



# Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek, Rector Parish Council President: Ron Royhab



## AUGUST Bulletin Sponsor:

*From Joe & Valerie in Honor of Archpriest Fr. Andrew in celebration of his 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as Rector*

### Liturgical & Events Schedule

#### Sunday, August 14

9:10 am: Hours / Divine Liturgy / Dormition  
Vespers w/ Procession of Shroud /  
Social

#### Monday, August 15

9:20 am Hours / Divine Liturgy / Procession of  
Shroud  
4:00 pm Respect Life Meeting

#### Thursday, August 18

7:00 pm Lions Club Meeting

**Friday & Saturday:** Festival in Lorain

#### Sunday, August 21

9:10 am Hours / Divine Liturgy / 65 th Annual  
Halupki Festival

### SUNDAY August 14, 2022

**Gospel:** Matthew 14: 22-34

**Epistle:** 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 3:9-17

**Tone 8. 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost. Forefeast of the Dormition.** Prophet Micah. Hieromartyr Marcellus, Bishop of Apamea. Translation of the relics of Ven. Theodosius of the Kiev Caves. Ven Arkady (Arcadius) of Novotorgsk. The Converser Icon of the Most Holy Teeotokos.

### READER

August 14: Joe  
August 21: Tim  
August 28: Joe

### VIGILS 8-7

**Laura Kovach 4** In birthday memory of my dad. For the health and recovery of Ed, Sonya, and Paul E. For health of Betty K., Ben F., Earl R., Mary P., Margaret M., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Hattie & Molly K., Kathie J., Joe R., Pete R., Sharon D., and Rick & Jill Rowe Special intentions.

**Sandy Martin 1** Special intentions

**Natalie Twarek 5** God's blessing for Nikki and unborn baby, For the health and recovery of Ed, Mark, Carole, Sharon and Charlie, Kurt and Leslie, Amber, Dottie, Joe, Jamie, Jim, Stephanie, Ron, Ezra, David, Helen Lis and Tina's dad, Earl, Matt, Tom, Loren, Joe, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Betty, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Chuck, Bohdi, David, Diane, Stella, Jake, Pat, Karen, Kurt and Leslie, For the health and strength of our parish family, special intentions, special intentions

### LIONS CLUB PERCH FESTIVAL

**When:** Saturday, August 27

**Time:** from 10:00am-5:00pm

**Where:** Jamestown Park

A parade will take place prior to the Festival.

See Fr. Andrew to purchase a raffle ticket or two.

### AUGUST CLEANING SCHEDULE

Week of of August 14	Laura
Week of August 21:	Bobbie
Week of August 28:	Laura

## AUGUST: OTHER INCOME

**Goal for the month in this category:**

**\$4,000 (Average \$923 a week)**

August 7: \$28 Candles; \$36 Anonymous Donations; \$45 Vigils; \$1,500 Donations; \$125 Holy Day Donations; \$15 Candles @ St. Tikhon; \$15 Candles @ the cross

## AUGUST: RESTRICTED FUND DONATIONS

August 7: \$100 St Herman's Seminary

## AUGUST: MONTHLY TITHE ONLY

**Goal Pledged per month: \$5,667  
(average of \$1,307 per week)**

August 7: \$1,082

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Diane Tryon  
109 Joslyn Street  
Arcadia, OH 44804

Joe & Sonya Rose  
4351 East Norma Drive  
Port Clinton, OH 43452

Ed & Irene Vangeloff  
454 Strouse Lane  
Sandusky, OH 44870

## 40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

**August 7:** Pat / 3 police officers from KY

**August 14:** Shooting victims from Chicago / Sasha Macura

**August 28:** Ohio Deputy

**September 11:** Monk Arseny / His Grace Bishop Damian from the Georgian Patirchate / Willie Jappsen

## AUGUST BULLETIN / CANDLE SPONSORS

**Bulletin:** (\$50) From Joe & Valerie In Honor of Archpriest Father Andrew in celebration of his Fifth Anniversary as Rector

