

## Holy Trinity Herald



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We are so grateful for your feedback and suggestions, as well as requests for prayers.

### FROM FR. NIKON

Dear sisters and brothers! Once again, I would like to congratulate you with church holidays and anniversaries that the month of August offered us so generously! We left behind summer with its abundance of sunny and hot days, its lavishness of colors and its intensity of activities on the part of marvelous fauna. We now come to face September.

As the French philosopher and author Albert Camus stated, "Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." Truly so. We need to remember that the arrival of enchanting autumn does not simply mean a season with gloomy weather, a new phase of everyday worries and hard school workdays, but on the contrary, it is primarily the time of the triumph of spirit and joy of the heart. It's during the fall that despite overwhelming worries and the winter looming on the horizon, we inhale again the magical air of crystal-radiant days and evenings, so vividly described by Tyutchev. Awareness of being involved in the miracle of gospel and the joy of the heart open for Love – those are some of main components of the recipe of how to be happy about today.

September will offer a multitude of services, activities and events for our parish, including the first reading of Akathist to St Tatiana, holy patron of our Sisterhood, commemorations of the Beheading of the Prophet, Forerunner of the Lord, John the Baptist, the Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, and the Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross.

Oh Lord, bless all teachers, students, and parents and grant them strength and wisdom in learning and teaching.

I wish you all peace, love, sincerity, strength and joy of the spirit. May the Lord bless us all!

## FR. NIKON ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

Most of the questions are usually asked in person and it is certainly easier and quicker than writing a note. Parishioners may also always call the priest, send an email, or talk after the service, and that's exactly what usually happens. However, occasionally I receive anonymous notes. Last month I received one unsigned question that I publicly answered after a Sunday service.

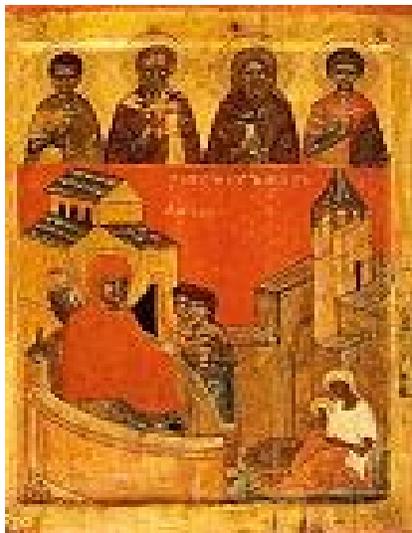
**Question:** Father, is it permissible to listen to recorded prayers while doing something else?

**Answer:** The Apostle Paul wrote, "Everything is permissible to me, but not everything is useful..." (1 Cor. 6:12.) So back to the original question, it seems it would be appropriate to ask – but why? Yes, of course, it might be acceptable to listen to prayers, especially when a person for objective reasons cannot put everything aside and pray himself; when listening to a prayer doesn't replace a prayer by the person and doesn't serve a mere "background", and when the person spiritually enthralled and fully responds to what he hears. However, if this is indeed the case, then what could really prevent a person from praying himself, from having a dialogue with God, without resorting to audio equipment? Is there the possibility or the concern that such a listened prayer would not be a mere check mark. Prayer is an active dialogue with God. It is an appeal to the Heavenly King with a burning heart, full of hope and love. Indeed, it would be strange if a young man or a woman, being "head over heels" in love, come on a date with a voice recorder and instead of fervently confessing their love simply turn on the player and engage in some extraneous activities. Then how could we justify such a "dialogue" with the Heavenly Lord and the Father?

## HOLIDAYS IN SEPTEMBER:

### The Nativity of Our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary

**Commemorated on September 21 (new style)**



Your birth, O Theotokos, brought joy to the whole world, for from you dawned the sun of righteousness, Christ our God...

