



Sunday, August 11, 2019  
Gospel: St. Matthew 14:14-22

Tone 7  
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

8th Sunday after Pentecost  
Afterfeast of the Transfiguration / Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Euplus of Catania

AUGUST Bulletin Sponsor: OPEN

### Liturgical & Events Schedule

**Sunday, August 11**  
9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy /  
Memorial Sunday / Social / Choir  
Rehearsal

**Monday, August 12**  
6:30 pm: Orthodoxy 101 Class

**Wednesday, August 14**  
6:30 pm: Great Vespers w/ Litya &  
Procession of the Shroud of Mary

**Thursday, August 15**  
9:30 am: Patronal Feast Divine Liturgy w/  
Procession of the Shroud of Mary /  
Social

**Friday & Saturday:** Festival in Lorain at our  
deanery Parish of SS. Peter & Paul

**Sunday, August 18**  
9:05 am: Hours followed by Divine Liturgy

#### 40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

- August 11:** Troy / Mat. Vera Mironowicz
- August 18:** Deputy shot in GA /  
Archimandrite Pitirim
- August 25:** Archpriest George Havrila
- September 1:** Shooting victims from CA  
shooting / Sue Parker
- September 8:** Brandan & Michael from the  
Army killed in Afghanistan /  
Shooting victims from the mall in El  
Paso, TX / Mass shooting victims  
from Dayton, OH

### DANBURY FOOD PANTRY - AUGUST

Suggested donation of Apple Sauce (and other  
non-perishable goods) will be collected through  
August 11.

August donations will be delivered to the food  
pantry Thursday August 15.

Thank You & God Bless.

#### AUGUST

	<u>Cleaners</u>	<u>Readers</u>	<u>Social</u>
4	Jennifer H.	Joe S	Open
11	Stephanie K.	Tim	Open
18	Jean H.	Ron	Festival
25	Open	David	Open

### CANDLE / BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR AUGUST

- Bulletin (\$50):** Available
- Chandelier (\$50):** Laura: In loving memory of  
her dad Steve Mazur
- Altar Candles (\$50):** Joe & Valerie Schutt: In  
loving memory of Dorothy Czuha and Rose  
Haburt
- Candles on the tomb (\$25):** Maria Demkosky:  
In loving memory of her mother Helene  
Flaherty on the occasion of her b-day
- Eternal Light & Icon Screen (\$25):** Joe and  
Valerie Schutt: In loving memory of LaVerne  
Schutt

### BAKLAVA ASSEMBLY

Today, August 11: 1300 pieces of baklava  
will be assembled following Social. Please  
plan to help.

# Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

Parish Council President: Matthew Adamcio

Fr. Andrew Bartek, Rector



110 E Main Street, Marblehead, OH 43440  
www.holyassumptionmarblehead.org

Rectory 419-798-4591 / Cell 570-212-8747  
padrebartek@gmail.com

## OTHER WEEKLY INCOME

**Sunday, July 7:** \$31 Candles; \$50 Altar Candles; \$100 Chandelier; \$40 Vigils; Special Collection (St Herman's Seminary \$120; \$100 Cemetery; \$13 Miscellaneous; \$50 Biro Manufacturing; \$50 donation

**TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$884**

**Sunday, July 14:** \$47 candles; \$55 Vigils; \$150 Special Collection St Herman's

**TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$1,571**

**Sunday, July 21:** \$32 Candles; \$75 Vigils; \$25 Eternal Light; \$100 special Collection (St Herman's Seminary /

**TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$1,172**

**Sunday, July 28:** \$64.50 Candles; \$50 Chandelier; \$75 Tomb Candles; \$70 Vigils; \$53 Special Collection (St Herman's Seminary

**TOTAL DEPOSIT: \$1,225.50**

## TOTAL MONTHLY RESULTS

Candles:	\$174.50
Chandelier:	\$150
Altar Candles	\$50
Tomb Candles	\$75
Eternal Light	\$25
Vigils	\$240
Special Collection	
(St Herman: \$423 + \$300 =	\$773
Cemetery	\$100
<b>TOTAL COLLECTED:</b>	<b>\$1,237.50</b>

