

  
**SAINT ANNA**  
**ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

700 Woodland St, Columbia, TN 38401 ♦ Website: [www.StAnnaColumbia.org](http://www.StAnnaColumbia.org)

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*A Mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America*

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

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**DIVINE LITURGY—SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022, TONE 5 / EOTHINON 5**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT (SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY)**

TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF NIKEPHOROS, PATRIARCH OF CONSTANTINOPLE;  
BISHOPS POPLIAS AND MARIOS

\*\*DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT\*\*



**THE FIRST ANTIPHON (Psalms 92, 105, 106)**

+ *The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.*

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

+ *The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength. For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved. (Refrain)*

+ *Who shall tell of the mighty acts of the Lord? Who shall make all of His praises to be heard? (Refrain)*

+ *Let the redeemed by the Lord say so, whom He has delivered from the hand of the enemy. (Refrain)*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.  
*(Refrain)*

**THE SECOND ANTIPHON (Psalms 106, 32, 101)**

+ *Let them acknowledge the Lord for His mercies, and for His wondrous works for the sons of men.*

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

+ *Let them exalt Him in the church of the faithful, and in the assembly of the presbyters. (Refrain)*

+ *The eyes of the Lord are upon those that fear Him, upon those that hope in His mercy; to hear the mourning of those in captivity, and to loose the sons of those appointed to death. (Refrain)*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## HYMN OF ST. JUSTINIAN

Only Begotten Son and Word of God, who art immortal, Thou didst take on Thee for our salvation to be incarnate of the Holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary and without change was made man, and was crucified also, O Christ our God, and by Thy death hast death subdued. Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: O save, O save us.

### THIRD ANTIPHON: APOLYTIKION OF FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT IN TONE TWO (Psalms 68, 117, 107)

+ *Let the heavens and the earth praise Him. This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. O Lord my God, I will acknowledge Thee forever.*

**Refrain:** Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

### THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF ORDINARY SUNDAYS

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

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

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.

### APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANNA, Righteous Ancestor of God, Mother of the Theotokos:

O Godly-minded Anna, thou didst give birth unto God's pure mother who conceived Him Who is our Life. Wherefore, thou hast now passed with joy to thy heavenly rest, wherein is the abode of them that rejoice in glory; and thou askest forgiveness of sins for them that honor thee with love, O ever blessed one.

### APOLYTIKION OF FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT IN TONE TWO

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

### KONTAKION FOR SUNDAYS IN GREAT LENT (AND AKATHIST SATURDAY) IN TONE EIGHT

To thee, our Captain, Queen of war, the battle trophies won, thy people rescued by thine aid from peril, dedicate as our offering of thanksgiving, O Theotokos, as thou hast might which none by war can overcome, from all forms of danger hast thou delivered me, that I may cry unto thee: Hail, O Virgin, unwedded Bride.

### TRISAGION HYMN

**People:** *(sung)* Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. *(Three times)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

**Priest:** *With Strength!*

**People:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

### ~THE NEW TESTAMENT READINGS~

#### THE EPISTLE (For the First Sunday of Great Lent)

**Priest:** *Let us attend.*

**Reader:** Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us.

**Priest:** *Wisdom.*

**Reader:** **The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews. (11:24-26, 32-40)**

**Priest:** *Let us attend.*

**Reader:** Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of the Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he looked to the recompense of reward. And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me if I tell of Gideon, Barak, Sampson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and all the prophets, who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became mighty in war, and turned to flight armies of the aliens. Women received their dead by resurrection, and others were tortured, not accepting their deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. And others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, they were tempted, they were slain with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, being destitute, afflicted, tormented (of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a witness through their faith, did not receive the promise, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

**ALLELUIA FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT, TONE EIGHT (Psalm 98:6,7)**

**People:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Reader:** *Moses and Aaron among His priests, and Samuel among them that call upon His name.*

**People:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**Reader:** *They called upon the Lord, and He hearkened unto them.*

**People:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**THE GOSPEL (For the First Sunday of Great Lent)**

**Priest:** *Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us hear the Holy Gospel. Peace be to all.*

**People:** And to thy spirit.

**Priest:** **The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:43-51)**

**People:** Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

**Priest:** *Let us attend.*

*At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And He found Philip and said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and said to him, "We have found Him of Whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to Jesus, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Rabbi, Thou art the Son of God! Thou art the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."*

