

The Gospel's Voice



Orthodox Parish of the Holy Transfiguration

Number 24, November 2017

Presentation at the Temple of the Blessed Virgin Mary

We cannot deny the fact that the evangelists do not mention anything about the parents of the Mother of God and her birth. So, how do we know the events that preceded and followed the birth of Mary?

The Archimandrite Kallistratos N. Lyrakis in his book *The Blessed Virgin Mother*, pp 39-40, says: "Information on the ancestry of the Blessed Virgin goes back to apostolic times. Judaic and Christian circles have preserved facts about the Virgin from those around her. The validity of these testimonies is confirmed by the fact that they played an important role in the unique event of the Birth of Jesus Christ. These are the same people who gathered during their lifetime testimonies concerning the Mother of God."

Another important source is that of the First Gospel of James where authentic elements of the ancient tradition are preserved. He tells all the facts about the birth of Mary and also provides us with information about his childhood. It should be noted that the 4th and 5th century Fathers of the Church, generally cautious about apocryphal writers, considered that James's first gospel is true.

So, with all the Church of all times, can we celebrate this feast and sing:

Faithful, on this day, let us sing in chorus psalms and hymns to the Lord, venerating his sanctified tabernacle, the spiritual ark enclosing the Word which no space contains; for it is presented to God wonderfully in the form of a child, and the high priest Zachariah receives it joyously as the interior of God. (2 times)

On this day the spiritual temple * of the holy glory of Christ our God, * the only virgin among all blessed, * is presented to the Temple of the Law to inhabit the Holy of Holies; * with her Joachim * and Anne rejoice in spirit * and the virgins in chorus * with the accents of the psalms sing to the Lord * in honor of the Mother of God.

The oracle of the Prophets is you, the glory of the Apostles, the pride of the martyrs, the renewal of every mortal, O Virgin Mother of God; by you we are reconciled to God; so we venerate your entrance to the temple of the Lord, and in our hymns all of us who are saved by your intercession, we address you, holy Virgin, the angelic greeting.

It is in the Holy of Holies * that the immaculate Holy One * in the Holy Spirit is introduced and nourished by the Angel, * she who is in truth * the most holy temple of our God, * of the Holy who sanctifies the universe by inhabiting it * and divinizes the fallen nature of mortals. (2 times)

In joy, carrying their lighted lamps, * to the Holy of Holies, the young girls on this day * precede the Spiritual Lamp and accompany it in procession, * showing in advance the ineffable clarity * which of itself was to shine * to illuminate in the Spirit * those who sat in the darkness of error.

In gladness receive, * said St. Anne to Zachariah, * that which the Prophets of God announced in the Spirit * and lead it to the Holy Temple * so that it may be raised in holiness * and become the divine throne * of the Master of the universe, the palace, * the nuptial bed and the house full of clarity.

Glory to the Father ... Now...

After your birth, divine Fiancee, * you were presented to the Temple of the Lord * to be elevated to the Holy of Holies, as a sanctified virgin; Then

Gabriel was sent to you, the most immaculate, to bring you food from above; All the powers of heaven were astonished to see the Holy Spirit elect your dwelling in you. * Virgin without defilement or sin, * glorified on earth as it is in heaven, * save us all, O Mother of God.

"Let us all sing a hymn of victory for the wonders of our God, who with his mighty arm saved Israel by covering herself with glory."

On this day we all run to the Mother of God, * by hymns honoring her, * and celebrate this spiritual solemnity: * in the Temple she is presented * as an offering to our God.

By hymns we celebrate * the glorious entrance * of the divine Mother, since on this day * this divine temple is offered prophetically * to the Temple as a very precious gift.

St. Anne was filled with joy * when she offered her child * as a high-price offering * to God * in the Temple and, with a festive heart, Joachim united with his joy.

David your ancestor once sang to you, virginal Wife of God, calling you the daughter of that King who is Christ; * and having given birth to it, like a child * you fed it maternally on your milk.

To the Lord was presented * the divine Mother at the age of three years * and the high priest Zachariah * in the Temple welcomed her * and, full of joy, put her there.

Carrying your lamps lighted, * virgins, sing in chorus, * and you, mothers, sing * for the Queen advancing * to the home of this King who is Christ.

(taken from the Menea, November 21)

Divine Liturgy

Every Sunday at 9.30 a.m.

Sunday, November 5th: Holy Martyrs Galaction and Episteme.

12th: Holy Father John the Merciful, Patriarch of Alexandria

Tuesday 14th: *beginning of the fasting of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*

19th: Holy Prophet Obadiah

Tuesday 21st: **Presentation at the Temple of the Most Holy Mother of God and always Virgin Mary**

Sunday 26th: Saint Alypius the Stylite.

Matins at 9.30 a.m. every week day.

The Orthodox Church of the Holy Transfiguration

Grande-Rivière N-O
Mauritius
(behind Garage BALA)

**Divine Liturgy every
Sunday**

at 9.30 a.m.

Web site:

<http://orthodoxchurchmauritius.org>

*Matins at 9.30 a.m. every
week day.*



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