

**Sunday Before the Elevation of the Holy Cross**  
**After-Feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos**  
**September 10, 2023**

Martyrs Menodora, Metrodora and Nymphodora of Bithynia; Empress  
Pulcheria; Peter, bishop of Nicaea

**The First Antiphon**

O Lord, remember David and all his meekness. Lo, we heard of it at Ephrata; we found it in the fields of the wood.

**Refrain:** Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved; God shall help her, and that right early.  
*(Refrain)*

Glory... Both now... *(Refrain)*

**The Second Antiphon**

The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; and He will not turn from it. Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.

**Refrain:** Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing unto Thee. Alleluia.

There will I make the horn of David to bud; I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed. *(Refrain)*

For the Lord hath chosen Zion; He hath desired it for His habitation.  
*(Refrain)*

Glory... Both now... Only begotten Son and Word of God...

**The Third Antiphon**

Here will I dwell, for I have desired it. The Most High hath sanctified His tabernacle. Holy is Thy temple, and wonderful in righteousness. *(then chant the Troparion of the Nativity of the Theotokos)*

**Resurrectional Troparion (Tone 5)**

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

**Troparion of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone 4)**

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 for St. Raphael of Brooklyn (Tone 3)**

Rejoice, O Father Raphael, Adornment of the holy Church! Thou art Champion of the True Faith, Seeker of the lost, Consolation of the Oppressed, Father to orphans and Friend of the poor, Peacemaker and good Shepherd, Joy of all the Orthodox, Son of Antioch, Boast of America. Intercede with Christ God for us and for all who honor thee.

**Kontakion of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Tone 4)**

By thy holy nativity, O pure one, Joachim and Anna were delivered from the reproach of barrenness; and Adam and Eve were delivered from the corruption of death; thy people do celebrate it, having been saved from the stain of iniquity, crying unto thee: The barren doth give birth to the Theotokos, who nourisheth our life.

**The Prokeimenon**

O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance. To Thee, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

**Epistle**

**Galatians 6:11-18**

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the Law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all, who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

**Holy Gospel**

**John 3:13-17**

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but He who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish

but have eternal life. For God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.”

**Holy Bread:** Kh Meleah Palke

**Commemorations(Living):** Fr Michael, Pr Vicki, Katherine, John, Corgie, Karen, Maher, Fabiola, Christopher, Steven, Jonathan, Jaime, Justin, George, Joan, Fr Tom, Kh Meleah, Stephen, Sagi, Sky, Carol, Natalia, Alexander, Anthony, Jim, Laura, Michael, Joel, Lisa, Danny, Asa, Cody, Max, Levi, Courtney, Nina, Kenneth, Alex, Christina, Beth, John, Dominick, Yina, Michael, Debra, Lauren, Rashid, Hala, Irina, Fr. Vladimir Paul, all Orthodox missionaries, the suffering believers everywhere.

**Departed:**

**Please join us for a Vespers Divine Liturgy at Compton Village for the Exaltation of the Holy Cross this Wednesday, September 13, at 7:15 PM.** The service will conclude with the procession of the Holy Cross.

**Please join us today for a potluck luncheon after liturgy!** Our next special luncheon will be on November 5, when we celebrate the life of our patron saint, St. Raphael of Brooklyn.

**Know your faith.** The Gospel, according to St. Paul, has the following two main teachings: the death and the resurrection of Christ. To whom is the Gospel to be preached? All nations of the world (Mark 16:15). The 10 Commandments can be summarized as our duty to God and our duty to our neighbor (all people). The Nativity of the Theotokos is celebrated on September 8. (T/F) Her birth is recorded in Luke 1. Who were her parents? Joachim and Anna. In Matins, Mary is acclaimed as the Theotokos (the birth-giver of God) and the Mother of the Light. On November 21 we celebrate the Presentation of the Theotokos in the Temple. The Orthodox Church celebrates 12 major feasts during the church year. 7 of the feasts are for Christ and 5 are for the Theotokos. Is Pascha one of those feasts? (Y/N). Why? Because it is the "feast of feasts."

**The Feast of the Elevation of the Holy Cross** is an opportunity outside of the observances of Holy Week to celebrate the full significance of the victory of the Cross over the powers of the world, and the triumph of the wisdom of God through the Cross over the wisdom of this world. This Feast also gives the Church an opportunity to relish the full glory of the Cross as a source of light, hope and victory for Christ's people. It is also a time to celebrate the universality of the work of redemption accomplished through the Cross.

**Online Bible Study will resume on Wednesday, September 20, at 8 PM. We will begin a study of Old Testament saints.** We will begin with Evening Prayer and then proceed to our study. Look for the Zoom link in your email.



## St. Raphael of Brooklyn Orthodox Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese

Metropolitan Saba, Primate

Bishop Thomas, Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic

Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM

Meeting at Compton Village  
14401 Compton Village Dr.  
Centreville, Virginia 20121

Fr. Thomas L. Palke, Pastor  
3041 Donnington Court  
Jeffersonton, VA 22724  
(703)303-3047/(540)937-2609  
email: pastortlp@aol.com  
website: www.straphaelva.org

## Kontakion of the Nativity

*Ison*  $\text{♩} = 120$   
The\_\_\_ Vir - gin com-eth to - day to\_\_\_ the  
cave\_\_\_ to give\_\_\_\_\_ birth, in - ef - fa - bly to\_\_\_ bring forth  
the\_\_\_ Word\_\_\_ e - ter - nal. . There - fore, re -  
joice,\_\_\_ O\_\_\_ earth at the mes - sage  
with thē an - gels and shep-herds give glo - ry to him  
who\_\_\_ shall ap-pear by\_\_\_ his own\_\_\_ will as a\_\_\_young\_\_\_ child,  
he who is from e - ter - ni - ty God.

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## Many Years, Master

Tone 2

Ison  
(In octaves) Man - y years \_\_\_\_\_ to thee, mas - - - ter.  
Is pol - la \_\_\_\_\_ e - ti, dhēs - po - ta.

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Tone 2

Ison  
(In octaves) Man - y years \_\_\_\_\_ to thee, mas - - - ter.  
Is pol - la \_\_\_\_\_ e - ti, dhēs - po - ta.

## Troparion of the Holy Forefathers

Thou hast jus - ti - fied by faith thē an - cient fore -  
- fa - thers and through them thou hast gone be - fore and be -  
- trothed un - to thy - self the Church of the Gen - - - -  
- tiles. Let the saints, there - fore, take pride in glo - ry;  
for from their seed sprout - ed forth a no - ble fruit,  
and she it was who gave birth to thee with - out  
seed. Where - fore, by their plead - ings, O  
Christ God, save our souls.

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