**Chandelier:** (\$50) From Joe & Valerie in memory of Dorothy Czuha

**Altar Candles:** (\$50) From Joe & Valerie in memory of Howard Bailey & Damian Bailey

**Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** (\$25) From Joe & Valerie in memory of LaVerne Schutt & Violet Bargdill

**Candles at the Cross:** (\$15) : Laura: Birthday blessings to Matt and birthday memory of my dad Steven / From the Vangeloff family for the health and recovery of Ed

**Candles @ St Tikhons** (\$15) For the safety of Nicholas, Tikhon & Gleice

## AUGUST LITURGICAL ATTENDANCE

**Friday, August 5:** 9 attended Vespers (2 of which were guests)

**Saturday, August 6:** 14 attended Liturgy (2 of which were guests)

**Sunday, August 7:** 28 attended Liturgy ( 12 of which were guests) / 17 Communicants

## 1 Corinthians 3:9-17 (Epistle)

For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building. According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.

## Matushka Anne Hopko

Matushka Anne “Anya” (Schmemmann) Hopko, 78, for the last two decades of Ellwood City, PA, and previously, for many years, of Crestwood (Yonkers), NY, fell asleep in the Lord on Thursday afternoon, August 4, 2022, in Quebec, Canada, where she was vacationing with family.

At the time of her repose in the Lord, Matushka Anne was in palliative care in a hospital in L’Annonciation (Rivière-Rouge), Quebec. She had suffered, without warning, a sudden, massive stroke on Wednesday, August 3, while enjoying a late morning cup of tea with family members, together on summer holiday in Lac Labelle, Canada.

Anne Hopko was the wife of the late Protopresbyter Thomas Hopko (+2015). She was the oldest child of the late Protopresbyter Alexander Schmemmann (+1983) and his wife, the late Matushka Juliana (Ossorguine) Schmemmann (+2017).

Matushka Anne’s and Protopresbyter Thomas’s five children are Archpriest John (Macrina), Juliana (Gregory), Catherine (Raymond), Mary (Archpriest Nicholas), and Alexandra (Joseph). Matushka Anne had many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well.

More information will follow, as soon as possible. That information will include a full obituary and funeral details.

May Matushka Anne’s memory be eternal!

### **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. *Con’t Pg 6*

## PRAYER LIST- UPDATED AUGUST 8

**HIERARCH'S / CLERGY:** His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman; Archbishop Benjamin from San Fransico; John Duranko (Father's home pastor); James Gleason (Father's Spiritual Father); Moses Berry; Gregory Grivna; Emilian Hutnyan; Joseph Von Klarr; Michael Kuzara; John Zabinko / Deacon Paul Gansle, Deacon Peter Rentsch, Deacon Michael Wilson / Sub-deacon Wylie Meath

**MATUSHKII:** Pani Patricia Duranko; Susan Dank; Virginia Lecko; Margaret Zabinko

**PARISHIONERS & THEIR FAMILIES:** James Bargdill (Schutt); John Beadle (Elchisco); Kristen Cassell; Carole Conaway (Twarek); Maryann Cook (Twarek); Sharon Dietrich (Twarek); Charlie Dietrich (Twarek); Ethan Feldman (Fr); Michael Glovinsky; Shirley Gresh (Glovinsky); Joseph Habegger (Kovach); Elaine Hileman; Joe Kollar (Fr.); Betty Kovach; Helen Lis; Sandy Martin; David Martin; David Mazurik; Mark Mazurik; Child Stella Miller (Elchisco); William Pipenur (Hileman); Earl Rindfleisch; Helen Jean Rofkar (Elchisco); Joe Rose; Sonya Rose; Ron Royhab; Maryann Royhab; Stephanie Royhab; Donna Schoonmaker; Valerie Schutt; Joe Schutt; Tom Twarek; Diane Tryon; Ed Vangeloff, Child Bodhi (Cassell); Brittany Lariccia & her unborn child (Fr.); Nikki and her unborn child

