



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH



A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor*
Very Reverend Father John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*
Subdeacon Ryan Ferko
Timothy Martin, *Reader*
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*
Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*
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SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

please wear masks following the CDC guidelines

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22 #DORMITION FAST

9th Sunday after Pentecost

Apostle Matthias (63)

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Panachida for +Paul Herbert, The Priest (5-yr),

+Peter E Molchany, The Priest (31-yr)

Blessing of the First-Fruits and Vegetables

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24 #DORMITION FAST

9:30 am Paraklis to the Theotokos

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27 #DORMITION FAST

7 pm Feast Day Vespers

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

9:30 am Liturgy & Blessing of Flowers & Herbs

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29

10th Sunday after Pentecost

Translation of the Image *Not-Made-By-Hands*

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Tone 1; Liturgical Color: **Blue**

Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

Additional offering request for the DDD

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Future Services are listed on our online "Parish Calendar" which is continually updated at:

www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar

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Live-Broadcast – If you are unable to attend church on Sunday morning, please pray along with our Cathedral's services online at **9:00 am**.

www.acrod.org/organizations/cathedral/live/

BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wed.)

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Masks – Our Parish Council has discussed and agree that we should continue to follow the CDC guidelines. **We will return to wearing masks inside the church** (regardless of vaccination status). If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to anyone on the Executive Parish Council (Larry, Matt, Rich, Tim, Theresa, and Bob)

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½ Way Through the #Dormition Fast – This is our lead-in to the great Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. This is one of the four fasting periods of the year when we are called to a special time of increasing our prayer, fasting, and charity. Please contact Father Dave to schedule your confession.

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The Blessing of Flowers and Herbs – On **Saturday** and **Sunday** following the Divine Liturgies, we will bless flowers and herbs. **Everyone** is encouraged to bring in a bouquet or basket from your garden or the store!

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THANK YOU to the beautiful stewards of their time who have been so dedicated to this community event! May God grant you many years! The next phase of the garage sale begins today: after you grab your coffee, please fill a box of items from the tables and place it under the coat rack. If everyone fills a box or two, the clean up will go quickly!

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

Glory be to Jesus Christ!

*(responded with: **Glory be forever!**)*

Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava na viki!)

We are happy that you have joined us today! It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop again soon! If you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave.

BULLETIN IS OFFERED:

If you wish to sponsor a bulletin In Honor of (anniversary, birthday, etc.) or In Memory of someone, please do so by signing up on the sheet in the church hall or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

Monday's Spiritual Vitamin:

"Thus though art also the fountain of true light, the inexhaustible treasury of life itself, the most fruitful source of blessing, who has won for us and brought us all good things — though for a while thou was covered corporeally with death; nonetheless, thou dost pour out pure and inexhaustible streams of immense light, immortal life and true happiness, rivers of grace, fountains of healing and everlasting blessing." + St. John of Damascus, *The Life of the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos*

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Coat Drive – Do you have a clean coat or two that you have not worn since before our last coat drive but it is still in good condition? We are now collecting clean coats and jackets to donate to the Neighborhood Resilience Project (NRP) [Formerly FOCUS Pittsburgh (who provide Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding, and Shelter to those who are in need)]. Please place your clean coat(s) on the coat rack in the hall

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Pittsburgh Forerunners – Join others from our parish in the Virtual Trek4Missions which supports *The Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)*. To join, go to:

secure.ocmc.org/goto/Pittsburgh_4runners

Click: "JOIN A TEAM"

Then use the password "SJB2021Trek"

The trek will run now through 9/17. *This is an opportunity for individuals and parish communities to unite and demonstrate our commitment to Christ's Great Commission "to make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).*

2021 Home Blessings – Last week we celebrated the Lesser Blessing of Water. Our annual Home Blessings have now begun! Please see Fr. Dave when he has his calendar (a.k.a. his phone) or email him to schedule your Home Blessing.

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Additional **custodial assistance** will be needed starting September 1. A few ideas were discussed at the recent Parish Council meeting including creating "Cleaning Teams" that can rotate each week (or month). Please contact Larry Martin (412-996-6938) to offer your time or if you have a suggestion.

