

The Gospel's Voice



Orthodox Parish of the Holy Transfiguration

Number 10, September 2016

Nativity of the Holy Mother of God and Virgin Mary

Our God created man and placed him in the paradise so that his only concern was to cultivate good and contemplate God only through his works. But the devil, jealous of the privileges granted to man, beguiled Eve, the first woman, which led Adam to sin, and they were both excluded from the Paradise of delights. Later, through Moses, God gave His law to men and made His will known through the prophets, in preparation of a greater benefit: the Incarnation of the only Son, the Word of God, was to deliver us from the evil nets. In assuming our nature, Christ wished to participate fully in our fallen condition - except sin - because he alone is without sin, being the Son of God. This is why God prepared for him an immaculate place, a pure arch - the Blessed Virgin Mary - who, although she was subjected also to death and condemnation of our first parents, was chosen by God since the beginning of time to be the new Eve, the Mother of Christ the Savior, the source of our redemption and the model of all Christian holiness.

His father was called Joachim. He was descended from the royal tribe of David by the arm of Nathan, his son. Anne, Joachim's wife, also descended from a royal tribe, as she was the grand-daughter of Martha, himself a grand-son of Solomon.

According to a divine "economy" and to show the sterility of human nature before the coming of Christ, God had allowed Joachim and Anne childless until an advanced age. As Joachim was rich and pious, he continued to speak to God through prayer and offerings, so that He delivers him and his wife, of reproach. A feast day, while Joachim was presented in the Temple to file his offering, one of the faithful addressed him, saying:

"There you are not allowed to offer your gift with us because you have no children. "

The torn heart, Joachim did not return home, but went alone to the mountains to pray and weep before God. Meanwhile, in his garden, Anne as she shed copious tears, made fervent supplications to heaven. Our God, rich in mercy and full of compassion, heard their cry and sent to Anne the Archangel Gabriel - the angel of divine benevolence and the announcer of Salvation – to tell her that "she would conceive and give birth to a child, despite her age, and that people will speak of this offspring in all the earth. She answered, full of joy and surprise:

"As surely as the Lord my God lives, if I give birth either a son or a daughter, I will devote him to the Lord my God, for him to serve every day of his life. "

Joachim also was visited by an angel who ordered him to get in the way with his herds and go home without delay, to rejoice with his wife and all their home because God decided to put an end to their shame.

Nine months having passed, Anne borne. She asked the midwife: "What have I borne?" The latter replied: " A daughter. "Anne continued:" My soul, this day was glorified! ", and she gently lay the child. The days of purification required by law for the mother, being made, she got up, washed, gave breast to her child, and gave her the name of Mary: the name that had vaguely heard the patriarchs, the righteous and the prophets, and by which God would complete the project he had concealed from the origin of the world.

Day by day, the child has fortified. When she was six months old, her mother put her down to see if she would hold up. Mary came forward seven firm footsteps, then returned to snuggle in the lap of Anne, which lifted by saying, "As surely as the Lord my God lives, you will not trample the ground before I take you to the Temple of the Lord. "She set up a sanctuary in the child's bedroom, where nothing vile or soiled by the world entered, and ask pure young girls to come, to play with the child.

The first year is past, Joachim made a great feast. He invited priests, scribes and Council members, and all the people of Israel. Joachim presented the child to the priests, who blessing her, uttered this prayer: "God of our fathers, bless this little girl and give her a name that is named forever and by all generations. "And all the people answered," So be it! So be it! Amen! " Anne took Mary in her room and gave her breast, addressing an hymn to the Lord God, and then she put the child in the sanctuary of her room, to her consecration in the temple of God.

According to *the Synaxarion*



Saint Ignatius Briantchaninov:

On Eternity

The eternity, we will enter all mandatory, even those among us who do not want to think about it and are attached by their thoughts and pleasures to the earthly. Eternity, is expected by some with tremendous joy, dreaded how she appears to others! So if eternity awaits us all without exception, then the right direction even encourages us to prepare for it well in advance.



Divine Liturgy

Every Sunday at 9.30 a.m.

Sunday 4th of September

(Thursday 8th: Nativity of the Holy Mother of God.)

Sunday 11th: After Feast of the Nativity of the Holy Mother of God.

(Wednesday 14th: Exaltation of the Holy Cross. **Rigorous fasting**)

Sunday 18th: Sunday after the Holy Cross.

Sunday 25th

The Orthodox Church of the Holy Transfiguration

Grande-Rivière N-O

Mauritius

(behind Garage BALA)

**Divine Liturgy every Sunday
at 9.30 a.m.**

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