**People:** Glory to thee, O Lord, Glory to thee.

**CHERUBIC HYMN**

We who mystically represent the cherubim, and who sing to the life-giving Trinity the thrice holy hymn, let us now lay aside all earthly cares, that we may receive the King on all who comes invisibly up borne by the angelic host. *Alleluia.*

**THE NICENE CREED**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, Begotten of the Father before all worlds,

Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge the quick and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets; And I believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the Resurrection of the dead. And the Life of the world to come. *Amen.*

### **ST. BASIL LITURGY MEGALYNARION**

All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace: the angelic hosts and the race of men. O hallowed temple and spiritual paradise, glory of virgins, of whom God was incarnate and became a little child, even our God who is before all the ages; for he made thy womb a throne, and thy body more spacious than the heavens. All creation rejoiceth in thee, O thou who art full of grace. Glory to thee.

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

### **PRE-COMMUNION PRAYER – A PRAYER OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

I believe, O Lord, and I confess that thou art truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, who didst come into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief. And I believe that this is truly thine own immaculate Body, and that this is truly thine own precious Blood. Wherefore I pray thee, have mercy upon me and forgive my transgressions both voluntary and involuntary, of word and of deed, of knowledge and of ignorance; and make me worthy to partake without condemnation of thine immaculate Mysteries, unto remission of my sins and unto life everlasting. *Amen.*

Of thy Mystic Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant: for I will not speak of thy Mystery to thine enemies, neither will I give thee a kiss as did Judas; but like the thief will I confess thee: Remember me, O Lord, in thy Kingdom. Not unto judgment nor unto condemnation be my partaking of thy Holy Mysteries, O Lord, but unto the healing of soul and body.

### **THE COMMUNION HYMN - KOINONIKON – Psalm 32:1-4**

**Refrain:** Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise is meet for the upright.

*1). Give praise to the Lord with the harp, chant unto Him with the ten-stringed psaltery. (Refrain)*

*2). Sing unto Him a new song, chant well unto Him with jubilation. (Refrain)*

*3). For the word of the Lord is true, and all His works are in faithfulness. (Refrain) Alleluia.*

**Priest:** *With the fear of God and faith and love, draw near.*

**People:** Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord. God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us.

### **THE PEOPLE'S COMMUNION HYMN**

Receive me today, O Son of God, as partaker of Thy mystical supper; for I will not speak, for I will not speak of Thy mystery to Thine enemies, neither will I give Thee a kiss as did Judas; but like the thief will I confess Thee. Remember me, O Lord, remember me, O Lord, in Thy Kingdom.

### **POST-COMMUNION HYMN**

We have seen the true light; we have received the heavenly Spirit. We have found the true faith worshipping the undivided Trinity, who hath saved us.

## **LET OUR MOUTHS BE FILLED**

Let our mouths be filled with Thy praise, O Lord that we may sing of Thy glory. For Thou hast made us worthy to partake of Thy holy, divine, immortal, and life creating mysteries. Keep us in Thy holiness that all the day we may meditate upon Thy righteousness. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

## **\*\*THE PROCESSION OF THE HOLY ICONS\*\***

### **APOLYTIKION OF THE FIRST SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT IN TONE TWO**

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

### **THE SYNODICON: THE AFFIRMATION OF THE ORTHODOX FAITH**

As the Prophets beheld, as the Apostles have taught, as the Church has received, as the Teachers have dogmatized, as the universe has agreed, as Grace has shown forth, as Truth has revealed, as falsehood has been dissolved, as Wisdom has presented, as Christ has awarded: thus we declare, thus we assert, thus we preach Christ our true God, and honor His Saints in words, in writings, in thoughts, in sacrifices, in churches, in Holy Icons; on the one hand worshiping and reverencing Christ as God and Lord; and on the other hand honoring as true servants of the same Lord of all, and accordingly offering them veneration.

This is the Faith of the Apostles; this is the Faith of the Fathers; this is the Faith of the Orthodox; this is the Faith which has established the universe!

## **ST. ANNA ANNOUNCEMENTS**

[Welcome to our Visitors](#) - We're glad you're here! Please join us after the morning services for Coffee Hour so we can meet you and know you better.