## MONTHLY TITHING ONLY Goal Pledged per month: \$4,100

<b>Sunday, July 7:</b>	\$443
<b>Sunday, July 14:</b>	\$1,319
<b>Sunday, July 21:</b>	\$940
<b>Sunday, July 28:</b>	\$913

**TOTAL FOR THE MONTH: \$3,615**

## ATTENDANCE - AUGUST

**Sunday, August, 4:** 25 Total (21 members; 1 non-reg member; 2 children; 1 guest; 17 Communicants; 7 attended Vespers

## WEEKLY VIGILS: JULY 28

**Laura Kovach (3)** Safe travel for family; For health of Joe, Joe, Basil, Dana, Jessica, Heidi and Mad-die; In memory of Sue.

**Sandy Martin (2)** Anniversary Blessings to Jen and Tim; Special intentions.

**Jim Mazur(2)** Health of family and friends

**Darlene, Nick and Gabe Mazurik (1)** Special intentions

**Ron & Bobbie Royhab(1)**

**Twarek (9)** In loving memory of Sue Parker; God's love and peace for Morgan, Marshall and family; In thanksgiving for 45 years; Health and healing to Lily; Health and recovery to Liz; Health and healing to Christine, MaryAnn and Bob, and Heidi; Health and recovery of Joe, Sonya, Nancy, Julia, Diane, Stella, Ron, Steve, John, Becky, Jake, Helen; Special intentions; Special intentions

## WEEKLY VIGILS- AUGUST 4

**Sandy Martin (2)** In loving memory of mom & dad (Anniversary 8/5); Special intentions

**Jim Mazur(2)** Health of family and friends

**Darlene, Nick and Gabe Mazurik (1)** Special intentions

**Twarek (8)** In loving memory of Sue; Health and wellness for Morgan, Marshall and family; Birth-day Blessings to Hayes (8/2); Health and recovery to Liz; Health and healing to Christine, MaryAnn and Bob; Health of Joe, Sonya, Nancy, Heidi, Julia, Diane, Stella, Ron, Steve, John, Becky, Jake, Helen; Special intentions; Special intentions

# PRAYER LIST Updated 7-30

## Clergy:

His Beatitude, Metropolitan Theodosius  
His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman  
Archbishop Nikon from New England  
John Duranko (*Father's home pastor*)  
James Gleason (*Father's Spiritual Father*)  
Joseph Gibson  
Emilian Hutnyan  
John Jones  
Josef Von Klarr  
Vladimir Lecko  
John Matusiak  
Peter Tutko  
Deacon Paul Mitchell  
Sub-deacon Wylie Meath

## Matushkii:

Pani Patricia Duranko  
Virginia Lecko  
Sonya Tutko  
Victoria Kopistiansky

## Parishioners / & their Family:

John Beadle (*Elcishko*)  
MaryAnn Cook (*Cousin to Twarek's*)  
John Richard Elchisco  
Debbie Garnek (*Roddie's sister*)  
Michael Glovinsky (*Basil's nephew*)  
Heidi Golob  
Ernest Gresh (*Basil's nephew*)  
Shirley Gresh (*Wife of Ernest*)  
Aldin Griffith (*Soski*)  
Julia Guzy  
Joseph Habegger (*Laura brother-in-law*)  
Alice Jackson (*Mazurik*)  
Kathy Jacobs (*Lorain*)  
Michael Kouznetsov (*Mary Hiser's son*)  
Kristen (*Cassell's daughter*)  
David LaValle (*Fr.'s cousin*)  
Eileen Libb (*Royhab*)  
Helen Lis  
Walter Litzie (*Fr.'s cousin*)  
Maria (*Terrie's mom*)  
Greg Mazur  
Jim Mazur  
Judy Mazurik (*Paul Mazurik's*)  
Baby Stella Miller  
Katelyn Pipenur (*Niece of Jean*)  
Helen Jean Rofkar (*Elchisco*)

