

Dormition of the Theotokos:

The feast of the **Dormition or Falling-asleep of the Theotokos** is celebrated on the **15th of August**, preceded by a two-week fast. This feast, which is also sometimes called the **Assumption**, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. It proclaims that Mary has been "*assumed*" by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.

As with the nativity of the Virgin and the feast of her entrance to the temple, there are no biblical or historical sources for this feast. The Tradition of the Church is that Mary died as all people die, not "*voluntarily*" as her Son, but by the necessity of her mortal human nature which is indivisibly bound up with the corruption of this world.

The Orthodox Church teaches that Mary is without personal sins. In the Gospel of the feast, however, in the liturgical services and in the Dormition icon, the Church proclaims as well that Mary truly needed to be saved by Christ as all human persons are saved from the trials, sufferings and death of this world; and that having truly died, she was raised up by her Son as the Mother of Life and participates already in the eternal life of paradise which is prepared and promised to all who "*hear the word of God and keep it.*"

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity.

In failing asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos.

*You were translated to life, O Mother of Life, and by your prayers,
you deliver our souls from death.* (Troparion - Dormition)

At the Divine Liturgy we hear the letter to the Philippians where St. Paul speaks of the self-emptying of Christ who condescends to human servitude and ignoble death in order to be "*highly exalted*" by God his Father And in the Gospel that Mary's blessedness belongs to all who "*hear the word of God and keep it*".

Thus, the feast of the **Dormition of the Theotokos** is the celebration of the fact that all men are "*highly exalted*" in the blessedness of the victorious Christ, and that this high exaltation has already been accomplished in Mary the Theotokos. The feast of the Dormition is the sign, the guarantee, and the celebration that Mary's fate is, the destiny of all those of "*low estate*" whose souls magnify the Lord, whose spirits rejoice in God the Saviour, whose lives are totally dedicated to hearing and keeping the Word of God which is given to men in Mary's child, the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.

What happens to Mary happens to all who imitate her holy life of humility, obedience, and love. With her all people will be "*blessed*" to be "*more honorable than the cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim*" if they follow her example. In this sense everything that is praised and glorified in Mary is a sign of what is offered to all persons in the life of the Church. It is for this reason that Mary, with the divine child Jesus within her, is called in the Orthodox Tradition the **Image of the Church**. For the assembly of the saved is those in whom Christ dwells.

See us on the web at:

ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

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Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God **"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"**

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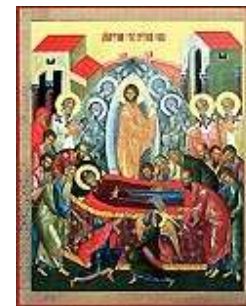
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Dormition

**Christ is in our
midst!**

**He is and always
will be!**

*Neither the tomb, nor death could hold the Theotokos,
Who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions.
For being the Mother of Life,
She was translated to life by the One who dwelt in her virginal womb.*
Kontakion - Dormition

On this day the Church remembers:

Forefeast of the Dormition • Prophet Micah (8th c. B.C.)
• **Translation of the Relics of Ven. Theodosius of the Kiev Caves (1091)** • Ven. Arcadius of Novotorzhk (11th c.) • Hieromartyr Marcellus, Bishop of Apamea (ca. 389).

August 14, 2011

Tone 8 of the Octoechos.

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For the health of:**

Trudy and Phil Ellmore, on occasion of their 26th wedding anniversary.

Svetlana, on her birthday.

Readings:

- 1 Corinthians 3:9-17 (9th Sunday)
- Matthew 14:22-34 (9th Sunday)
- **Philippians 2:5-11 (Theotokos)**
- **Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28 (Theotokos)**

BRETHREN, have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

At that time, Jesus entered a village; and a woman called Martha received him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. But Martha was distracted with much serving; and she went to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve you alone? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the good portion, which shall not be taken away from her." As he said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts that you sucked!" But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Summer Sunday service:

Hours - 9:10 AM

Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM

(General Confession on the first Sunday of each month)

Coffee hour after Liturgy

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- Summer Schedule: Hours 9:10 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
- **Regular service schedule returns in three weeks on September 11th.**
Hours will be at 9:40 am and Divine Liturgy will start at 10:00 am.

Special Announcements:

- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the sign-up sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org