



NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST MONASTERY †

Special Nativity Monastery Retreat:

The sisters of Nativity Monastery invite you to join us for a retreat to be held at The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Monastery on Saturday, April 6, 2019. We also welcome our Speaker: Archimandrite Sergius (Bowyer) of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk Monastery. Abbot Sergius will also bless us by bringing the miraculous icon of St. Anna (see below). The icon will be available for veneration during the hours and liturgy, and again after the conclusion of the talks and throughout vespers.

Schedule of Events (all times are approximate):

8:30 - Prayers before communion and hours

9:00 - Liturgy

10:30am - Brunch

11:00am - First Session

12:00pm – Questions

12:30pm – Break

1:00pm - Second Session

2:30 - Questions

5:00pm - Vespers

You may RSVP by calling the monastery at 903-498-4474 or by sending an email to nativitymonastery@gmail.com. When you RSVP, please let us know how many will be attending with you.

Acquiring the Mind of Christ: Embracing the Vision of the Orthodox Church

St. Paul clearly states Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. (Phil 2:5.) How do we acquire this Mind of Christ and where is it to be found? For the Orthodox Christian, salvation is the acquisition of this Mind of Christ which is to be found in the Church. This acquisition moves us from the image of God to the likeness of God; through our obedience to this call we begin to know God and this knowledge is eternal life (John 17:3). Abbot Sergius will discuss how acquiring the Mind of Christ is possible and why it is necessary in our lives today.



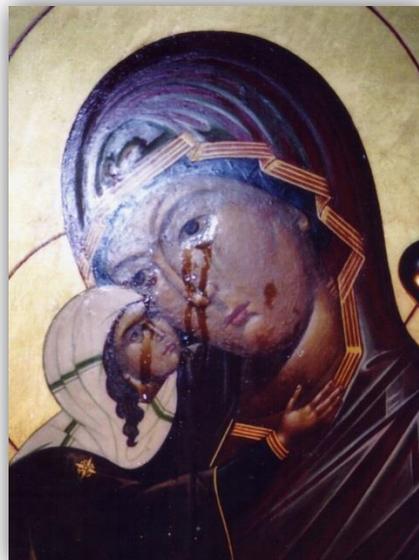
Archimandrite Sergius, originally from California is a convert to Holy Orthodoxy and a graduate of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary. Fr. Sergius sought solace in the monastic life of the Orthodox Church by being tonsured as a monk of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Monastery in South Canaan, Pennsylvania - the first Orthodox Christian Monastery in North America.

Aside from his duties as a monk, Fr. Sergius dedicated much of his service to the training of the future priests of the Holy Orthodox Church in North America by serving as the lecturer in liturgical music, one of his many fortes. After many years of prayerful service as a humble monk, Fr. Sergius was ordained to the Holy Diaconate and to the Holy Priesthood in December 2008, by His Beatitude Metropolitan Jonah, Primate of the Orthodox Church in America.

Archimandrite Sergius was installed as the 16th Abbot of Saint Tikhon's Monastery on Saturday, January 23, 2010. Elected on October 24, 2009, this marks the first election of a member of the monastery brotherhood to the position of Abbot in 47 years.

On Sunday morning, May 25, during the annual Pilgrimage weekend, His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon elevated F. Sergius to the dignity of Archimandrite.

The history of the St. Anna icon



On May 9, 2004 – Mother’s Day in the U.S. – an Icon of St. Anna, the Mother of the Holy Virgin Mary, located in the Russian Orthodox Church of Our Lady of Joy of All Who Sorrow in Philadelphia began to stream myrrh. On that Sunday one of the parishioners mentioned to the parish rector, Archimandrite Athanasy that the Icon of St. Anna seemed to be “perspiring”. Upon further investigation, Fr. Athanasy notice visible liquid streams and droplets. Accumulations of the liquid were seen on the cuff on St. Anna’s left hand and on her left shoulder veil. Droplets were also found elsewhere on the Icon. This fragrant, slightly oily liquid is commonly referred to as “myrrh”. Initially the myrrh looked like tear drops, as if St. Anna was crying. More recently small, slow-moving streams of myrrh have appeared in other parts of the Icon.

The Icon of St. Anna had been commissioned by Fr. Athanasy in 1998, in the Mount of Olives Convent in Jerusalem. He himself had served there in 1980-1981. In 1998, the Icon was completed, blessed at the Sepulcher of our Lord in the Jerusalem Church of the Resurrection, and brought to Philadelphia.

As of Fall 2012, the Icon resides at St. Tikhon's Monastery and has a wonderful heavenly fragrance but is not currently weeping. Assistance and healings are still wrought by the miraculous Icon of St. Anna and She continues to work wonders for those who approach with faith.

Troparion to the Dormition of St. Anna (used also as a Theotokion during daily services), in Tone IV—

O divinely wise Anna, in thy womb thou didst bear the pure Mother of God, who gaveth birth unto Life. Wherefore, rejoicing in glory, thou hast now been translated to the mansions of heaven, where is the abode of those who rejoice. O ever-blessed one, *** beseech thou cleansing of transgressions for those who honor thee with love.

Kontakion, in Tone II: Spec. Mel.—

We celebrate the memory of the forebears of Christ, entreating them with faith for help, that from every tribulation all may be delivered who cry: Our God is with us, *** Who hath glorified them, as was His good pleasure.