

The Archangel Gabriel brought Joachim and Anna the joyous message that their prayers were heard by God, and of them would be born a most blessed daughter Mary, through Whom would come the Salvation of all the World.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary surpassed in purity and virtue not only all mankind, but also the angels. She was manifest as the living Temple of God, so the Church sings in its festal hymns: “the East Gate... bringing Christ into the world for the salvation of our souls” (2nd Stikhera on “Lord, I Have Cried”, Tone 6).

The Nativity of the Birthgiver of God marks the change of the times when the great and comforting promises of God for the salvation of the human race from slavery to the devil are about to be fulfilled. This event has brought to earth the grace of the Kingdom of God, a Kingdom of Truth, piety, virtue and everlasting life. The Birthgiver of God is revealed to all of us by grace as a merciful Intercessor and Mother, to Whom we have recourse with filial devotion.

But You, my Lord and Sovereign, have suffered in my place.

The servant sinned, but my Lord suffered the punishment;  
 the servant erred, but my Lord was scourged;  
 the servant stole, and my Lord offered compensation;  
 the servant was indebted, but my Sovereign paid the debt ...  
 For me, wretched and accursed, He bore the infamy, He Who is blessed throughout all eternity.

St.Tikhon of Zadonsk. Confession and Thanksgiving.

## St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Church

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### Sunday September 17, 2023

15th Sunday after Pentecost / Hieromartyr Babylas, bishop of Antioch,  
 Holy Prophet and God-seer Moses.



#### Nativity of our Most Holy Lady the Birthgiver of God and Ever Virgin Mary (Sept. 21st)

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born at a time when people had reached such a degree of moral decay that it seemed altogether impossible to restore them. People often said that God must come into the world to restore faith and not permit the ruin of mankind.

The Son of God chose to take on human nature for the salvation of mankind, and chose as His Mother the All-Pure Virgin Mary, who alone was worthy to give birth to the Source of purity and holiness.

The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady Birthgiver of God and Ever Virgin Mary is celebrated by the Church as a day of universal joy. Within the context of the Old and the New Testaments, the Most Blessed Virgin Mary was born on this radiant day, having been chosen before the ages by Divine Providence to bring about the Mystery of the Incarnation of the Word of God. She is revealed as the Mother of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was without child, since Saint Anna was barren.

Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna did not lose hope in God’s mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible, and that He would be able to overcome the barrenness of Anna even in her old age, as He had once overcome the barrenness of Sarah, spouse of the Patriarch Abraham. Saints Joachim and Anna vowed to dedicate the child which the Lord might give them, to the service of God in the Temple.

Childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin, and therefore the righteous Saints Joachim and Anna had to endure abuse from their own countrymen. On one of the feast days at the Temple in Jerusalem the elderly Joachim brought his sacrifice to offer to God, but the High Priest would not accept it, considering him to be unworthy since he was childless.

Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. Saint Anna wept bitterly when she learned what had happened at the Jerusalem Temple. Never once did she complain against the Lord, but rather she prayed to ask God’s mercy on her family.

The Lord fulfilled her petitions when the pious couple had attained to extreme old age and prepared themselves by virtuous life for a sublime calling: to be the parents of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, the future Mother of the Lord Jesus Christ.

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**5 CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS**

**IC XC NI KA**  
 Monogram means “Jesus Christ conquers”  
 IC XC are the first and last letters of the Greek words *Ἰησοῦς Χριστός* (Jesus Christ)  
 NI KA comes from the Greek verb “to conquer”

**BASILICA.RO**

**the Holy Cross**  
 the symbol of Christ’s Crucifixion and Resurrection

**ΑΩ**  
 Alpha and Omega  
 the first and last letter of the Greek alphabet  
 symbol of Christ, the beginning and end of all things

**the Fish**  
 the Greek word for “fish”, *ἰχθύς*, is an acronym of the phrase: Jesus Christ, Son of God, the Saviour

**Monogram**  
 the first two letters, X and P (pronounced chi-rho), of the Greek word *Χριστός* (Christ)

VENERABLE ANTHONY THE GREAT

BE PREPARED TO RESPOND TO EVERY REPROACHFUL WORD WITH A HUMBLE 'FORGIVE ME,' FOR IN SUCH HUMILITY, THE ENEMY'S SCHEMES ARE THWARTED.



