There is no great event which is not proceeded with great longing and expectation. This Great Feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God is no exception. This first of Feasts, celebrated on the eighth day of the New Church Year, was certainly preceded by great longing and expectation. First, we have the longing of the blessed parents of the Blessed Ever-Virgin, Joachim and Anna. Finding themselves childless even in old age and thus ashamed in front of Jewish society, they pleaded with God to relieve them of the curse of childlessness, a shame which even caused Joachim to be rejected from his service at the Temple and which sent him into the wilderness to plead with the Lord. Joachim and Anna did not lose their faith or cease their prayers even when it seemed that all the law of nature was set against them because of their age. Rather, they lived and prayed with longing and the expectation of deliverance. Secondly, we have the longing and travail of the human race itself, which was until the dawn of Grace laboring under the yoke of the old law, the condemnation of the sin of our first ancestors, and the corruption of death. The people of the world had descended to such a state of moral degradation that it hardly seemed possible to redeem mankind. Indeed, it would take the very entry of God Himself, incarnate, into human history in order to save mankind inasmuch as the law was powerless to save it. Mankind, like Anna,
was barren, not bringing forth fruit. The whole world was in longing, and the righteous, such as Joachim and Anna and Symeon the God-Receiver, were filled with expectation.

If the Incarnation of the Son of God was the rising of the Sun upon the darkness of the Earth, then surely the Birth of the Chosen Virgin and Bride of God was the dawn of morning breaking through the dark night of humanity. The child of Joachim and Anna was chosen before the ages by Divine Providence, was born of an aged woman thought to be barren, was offered as a pure sacrifice to God by her parents, was brought into the temple and preserved and nourished by the angelic hosts until her coming of age, entrusted to the aged Joseph, and then mystically conceived the Incarnate Word in her virginal womb. She contained the One who cannot be contained, and her womb became more spacious than the heavens. In the same way that every great musician needs an instrument to create the melodies that well up in his soul and demand to make their way into the world, so God arranged everything for our salvation by making use of one perfect instrument, the Ever-Virgin Mary. Her Nativity represents a critical moment in the history of the universe, her birth represents the coming of the fullness of time, the end of the Old Law and the sounding forth of the first notes of the melody of the New Law, the Law of Love and salvation through Grace.

From the time of the Apostles and through the centuries, Orthodox Christians have devoted themselves and their talents to the Mother of God, the Gate of our Salvation. Hymnographers have composed new hymns, canons, and Akathists to her, Iconographers have created a multitude of types, each expressing something slightly different about the Mother of God, her life on earth and her intervention into human life through miracles and appearances. Many have built great temples and whole monasteries in her honor. Out of devotion saints have written their own private prayers and songs to the Mother of God, asking her to take them under her saving omophorion and bring them into the Heavenly Kingdom. Each of us, even if we are not hymnographers or iconographers by talent, must also create our own devotion to the Mother of God. Our song of devotion should be our very life. Let us ask the Mother of God to take us and plant us in her little garden, even if we seem to be the worst of weeds, so that she can tend to us and guide us on the way to Heaven. Amen.
This month’s bulletin is sponsored in honor of my sister-in-law, Irene King’s recent retirement. Kim King

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** The deadline for the October bulletin is Wednesday, September 21st. Please have everything in by 9:00am.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL IS STARTING:** Classes will begin on **Sunday, September 11th.** We are looking forward to another exciting year with our students.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SNACKS:** The sign-up sheet is posted in the parish hall. We could use more help with providing healthy snacks such as fruit and/or veggies; crackers that have cheese, low sugar granola bars, applesauce, cheese sticks, 100% fruit juice drinks, chocolate almond milk, etc. Our parents/teachers really appreciate healthy snacks, as opposed to sugary, sweet snacks like cookies, fruit gummies, etc. Thank you.

**BAZAAR 2016**

Thank you, everyone, who helped at our pelmeni-making sessions. We made 10,561 pelmeni! Thanks to Juliana Kirmeyer who led us on Thursday nights in making crafts, and to those who came and crafted.

**Save these Dates:**
- The weekend of **October 1 and 2** for the Bazaar, itself.
- **Friday, September 30,** morning/early afternoon (Even if you can come only for an hour or two in the morning, it will really help make a big difference).
- **Sunday evening, October 2,** after the Bazaar is over. We especially need more people to stay after we’ve finished our post-Bazaar noshing.
- **Saturday** vareniki-making session on **September 10** at 9:30am. Just like with pelmeni-making, we’ll show you how. Potluck lunch.

**Food Worker Permits:** Please get a permit if you’re able. Even if you’re not sure that you’ll be working in the food prep or serving areas, it’s still good for the Bazaar, in general, to have lots of workers with current permits, which are good for two years. The cost is $10.00. Go to [www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/foodsafety/FoodWorker.aspe](http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/foodsafety/FoodWorker.aspe) and plan for about an hour to complete the simple, web-based training and test. Please print a couple of copies of the permit for our bazaar/parish records. Susan will be touching base with those who have had permits in the past years to let you know whether you’re still good to go for this year or need to renew this year.

