

Food Pantry Collection: As a parish we've slacked off a bit over the summer. With school approaching, perhaps we can increase our efforts and concentrate on items useful for kids & families (cereals, other breakfast items, juices).

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Senior Warden Greg Michaels

Jr Warden Rocco Lupo

Fr. Stephen Mack, Pastor & Fr. Michael Speck

Deacon David Donch

Subdeacon Michael Speck

August 13, 2017

HOLY DAY OF DORMITION TUESDAY THIS WEEK

Monday, Aug 14 at 6PM: Vespers & Litiya

Tuesday, Aug 15 at 9AM: Holy Day of Dormition, Falling Asleep of the Blessed Theotokos; Blessing of Herbs & Flowers

Wednesday, Aug 16 at 9AM: Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom

Saturday, Aug 19 at 6PM: Vespers

Sunday, Aug 20 at 9AM: Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom

A Note from Fr Steve: I will be away after Liturgy on Tuesday. Fr Michael has been asked to assist in an ordination in Lansing; Deacon David will be here for services Sunday, Aug 20.

Feast of the Holy Dormition

On August 15th of each year (new calendar), the Orthodox Church celebrates the Dormition of the Theotokos, or "The Falling Asleep of the Mother of God." Her departure from this earthly life is spoken of in this fashion because death is thought of as a transitory or "sleep-like" state in which the soul remains until the general resurrection and final judgment. Although the particulars surrounding the death of the Theotokos are not found in the Holy Bible, we have learned about them, as the Fifth Century Patriarch of Jerusalem, St. Juvenal, has said, from our Holy Tradition. The Falling Asleep of the Mother of God is found in the writings of Dionysius the Areopagite in the 1st century, as well as those of St. Epiphanius of Cyprus in the 4th century. And the account of her bodily ascent to Heaven was written of by Meliton, Bishop of Sardis, in the 2nd century.

During one of her many visits to Jesus' tomb on Golgotha, where she went to pray, the Virgin Mary was visited by the Archangel Gabriel, who told her of her impending repose. The Apostle John was mystically transported from Ephesus, answering her prayer, to be at her side. Many of the disciples unknowingly answered the Lord's call to be at her side. The Apostle Paul, together with his disciples and many others of the Seventy Apostles, were miraculously gathered — some transported by clouds — from far away places where they were preaching and evangelizing to be with Mary. Christ descended from Heaven at the appointed time, accompanied by Angels, Archangels and Heavenly Hosts and surrounded by the Divine Light, and carried her soul to Heaven.

The Ever-Virgin Mary was buried in the family tomb in the Garden of Gethsemane. The "wise providence" of God saw to it that all but one Apostle was not present at the repose of the Theotokos — Thomas, the one in the same who denied that Christ had risen from the dead and had appeared before him in the flesh. Thomas, arriving three days later, was deeply saddened. He wept at the entrance to her tomb and asked that he be permitted to see the Mother of God one final time. Her tomb was found empty, however, except for a few items: the Theotokos' sash and burial garments..... *and the most beautiful flowers, which filled the tomb with a sweetly fragrant scent!*



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