



### **Do We Worship the Virgin Mary?**

from Guide to the Divine Liturgy written by Robert Krantz

This is one of the great misconceptions that people make when inquiring about the Orthodox faith. No, we do not worship the Virgin Mary; we honor her, because she is the mother of Jesus, and we ask her to pray on our behalf to her son.

The title for the Virgin Mary is found in ancient Christian writings dating back to the second and third centuries and is used for the first time in surviving documents by an early Christian scholar named Origen (185–254 AD). “Theos” is the Greek word for God and “tokos” indicates giving birth. Put together they mean “The one who gave birth to God.” “The Theotokos” was officially proclaimed as a title to be used by Christians to describe the Virgin Mary at the Third Ecumenical Council held in the city of Ephesus in 431 AD.

God is a God of order. Accordingly, there is a structure in Heaven with the Seraphim and the Cherubim being closest to God. As close to God as the Seraphim and the Cherubim are, we believe that the Virgin Mary is “more honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim.” That is how highly the Virgin Mary is regarded in the Orthodox faith.

Because of her closeness to her son, Jesus, we ask the Virgin Mary to intercede on our behalf and pray for us. That is the meaning of the First Antiphon when we sing, “Through the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.” She prays on our behalf, but it is still God who saves us.

## **Ss Constantine & Helen**

Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific



**August 17, 2014**

**10th Sunday of Matthew**

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August 17, 2014

## 10th Sunday of Matthew

Commemoration of: Myron the Martyr of Cyzicus; Straton, Philip, Eutychian & Cyprian the Martyrs of Nicomedia

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Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

*Tu lithu sfragisthentos* (Hymn of the Day) Tone 1

*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.*

*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 you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.*

Kontakion Tone 7

*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.*

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

BRETHREN, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

Gospel Reading Matthew 17:14-23

At that time, a man came up to Him and kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then

the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you. But this kind never comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and He will be raised on the third day."

Today

- ✘ SUN, 8/17– 10th Sunday of Matthew
- \* Congratulations to Andrew & Marija Petaroudas on the birth of their daughter, Anastasia on July 30, 2014!!!

This Week

- ✘ SAT, 8/23– Greek Festival 12 to 9 pm.
- ✘ SUN, 8/24– 11th Sunday of Matthew; Greek Festival 12 to 9 pm. Please note: Orthros will begin at 8 am, followed by Divine Liturgy at 9 am to accommodate our Festival scheduling.

### 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.”*

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### 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.*