

SAINT PAUL ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Rector: Rev. Fr. Robert J. Royer

Email: robertjroyer@gmail.com (810) 919-9485

Website:

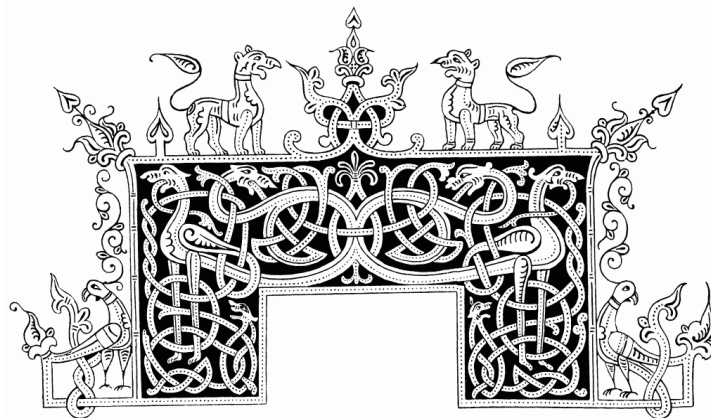
stpaulorthodoxcathedral.org

Sunday, August 13 2017

The Feast of the Dormition (transferred from 8/15)



TODAY WE WILL CELEBRATE THE DIVINE LITURGY OF
ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM



HYMNS FOR THE FEAST

Troparion, Feast, Tone 1: In giving birth you preserved your virginity! In falling 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!

Kontakion, Feast, Tone 2: 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!

INSTEAD OF "IT IS TRULY MEET...", TONE 1

The angels, as they looked upon the Dormition of the Virgin, were struck with wonder, seeing how the Virgin went up from earth to heaven!

The limits of nature are overcome in you, O Pure Virgin: for birthgiving remains virginal / and life is united to death! A virgin after child-bearing and alive after death! You ever save your inheritance O Theotokos!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle – (For the Feast) **Philippians 2:5-11:**

Brothers and sisters: 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.

Gospel – (For the Feast) **Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28**

At that time, Jesus entered a village; and a woman named 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, dost Thou not care that my sister has left me to serve 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 Thee, and the breasts that Thou hast sucked!" But He said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

On The Dormition of the Theotokos (from oca.org)

The feast of the Dormition or Falling-asleep of the Theotokos is celebrated on the fifteenth 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" (Lk11.27-28).

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity. In falling 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).

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).

The services of the feast repeat the main theme, that the Mother of Life has “passed over into the heavenly joy, into the divine gladness and unending delight” of the Kingdom of her Son (Vespereal hymn). The Old Testament readings, as well as the gospel readings for the Vigil and the Divine Liturgy, are exactly the same as those for the feast of the Virgin’s nativity and her entrance into the Temple. Thus, at the Vigil we again hear Mary say: “My soul magnifies the Lord and my Spirit rejoices in God my Savior” (Lk 1.47). At the Divine Liturgy we hear the letter to the Philippians where Saint 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” (Phil 2.5–11). And once again we hear in the Gospel that Mary’s blessedness belongs to all who “hear the word of God and keep it” (Lk 11.27–28).

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 Savior, whose lives are totally dedicated to hearing and keeping the Word of God which is given to men in Mary’s child, the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

Finally it must be stressed that, in all of the feasts of the Virgin Mother of God in the Church, the Orthodox Christians celebrate facts of their own lives in Christ and the Holy Spirit. 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. All will have Christ born in them by the Holy Spirit. All will become temples of the living God. All will share in the eternal life of His Kingdom who live the life that Mary lived.

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.

It is the custom in some churches to bless flowers on the feast of the Dormition of the Holy Theotokos.

AUG. 6 ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Orthodox Outreach at Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Cathedral – meal is served at 2. Please assist with preparation and serving – arrive between 1 and 1:30.

Aug. 27 is our Back to School /Special Friend Sunday – Please sign up to be a special friend to one of our 19 youths. Their names are posted on the black board in the lobby area. You are being asked if you are a special friend for a \$10 donation to purchase a gift card which you will present on the 27th. As a special friend, you might recognize your friend each Sunday, give him/her cards or small gifts at different times of the year. It is totally up to you what you do as a special friend during the upcoming year.

Our “Giving From The Heart” for the month of August is the collection of school supplies. If you would like to donate any school supplies, a list is on every table in the coffee room and posted on the main board in the lobby area.

We are initiating a “Give One –Take One” library. Have any books lying around your house? Please donate them to us – leave them on table in lobby. If you have a small bookcase you would like to donate, please see Jann. Val Lazar & Jann will maintain the books (neat/orderly/adult books separated from children/young adult)

Coffee hours for the months of September and October are available. If you would like to “sponsor” a Sunday, the sign up boards are over the drinking fountain.

AUGUST 6 DONATIONS:

FOR HEALTH OF (FHO): FAMILY – ANGIE PANZOFF

FHO: FAMILY – KATHY EFTOFF

FHO: FAMILY & IHO OF RYAN ON HIS BIRTHDAY – LAZAR FAMILY

FHO: FAMILY - DARIA TSAKOFF

GOD BLESS & KEEP SAFE MY GRANDDAUGHTER SOPHIA BOSSIO – HELEN ARNAUT

IN HONOR OF: RYAN’S BIRTHDAY – LINDA & NADA LAZAR

IN MEMORY OF (IMO): DONNA POPOFF – ANGIE PANZOFF

IMO: MY HUSBAND CHRIS EFTOFF – KATHY EFTOFF

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUG. 20-Parish Council Meeting

27- Back to School/Special Friend Sunday – Pizza luncheon w/ice cream floats

– SUGGESTED donation \$3/person, \$5/couple, \$10 per family – please see Mary Todoroff