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Church School Teachers are needed. Please contact Fr. Dave or a Parish Council Member if you are interested

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Fence Repair issues have prevented previous folks from repairing the fence on Woodland Avenue. If you have experience working with chain-link fences, please call Fr Dave or Larry Martin (412-996-6938)

Tuesday's Spiritual Vitamin:

"It was right that the eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word should see the Dormition of His Mother according to the flesh, even the final mystery concerning her: hence, they might be witnesses not only to the Ascension of the Saviour but also it to the translation of her who gave Him birth. Assembled from all parts obey divine power, they came to Zion, and sped on her way to heaven the Virgin who is higher than the cherubim." + St. John of Damascus, *The Life of the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos*

OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship:	\$ 590
<i>(\$500 in memory of Margaret (Zelar) Dzuro's parents)</i>	
Candles/Eternal Lamp Offerings:	\$ 113
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 845
Community Outreach:	\$ 10
Parish House Offering:	\$ 300
Total Collections:	\$ 1858
Capital Improvement Fund:	\$ 40
Relocation Fund:	\$ 0

In faith that God provides:

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.'" – 2 Cor. 9:8-9

July Financial Report:

General Stewardship = \$ 4405.18

(includes \$ 157.08 from online stewardship)

***Expenses = \$ 7326.86**

Net Deficit = \$ 2921.68

**details listed on the church hall bulletin board*
Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: **30**

Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials were offered last week by Nelson Family; Tim Martin; Lawrence Martin; Melanie Paieski; Mary Jane Hudak; Mirilovich Family; Patty Watson

"I am the light of the world;

he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." - John 8:12

The Eternal Lamp was offered last week by Matt Peifer in memory of Parents, +Jack and +Viola Peifer; Cindy Pavilonis in memory of her mother, Anna Louise Pavilonis. May Their Memory Be Eternal!

Wednesday's Spiritual Vitamin:

"He who disregards fasting is like a rampaging stallion." +Righteous Hyperechius

Weekly Offerings to God – During this time, if you are not yet coming to the church, we request that weekly donations be mailed to Tim Martin (2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143)



On-Line Giving is now available from our parish website! The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple (2nd best is to mail it in). Now you can also donate from your home and set up a recurring donation to the:

- ✘ General Stewardship Fund,
- ✘ Capital Improvement Fund, or
- ✘ Relocation Fund.

If you miss coming to church for a week, this allows you another option to "catch up" on your weekly stewardship. For our parish to continue it's ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, we need your generosity to continue.

ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

The wonder-working Icon of the Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon of the Theotokos of Hawaii will visit the Nativity of the Theotokos Orthodox Monastery (121 St. Elias Lane, Saxonburg, PA 16056) this **Tuesday, August 24th** from 5 pm to 8:30 pm and on **Wednesday, August 25th** from 8 am to 12-Noon (Divine Liturgy at 8 am). *The Icon is miraculous and the anointing of Her myrrh has been a source of solace for many faithful.* Call 724.352.3999 with any questions.

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Survey - The Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of the USA needs your input! Please take the **Orthodox Mental Health Needs Assessment Survey**, designed by experts on the Mental Health



Task Force, takes only 15 minutes. *All information you provide is completely anonymous,* and the aggregate data will help the Task Force better understand the mental health needs and experiences of the faithful in order to develop resources and programs for enhanced ministry in our communities. Please take the survey. Scan the QR code or visit: www.assemblyofbishops.org/ministries/mental-health-task-force/mental-health-needs-assessment-survey

VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org
Camp Nazareth: www.campnazareth.org
FB: www.facebook.com/acroddioocese
Twitter: twitter.com/acrodnews
YouTube: youtube.com/acroddioocese

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

⁹For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. ¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and another man is building upon it. Let each man take care how he builds upon it. ¹¹For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹²Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. ¹⁶Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

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Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

Jesus Walks on the Water

²²Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. ²⁵And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out for fear. ²⁷But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

²⁸And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." ²⁹He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; ³⁰but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³²And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

Jesus Heals the Sick in Gennesaret

³⁴And when they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennes'aret.

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LIVING ORTHODOXY

Titles of the Mother of God in the Orthodox Church

PANAGIA ("MOST-HOLY") – The Mother of God is named Most Holy because she is the perfect example of cooperation between God and man's free will: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to they word."

MOST-PURE – She was sinless, except for the inherited sin of all humanity, of which she was purified through the conception of the Son of God. **MOST-BLESSED, GLORIOUS LADY** – The Church honors the Mother of God, because she made possible the coming of God the Son into the world, which means salvation would have been impossible without her obedience to God's will.

