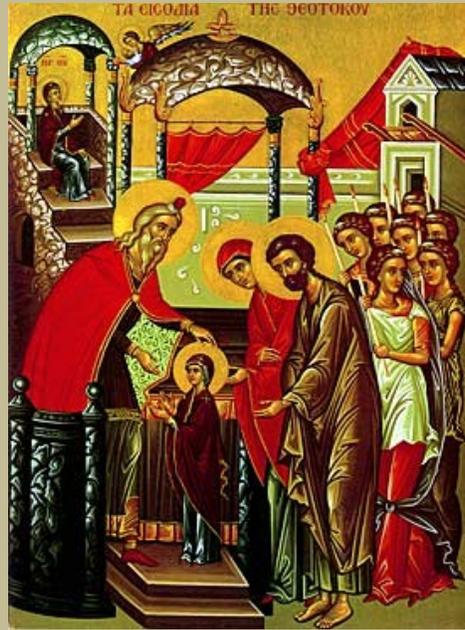


ST. NEKTARIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2012



NEWSLETTER



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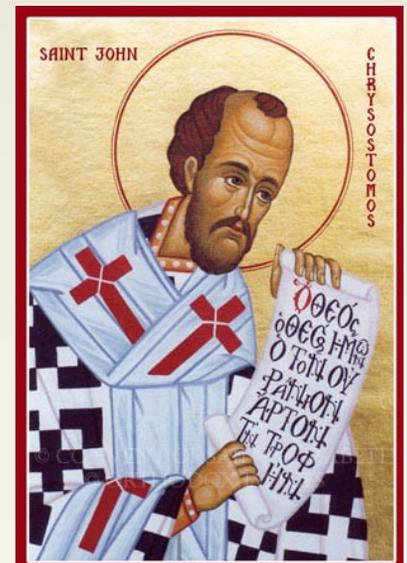
Questions? Ask Fr David!

THE WINTER PASCHA Chapter 4: Temples of the Living God

Fr. Thomas Hopko

In the Orthodox Church the Virgin Mary is the image of those who are being saved. If Jesus Christ is the Savior, Mary is, par excellence, the image of the *saved*. She is, in every aspect of her life, as Father Alexander Schmemmann so often said, not the great *exception*, but rather the great *example*. From her conception to her dormition, that is, her true and real death, she shows how all people must be when they are sanctified by the Holy Spirit as servants of God and imitators of Christ.

In the festival of the entrance of Mary into the temple we have seen how Christ's mother is continuously hymned as the "living temple of the holy glory of Christ our God." She is praised as the "living ark which contained the Word that cannot be contained." She is glorified as "the temple that is to hold God," consecrated by the spirit to be the "dwelling place of the Almighty." She enters the Holy of Holies to become herself the "animated Holy of Holies," the one in whom Christ is formed, thereby making her, and everyone who is one with her in faith, the "abode of heaven." We are all made to be living temples of God. We are all created to be dwelling places of his glory. We are all fashioned in His image and likeness to be abodes of His presence. The first Christian martyr, the (cont.)



ST. NEKTARIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH

November 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31 Vespers 6:30	1	2	3 Catechism 4:30 Confession 5:30 Great Vespers 6:30
4 Divine Liturgy 9:30 Council Meeting	5	6	7	8 Great Vespers 6:30	9 Divine Liturgy 9:30 St. Nektarios – Patronal Feast	10 Catechism 4:30 Confession 5:30 Great Vespers 6:30
11 Divine Liturgy 9:30 Sunday School	12	13 St. John Chrysostom	14 Apostle Philip	15	16 Choir 7:00 Evangelist Matthew	17 Compline 6:30
18 Reader Typika 9:30	19	20 Great Vespers 6:30	21 Divine Liturgy 9:30 Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple	22	23	24 Catechism 4:30 Confession 5:30 Great Vespers 6:30
25 Divine Liturgy 9:30	26	27	28 Vespers 6:30	29	30 Choir 7:00 Apostle Andrew	1



O ye faithful, let us honor Nektarios the godly servant of Christ,
 the offspring of Silyvria and guardian of Aegina,
 a true friend of the virtues,
 for he poureth forth all manner of healing upon those who piously cry aloud:
 Glory to Him who gave you strength!
 Glory to Him who granted you a crown!
 Glory to Him who through you grants healing to all!

