoice, Maiden full of grace! The Lord is with you." (Translation from AgesInitiatives.com)

Tu lithu sfragisthentos (Hymn of the day) Tone 1
When the stone had been sealed by the Jews where the soldiers were guarding Your most pure Body, You rose on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. Wherefore the powers of heaven acclaimed You, o Giver of life. Glory to Your Resurrection O Christ. Glory to Your Kingdom. Glory to Your providence, You Who alone loves mankind. (Translation as sung by the Choir)

Simeron tis sotirias (Annunciation) Tone 4

Kontakion
Ti ipermaho Tone 8
*O Champion General, I your City now ascribe to you * triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, * being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. * Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, * from all kinds of perils free me so that unto you * I may cry aloud: * Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.* (Translation from AgesInitiatives.com)

Epistle Reading Hebrews 2:11-18

BRETHREN, he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim thy name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I, and the children God has given me. Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to life-long bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

Gospel Reading Luke 1:24-38

In those days, Elizabeth the wife of Zacharias conceived and for five months she hid herself, saying, "Thus the Lord had done to me in the days when he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he

came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you! Blessed are you among women!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And the angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.

And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Today

✦ SUN, 3/25– *Annunciation*;

This Week

- ✦ WED, 3/28 - *Pre-Sanctified Liturgy*- 6 PM
- ✦ SAT, 3/31 - *Saturday of Lazarus– Orthros & Divine Liturgy* 8:30/9:30 AM; Palm Folding, Retreat & Detail Cleaning and Preparation of the Church for Palm Sunday and Holy Week following services beginning at 11 a.m.
- ✦ SUN, 4/1– *Palm Sunday; Bridegroom Service*– 6:30 PM

Announcements

Saturday of Lazarus Retreat– Saturday, March 31st, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There will be a potluck brunch followed by Palm Cross Folding, baking Lazarakia Bread, and Church & Panagia Garden Cleaning.

Holy Week Schedule– Copies are available in the narthex.

Agape Picnic– Sunday, April 8, 12 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for ages 12 and up. Children under 12 are free. For tickets, please see Eres Eddy.

Holy Week Needs- A list of requested items is available in the Narthex. If you would like to make a donation toward any specific item or all items in general, you may list in the “memo” section of your check the particular item or write “General Donation for Holy Week Items.” Thank you to all who have made donations or plan to do so! To date, we have donors for the Paschal Candle, Rose Water, Bridegroom Flowers and Olive Oil.

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread.

Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.