[Receiving Holy Communion](#) unites us with Our Lord Jesus Christ, His unoriginated Father, the Holy Spirit, our Bishop, and the Church, both in heaven and on earth. To commune signifies a commitment to Holy Orthodox Christianity and that all communicants share this common Apostolic Faith. As such, only those who are members in good standing of the Holy Orthodox Christian Church and who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and regular confession may receive the Eucharist. All those present today, including non-Orthodox, are invited to receive the Blessed Bread from the acolytes or clergy as a sign of our friendship.

### **UPCOMING SERVICES:**

**Sunday, March 13:** Orthros (9am) and Divine Liturgy (10am) - *Orthodoxy Sunday*

**Sunday, March 13:** Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers (6pm) - (St. Ignatius Orthodox Church, Franklin, TN)

**Wednesday, March 16:** Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy (6:00pm)

**Friday, March 18:** Little Compline with the Akathist Hymn (6:30pm)

**Saturday, March 19:** Great Vespers (5pm)

**Sunday, March 20:** Orthros (9am) and Divine Liturgy (10am) - *St. Gregory Palamas*

**Wednesday, March 23:** Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy (6:00pm)

**Friday, March 25:** *Vespersal Divine Liturgy* (6:00pm) - *Feast of the Annunciation*

**Saturday, March 26:** Great Vespers (5pm)

**Sunday, March 27:** Orthros (9am) and Divine Liturgy (10am) - *Sunday of the Cross*

**Wednesday, March 30:** Pre-Sanctified Divine Liturgy (6:00pm)

SERVICE	ACOLYTES	PROSPHORA	EPISTLE READER	CHURCH CLEANING
Sun, Mar 13	St. Raphael	Ben/Hannah Kelley (B)	Dayle Lemon	Julie, Lisa, Jenny, Amy
Sun, Mar 20	St. Herman	Ben/Hannah Kelley (F)	Mary Hannah Kelley	Weaver, Hill
Fri, Mar 25	ALL AVAILABLE	Arlin & Cathy Troyer (F)	Nancy Webster	N/A
Sun, Mar 27	St. Raphael	Ben/Hannah Kelley (F)	Jenny Emerson	Cox, Basil, Walt

Acolyte Teams: **St. Raphael Team**  
**Leader** – Steve Cox  
 Andrew Webster  
 Adrian Hill  
 Jesse Cox  
 Theodore Thomas

**St. Herman Team**  
**Leader** – Brian Weaver  
 Kellen Stephens  
 Kanen Stephens  
 Ben Weaver  
 Jaden Kent



Special Days THIS WEEK – May God Grant You Many Years!

<b>Saint's Days:</b>	Brian Weaver	March 17 – St. Patrick of Ireland
	Steve Cox	March 17 – St. Patrick of Ireland
	Danielle Thomas	March 19 – St. Daria



PLEASE SAVE THESE DATES:

- 1.) **Teen SOYO Meeting – TODAY** March 13 (11:45am)
- 2.) **St. Anna Men's Night Out** – THIS Tuesday, March 15 (6pm)– *Pita Plus Gyros, 1005 1/2 Carmack Blvd, Columbia* – Get meal to-go and then return to church to view the Orthodox movie – “The Island”
- 3.) **St. Anna Women's Luncheon** – NEXT Sunday, March 20 (Noon) - *B's Salty & Sweet (101 N James M Campbell Blvd, Suite #7, Columbia, TN) Inside the Factory at Columbia*

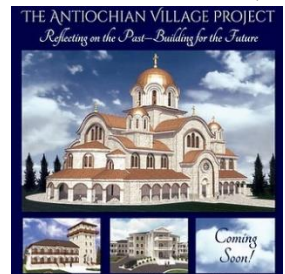
Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers – **TONIGHT (6pm)** Hosted by St. Ignatius Orthodox Church (3535 St. Ignatius Lane, Franklin, TN 37064) Each family or individual has been asked to bring a fasting finger food to share.



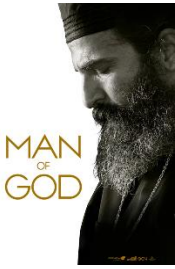
Men's Night Out, THIS TUESDAY, March 15, 6pm - There is a very meaningful and impactful Orthodox Christian film called “The Island” that is very appropriate to see during Lent. We will meet at Pita Plus on Tuesday at 6:00pm (1005 1/5 Carmack Blvd, Columbia, TN 38401) but instead of eating there we will order our fasting dinners “to-go” and take them back to St Anna and then watch this film there while we're eating our dinners. This movie is worth seeing annually, especially during Lent. All St. Anna men are urged to join us Tuesday.

