

What St. Anna Teaches Us about Faith

Think about the purity, holiness, and magnificence of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She was the only human being ever to be sinless and constantly in a state of grace. Because Mary was such a beautiful symbol of grace, her mother, St. Anna, must have also been a devout woman of God.

Anna and her husband Joachim were an extremely pious couple, but they were unable to conceive a child. This burden weighed heavily on Joachim's shoulders, so he spent much time fasting and in devout prayer pleading for God to bless him and Anna with a child.

According to tradition, Anna also became distraught. She went into her garden and prayed for God to bless her with a child, promising that the child would be dedicated to the service of the Lord. As Anna wept in prayer, an angel appeared and said to her, "The Lord has looked upon thy tears; thou shalt conceive and give birth and the fruit of thy womb shall be blessed by all

the world." Then the angel appeared to Joachim as well, and the couple rejoiced as they conceived a child, whom they named Mary.

St. Anna understood that all children are a blessing from God and that God alone has the power to decide when the life of a person will begin and end. When God blesses us, it can be easy to merely accept the gift and move forward with our daily lives. But St. Anna did more than receive the gift of a child. She went a step further and trusted in the plan of God by promising her child to God's service.

As we work to build a culture of life, we can easily become discouraged. But like St. Anna, we must put our faith and trust in God and His ultimate plan for our happiness. We can turn to God and pray for children, pray for an end to abortion, and pray for the gift of adoption. With God's help, nothing is impossible.

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST FEAST OF THE MATERNITY OF THE HOLY ANNA



Icon of Saint Anna and the Mother of God

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE HOLY FAMILY

4250 Harewood Road NE

Washington, DC 20017

Phone: 202-526-3737

Fax: 202-526-1327

E-mail: ucnsfamily@gmail.com

Webpage: www.ucns-holyfamily.org

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY PLEASE CALL: 202-262-5040

Pastoral Care entrusted to:

Father Robert Hitchens – Administrator

Father Mykola Dziurakh – Parochial Vicar

Sunday – December 8, 2024

Glory to Jesus Christ – Glory to Him Forever + Слава Ісусу Христу – Слава на віки

Confessions are available before the Divine Liturgies

All Services will be Live Streamed at 9:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Platform: <https://www.facebook.com/holyfamilyshrine/>

Saturday December 7 7:00 p.m.	UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS CHRISTMAS CONCERT – Tickets Required Buy on Eventbrite
Sunday December 8 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	St. Nicholas Visit (For the Parish) (+Pola Knysh from Family)
Monday December 9 7:00 p.m.	Conception of Anna when she conceived Mary, the Mother of God (Immaculate Conception) (+Marion Bartoszyk from Friends)
Wednesday December 11 9:00 a.m.	(+Alissa Nina Warnke from Marie Carpentri)
Thursday December 12 9:00 a.m.	(+Christine Luznycky Kulchycyi from Family)
Friday December 13 9:00 a.m.	(Living of the Nagurney-Medwid Family from Irene)
Saturday December 14 5:30 p.m.	Great Vespers
Sunday December 15 9:00 a.m. 11:30 a.m.	(+Kateryna, +Mykola, +Mariya from Mariya Lupiy) (For the Parish)

CATECHISM CLASSES FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-5 AND 5-7

Catechism classes will be held from 10:15-11:15 am on Sunday. Please mark these dates for the first semester: Dec 8, Dec 22.

FIRST CONFESSION CLASSES TO BEGIN SUNDAY, JANUARY 26, 2025

We will soon start our preparation classes for children intending to make their First Confession in 2025. Classes will be held on Sundays between the English and Ukrainian liturgies (approx. 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM), beginning on January 26. First Confessions will be celebrated on Lazarus Saturday (April 12, 2025). No class will be held on February 16 (President's Day weekend). All children must attend Divine Liturgy with their families on a weekly basis during their preparation for the sacrament. If you have children of First Confession age in your family (age 7+), please contact Olya Mulvey by email at olya.kroytor@gmail.com to register or learn more.

