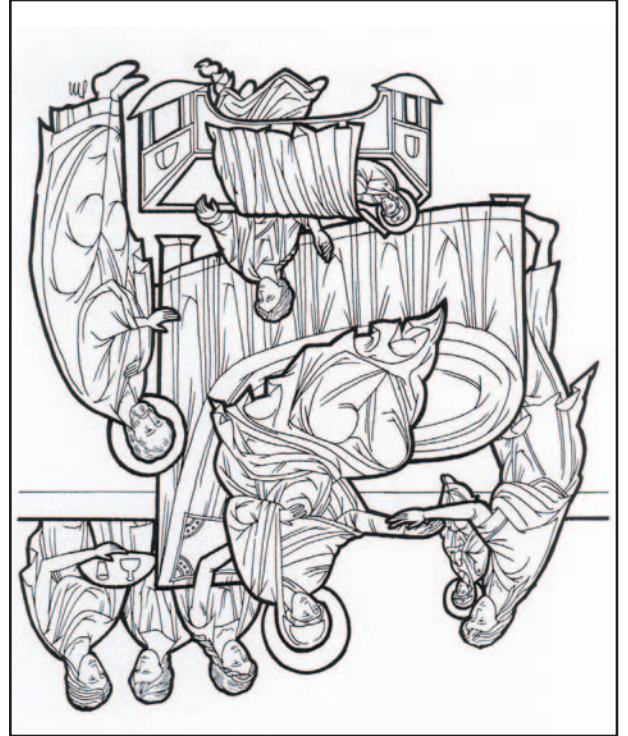


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*Thy nativity, O Theotokos, hath
proclaimed joy to the whole universe; for
from thee did shine forth the Sun of
justice, Christ our God, annulling the
curse, and bestowing the blessing,
abolishing death and granting
us life everlasting.*

Troparion



Nativity of the Theotokos

September 8 / 21

St. Anna is shown reclining on a bed after giving birth. She has the help of another woman who appears to be waiting to serve her. Mary's father, St. Joachim, appears to be speaking to his wife. Another woman is shown in the icon holding the infant. St. Anna gazes at her newborn daughter.

It is believed that St. Anna was beyond childbearing age and considered barren. The birth is wondrous. The feast day calls us to remember that with God all things are possible. In addition, we marvel at the fact that the coming of the Son of God was not a random event, but rather planned carefully and orchestrated through the centuries by the many who sought to fulfill God's will in their lives. The feast day is celebrated September 8/21.

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