



San Antonio Byzantine Catholic Community

Meeting at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church
 1202 S. Zarzamora St., San Antonio, TX
 December 3, 2017
 26th Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome guests. Please sign the guest book in the back of the church. If you would like to be added to our mailing list leave your email address. Please stay and visit after Liturgy. Visit www.stanastasiasa.org. Also please leave your email in the guest book so you can be added to the mailing list.

Please join us for hospitality in the church after Divine Liturgy. Always good conversation and a variety of treats.

Fr. John will be available to serve Divine Liturgy on January 1 so the schedule is changed to show that we will have Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am on January 1. Please plan to attend.

Wednesday is the Feast of St. Nicholas. We will celebrate Divine Liturgy at 7:00 pm in the church. Please plan to attend.

Salvation-An Eastern Catholic view
https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=nJ88RM6Z2H4 is a short YouTube video discussing the Eastern Catholic view of salvation. It is worth a watch.

A very interesting presentation on Byzantine Theology by Fr. Anthony Louth is available on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ST4xmtdNR9k>

Here is the schedule for the Liturgical Feasts through January 1, 2018 that we agreed to last Sunday. Please make a note of these dates and times.

Divine Liturgy for St. Nicholas — Wednesday, December 6, 7:00 p.m.
 Vigil for St. Anastasia — Thursday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.
 Divine Liturgy for Synaxis of the Theotokos — Tuesday, December 26, 7:00 p.m.
 Divine Liturgy for Feast of Circumcision — Monday, January 1, 9:00 a.m.

Jesus Christ Son of God Pray for Me a Sinner.

We always need help. If you are interested in being a reader or altar server or singing in the choir please see Fr. Ramon.

Please put the books on the table by the entrance door. Drop your donation in the basket on the counter.

Nov 26			
Attendance		28	
Collection		\$105	
None			

Fr. Ramon J. Gonzalez, O.P.
 St. Alphonsus Catholic Church
 2004 Chihuahua St,
 San Antonio, TX 78207
 Phone: [\(210\) 433-9365](tel:(210)433-9365)
framon@icloud.com

Bulletin announcements, Jim Groff 210-269-5610 or sabcc324@gmail.com
 Website: www.stanastasiasa.org

Readings for the 29th Week After Pentecost

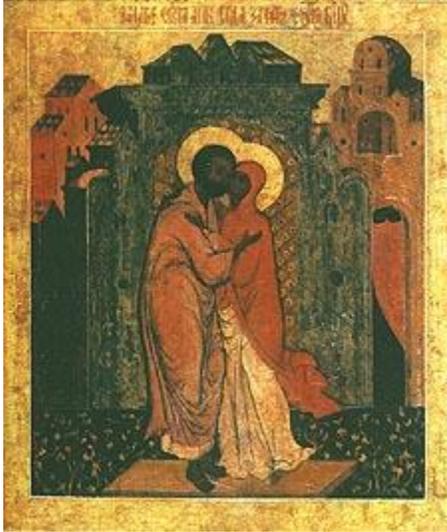
12/4	1 Timothy 5:1-10	Luke 20:27-44
12/5	1 Timothy 5:11-21	Luke 21:12-19
12/6	1 Timothy 5:22-6:11	Luke 21:5-7, 10-11, 20-24
12/7	1 Timothy 6:17-21	Luke 21:28-33
12/8	2 Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18	Luke 21:37-22:8
12/9	Galatians 5:22-6:2	Luke 13:18-29

February 20-Mar.3, 2018, Fr. Elias will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Petra to visit the sites of our Lord's life, death and resurrection. If you are interested contact Fr. Elias at St. John Chrysostom.

Please keep Nancy Sandrock in your prayers as she continues her medical treatments. Also keep the entire Sandrock family in your prayers.

The Conception by Righteous Anna of the Most Holy Mother of God

Commemorated on December 8



Saint Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, was the youngest daughter of the priest Nathan from Bethlehem, descended from the tribe of Levi. She married Saint Joachim (September 9), who was a native of Galilee.

For a long time Saint Anna was childless, but after twenty years, through the fervent prayer of both spouses, an angel of the Lord announced to them that they would be the parents of a daughter, Who would bring blessings to the whole human race.

The Orthodox Church does not accept the teaching that the Mother of God was exempted from the consequences of ancestral sin (death, corruption, sin, etc.) at the moment of her conception by virtue of the future merits of Her Son. Only Christ was born perfectly holy and sinless, as Saint Ambrose of Milan teaches in

Chapter Two of his Commentary on Luke. The Holy Virgin was like everyone else in Her mortality, and in being subject to temptation, although She committed no personal sins. She was not a deified creature removed from the rest of humanity. If this were the case, She would not have been truly human, and the nature that Christ took from Her would not have been truly human either. If Christ does not truly share our human nature, then the possibility of our salvation is in doubt.

The Conception of the Virgin Mary by Saint Anna took place at Jerusalem. The many icons depicting the Conception by Saint Anna show the Most Holy Theotokos trampling the serpent underfoot.

“In the icon Saints Joachim and Anna are usually depicted with hands folded in prayer; their eyes are also directed upward and they contemplate the Mother of God, Who stands in the air with outstretched hands; under Her feet is an orb encircled by a serpent (symbolizing the devil), which strives to conquer all the universe by its power.”

There are also icons in which Saint Anna holds the Most Holy Virgin on her left arm as an infant. On Saint Anna’s face is a look of reverence. A large ancient icon, painted on canvas, is located in the village of Minkovetsa in the Dubensk district of Volhynia diocese. From ancient times this Feast was especially venerated by pregnant women in Russia.

Source: OCA Office of Christian Education

(Here is a note of clarification from the Archeparchy of Pittsburgh on the relationship between this feast and the Roman Catholic feast of the Immaculate Conception.

“ The Eastern Church has celebrated this feast since the 6th century to commemorate the Conception of the Theotokos by St. Anna. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception (i.e., the preservation from the stain of original sin) was declared A.D. 1854.”)