THEOTOKOS ("BIRTH-GIVER OF GOD") – Theotokos is the Greek word meaning "Birth-Giver of God". This name was approved at the 3rd Ecumenical Council in Ephesus (in 431) in order to combat the heresy of Nestorius.

EVER-VIRGIN – The Mother of God is Ever-Virgin, more precisely she remained a virgin before, during, and after giving birth to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Thursday's Spiritual Vitamin:

"The truly wise is he who teaches not only by word but also by deed." +Righteous Hyperechius

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

THE HOLY APOSTLE MATTHIAS

Commemorated on August 22/9

The Holy Apostle Matthias was born at Bethlehem, and was a descendent of the Tribe of Judah. From his early childhood he studied the Law of God in accord with the Books of Scripture under the guidance of Saint Simeon the God-Receiver. When the Lord Jesus Christ revealed Himself to the world, Saint Matthias believed in Him as the Messiah, followed constantly after Him and was numbered amongst the Seventy Disciples, whom the Lord "did send by twos before His face" (Lk. 10: 1). After the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Apostle Matthias preached the Gospel at Jerusalem and in Judea together with the other Apostles (Acts 6: 2, 8: 14). From Jerusalem he went with the Apostles Peter and Andrew to Syrian Antioch, and was in the Cappadocian city of Tianum and Sinope. ... the Apostle Matthias was sentenced to death by the Sanhedrin and stoned (~63). When Saint Matthias was already dead, the Jews, to hide their malefaction, cut off his head as being an enemy of Caesar. (According to several historians, the Apostle Matthias was crucified on a cross, and indicate that he instead died at Colchis). The Apostle Matthias received the martyr's crown of death for Christ

Friday's Spiritual Vitamin:

Forefeast of the Dormition of the Theotokos

Tropar (Tone 4)

Dance with joy, O peoples!

Clap your hands with gladness!

Gather today with fervor and jubilation;

Sing with exultation.

The Mother of God is about to rise in glory,

Ascending from earth to heaven.

We ceaselessly praise her in song as truly Theotokos.

FEAST DAY FEATURE

The **Dormition** (Falling Asleep) of the Theotokos is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on August 28/15. The Feast of the Dormition, 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.

According to Orthodox Tradition, Mary died like all humanity, "falling asleep," so to speak, as the name of the feast indicates. She 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 feast was added to the Roman calendar in the 7th century as the Dormitio. In the 8th century, the title was changed to the Assumptio.

The Apostles were miraculously summoned to this event, and all were present except Thomas when Mary passed from this life. She was then buried. Thomas arrived a few days later, and desiring to see her one more time, convinced the others to open her tomb. Upon doing so, the Apostles discovered that her body was no longer present. This event is seen as a first-fruits of the resurrection of the faithful that will occur at the Second Coming of Christ. The event is normally called the Dormition, though there are Orthodox parishes in English-speaking countries with the name Assumption. In Greek, Dormition is Koimisis (falling asleep in death) from which the word cemetery derives.

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 Orthodox Church teaches that Mary is without personal sins, 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. She truly died and was raised up by her Son as the Mother of Life and participates already in the eternal life of paradise. This life of paradise is prepared and promised to all who "hear the word of God and keep it." (Luke 11:27-28)

PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for
Special Intentions and Other Needs*

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A Prayer For The Sick: O Christ, You alone are

prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant **name(s)**. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver **him/her/them** from sickness and bitter pain. Heal **him/her/them** so that **he/she/they** may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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For the Health of... Christopher, John, Frederick, Fr. Patrick, Joanne, Barbara, Brian, Kristina, Sean, Julia, Susan, John, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, and Roberta ...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.

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For the Special Intentions of... His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. Photios, Fr. Theodore, Deacon Charles, Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Elizabeth, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our seminarians:* Dylan, Thomas, Nicholas, and Aydin *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Lawrence, Matthew, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Anthony, Mary Jane, Steven, Kenneth, Jillian, John, Wendy, John, Margaret, John, John, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

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Patronal Feast Days (Name's Day):

Patricia Watson - St Patricia (8/22), Lawrence Martin - Blessed Laurence, fool-for-Christ at Kaluga (8/23), Father's sister, Suzanne Verbanick – Holy Martyress Susanna the Virgin (8/24) (*contact Fr. Dave with your Patron Saint*)