Joe Rose  
Steven Schirtzinger (*Soski*)  
Christy Schutt (*Joe's sister*)  
Peter Truta (*Jean H's cousin*)  
Diane Tryon  
Greg Tryon  
Christine Twarek  
Valentin (*Cassell*)  
Lauren & her newborn  
Maxwell (*Jean H's daughter*)  
Nikki and her newborn baby  
Brantly  
Brianna and her unborn baby  
(*Trudy's daughter*)  
Katie and her newborn Bodhi  
(*Cassell's daughter-in-law*)

## Other Requests:

Alexia  
Dick Biro (*Natalie's friend*)  
Anna Burch (*Wayne's friend*)  
Mary Ann Cook (*Twarek*)  
Bob Cook (*Twarek*)  
Danielle (*Cassell's friend*)  
Ben Franklin (*Laura friend*)  
Theodore Geletka  
(*St. Michael OC-Broadview Heights' choir director*)  
Brad George (*Christi's friend*)  
Donald Gresh (*Basil*)  
Tom Hutnyan (*Fr. Emil*)  
Elliot Joy (*Police chief's son*)  
Tommy Leonchik (*Fr's friend*)  
Jake Lipstraw (*Twarek*)  
Andy Kukay (*Village resident*)  
Anna Maiani (*Friend of Wayne*)  
Charlie Nowak (*Avery's*)  
Beth Reinhard (*Diane friend*)  
Elvis Reyes (*Fr's friend*)  
Sandy Scafaria (*friend of Jean*)  
Matthew Sterling (*Tyron*)  
Janice Timko  
Becky Yatsko (*Twarek*)  
Rachel (*Darlene M.*)  
Bonnie (*Cassell*)  
Kim (*Cassell*)  
Sharon (*Cassell*)  
Dominic (*Cassell*)  
Allison Spoerl (*Cassell*)

Cheyenne Welch & her two newborn (our catechumens) :  
Luke & Lydia  
Katie & her newborn Evan  
(*Manager at Bruno's wife*)  
Mat. Carley & her unborn baby  
Elizabeth McDonald & her unborn Baby (*Fr's friend*)

## Military:

Craig Cassell  
Nathan Brown

## Captives:

Metropolitan Paul  
(*Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo*)  
Archbishop John  
(*Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo*)  
The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers in & around Syria; Those suffering persecution in Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and throughout the world

**NOTE: Please let Fr. Andrew know when someone needs to go on or come off the list.**

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## For Your Prayers

Julia Guzy (95 ½ yrs old)  
1601 Church Rd  
Marblehead, OH 43440

Please remember her & Susan (her daughter) in your prayers. Send a card of greeting.

## OTTAWA COUNTY FAMILY ADVOCACY

Monthly support meetings for grandparents and other adults raising children. Please see Bulletin Board in Church hall for more information.

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### 27th ANNUAL RETREAT HOLY DORMITION MONASTERY

**When:** Oct. 4-6

**Where:** Holy Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction, MI

**Topic:** "My Grace is Sufficient for You, My Strength is Made Perfect in Weakness"

**Presenter:** Very Rev. Archpriest Dimitrie Vincent

Further info please see Bulletin board in Church basement

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### "Thy Will Be Done" theme of FOCA Leadership Conference in Cleveland October 10-12, 2019

The [Fellowship of Orthodox Christians in America](#) [FOCA], an officially recognized organization of the Orthodox Church in America, will sponsor a two-day workshop aimed at current and aspiring clergy and lay leaders within the Orthodox Church and in secular business leadership roles. Attendees will gain a perspective on employing planning and management principles with an underlying foundation of Christian leadership. The keynote workshop will be supplemented by additional parish-focused breakout sessions under the topics of Parish Council Effectiveness, Parish Future, and Engaging and Fostering Young Adult Leaders.