DOMSE Young Adult Fellowship (Ages 19-35) Lenten Retreat – Saturday, March 19 at St. Ignatius Orthodox Church. Guest Speaker – His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS - <https://domse.org/event/yaf2022lentenretreat/>

Antiochian Women's Month – Every year in the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, the month of March is designated by our Metropolitan as Antiochian Women's Month. Since the establishment of the Antiochian Women's organization, the women of our Archdiocese have been organized to serve our local churches in many ways and have collected a special offering each year toward projects identified by the Metropolitan. This year, during the month of March, the women of our church have volunteered to read the Epistle Lesson during the Divine Liturgy and a special offering will be collected on March 20 for the expansion and development of 3 very needful facilities to be located at Antiochian Village in western Pennsylvania which will include a new cathedral along with a monastery, a home for our retired Hierarchs and a crypt in the cathedral where our hierarchs will repose including St. Raphael.



'Man of God' to Hit U.S. Theaters NEXT MONDAY on March 21 - The life of St. Nektarios of Aegina is coming to



800 movie theaters across the U.S. for one night only: Monday, March 21, 2022. "Man of God" has received rave reviews in preview screenings across the globe. A bishop of the common people, the popularity of St. Nektarios provoked the jealousy of the clergy in Alexandria, Egypt and as a result, he was expelled. In contrast to his religious "superiors," St. Nektarios cared for the poor, taught peasant girls to read and write, and performed miracles. In spite of the unjust hatred of his enemies, he still loved all, living the Word of God. Additionally, St. Nektarios composed the famous hymn "O Pure Virgin." Find the movie theater closest to you and book your tickets before they're gone. <https://www.fathomevents.com/events/Man-of-God>

## GREAT LENT AND HOLY WEEK SERVICES BOOKS

**1. The Divine Services of Great Lent** – (\$25 – Produced locally and available on the back table of the church) This Book contains the Lenten Services beginning with Forgiveness Vespers through the Liturgy for St. Lazarus - the Saturday before Palm Sunday. Also included, are the Lenten Calendar and Lenten Lectionary – including the Epistle and Gospel Readings for each day and the Fasting Guidelines from the Typikon.

**2. The Services of Great and Holy Week and Pascha:** According to the Use of the Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America. This service book contains all the services during Holy Week and are available for purchase from Fr. Andrew. Please let him know of your need.

## THE AKATHIST HYMN ON FRIDAYS DURING GREAT LENT

The Akathist Hymn is a profound, devotional poem, which sings the praises of the Holy Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary. It is one of the most beloved services in the Orthodox Church. It was composed in the imperial city of Constantinople, "the city of the Virgin," by St. Romanos the Melodist, who reposed in the year 556. The Akathist Hymn has proven so popular in the liturgical life of the Church that many other hymns have been written following its format. These include Akathists to Our Lord Jesus Christ, to the Cross, and to many Saints. The Akathist hymn consists of praises directed to the Mother of God, beginning with the salutation of the Archangel Gabriel: "Rejoice." As the hymn is chanted all of the events related to our Lord's Incarnation pass before us for our contemplation. The Archangel Gabriel marvels at the Divine self-emptying and the renewal of creation which will occur when Christ comes to dwell in the Virgin's womb.



The unborn John the Baptist prophetically rejoices. The shepherds recognize Christ as a blameless Lamb, and rejoice that in the Virgin "the things of earth join chorus with the heavens." The pagan Magi following the light of the star, praise Her for revealing the light of the world. The word "akathistos" means "not sitting," i.e., standing; normally all participants stand while it is being prayed. The hymn is comprised of 24 stanzas, arranged in an acrostic following the Greek alphabet. The stanzas alternate between long and short. Each short stanza is written in prose and ends with the singing of "Alleluia." Each longer stanza ends with the refrain: "Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded." The first part of the hymn is about the Annunciation to the Virgin Mary by the Angel. It describes Mary's surprise at the news, her visit to her mother and Joseph's doubts as to her innocence. The second part is about the birth of Christ, the worship of the Shepherds and Magi, the flight to Egypt and the visit to Saint Simeon in the Temple. In the third part the hymn directs our attention to the renewal of the world by Christ's coming, and the amazement of the Angels and the wise men at the sight of the Incarnation of God's Son. The fourth and the last part is once more a lyric and rhetorical appraisal of Virgin Mary, whom the poet adorns with the most beautiful of adjectives asking her to accept his poetical offering and to intercede for the salvation of human race from the earthly sin.

