**SEPTEMBER 9**

**Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos**

**Holy and Righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna**

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 1**

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

V. (6) *If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

**Tone 1** *(for the Feast)* *(Joy of the Heavenly Hosts)*

Joachim and Anna celebrate the feast,

for they gave birth to the only Theotokos,

the beginning of our salvation.

Together with them we also celebrate today,//

blessing the pure Virgin who sprang from the root of Jesse.

V. (5) *For Thy Name’s sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

The Maiden who held God, the pure Theotokos,

the glory of the Prophets, the daughter of David,

is born today of Joachim and chaste Anna.//

The curse of Adam that lay upon us is annulled by her childbearing.

V. (4) *From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

She who before was as a barren field

gives birth to the fertile ground.

She brings forth a holy fruit from her fruitless womb

and nurtures her with milk.

Oh, great marvel!

The nourisher of Life, who received the Bread of Heaven in her womb,//

is fed with milk at her mother’s breasts!

V. (3) *For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

**Tone 4** *(for Sts. Joachim and Anna)* *(Thou hast given a sign)*

Come, O lovers of the feasts of the Church,

let us rejoice in song and celebrate in faith

the memory of the blessed ancestors, Joachim and Anna,

the honored couple who gave birth to the holy Virgin Mother of God for us!

Now that they have left behind this passing life for the eternal mansions,//

they ceaselessly pray that we may be saved.

V. (2) *Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Today all creation rejoices with gladness,

uniting to celebrate the annual memory of thine ancestors, O all-praised Theotokos.

Joachim and Anna sing of the wonder together.

They have been filled with joy by thy birth.

From them our hope has blossomed://

the Mother of Light and the nourisher of our Life.

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Today Anna’s spirit leaps for joy.

She exults, having attained her desire;

just as her namesake believed and was blessed with children in days of old,

she has borne the fruit of the promise, the divine blessing:

the all-pure Mary, who gave birth to our God.//

From her the Sun has risen to those who sat in darkness.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 5** *(for Sts. Joachim and Anna, by Ephraim of Karia)*

O blessed couple,

you are exalted above all other parents.

She who is above all creation blossomed from you.

Joachim, thou art happy indeed to be called the father of such a child.

Joy is thine, O mother Anna,

for from thy womb came the Mother of our life.

Blessed are her breasts, which nourish Him Who feeds everything that breathes!//

Pray to Him to have mercy on our souls, O all-blessed saints!

**Aposticha**

**Tone 2** *(for Sts. Joachim and Anna)* *(Joseph of Arimathea)*

The divinely wise Anna,

beholding the nest of a bird in a tree,

called to mind her own childlessness, and cried out:

“Woe is me, O Lord!

I alone, a sinner, have become poor in the fruitfulness that comes from Thee, O Lord.”

Then God, the Lover of man, gave her as fruit the Virgin,//

who is more precious than all creation.

V. *Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! (Ps. 44:9a)*

The divinely wise Anna,

conscious of her barrenness and of the affliction of childlessness,

cried out to God in prayer:

“Remove the grievous bond of barrenness, O Master Christ,

and I will bring forth the child who will give birth to Thee, O Giver of Life,

when she takes hold of the sacred word that Thou wilt give to her,//

for she it is who gives birth to Thee, the Savior of all mankind!”

V. *Even the rich among the people shall pray before thy face. (Ps. 44:11b)*

When the Master and God heard thy prayer,

as He did Sarah’s before, when she heard the voice of the angel,

He proclaimed joyous tidings to thee:

“Thou shalt bear the Mother of God.”

And thou didst cry out in gladness of soul:

“Thou hast granted me deliverance from the reproach of those who have borne children,

for I shall give birth to the Ever-Virgin,//

O Master and Lord, my God and Creator!”

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 8** *(for Sts. Joachim and Anna)*

O Joachim and Anna, holy couple,

from your barrenness a holy root has sprung.

From her shone Christ our God, the Savior of the world.

You have gone to dwell in the heavenly mansions,

to join the most pure Virgin, your daughter.

You dance with the angels as you pray for the world.

We gather this day to praise in song your righteousness.

Through all-holy Mary, the child of God,

you became the ancestors to Christ.//

Intercede with Him that our souls may be saved!

***(at Vespers)***

**Tone 1** **Troparion** *(Sts. Joachim and Anna)*

Since you were righteous under the law of grace, O Joachim and Anna,

you gave birth to the God-given infant for our sake.

Therefore, the divine Church radiantly keeps feast today,

joyfully celebrating your honorable memory and giving ^glory to God,//

Who has raised up a horn of salvation form the house of David.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

**Tone 4** **Troparion** *(Feast)*

Thy nativity, O Virgin,

has proclaimed joy to the whole universe!

The Sun of righteousness, Christ our God,

has shone from thee, O Theotokos.

By annulling the curse,

He bestowed a blessing.//

By destroying death, He has granted us eternal life.

***(at the Divine Liturgy)***

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**Tone 2** **Kontakion** *(Sts. Joachim and Anna)*

Anna is now no longer barren

and nurses the all-pure one.

She rejoices and calls us all to sing a hymn of praise to Christ,//

Who from her womb gave mankind the only Ever-virgin Mother.

**Tone 4** **Kontakion** *(Feast)*

By thy nativity, O most pure Virgin,

Joachim and Anna are freed from barrenness,

Adam and Eve — from the corruption of death.

And we, thy people, freed from the guilt of sin, celebrate and sing to thee://

“The barren woman gives birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

**Tone 3** **Prokeimenon** *(Song of the Theotokos)*

My soul doth magnify the Lord, / and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. *(Lk. 1:46-47)*

V. *For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden, for behold, all generations will call me blessed. (Lk. 1:48)*

**Tone 4** **Prokeimenon** *(Sts. Joachim and Anna)*

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel. *(Ps. 67:35a)*

**Epistle**

(196) 2 Corinthians 12:20-13:2

(210-ctr) Galatians 4:22-31 *(Sts. Joachim and Anna)*

**Tone 8**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. *Hearken, O daughter, and see, and incline thine ear! (Ps. 44:9a)*

V. *Even the rich among the people shall pray before thy face. (Ps. 44:11b)*

**Tone 1**

V. *The salvation of the righteous is from the Lord, and He is their protector in time of affliction. (Ps. 36:40)*

**Gospel**

(17) Mark 4:24-34

(36) Luke 8:16-21 *(Sts. Joachim and Anna)*

***(Instead of “It is truly meet…,” we sing:)***

**Tone 8**

Magnify, O my soul, the most glorious birth of the Mother of God!

Virginity is foreign to mothers;

childbearing is strange for virgins.

But in thee, O Theotokos, both were accomplished.//

Therefore all we nations of the earth unceasingly magnify thee.

**Communion Hymn**

I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. *(Ps.* *115:4)*

Rejoice in the Lord, O you righteous; praise befits the just! *(Ps. 32:1)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.*