

Parish Prayer List (Living)

(Parish)

Evangelos	Carolyn	Robert	Sharon
John	Maria	Anamay	Ron
Lawrence	Dianna	Efthalia	Denny
Anthony	Pauline	Nadja	Jerry
Beverly	David	Michael	Anastasia
Nina	Walter	Nathan	Mary
Joseph	Duncan	Thecla	Michael
Reader Mark	Jason	Jonah	Susan Mary
Michael	Emily	Clint	George
Magdalini	Connie	Emil	Sophia
Barbara	Yevgeniya	Roman	Ilija
Olga	Marina	John	

(non-Parish)

Alexandra	Rachael	Jessilyn	Amanda
Christopher	Fr. Michael	Paige	Sean
James	Nicholas B.	Karin	Meg
Tetiana	Helen	Susan K	Michael C.
Anna	Brian	Kathy Tanner	Salvatore
Josephine	Billy Ray	Alma	Constance K.
Peter	Maria	Michael	Timothy
Petrese	Mary	Fr. Dan Mahler	Constance G.
Tony	Donna	Seraphim	Evdokia
Jeff	Andrea	Subdcn. Gregory	Juan
Jennifer Mary	Barry Pierce	Dan Brown	Joe and Jessie

Parish Prayer List (Fallen Asleep)

Shawn Visconti (+7/21)

Tina Nankunan (+8/1)

Mary Grace Beall (+9/2)

Lois Lynn (+10/11)

Thoughts from the Fathers

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the Galilean town of Nazareth. Her parents were Saints Joachim and Anna. Saint Joachim came from the tribe of Judah, from the royal house of David, while Saint Anna was of the tribe of Levi, from the high-priestly house of Aaron. For a long time they had no children, which caused them much grief, and they entreated God that He would take away the dishonor of childlessness. The Lord heard their prayer and granted them a daughter, whom they named Mary, which means 'lady' or 'lofty.' This event, which was so joyous for the human race since it opened the door to salvation, is celebrated September 8th. The

following day is dedicated to the memory of Joachim and Anna, who are called ‘Ancestors of God,’ since their daughter Mary was deemed worthy to be the mother of the God-man Jesus Christ.

Archpriest D. Sokolof

Notice what Christ said to Nathaniel in Saint John’s Gospel: “From now on you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man” (Jn. 1:51). My Lord, what is there in this vision for us? What else, but that the Lord Jesus is the ladder that links heaven to earth! He is the ladder who said, “I am the Way.” But what if the ladder were removed? Could anyone ascend? This is the first truth Christ ever uttered about Himself. It is not a small thing, for without Him none of us can go up. We must all say, “Lord, without You my life has no worth!” Why? Because it would begin from the earth and end in the earth. It’s one hundred percent certain that whoever does not have Christ and does not believe in Him will not ascend. Rather, he will die and return to the earth from which he was taken.

Matthew the Poor

The Lord, Who dwells in the heavens, wishing to appear on earth and abide with men, first prepared a dwelling place for His glory: His most pure Mother. It is the custom of kings that in whatever city they desire to live, a place of residence be prepared for them beforehand. And as the palaces of earthly kings are constructed by the most skilled craftsmen, of the most costly materials, on the most elevated sites, and are more beautiful and spacious than all the other dwellings of men, so it was necessary that the palace of the King of glory be erected in a similar fashion (3Kg:6)...At the beginning of the new era of grace, the Lord was pleased to create a temple not made by hands: the most pure, most blessed Virgin Mary. By what builder was this temple erected? In truth by One most wise: by the very Wisdom of God, as the Scriptures say, “Wisdom hath built herself a temple (Pr 9:).

Saint Demetrius of Rostov

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The Nativity of the Theotokos - St. Nikolai Velimirovich

By St. Nikolai Velimirovich

The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father, and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac. The Almighty and All-seeing God rewarded them with a joy that surpassed all their expectations and all their most beautiful dreams. For He gave them not just a daughter, but the Mother of God. He illumined them not only with temporal joy, but with eternal joy as well. God gave them just one daughter, and she would later give them just one grandson-but what a daughter and what a Grandson! Mary, Full of grace, Blessed among women, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, the Altar of the Living God, the Table of the Heavenly Bread, the Ark of God's Holiness, the Tree of the Sweetest Fruit, the Glory of the race of man, the Praise of womanhood, the Fount of virginity and purity-this was the daughter given by God to Joachim and Anna. She was born in Nazareth, and at the age of three, was taken to the Temple in Jerusalem. In her young womanhood she returned again to Nazareth, and shortly thereafter heard the Annunciation of the Holy Archangel Gabriel concerning the birth of the Son of God, the Savior of the world, from her most-pure virgin body.

West of Struga in Macedonia, the Holy Mother of God manifested her power and mercy through numerous miracles. Many of the sick were miraculously healed, and thieves who thought to plunder or desecrate the monastery were severely punished by an invisible power. There is a miracle-working

icon of the Holy Theotokos in the church there; nearby, there are two springs of healing water: that of St. Peter and that of St. Ananias. The Chapel of St. Athanasius is located in a cave not far from the main church.

Reflection

St. Dionysius the Areopagite writes of the immeasurable joy, the outer and inner radiance, and the indescribable fragrance that he sensed in the presence of the Holy Theotokos when he visited her in Jerusalem. In his zeal, he says that if he had not known the One True God, he would have recognized her, the Holy Virgin Mary, as God. The Holy Virgin made such a powerful and unique impression on men during her earthly life—and she received an incomparably greater power and glory after her physical death when, by the will of God, she was exalted above the heavenly hosts. Her power comes from her ceaseless prayer for the faithful, for all those who turn to her for help. When St. John of Novgorod and his people prayed to her for help against a hostile army, he understood that she was simultaneously praying to the Lord with tears in their behalf, and Novgorod was miraculously saved. As she was compassionate toward her crucified Son, so the Holy Most-pure One is also compassionate toward all those in need, to where, after the priest prayed over him before the icon of the Holy Theotokos, he received his sight. The first monk at Pochaev saw a fiery pillar extending from earth to heaven, and in that flaming pillar he saw the Holy Theotokos. She was standing on a rock. On the spot where she stood, a spring of healing water sprang forth: even today, it heals many of the sick.