**OTHER REQUESTS:** Marge Dziama; Child Ezra; Kurt Franck (Royhab); Ben Franklin (Kovach); Dorothy Goldman (Twarek); Donald Gresh (Glovinsky); Jake Lipstraw (Twarek); Mark Ludvik (Guzy); Marsha (Rose); Mark Masica (Kovach); Pauline Meath (Fr); Karen Muzyka (Fr); Jamie Philpot (Twarek); Robert Piznar (Rentz); William Romanchak (Fr); Rick Rowe (Kovach); Sandy Scafaria (Hileman); Chuck Wiedenhoft (Twarek); Sara (Jake); Chris Quotap (Fr); Zoland Zile (Fr.); Ashley and her unborn child (Fr.) ; Elizabeth And her unborn child (Fr.); Molly and her unborn child (Fr.)

**MILITARY:** Craig Cassell, Cory Deaton , Jake Ellithorpe, Jordan Fulton, Alena Grabavoy, Justin Issler; Nicholas & Tikhon

**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 who can come off the list or be put on.

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### 65TH ANNUAL HALUPKI FESTIVAL (FOOD / FUN / MUSIC)

Sunday, August 21, 2022 Holy Assumption Orthodox Church / 110 E. Main St. Marblehead, OH 43440 / Rt 163

Free Admission / Free Shuttle Service & Parking nearby / Divine Liturgy @ 9:30

Historic Church Tours / Herman Halupki's Craft Fest 25+ Vendors / Main Raffle / Hourly 50/50

Rusyn (Pysanky) Easter Egg Art / Face Painting & Balloon animals with Sillie Tille / Rock Climbing / Bounce House & more!

Carpatho-Russian Dinner: Serving begins @ 11:30am: 2 Halupki / 2 Perohi / Kielbasa/ Baklava / Roll & Butter

Eastern European Ala Carte: Serving begins @ 2pm: Halupki / Perohi / Kielbasa & Kraut / Bratwurst / Halushki & Cabbage / Spanakopita & more!

Now accepting credit cards / Bar area / Live Polka Music w/ wooden dance floor (Frank Moravcik Orchestra & the Ed Klimaczak Band

## AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

ANNIVERSARIES	BIRTHDAYS	
10- Fr. Michael & Pani Mellissa Chendorain 18- Philip & Trudy Ellmore 21- Fr. Gregory & Matushka Xenia Burner 26- Loreen & Cheyenne Welch 27- Fr. Michael & Presbyteria Jessica 28- Fr. Eli Bremer Priestly ordination 29- Zoland & Claudia Zile 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	2- Jessica Issler 2- Hayes Twarek 4- Meiriam Dardovski 5- Darrin Feldman 9- Elaine Basala 10- Irene Vangeloff 12- Layne Demkosky 13- Frank Batura, Jr. 13- Ed Kusinski 14- Nikolai Mazurik 15- Matt Kovach	15- Anthony Cavaliere 18- Stephen Cazone III 20- Zach Collins 21- Kaylee Calzone 23- Michael Odehnal 28- Trisha Monschein 28- Ricky Whitham 29- Archbishop Michael 31- Sharon LaVallee 31- Fr. Emilian Hutnyan

### Matthew 14:22-34 (Gospel)

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

## AUGUST REPOSED

4- Rose Bartek (1984) 7- Dorothy Romig (2017) 7- Helene Flaherty (2015) 11- Carl D. Essex (2014) 12- Fr. Stephen Jula (2014) 12- Jim Mazur (2021) 13- Andrew Millie (1958) 15-Archpriest John Mutusiak (2019) 19- Fr. George Dyak (1995) 21- Fr. Paul Herbert (2016)	21- Sophia Monak (2004) 22- Fr. Peter Molchany (1990) 23- Martha Brooks (2010) 24- Damien (cousin of Valerie S (2019) 28- Rev. Dr. William Walter Worstall (2011) 28- Matthew Lariccia Sr (1992) 29- Pani Gizella Mihaly (1975) 31- Larry Noon (2014) Michael Onyock (1931) Michael Hritsko (1934)
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### ***Dormition con't from Pg 3***

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 Nikēphóros 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 conversation with others She preserved decorum, neither becoming silly nor agitated, 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.” [Nikēphóros 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 Nikēphóros 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.  
***Con't Next Pg***

### ***Dormition Con't from Previous Pg***

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.