### Remember in Prayer

Lyubba, Cecelia, Lotti, Ksenia, Caro, Cindy, Wesley, Celia, Carl, Lisa, Peter, Victoria, Theodore, Jamie, Gloria, Maryanne, Marilyn, Chance, Jim, Pauline, Mia, Tatiana, Mary Ann, Wesson, Nicholas, Kateryna, Aleksandra, Kaleena, Amy, Natalia, Stephen, Katherine, Victoria, Peter, Nicole, Jerry, Kathleen, Bohdan, Ed, Evalyn, Joseph, Anea Rose, Joshua, Denise, Miriam, Freida, Jaylynn, Collette, Nicole, Jerry, Sophia, Victoria, Theodore, Donna, Lisa, Cathy, Allison, Jack and Archie, Anna, Stephanie

*O Lord, Jesus Christ, the physician of souls & bodies, look down on your suffering servants, relieve them of their pain and suffering in order that they may be able to arise from their sick-bed and glorify your Holy Name. Amen!"*

## Ukrainian Relief Dinner & Prayer Service

LED BY OUR BELOVED HIERARCHS



Sunday, September 24, 2023

Service 4:00 PM • Dinner 5:00 PM

ST. NICHOLAS  
GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL  
419 South Dithridge St.  
Pittsburgh (Oakland) 15213

Net proceeds will benefit IOCC's Ukraine Crisis Response

SPONSORSHIPS AVAILABLE

For information or to volunteer,  
call Zelfa at 412.417.4706



**See Fr John or Pani Anne for Tickets**

**Want to learn more about the Orthodox understanding of the Holy Bible and applying it to daily life!**

If you are interested, Please let me know:  
if you are interested;

When you could be available and how often;

Would you prefer in person or Zoom?

Any questions you have

(call, text, e-mail, or just tell me)

Fr John

### Birthdays

Cindy Kalinik 9/17

John Dukewich 9/17

Roman Perdziola 9/21

## Play it Forward Pittsburgh

# Stuffed Animal Collection

## ONE WEEK ONLY!

We will be collecting your new and gently used stuffed animals in partnership with DTCare the week of **September 23-30, 2023** at the following locations:

**Edward Jones**  
2605 Nicholson Road  
Suite 1200  
Sewickley, PA 15143

**All Saints Polish National Catholic Church**  
500 5th Street  
Carnegie, PA 15106

**DTCare**  
301 Moon Clinton Rd  
Moon Twp, PA 151085

**Blawnox Upholstery**  
388 Freeport Road  
Blawnox, PA 15238

**Asti's Italian Steakhouse**  
1000 Clubhouse Drive  
N. Braddock PA. 15104

**Sullivan Super Service**  
100 Purity Road  
Penn Hills, PA 15235



The stuffed animals will be used in a new play therapy program in Mykolaiv, Ukraine



### FOOD NEEDED:

The shelves of the Neighborhood Resilience Project's (**St Moses of the Black Orthodox mission**) food pantry are nearly empty. In an effort to restock shelves and feed the hungry they're asking for donations of non-perishable foods. *There is a box for non-perishable foods in the vestibule of the church.* When purchasing items such as tuna or canned vegetables, **please get the smaller cans rather than family size** so that single people or smaller households don't have wasted food

**Suggested items:** Cereal, Macaroni & Cheese (Easy Mac), Canned Fruits and Vegetables, Tuna, Pasta, Rice, Beans, Peanut Butter, Soup, Chili, Stew, Fruit Juices, Ground Coffee, Hot Chocolate, etc. – **Can Openers or food items with Pop Top Lids** (not all those in need have can openers).

