

Nativity of the Theotokos

September 8

[Excerpt from goarch.org]

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

According to the story found in this book, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherds and their flocks.

As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



September 7, 2014

Sunday Before the Elevation of the Holy Cross

930 Lunalilo Street, Honolulu, HI 96822

(808) 521-7220 www.ssconhelhi.goarch.org

Office: saintsconstantine-helenhon@mail.goarch.org

Fr. Alexander Leong: fralexanderleong@yahoo.com

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Commemoration of: Sozon the Martyr; Kassiani the Hymnographer; Euodos and Onesiphoros, Apostles of the 70; John, Wonderworker of Novgorod

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

To fethron (Hymn of the Day) Tone 4

Ek tis rizis Iese (Sash of the Theotokos) Tone 4
*Unto us is born today Mary the child of God, * as the branch from Jesse's root, and as the fruit of David's loins, * and all creation is re-created and deified. * O heaven and the earth, rejoice in unison. * Sing praises unto her, O all you Gentile clans. * Joachim is exultant, and Anna is keeping festival, crying out: * The barren woman bears the Theotokos, * the nourisher of our Life."*

Tu Stavru su ton tipon (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8
Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.

Kontakion Tone 3
I Parthenos simeron (Eve of the Nativity of the Theotokos)
Today the Virgin and Mother of God, Mary, the untouched bridal chamber of the heavenly Bridegroom is being brought to birth from barren womb by God's counsel, to be made ready as the chariot of the Word of God; for to this she was predestined, the gate of God and Mother of true life.

Epistle Reading Galatians 6:7-18
BRETHREN, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Gospel Reading John 3:13-17
The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have

eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Today

✠ SUN, 9/7– *Sunday before the Holy Cross; 1 Year Memorial for Stamatina Manthos. Pericles Manthos will host the Memorial Luncheon; Blessing of the Waters for Church School; Sunday School begins; Sunday School Parents Meeting in the Bookstore; Dance Group Parents Meeting in the Bookstore*

This Week

✠ MON, 9/8– *Nativity of the Theotokos: Orthros 8:30 a.m.; Liturgy 9:30 a.m.*
✠ THU, 9/11– *Book Club in the Bookstore 6:30 to 8 p.m.*
✠ SUN, 9/14– *Elevation of the Holy Cross ***strict fast day***; No Sunday School*

Pearls of Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"When God created man, He planted something divine into him — a certain conception — a spark that has both light and warmth. The conception that enlightens the mind and indicates what is right and what is wrong is called conscience. Conscience is a natural law. Living in times before any written law, patriarchs and saints pleased God by following the voice of their conscience. "

~ **Abba Dorotheos of Gaza**

"It is only when man enters in communion with the angels and the saints, that the soul is able to understand the Divine. The Lord sometimes allows this to happen to an ordinary person. When a suffering person has no comfort, no consolation from anyone on earth, when he feels despised and rejected by everyone, then the Lord Himself comforts this soul."

~ **Blessed Elder Thaddeus of Serbia**

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.