Then came the third hour (9 A.M.), when the Dormition of the Mother of God was to occur. A number of candles were burning. The holy Disciples surrounded her beautifully adorned bed, offering praise to God. She prayed in anticipation of Her demise and of the arrival of Her longed-for Son and Lord. Suddenly, the inexpressible Light of Divine Glory shone forth, before which the blazing candles paled in comparison. All who saw it took fright. Descending from Heaven was Christ, the King of Glory, surrounded by hosts of Angels and Archangels and other Heavenly Powers, together with the souls of the Forefathers and the Prophets, who had prophesied in ages past concerning the Most Holy Virgin Mary.

Seeing Her Son, the Mother of God exclaimed: "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God My Savior, for He hath regarded the low estate of His Handmaiden" (Luke 1:46-48) and, rising from Her bed to meet the Lord, She bowed down to Him, and the Lord bid Her enter into Life Eternal. Without any bodily suffering, as though in a happy sleep, the Most Holy Virgin Mary gave Her soul into the hands of Her Son and God.

Then began a joyous angelic song. Accompanying the pure soul of the God-betrothed and with reverent awe for the Queen of Heaven, the angels exclaimed: "Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee, blessed art Thou among women! For lo, the Queen, God's Maiden comes, lift up the gates, and with the Ever-Existing One, take up the Mother of Light; for through Her salvation has come to all the human race. It is impossible to gaze upon Her, and it is impossible to render Her due honor" (Stikherion on "Lord, I Have Cried"). The Heavenly gates were raised, and meeting the soul of the Most Holy Mother of God, the Cherubim and the Seraphim glorified Her with joy. The face of the Mother of God was radiant with the glory of Divine virginity, and from Her body there came a sweet fragrance.

Miraculous was the life of the All-Pure Virgin, and wondrous was Her Repose, as Holy Church sings: "In Thee, O Queen, the God of all hath given thee as thy portion the things that are above nature. Just as in the Birth-Giving He did preserve Thine virginity, so also in the grave He did preserve Thy body from decay" (Canon 1, Ode 6, Troparion 1).

Kissing the all-pure body with reverence and in awe, the Disciples in turn were blessed by it and filled with grace and spiritual joy. Through the great glorification of the Most Holy Theotokos, the almighty power of God healed the sick, who with faith and love touched the holy bed.

Bewailing their separation from the Mother of God, the Apostles prepared to bury Her all-pure body. The holy Apostles Peter, Paul, James and others of the Twelve Apostles carried the funeral bier upon their shoulders, and upon it lay the body of the Ever-Virgin Mary. Saint John the Theologian went at the head with the resplendent palm-branch from Paradise. The other saints and a multitude of the faithful accompanied the funeral bier with candles and censers, singing sacred songs. This solemn procession went from Sion ***Con't next Pg***

## *Dormition con't from Previous Pg*

through Jerusalem to the Garden of Gethsemane.

With the start of the procession there suddenly appeared over the all-pure body of the Mother of God and all those accompanying Her a resplendent circular cloud, like a crown. There was heard the singing of the Heavenly Powers, glorifying the Mother of God, which echoed that of the worldly voices. This circle of Heavenly singers and radiance accompanied the procession to the very place of burial.

Unbelieving inhabitants of Jerusalem, taken aback by the extraordinarily grand funeral procession and vexed at the honor accorded the Mother of Jesus, complained of this to the High Priest and scribes. Burning with envy and vengefulness toward everything that reminded them of Christ, they sent out their own servants to disrupt the procession and to set the body of the Mother of God afire.