[https://www.goarch.org/lent-articles/-/asset\\_publisher/jmeEaN3ENwrl/content/the-akathist-hy-1?inheritRedirect=false](https://www.goarch.org/lent-articles/-/asset_publisher/jmeEaN3ENwrl/content/the-akathist-hy-1?inheritRedirect=false)

## FROM THE SYNAXARION

On March 13 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate our fathers among the saints Nikephoros, patriarch of Constantinople; and bishops Poplias and Marios.

On this same day, the First Sunday of the Fast, we make remembrance of the restoration of the holy and venerable Icons, which took place through the ever-memorable Sovereigns of Constantinople, Michael and his mother, Theodora, during the patriarchate of Saint Methodios the Confessor.

**Verses:** *I rejoice, as I see them fittingly reverence the icons formerly unfittingly banished.*

This restoration was accomplished in the year 843. Theodora's husband was an iconoclast. After his death, Theodora venerated an icon of the Theotokos in front of Patriarch Methodios. The other faithful in the church did the same, venerating all the icons, considering them to be representations of their original elements, not idols. Theodora prayed to God to forgive her husband during the first week of Great Lent; and on the First Sunday of the Fast, she led the way in hanging up the icons to adorn the churches.

*O invariant Icon of the Father, through the intercessions of Thy holy Confessors, have mercy on us. Amen.*

## ST. ANNA PARISH COUNCIL

Grant Kelly – *Chairman*

Eric Stephens – *Vice Chairman*

Lindsay Weaver – *Secretary*

Natalie Hill – *Treasurer*

Greg Webster – *Choir/Music Director*

Lisa Trimble – *Antiochian Women President*

Kh. Belinda Short – *Church School Director*

Fr. Andrew Short – *Parish Priest*

*Members at Large:*

BJ Rose

Arlin Troyer

## OUR PATRON SAINT – ST. ANNA

St. Anna was the daughter of Matthan the priest, who was of the tribe of Levi, whose family came from Bethlehem. St. Anna lived with her husband, Joachim, at Nazareth in Galilee. They were childless into their old age and grieved over this. They had to endure derision and scorn, since at that time childlessness was considered a disgrace. They never complained, but fervently prayed to God, humbly trusting in Him. During a great feast, the gifts that Joachim took to the Temple as an offering to God were not accepted by the priest, who considered that a childless man was not worthy to offer sacrifice to God. This pained Joachim, and he decided to settle in solitude in a desolate place. When St. Anna learned what humiliation her husband had endured, she sorrowfully entreated God with prayer and fasting to grant her a child. In his solitude, the righteous Joachim also asked God for a child. The prayer of the saintly couple was heard. An angel told them that a daughter would be born to them, Who would be blessed above all other women. The angel also told them that She would remain a virgin, would be dedicated to the Lord and live in the Temple, and would give birth to the Savior. Obeying the instructions of the heavenly messenger, Ss. Joachim and Anna met at the Golden Gate in Jerusalem. Then, as God promised, a daughter was born to them, and they named her Mary. Mary, (the Theotokos – “the Mother of God”) became the Virgin Mother of Jesus Christ the Son of God, and consequently, St. Anna is the Grandmother of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. St. Joachim died a few years later at the age of 80 after Mary went to live in the Temple. St. Anna died at the age of 70, two years after her husband. Ss. Joachim and Anna are often invoked by couples trying to have children. The falling asleep (Dormition) of St. Anna is commemorated every year on July 25.

☞ THE HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS ANCESTOR OF GOD, ANNA, PRAY FOR US. ☛

*This Orthodox Christian mission is supported by your generous tithes and offerings which can be mailed to the church, placed in the offering plate, or made online at [www.StAnnaColumbia.org](http://www.StAnnaColumbia.org) and then click on the “DONATE” tab. Thank you.*