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Birthdays Prayers for... Everly Torchia (8/22), Igumen Patrick (8/23), Renee Mirilovich (8/24), Fr. Michael Kabel (8/27), Meredith Blobner (8/28),

Adam Zak (8/28) ...*May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!*

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For our Catechumens & Inquirers... Susan, Marilynn, John ...*through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*

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For those preparing for Marriage... Lauren & Corey, Nicole & Dustin ...*through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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Anniversary Prayers for... Ana Karen & W. Dylan Mushinsky (8/22), Sharon & Ryan Dzadony (8/25)...*May God fill them with His grace that they may continue to live in unity with Him!*

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For Pregnant Mothers... Harmonie (*due in August*), Theresa (*August*), Pañi Davina (*September*), Meredith (*December*) ...*through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities... Thomas R. Dzadovsky and Trevor Meegan ...*through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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For the souls of the newly departed... +John Urban (8/19), +Thomas Yawkey, the Deacon (8/6), +Henry (7/24), +Michael Petitta (7/19) ...*May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May their Memory in God be Eternal*

DEVOTIONAL PRAYER OF THE WEEK

A PRAYER TO THE THEOTOKOS

Hail Mary, full of grace, O Virgin Birthgiver of God, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, for you have given birth to Christ, the Savior and deliverer of our souls. (*strive to pray this ten times a day during the Dormition Fast*)

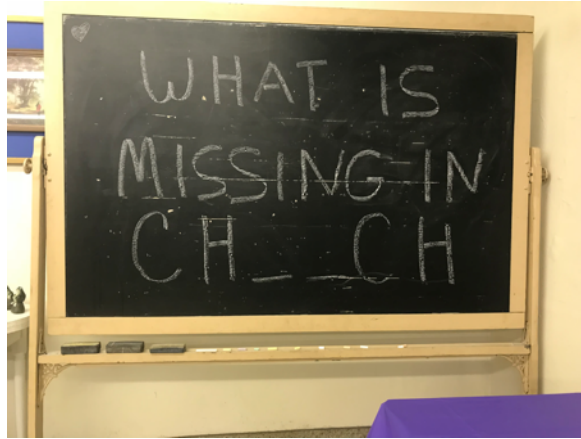
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A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop (*name*), and our spiritual father (*name*), and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

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* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (in the case of answered prayers) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: **it is good to pray for one another**. Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is NOT limited to only Orthodox Christians.*



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“Finally when blessed Mary having completed the course of this life, and was to be called from the world, all the Apostles gathered to her house from their different regions. And when they had heard that she was to be taken from the world, together they kept watch with her; and lo, the Lord Jesus came with His angels. Taking her soul, He gave it the Archangel Michael and withdrew. At dawn the Apostles raised her body with a pallet and they placed it in a vault and they guarded it awaiting the coming of the Lord. And lo, a second time the Lord stood by them and he ordered the holy body to be taken and borne to Paradise; there having rejoined the soul exultant with His elect, it enjoys the good things of eternity which shall know no end.” + St. Gregory of Tours, from *The Book of Miracles*

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“Today the Holy Church solemnly glorifies the honorable Dormition or translation of the Mother of God from earth to heaven. A wonderful translation – she died without serious illness, peacefully. Her soul is taken up in the divine hands of Her Son and carried up into the heavenly abode, accompanied by the sweet singing of angels. And then, her most pure body is transferred by the apostles to Gethsemane where it is honorably buried, and on the third day it is resurrected and taken up to heaven. You see this on the icon of the Dormition of the Theotokos. On it is represented the life-bearing

body of the Theotokos laying on a bier, surrounded by the apostles and hierarchs, and in the center of the icon the Lord holding in His hands the most pure soul of the Theotokos. The translation of the Mother of God is a paradigm of the translation in general of the souls of Christians to the other world.” +St. John of Kronstadt, Sermon on the Dormition of the Theotokos

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“The Most Holy Mother of God prays for us ceaselessly. She is always visiting us. Whenever we turn to her in our heart, she is there. After the Lord, she is the greatest protection for mankind. How many churches there are in the world that are dedicated to the Most Holy Mother of God! How many healing springs where people are cured of their ailments have sprung up in places where the Most Holy Theotokos appeared and blessed those springs to heal both the sick and the healthy! She is constantly, by our side, and all too often we forget her.” +Elder Thaddeus, Homily on the Dormition of the Theotokos