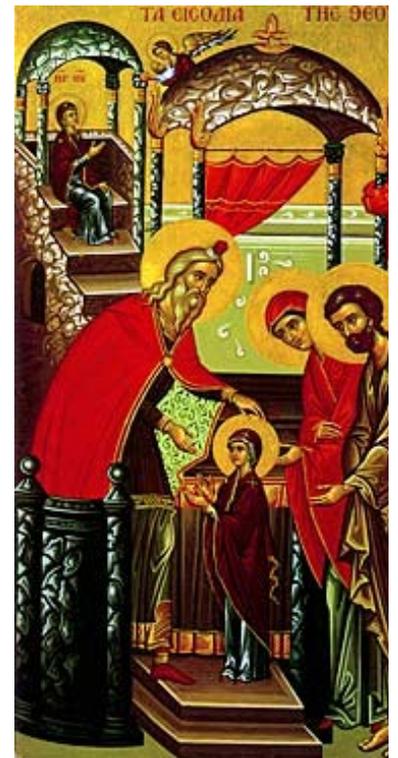
~ Troparion for St Nektarios Kephalas the Metropolitan of Pentapolis

protodeacon Stephen whose memory is celebrated on the third day of Christmas, was killed for proclaiming this marvel when he bore witness that "the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands." For this, like Jesus himself, he was accused of planning the destruction of the earthly temple at Jerusalem (Acts 7:48; 6:14). The apostle Paul proclaims this same doctrine clearly and without equivocation when he writes to the Corinthians and to us that "we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building" (1 Cor 3:9).

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are. (1 Cor 3:16-17)

...Jesus Christ, the Son, Word, and Image of God, is physically and spiritually formed in the body of Mary so that He might be formed in us as well (see Gal 4:19). This is the meaning of Christmas, which is the meaning of life itself: Christ in us and we in Christ, God with us and we with God. The Spirit in our hearts so that the Spirit can flow out from us, sanctifying the world around us. This is not mere symbolism, the high-blown language of the liturgy and the scriptures. This is serious business. It is a matter of life and death. For we are either the living vessels of God – "earthen vessels" to be sure, to show, as the apostle again affirms, that "the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us" (2 Cor 4:7) – or we are, to use the apostle's language once more, "vessels of wrath" to be destroyed in our wickedness by God's righteous glory (Rom 9:22).

As we go the way of the Winter Pascha the choice placed before us is clear. We can follow the "narrow way" that leads to life, or we can go on the "broad way" that leads to destruction (Mt 7:13-14). We can, like Mary, cleave to the Lord and become His dwelling place in the Spirit. Or we can through immorality and sin choose the death of the nothingness which we are unless the Lord Himself lives within us. "But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him" (1 Cor 6:17).



The Entrance of the Theotokos Into the Temple – November 21

We begin our preparation for Christmas this month with the Winter Lenten Fast. Much of our faith is about anticipation and fulfillment. And so, with this in mind, give yourselves over as much as you are able to this time of preparation. The days are becoming increasingly darker and the coldness of winter is coming quickly. Into this darkness and cold, the True Light of the world is coming to take on our form and our weakness and offer life to us in exchange for death. Be mindful of your actions and your thoughts. Be charitable with each other. God is with us!

Who We Are... St. Nektarios Orthodox Church is a mission of the Orthodox Church in America in Waxahachie, Texas. We are located at 208 West Franklin Street in downtown Waxahachie, TX near the historic square. We are in the process of purchasing property and building a new home in which to worship and to minister to the local community. For information, please contact Fr. David Bozeman at 816-509-6411 or at frdbozeman@gmail.com. You can also receive updates through our website www.stnektariosdfw.org or through social media at <http://www.facebook.com/SaintNektariosMission>. Christ is in our midst!