Facilitated by three well-known speakers — Proto-deacon Peter Danilchick, Joseph Kormos, and Matushka Jenny Haddad Mosher — the conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Cleveland South-Independence, 5300 Rockside Road, Independence, OH from Thursday evening, October 10, through Saturday, October 12, 2019. The \$260.00 per attendee fee includes Thursday's opening networking

## PILGRIMAGE TO ALASKA 2020 DIOCESE OF THE MIDWEST

**When:** August 19-25, 2020

**Cost:** \$2,525 per person / Single add \$675

Join your fellow Orthodox believers in the 50th Anniversary celebrations of St. Herman of Alaska's canonization and the 50th Anniversary of the OCA'S autocephaly in 2020. There will be weekly trips to Alaska over the summer of 2020 sponsored by each of the dioceses of the OCA. This will be a special trip for all Orthodox believers.

Includes:

- \*6 days/5 nights accommodation
- \*round trip air to Kodiak from Anchorage
- \*Excursion to Spruce Island
- \*Touring and sight seeing as listed in itinerary
- \*Daily breakfast

Visit website for complete details and register. Space is limited.

Call 713-688-6793 or visit [www.culturallycreativetravel.com/pilgrimage-to-alaska-2020](http://www.culturallycreativetravel.com/pilgrimage-to-alaska-2020)

See flier on bulletin board in church basement.

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reception, Friday/Saturday continental breakfasts, Saturday lunch, all conference materials, and a complimentary copy of *Thy Will Be Done: Strategic Leadership, Planning, and Management for Christians*.

For additional information please contact Melissa Tesar, Conference Coordinator, at [FOCALeaderConf@gmail.com](mailto:FOCALeaderConf@gmail.com); 216-509-2573. To register visit [www.focaleadership.com](http://www.focaleadership.com). Deadline is September 20, 2019.

For lodging call 1-866-840-0582 and give the name of the Ohio District FOCA room block or the Group Code ODF.

## AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY	ANNIVERSARY
2- Jessica Issler 4- Meiriam Dardovski 10- Irene Vangeloff 12- Layne Demkosky 13- Frank Batura, Jr. 14- Nick Mazurik 20- Zach Collins 28- Trisha Monschein 29- Archbishop Michael	Fr. Michael & Pani Mellissa Chendorain 18- Philip & Trudy Ellmore 20- Thomas & Charisse Hileman 21- Fr. Gregory & Matushka Xenia Burner 28- Fr. Eli Bremer Priestly ordination 30- Fr. Peter & Pani Bernadette <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Namesday</b></p> 8-9: Retired Metropolitan Herman 8-9: Retired Bishop Matthias of Chicago 8:13: Retired Bishop Tikhon of San Francisco 8-23: Archbishop Irene of Canada 8-30: Archbishop Alexander of Dallas
<i>If there are those names to be added or removed, please contact Fr. Andrew. He would like to list all members of your family Orthodox and non-Orthodox.</i>	

## AUGUST REPOSED LIST

7- Dorothy Romig (2017)	21- Fr. Paul Herbert (2016)	29- Pani Gizella Mihaly (1975)
11- Carl D. Essex (2014)	21- Sophia Monak (2004)	31- Larry Noon (2014)
12- Fr. Stephen Jula (2014)	22- Fr. Peter Molchany (1990)	Michael Onyock (1931)
13- Andrew Millie (1958)	23- Martha Brooks (2010)	Michael Hritsko (1934)
19- Fr. George Dyak (1995)	28- Rev. Dr. William Walter Worstall (2011)	

### PRAY FOR OUR CATECHUMENS

Tim Heffernan	Rachael Adamcio
Luke Welch	Lydia Welch
Tristen Welch	

#### Possible Catechumans:

Loreen Welch      Cheyenne Welch

May God & the Holy Spirit guide them in their journey in the Orthodox Church and the Orthodox way of Life.

