

THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS



After her son ascended into heaven, scriptures have very little to say about the Theotokos. We know she was entrusted to the care of the Apostle John the Theologian, but aside from a brief mention of her being present in the Upper Room with the Apostles as they gathered in waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit, the New Testament says nothing more about her. Tradition tells us that the Virgin Mary, in effect, became the “first pilgrim,” making spiritual journeys to the sacred places that were so significant in the public ministry of our Lord. She became an inspiration to the early Christians, who eagerly sought to know more about Christ from the person who knew Him best.

Ultimately, the Theotokos learned she would leave this world in the same manner she received word she was to be the Mother of God: through a revelation from the Archangel Gabriel. Given three days to prepare for her departure from this earthly life, the Virgin longed to see the Apostles one last time. Only Thomas failed to arrive in Jerusalem prior to her death. When he reached Holy City three days later, Thomas begged to be given the opportunity to bid farewell to the Theotokos. When her tomb in the Garden of Gethsemane was opened, Mary’s body was nowhere to be found! That evening after dinner, the Apostles heard the singing of angels in the radiance of heavenly glory. Their joyful response was one that we are also encouraged to exclaim in times of tribulation and uncertainty: **MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, HELP US!**

Ss Constantine & Helen

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



August 19, 2018
12th Sunday of Matthew

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August 19, 2018

12th Sunday of Matthew

Commemoration of: Andrew the General and Martyr, and his 2,593 soldiers; Theophanes the New Wonderworker of Macedonia

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

En ti genisi (Dormition) Tone 1

In giving birth you retained your virginity, and in dormition you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated unto life, being the Mother of Life. And thus by virtue of your intercessions you deliver our souls from death. (Translation from AgesInitiatives.com)

Effrenestho ta urania (Hymn of the Day) Tone 3

Let the heavens rejoice, let all the earth be glad, for the Lord has shown His might with His arm, the Lord has shown His might with His arm. He has trampled death down by death becoming first to be born of the dead, from the depths of Hades He has delivered us, and He granted to the world His great mercy.

Tu Stavru su ton tipon (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8

Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which forever you guard in peace, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone are the lover of mankind.

Kontakion Tone 6

Tin en presvies

*The Theotokos, unsleeping in intercession * and the immovable hope of protection, * could not be retained by any tomb or death. * For being Life's own Mother, she was transferred to life by Him * who dwelt in the ever-virgin womb.* (Translation from AgesIntiatives.com)

Epistle Reading 1Corinthians 15:1-11

BRETHREN, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast -- unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

Gospel Reading Matthew 19:16-26

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And he said to him, "Why do you

call me good? One there is who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and You shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions.

And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

Today

✘ SUN, 8/19– 12th Sunday of Matthew; Memorial for Anastasia, beloved mother of Cleo Kritikos– May her memory be eternal!

This Week

✘ SAT, 8/25– Greek Festival 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

✘ SUN, 8/26– 13th Sunday of Matthew; *Orthros 7:50 a.m., Liturgy 9 a.m.; Greek Festival 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.*

Pearls of Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

Several Quotes from St. John of Kronstadt

"Do not be despondent when fighting against the incorporeal enemy, but even in the midst of your afflictions and oppression praise the Lord, Who has found you worthy to suffer for Him, by struggling against the subtlety of the serpent, and to be wounded for Him at every hour; for had you not lived piously, and endeavored to become united to God, the enemy would not have attacked and tormented you."

"Love every man in spite of his falling into sin. Never mind the sins, but remember that the foundation of the man is the same - the image of God."

"Your Lord is a God of mercy and bountifulness: be a source of mercy and bountifulness to your neighbors. If you will be such, you will find salvation yourself with everlasting glory."

To Our Visitors:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread.

Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.