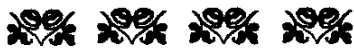


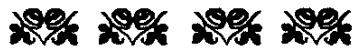
Love can do all things, and if it ceases to be generous and sharing, it is no longer love.

*St. Gregory  
the Great*



## Tropar

Ann divinely wise, you carried in your womb the Mother of God, the Immaculate One Who gave life to Life; wherefore, you now have been carried up joyfully to the inheritance of heaven, to abide of those who rejoice in glory. O ever-blessed One, seek the forgiveness of sins for those who honor you with fervor.



### St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church

5408 Locust Lane  
Harrisburg, PA 17109

Served by Fr. Michael Shear  
717-652-1415

stann@stannsbyzhbg.org  
www.stannsbyzhbg.org

Divine Liturgies at 8 a.m. and  
10:30 a.m.; Summer 8 a.m. and  
10 a.m.; Holy Day Vigil 7 p.m.

# THE ENLIGHTENER

*St. Ann' Byzantine Catholic Church*

Harrisburg, PA

July 2001

## Slavic Festival is here!

*Where tradition lives*

Celebrate the Feast of Saint Ann by attending the Festival at Saint Ann Byzantine Catholic Church on Sunday, July 22. Join family and friends as they enjoy the delicious food, polka and modern music, and games. Tour the beautiful church and stop by the stands that display and sell icons, books about the Eastern church, pysankies, and many other traditional ethnic items.

This Slavic-American Festival has been a tradition of the Harrisburg area for over 40 years. People come to enjoy the festivities and to learn about the Eastern Tradition. The church is open throughout the day for anyone who wants to pray or to visit and ask questions of the tour guides who are there from noon until 6 p.m.

The fabulous food with ethnic food as the specialty is served in the parish center. Halupkies, perogies, schnitzlies, and halushky are part of the menu. Full dinners and a la carte and take-out food are available throughout the day. Also, St. Ann's famous walnut rolls are sold at the dessert table that has delicious homemade cakes, pies, cookies, and fudge.

Entertainment starts at 1 p.m. with the sound of the Polka Quads from Steelton, who play until 4 p.m. Continue dancing from 5-9 p.m. to the music of the Joe Misti Polka Orchestra. Bring your own comfortable chair to enjoy this free music. The only restrictions are no carry-on foods, drinks, or personal picnic tables.

At 9 p.m. the winners of the raffle are picked and announced. The raffle tickets may be bought in advance or on the day of the festival. Over

\$3,500.00 in cash prizes will be given out that night.

Bring the family and enjoy this great day that has fun and games for everyone.

Volunteers are the ones who make this day one to remember. Sign up to help and pitch in that day to help everyone have fun.



## St. Ann, Our Baba



Mary is the Mother of God, our mother, and one of the most famous and revered women in history. We read in Scripture about her virtue and devotion to God, about God's call to her, and her acceptance of His invi-

(Continued on back page)

## **St. Ann, Our Baba (Continued)**

tation to give birth to the Savior of the world. But from whom did Mary learn her love for the Lord? Who showed her by example that with trust in God, anything is possible? The answer is most certainly her parents, Ann and Joachim.

Ann and her husband Joachim are not mentioned in the Bible. Everything that we know of them, which is very little, comes to us from tradition, and from other historical texts. Tradition tells us that Ann and Joachim lived in Galilee. They were married, and blessed by God in many ways but one: they were childless. Ann and Joachim prayed to God for a child, but as the years progressed, their prayers appeared to have gone unanswered. Still, the two remained faithful, and rather than despair or become angry, they continued to ask God to hear their cries and send them a child. It is said that one day an angel of the Lord came to Ann and announced that she would conceive and bear a child who would be blessed by God, and would be known throughout the world. Ann accepted the words of the angel, and ran to meet Joachim, who had received the same joyful message. Ann gave birth to a daughter, named her Mary, and instilled in her a love and dedication to God that ultimately, through His grace, led Mary to answer the call to be the God Bearer.

No more is known of Ann, but by the fifth century, the church in the East had begun to honor her as the

mother of Mary, and to practice devotions to her. Eight hundred years later, the "cult of Ann" had permeated the Western church, and the faithful prayed for her intercession. Today, Ann is one of the most popular saints, and many special devotions to her are practiced. St. Ann is the patroness of housewives, women in labor, cabinet-makers, and miners. Famous shrines are dedicated to her name, and miraculous cures have been attributed to her intercession. It is her love of God, and her continued faith in Him, even when it seemed that her prayers were unheard, that makes St. Ann a comfort to us today. When we have doubts about whether God listens to us, and when we feel tempted to despair, we can look to the example of St. Ann, and know that God does hear us, and that He will bless us in ways we could never imagine. Ann, who humbly submitted her prayers to God while being open to His will, went from ordinary woman to the grandmother of Christ. If Mary is our mother, and we can fly to her for comfort and protection, then surely Ann is our grandmother, our baba. And if we call on her help when we pray, she will, like any good baba, spoil us with her love and protection, and help us to be as faithful as she was, to trust in the Lord's will for us, and lead us closer to Him.

**Please visit the Respect Life  
Committee's display at the  
St. Ann Festival!**

*St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church*  
5408 Locust Lane  
Harrisburg, PA 17109