### AUGUST SPECIAL COLLECTION

Respect Life -Port Clinton- March for Life

### Bishop Paul's Travel Schedule

**St. Paul Orthodox Church, Dayton, OH,** August 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>

- *Ordination of David Abshear to the Diaconate*

**Holy Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction, MI,**

August 14<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>

- *Annual Pilgrimage*

**Holy Trinity Cathedral, Chicago, IL,** August 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>

**St. Mark Orthodox Church, Rochester, MI,** August 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>

**FOCA Convention, Columbus, OH,** August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 2<sup>nd</sup>

- *Presentation of St. John of Chicago Cross to Fr. Daniel Rentel*



## Commitment vs. Convenience: The Dormition Fast

On Thursday, August 1, 2019, we begin the observance of the relatively brief Dormition Fast that prepares us for the celebration of the Great Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God on August 15. And, as with every fast, we once again are presented with a challenge and a choice. In this instance, the Dormition Fast presents us with a choice between “convenience” and “commitment.” We can choose convenience because of the simple fact that to fast is decidedly inconvenient. It takes planning, vigilance, discipline, self denial, and an overall concerted effort. It is convenient to allow life to flow on at its usual summer rhythm, which includes searching for that comfort level of least resistance. To break our established patterns of living is always difficult—something we would only contemplate with reluctance. So, one choice is to do nothing different during the Dormition Fast—or perhaps just doing something minimal, as a kind of token recognition of our life in the Church. Such a choice may not yield in terms of further growth in our life “in Christ.” It may, rather, mean a missed opportunity.

Yet, the choice remains to embrace the Dormition Fast, a choice that is decidedly “counter-cultural” and one that manifests a conscious commitment to an Orthodox Christian “way of life.” Such a commitment signifies that we are looking beyond what is convenient toward what is meaningful. It would be a choice in which we recognize our weaknesses, and our need precisely for the planning, vigilance, discipline, self denial and overall concerted effort that distinguishes the seeker of the “mind of Christ” which we have as a gift within the life of the Church. That is a difficult choice to make, and one that is perhaps particularly difficult within the life of a family with children who are often resistant to any changes. However, such a difficult choice has its “rewards,” and such a commitment will bear fruit in our families and in our parishes. (If embraced legalistically and judgmentally, however, we will lose our access to the potential fruitfulness of the fast and only succeed in creating a miserable atmosphere in our homes.) It is a choice that is determined to seize a good opportunity as at least a potential tool that leads to spiritual growth.

Combining the “convenient” with our “commitment” within our contemporary social and cultural life is, to some degree, an option. We often don’t allow the Church to “get in the way” of our plans and goals, and that may be hard to avoid in the circumstances and conditions of our present “way of life.” It is hard to prevail in the never-ending “battle of the calendars.” The surrounding social and cultural milieu no longer supports our commitment to Christ and the Church. In fact, it is usually quite indifferent and it may even be hostile toward such a commitment. Though we may hesitate to admit it, we find it very challenging not to conform to the world around us. But it is never impossible to choose our commitment to our Orthodox Christian way of life over what is merely convenient – or simply desired. That may just be one of those “daily crosses” that the Lord spoke of – though it may be a stretch to call that a “cross.” This also entails choices, and we have to assess these choices with honesty as we look at all the factors that make up our lives. In short, it is very difficult – but profoundly rewarding – to practice our Orthodox Christian Faith today!

The heart of a sincere Orthodox Christian desires to choose the hard path of commitment over the easy (and rather boring?) path of convenience. During the Dormition Fast, we now have the God-given opportunity to escape the summer doldrums that drain our spiritual energy. With prayer, almsgiving and fasting, we can renew our tired bodies and souls. We can lift up our “drooping hands” in an attitude of prayer and thanksgiving. The Dormition of the Theotokos has often been called “Pascha in the summer.” It celebrates the victory of life over death—or of death as a translation into the Kingdom of Heaven. The Dormition Fast is our spiritually vigilant preparation leading up to that glorious celebration honoring the Mother of God and contemplate our own entrance into the Kingdom of God. “Behold, now is the acceptable time; behold; now is the day of salvation!” [2 Corinthians 6:2].