Troparion (Tone 4)

The Most Holy Virgin Mary was born in the small city of Galilee, Nazareth. Her parents were Righteous Joachim of the tribe of the Prophet-King David, and Anna from the tribe of the First Priest Aaron. The couple was faithful to God and kind to men, but they deeply grieved for not having children, since childlessness was considered among the Hebrew nation as a Divine punishment for sin. Having reached old age, Joachim and Anna still did not lose hope in

God's mercy. They had strong faith that for God everything is possible. Saint Joachim in deep grief went into the wilderness, and there he prayed with tears to the Lord for a child. His wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. In answer to their prayers, and as the reward of their unwavering fidelity to God, an angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world: "the Lord hath heard thy prayer, and thou shalt conceive and bring forth; and thy seed shall be spoken of in all the world." Anna said: "'As the Lord my God liveth, if I beget either male or female, I will bring it as a gift to the Lord my God; and it shall minister unto Him all the days of its life" [I Samuel 1:11]. The same Angel appeared to Joachim: "Thy prayers have been heard ... Anna, thy wife, will bring forth a daughter to thee and thou shall call her name Mary." Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter. Mary's first anniversary of her nativity was celebrated by Joachim with a feast to which he invited the priests, scribes, elders and all the people of Israel. During the festivities, Joachim brought his daughter before the priests; and they blessed her, and said, "O God of our fathers, bless this child, and give her an everlasting name throughout all generations." The birth of the God-Chosen maiden brought joy to all the world and hope to the accursed human race.

[Sources used: <https://www.oca.org/saints/LIVES/2008/09/08/102541-the-nativity-of-our-most-holy-lady-the-mother-of-god-and-ever-vi>

## The Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-giving Cross

Commemorated on September 27 (new style)



The Elevation of the Venerable and Life-Creating Cross of the Lord occurred under the Emperor Constantine the Great (306-337) who legalized the Christian religion and stopped the persecutions against Christians in the Western half of the empire. Constantine the Great himself more than once had felt the power of the Cross. With the assistance of God, he gained victory over his enemies in three wars and had seen in the heavens the Sign of God – the Cross and written beneath: "By this thou shalt conquer." Constantine then enthusiastically decided to build temples in the holy places connected with the earthly life of the Savior. He also ardently desired to find the Cross on which our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified. His eighty-year old holy mother Empress Helen took upon herself this sacred task. Arriving in Jerusalem around 326, she spent much time and means

to discover exactly where the Cross of the Lord was hidden. Empress Helen found out that soon after the Resurrection of Christ the Jews had deeply filled up the crag of the Lord's tomb, covered it by rocks and all sorts of refuse, and built a temple in honor of Venus on top of it. Per her order, the pagan temple was demolished and the excavation started. Soon there were found three well-preserved crosses and a lying separately board with the inscription *INRI* [*Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews*]. All crosses were exactly alike by their exterior shape. In order to discern on which of the three crosses the Saviour was crucified, they were placed on a grievously-ill woman. The first two did not show any effect on the sick woman, but as soon as the third cross was placed on her, she immediately felt herself healed. Just at that time a dead man was being carried to burial past the house of the now healed woman. All three crosses were alternately placed on the corpse as well. The same one which gave health to the sick woman, resurrected the dead man. Everyone was now convinced that the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord was found. Constantine and Helen gave orders to raise up at Jerusalem a majestic and spacious church in honor of the Resurrection of Christ. They also built temples in holy places connected with the earthly life of the Saviour. The holy empress Helen took a portion of the venerable Cross to Constantinople as a blessing. The rest was left in Jerusalem in the magnificent church of the Resurrection of Christ.

[Sources used: <https://oca.org/saints/lives/2019/09/14/102610-the-universal-exaltation-of-the-precious-and-life-giving-cross>]

## OUR PARISH

### NEWS

Per **Fr. Nikon's** suggestion, we plan to establish the monthly reading of Akathist to St Tatiana, holy patron of our Sisterhood. Please notice that the reading is not intended solely for the members of the Sisterhood. We welcome ANYBODY who is willing to join us in the prayer and for a talk afterwards. The first reading is scheduled for **September 6, 6:30 p.m.**

**Maria and Nikolai Kononov** donated several tickets to attend the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Greek Festival in Raleigh. The event will take place **7-9 September**, more information can be found at <http://raleighgreekfestival.com/>. Free tickets are available at the Church Kiosk.