ST. PHILIP'S FAST – PYLYPIVKA 2024 (NOV 15 – DEC 24)

In preparation for Christmas and the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord, our church observes the spiritual journey of the pre-Christmas Fast. Please prepare to worthily celebrate the Birth of the Savior of the World, Our Lord Jesus Christ. This is a voluntary fast period. Please observe it as you are able to best prepare yourself for Christmas – Good Deeds, Volunteering, Confession, Fasting.

ST. PHILIP'S FAST CHARITY PROJECT 2024

Please bring new unwrapped baby items to donate to the Front Royal Pregnancy Center. We invite everyone to purchase and donate **NEW, UNOPENED BABY ITEMS**. The pregnancy center will accept anything that could be used by babies and mothers, Diapers (Sizes: 3, 4, and 5) & Changing Wipes, Baby Formula (8 or 12 oz. cans), Similac Sensitive Powder Formula, Similac Pro-Advance Powdered Formula, Enfamil Neuropro Gentle Infant Formula Powder, Baby Lotion, Diaper Rash Cream, Play Pens, Strollers, Baby Blankets, Sippy Cups & Baby Bottles (8-9 oz.), 3-in-1 Convertible Car Seats, New Infant Carrier Car Seats (for up to 35 lbs.)

PLEASE PLACE YOUR DONATIONS IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE NO LATER THAN JANUARY 5, 2025.

Prayer List

Our prayer list of the sick or elderly and friends of our parish: Theresa Aranda, Liana Arnold, Valarie Balthis, Charles Belanger, Barbara Blendy, Bluey Family, Yevhenia Borys, Terry Boyle, Taisia Bullard, Mary Connors, Veronica Cosio, Darlene Dossick, Solomia Dutkewych and Theresa, Ruth Fedack, Bernard F, Lindsey Fedyk, Ferne Fisanich, Myroslava Futey, Lilian Garland, Thomas Gutmann, H.H., Josie Hacker, Catherine Hetmansky, Vanessa Hetmansky, Bernadell Rita Higgins, Ellen Hitchens, Janet Hitchens, Daniel Horeczko, Boris Hlynsky, Nila Iwaskiw, Sarah Kelt, LTJG Lydia Kowalskyj USN, Dorothy Kozmoski, Suzanne Krumpelman, Mr. Marko, Michael Joseph Little, Melissa Martin, Paul Marynowych, Michele Pretka Litvak, Yaroslava L., Mufada and Family, Sallie Miller, John Moeller, Deborah Pickering, Alexandra Pohorecka, Patricia Pylypec, Ron#119, Michael Joseph Radigan, Roman Rusynko, Lisa Schaible, Christopher Sell,, Teresa Sherwood, Shliakhta Bogdana, Shliakhta Mark, Shliakhta, Andrew, Larry Sosnowich, Lindsey Sydnor, Thomas Sydnor, Stefania Szahaj, Lisa Pretka Turner, Gloria and Luis Vega, Anne Woroniak, Rose Wilson, Fr. George Worschak, and Paul Yarrish. If you know of someone who should be on this list, please email or call with the name of the individual. Our intercessory prayer for the sick and the aged is truly helpful and comforting. In your Christian Charity, kindly remember our sick parishioners in your prayers and perhaps a card or note.

Christmas – 2024 - Різдво

Christmas Eve Tuesday December 24

4:30 p.m. Children's procession and Divine Liturgy for Christmas

(All are Welcome and Families are encouraged to attend) (Eng.)

10:00 p.m. *Z namy Boh* and Christmas Divine Liturgy (Ukr. and Eng.)

Вікторок 24 грудня Навечір'я Різдва ГНІХ – Святвечір

4:30 пополудні Процесійна хода дітей та Різдвяна Божественна Літургія (анг.)

10:00 вечора – *З нами Бог* та Божественна Літургія – Різдво Господа Нашого Ісуса

Христа (укр. та анг.)

Christmas Day Wednesday December 25

10:30 a.m. Christmas Divine Liturgy (Ukr. and Eng.)

Середа 25 грудня Різдво Господа Нашого Ісуса Христа

10:30 ранку – Божественна Літургія – Різдво Господа Нашого Ісуса Христа (укр. та анг.)