### OTHER WEEKLY INCOME

**Sunday, Aug. 4:** \$29 Candles; \$100 Altar Candles; \$75 Vigils; \$50 Eternal Light; \$1 Special Collection (Respect Life)

### TITHE: SUNDAY AUGUST 4

\$1,398

## The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary Commemorated on [August 15](#)

The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary: After the Ascension of the Lord, the Mother of God remained in the care of the Apostle John the Theologian, and during his journeys She lived at the home of his parents, near the Mount of Olives. She was a source of consolation and edification both for the Apostles and for all the believers. Conversing with them, She told them about miraculous events: the Annunciation, the seedless and undefiled Conception of Christ born of Her, about His early childhood, and about His earthly life. Like the Apostles, She helped plant and strengthen the Christian Church by Her presence, Her discourse and Her prayers.

The reverence of the Apostles for the Most Holy Virgin was extraordinary. After the receiving of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the Apostles remained at Jerusalem for about ten years attending to the salvation of the Jews, and wanting moreover to see the Mother of God and hear Her holy discourse. Many of the newly-enlightened in the Faith even came from faraway lands to Jerusalem, to see and to hear the All-Pure Mother of God.

During the persecution initiated by King Herod against the young Church of Christ (Acts 12:1-3), the Most Holy Virgin and the Apostle John the Theologian withdrew to Ephesus in the year 43. The preaching of the Gospel there had fallen by lot to the Apostle John the Theologian. The Mother of God was on Cyprus with Saint Lazarus the Four-Days-Dead, where he was bishop. She was also on Holy Mount Athos. Saint Stephen of the Holy Mountain says that the Mother of God prophetically spoke of it: "Let this place be my lot, given to me by my Son and my God. I will be the Patroness of this place and intercede with God for it."

The respect of ancient Christians for the Mother of God was so great that they preserved what they could about Her life, what they could take note of concerning Her sayings and deeds, and they even passed down to us a description of Her outward

appearance.

According to Tradition, based on the words of the Hieromartyrs Dionysius the Areopagite (October 3) and Ignatius the God-Bearer (December 20), Saint Ambrose of Milan (December 7) had occasion to write in his work "On Virgins" concerning the Mother of God: "She was a Virgin not only in body, but also in soul, humble of heart, circumspect in word, wise in mind, not overly given to speaking, a lover of reading and of work, and prudent in speech. Her rule of life was to offend no one, to intend good for everyone, to respect the aged, not envy others, avoid bragging, be healthy of mind, and to love virtue.

"When did She ever hurl the least insult in the face of Her parents? When was She at discord with Her kin? When did She ever puff up with pride before a modest person, or laugh at the weak, or shun the destitute? With Her there was nothing of glaring eyes, nothing of unseemly words, nor of improper conduct. She was modest in the movement of Her body, Her step was quiet, and Her voice straightforward; so that Her face was an expression of soul. She was the personification of purity.

"All Her days She was concerned with fasting: She slept only when necessary, and even then, when Her body was at rest, She was still alert in spirit, repeating in Her dreams what She had read, or the implementation of proposed intentions, or those planned yet anew. She was out of Her house only for church, and then only in the company of relatives. Otherwise, She seldom appeared outside Her house in the company of others, and She was Her own best overseer. Others could protect Her only in body, but She Herself guarded Her character."

According to Tradition, that from the compiler of Church history Nicephorus Callistus (fourteenth century), the Mother of God "was of average stature, or as others suggest, slightly more than average; Her hair golden in appearance; Her eyes bright with pupils like shiny olives; Her eyebrows strong in character and moderately dark, Her nose pronounced and Her mouth vibrant bespeaking sweet speech; Her face was neither round nor angular, but somewhat oblong; the palm of Her hands and fingers were longish...