**Arts & Crafts:** There’s still time! Need ideas? Russian-inspired items; autumn and Christmas crafts, homemade baby clothes, mittens, and socks; wood-working, decoupage, etc. **Reminder:** Save some $$ by checking with Matushka Helen for free yarn for your projects! Please bring finished items as soon as they are ready; the more we have ahead of the bazaar weekend itself, the easier it will be for us to plan space, setup and price. As we did last year, please put a note on your finished items with a suggested price.

**Lottery:** Dorothy Nowik will be happy to take your donations for this year’s lottery. (No CD’s, books, or cassettes, though, please). Everything should be clean, with no chips, stains or cracks and looking good.

**Baba’s Attic:** Kim King is on point again this year to take in little treasures and boutiquey-type items for Baba’s attic. Crystal, china and older jewelry do very well. Again, nothing chipped, broken or dirty.
The deadline to bring in lottery and Baba’s Attic items is Sunday, September 11th.

**Herbsky:** Summer fruits and veggies are a comin’in. We’ll be looking again for your delicious and ever-popular jams and such. Besides food items, Herbsky is a great place for you donated homemade soups, candles, sachets, potpourri, and other herb and flower-related crafts. Same as with Arts & Crafts – please bring things ahead of the Bazaar weekend, if at all possible.

**Pastry table:** All homemade pastry items are eagerly accepted. Of course, many Bazaar patrons are especially looking for Russian pastries. We still have copies of Russian pastry recipes from previous years, if you’d like one.

**Flier and Advertising:** Please take Bazaar fliers to share at your favorite haunts, where posting is permitted. Fliers are in the parish hall as you enter. Talk up the Bazaar with friends, coworkers, and others, and if you’re on Face book, “share” the “event” and the postings with your online friends.

**Sign up to volunteer:** Please sign up on the posted sheets to volunteer at the Bazaar. We need to make our parish event a success, and knowing where we have coverage as early as possible truly helps the area leaders. If you’ve not volunteered before and need help to decide, please ask Susan or another “veteran” of previous bazaars for assistance.

**The Guild of the Lord’s Friends**

**CHARITY NEWS:** Our August 7th collection for the Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry was $1,190.00. Our September 4th collection will benefit Sound Generations, the nonprofit that runs the weekly meal-delivery program in King County known as **Meals on Wheels**. Did you happen to catch the August 1 article in the Seattle Times? Funding has been cut, so in July a wait list was established. Approximate wait for new clients – five months. This resource helps seniors remain independent by regularly delivering nutritious food. Currently 2,700 seniors in King County alone receive food. Along with the food delivery it means someone is regularly looking in on them. In King County, about 9% of seniors live in poverty. There is no income threshold to qualify for Meals on Wheels. Rather, priority is given to people age 60 and over who lack transportation, can’t do their own shopping or can’t safely cook. $500.00 provides 112 home delivered meals. **Let’s do our part and help the seniors in our community – our goal: $1,000.00 for 224 meals!**

**BAKE SALE:** We had plenty of goods, but fewer buyers than last year. That’s how it goes with summer attendance. But everyone enjoyed themselves, ate a lot and had plenty of snacks for later that evening. Leftovers were boxed and delivered to Canaday House (just a block and half away) and was well received by the residents. Thank you to everyone who baked (in that horrible heat), bought and supported our efforts. We cleared just over $500.00.

**COUPONS:** Start bringing in all your manufacturer coupons from the Sunday papers for our military families overseas. They can use coupons that have expired by six months at the on base commissaries. There’s a bin just as you come in the parish hall. Don’t forget the mid-week coupons you get in the mail box too.

**PET FOOD DRIVE:** Thank you for all your generous donations. Items were delivered to the Ballard Food Bank and they were so grateful for the bags and canned goods. So many of their elderly clients have dogs or cats for
companionship and having good nutrition is very important. Thanks again.

**COFFEE HOUR:** 2 potlucks, 1 hosted and 1 pie social. The first two weeks are potluck, September 18th is hosted by Juliana Kirmeyer’s team and September 25th is PIE DAY!

**WHY PIE YOU ASK?** This is the last Sunday before the bazaar and there is so much work that begins right after coffee hour. Since the kitchen will be nice and clean after Feed the Hungry the day before, we decided to go low-key and make less mess: pie with ice-cream and/or whipping cream, disposable plates, cups and forks. No fuss, no muss. Since many of those who will begin the work Sunday are also folks who help with Feed the Hungry and will be helping throughout the week before the bazaar, we thought they needed a small break. So, PIE!

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**Things that could make you late for church in September:**

- Sept. 11 – Women of Wonder at Green Lake Park
- Sept. 25 – Run of Hope for pediatric brain tumor research at Seward Park