A picnic *Pan-Orthodox Celebration* will take place on **October 26** with several local orthodox churches planning to participate in this event. The first picnic took place in one of the Triangle parks in 2017. This year Maria Christova, original initiator, will be helped by **Maria Kononov**, this year co-organizer and coordinator. We hope that this event becomes a tradition that gives us a great opportunity to meet our brothers in Orthodox faith, to learn about their churches and cultural traditions. This year organizers currently work on logistics of the event that will be shared in the *Vestnik's* October issue. Stay tuned and mark your calendars!

**November 23, 2019.** The Global Winterfest and Holiday Market is a day of celebration honoring holidays and traditions from around the world. Join dozens of ethnic communities from across the Triangle for a day of food, shopping, entertainment, and community engagement. Come celebrate the unique diversity of the Raleigh area and enjoy the wintertime festivities! Address: Moore Square, Downtown Raleigh, 11am to 8pm.

### CHURCH KIOSK

Our kiosk started selling candles produced at the Holy Trinity Monastery Candle Factory in Jordanville, NY. Since 2012, the brotherhood makes candles from 100% Pure Beeswax provided by renowned beekeepers across America, using the traditional dipping method (<http://churchsupplies.jordanville.org>). The production of the hand-dipped candles at the Holy Trinity Monastery Candle Factory can be viewed here <https://candles.jordanville.org/public/ss/gallery.php?ssid=2&s=1>

### SISTERHOOD OF ST. TATIANA

Our Sisterhood had a regular meeting on August 4. Main topics discussed included keeping kitchen and trapeznaia organized and clean; need in acquiring new vestment for altar boys; reorganizing the church kiosk and its assortment, and compiling a list of religious items needed for liturgical services.

You can apply for membership to the Sisterhood at the Church Shop or by emailing [sisterhood@holytrinitymission.com](mailto:sisterhood@holytrinitymission.com)

## THANK YOU

- To the **Kornienko** family (**Maria, Rodion, Margarita, Anna, Viktor, and Ivan**), **Natalia Smith, Tamara and Oleg Krivulin** for their hard work. At our last “subbotnik” (August 10) they organized and thoroughly cleaned the kitchen, cleaned and painted windows in trapeznaia, reorganized the church kiosk.
- To **Maria and Nikolai Kononov** for donating tickets for the Annual Greek Festival in Raleigh (7-9 September.)
- We thank all parishioners for their donations to the Church! May the blessings of God’s generosity also be with you!
- We wanted to express our gratitude to all parishioners who bring from their trips back home books and other religious items and donate them for sale in the kiosk.

## PRAYER CORNER

For the health of Lydia.

## BAPTISMS

We are so happy to report that the Sacrament of Baptism has been performed in July three times.

## CONGRATULATIONS

To **Daria and Wesley Hunt** with the birth of their first child – daughter **Elizabeth!**

## OUR PARISHIONERS RECOMMEND



**Mikhail Tian:** “Did you ever thought how holiness would present itself in real life? How is it perceived, measured? Can it be easily noted or is it always concealed? The Russian film *Ostrov* (*The Island*, 2006) directed by Pavel Lungin helps us all reflect on the topic. The monk Anatoly (Pyotr Mamonov) builds his spiritual life on “rubbles of the past”... The spiritual life filled with repentance, mercy, humility and forgiveness. *Ostrov* received six awards at the fifth national Golden Eagle Awards (2007) and six Nika Awards (2007). See more information about the film at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Island\\_\(2006\\_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Island_(2006_film))

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



On August 4, Sisters literally showered our mother-to-be **Daria Hunt** with presents, advice, and, of course, sweets. However the main hit of the party was a diaper cake “baked” by our talented Mila Albers.

The cake found its place in the newly furbished nursery at **Daria and Wesley’s** home.

## PARISHIONERS AT REST

On August 11, several parishioners went on a fishing expedition, at Falls lake, NC.

Looks like the outing was a great success. Certainly for **Ruslan Shevchuk**. Not so for the fish...