In conversations with others She preserved decorum, neither becoming silly nor agitated, *Con't Pg 8*

## *Dormition Con't*

and indeed especially never angry; without artifice, and direct, She was not overly concerned about Herself, and far from pampering Herself, She was distinctly full of humility. Regarding the clothing which She wore, She was satisfied to have natural colors, which even now is evidenced by Her holy head-covering. Suffice it to say, a special grace attended all Her actions.” [Nicephoros Callistus borrowed his description from Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus (May 12), from the “Letter to Theophilus Concerning Icons.”]

The circumstances of the Dormition of the Mother of God were known in the Orthodox Church from apostolic times. Already in the first century, the Hieromartyr Dionysius the Areopagite wrote about Her “Falling-Asleep.” In the second century, the account of the bodily ascent of the Most Holy Virgin Mary to Heaven is found in the works of Meliton, Bishop of Sardis. In the fourth century, Saint Epiphanius of Cyprus refers to the tradition about the “Falling Asleep” of the Mother of God. In the fifth century, Saint Juvenal, Patriarch of Jerusalem, told the holy Byzantine Empress Pulcheria: “Although there is no account of the circumstances of Her death in Holy Scripture, we know about them from the most ancient and credible Tradition.” This tradition was gathered and expounded in the Church History of Nicephorus Callistus during the fourteenth century.

At the time of Her blessed Falling Asleep, the Most Holy Virgin Mary was again at Jerusalem. Her fame as the Mother of God had already spread throughout the land and had aroused many of the envious and the spiteful against Her. They wanted to make attempts on Her life; but God preserved Her from enemies.

Day and night She spent her time in prayer. The Most Holy Theotokos went often to the Holy Sepulchre of the Lord, and here She offered up fervent prayer. More than once, enemies of the Savior sought to hinder Her from visiting her holy place, and they asked the High Priest for a guard to watch over the Grave of the Lord. The Holy Virgin continued to pray right in front of them, yet unseen by anyone.

In one such visit to Golgotha, the Archangel Gabriel appeared to Her and announced Her approaching departure from this life to eternal life. In pledge of this, the Archangel gave Her a palm branch. With these heavenly tidings the Mother of God returned to Bethlehem with the three girls attending Her (Sepphora, Abigail, and Jael). She summoned Righteous Joseph of Arimathea and other disciples of the Lord, and told them of Her impending Repose.

The Most Holy Virgin prayed also that the Lord would have the Apostle John come to Her. The Holy Spirit transported him from Ephesus, setting him in that very place where the Mother of God lay. After the prayer, the Most Holy Virgin offered incense, and John heard a voice from Heaven, closing Her prayer with the word “Amen.” The Mother of God took it that the voice meant the speedy arrival of the Apostles and the Disciples and the holy Bodiless Powers.

The faithful, whose number by then was impossible to count, gathered together, says Saint John of Damascus, like clouds and eagles, to listen to the Mother of God. Seeing one another, the Disciples rejoiced, but in their confusion they asked each other why the Lord had gathered them together in one place. Saint John the Theologian, greeting them with tears of joy, said that the time of the Virgin’s repose was at hand.

Going in to the Mother of God, they beheld Her lying upon the bed, and filled with spiritual joy. The Disciples greeted Her, and then they told her how they had been carried miraculously from their places of preaching. The Most Holy Virgin Mary glorified God, because He had heard Her prayer and fulfilled Her heart’s desire, and She began speaking about Her imminent end.

During this conversation the Apostle Paul also appeared in a miraculous manner together with his disciples Dionysius the Areopagite, Saint Hierotheus, Saint Timothy and others of the Seventy Apostles. The Holy Spirit had gathered them all together so that they might be granted the blessing of the All-Pure Virgin Mary, and more fittingly to see to the burial of the Mother of the Lord. She called each of them to Herself by name, She blessed them and extolled them for their faith and the hardships they endured in preaching the Gospel of Christ. To each She wished eternal bliss, and prayed with them for the peace and welfare of the whole world. ***Con’t Pg 9***