

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON DECEMBER 09
CONCEPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS BY RIGHTEOUS ANNA
CONSECRATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE RESURRECTION IN JERUSALEM

NOTE TO CLERGY: Remember to include this special petition in the Great Litany before the one for the head of state, as directed by the Antiochian Archdiocese.

Deacon: For Metropolitan Paul, Archbishop John, and for their quick release from captivity and safe return, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Save us, O Son of God, Who art wondrous in the Saints; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF ORDINARY WEEKDAYS

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ. Save us, O Son of God, Who art wondrous in the Saints; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

- *Now sing these apolytikia in the following order.*

APOLYTIKION OF CONCEPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS BY ST. ANNA IN TONE FOUR

(CHANT)

Today have the bonds of barrenness been loosened; God, having heard the prayers of Joachim and Anna, promised them openly that they should give birth, beyond hope, to the Maiden of God, from whom He, the infinite One was to be born, becoming man, commanding the angel to shout to her: Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE CONSECRATION IN TONE FOUR

Thou hast revealed the earthly majesty of the dwelling place of the holy glory, O Lord, as the brilliance of the firmament on high. Make firm its foundation unto ages of ages and receive our fervent supplications which are offered to thee therein; through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Life and Resurrection of all.

- *Now sing the apolytikion of the patron saint or feast of the temple.*

KONTAKION OF CONCEPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS BY ST. ANNA IN TONE FOUR

(***On this day Thou hast appeared***) (CHANT)

All the world doth celebrate * Anna's conception * on this day with festive joy, * because it came to pass through God; * for by divine grace she hath conceived * her that beyond words conceiveth the Word of God.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Conception of the Theotokos by Righteous Anna)

God is wondrous in His saints. Bless God in the congregations.

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians. (4:22-27)

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this

is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, “Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married.”

THE GOSPEL

(For the Conception of the Theotokos by Righteous Anna)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke. (8:16-21)

The Lord said, “No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a vessel, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is hid that shall not be made manifest, nor anything secret that shall not be known and come to light. Take heed then how you hear; for to him who has will more be given, and from him who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.” Then His mother and His brothers came to Him, but they could not reach Him for the crowd. And He was told, “Thy mother and Thy brothers are standing outside, desiring to see Thee.” But He said to them, “My mother and My brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it.”

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) FOR THE CONCEPTION IN TONE EIGHT

Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise is meet for the upright. Alleluia.

THE DISMISSAL

Priest: May Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother—whose Conception by righteous Anna we now celebrate—by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

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