An angry crowd and soldiers set off against the Christians, but the circular cloud accompanying the procession descended and surrounded them like a wall. The pursuers heard the footsteps and the singing, but could not see any of those accompanying the procession. Indeed, many of them were struck blind.

The Jewish priest Athonios, out of spite and hatred for the Mother of Jesus of Nazareth, wanted to topple the funeral bier on which lay the body of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, but an angel of God invisibly cut off his hands, which had touched the bier. Seeing such a wonder, Athonios repented and with faith confessed the majesty of the Mother of God. He received healing and joined the crowd accompanying the body of the Mother of God, and he became a zealous follower of Christ.

When the procession reached the Garden of Gethsemane, then amidst the weeping and the wailing began the last kiss to the all-pure body. Only towards evening were the Apostles able to place it in the tomb and seal the entrance to the cave with a large stone.

For three days they did not depart from the place of burial, praying and chanting Psalms. Through the wise providence of God, the Apostle Thomas was not to be present at the burial of the Mother of God. Arriving late on the third day at Gethsemane, he lay down at the tomb and with bitter tears asked that he

might be permitted to look once more upon the Mother of God and bid her farewell. The Apostles out of heartfelt pity for him decided to open the grave and permit him the comfort of venerating the holy relics of the Ever-Virgin Mary. Having opened the grave, they found in it only the grave wrappings and were thus convinced of the bodily ascent of the Most Holy Virgin Mary to Heaven.

On the evening of the same day, when the Apostles had gathered at a house to strengthen themselves with food, the Mother of God appeared to them and said: "Rejoice! I am with you all the days of your lives." This so gladdened the Apostles and everyone with them, that they took a portion of the bread, set aside at the meal in memory of the Savior ("the Lord's Portion"), and they exclaimed: "Most Holy Theotokos, save us". (This marks the beginning of the rite of offering up the "Panagia" ("All-Holy"), a portion of bread in honor of the Mother of God, which is done at monasteries to the present day).

The sash of the Mother of God, and Her holy garb, preserved with reverence and distributed over the face of the earth in pieces, have worked miracles both in the past and at present. Her numerous icons everywhere pour forth signs and healings, and Her holy body, taken up to Heaven, bears witness to our own future life there. Her body was not left to the vicissitudes of the transitory world, but was incomparably exalted by its glorious ascent to Heaven.

The Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos is celebrated with special solemnity at Gethsemane, the place of Her burial. Nowhere else is there such sorrow of heart at the separation from the Mother of God, and nowhere else such joy, because of Her intercession for the world.

The holy city of Jerusalem is separated from the Mount of Olives by the valley of Kedron on Josaphat. At the foot of the Mount of Olives is the Garden of Gethsemane, where olive trees bear fruit even now.

The holy Ancestor-of-God Joachim had himself reposed at 80 years of age, several years after the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos into the Temple (November 21). Saint Anna, having been left a widow, moved from Nazareth to Jerusalem, and lived near the Temple. At Jerusalem she bought two pieces of property: the first at the gates of Gethsemane, and the second *Con't Next Pg*

### ***Dormition Con't from Previous Pg***

in the valley of Josaphat. At the second locale she built a tomb for the members of her family, and where also she herself was buried with Joachim. It was there in the Garden of Gethsemane that the Savior often prayed with His disciples.

The most-pure body of the Mother of God was buried in the family tomb. Christians honored the sepulchre of the Mother of God, and they built a church on this spot. Within the church was preserved the precious funeral cloth, which covered Her all-pure and fragrant body.

The holy Patriarch Juvenal of Jerusalem (420-458) testified before the emperor Marcian (450-457) as to the authenticity of the tradition about the miraculous ascent of the Mother of God to Heaven, and he sent to the empress, Saint Pulcheria (September 10), the grave wrappings of the Mother of God from Her tomb. Saint Pulcheria then placed these grave-wrappings within the Blachernae church.

Accounts have been preserved, that at the end of the seventh century a church had been built atop the underground church of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, and that from its high bell-tower could be seen the dome of the Church of the Resurrection of the Lord. Traces of this church are no longer to be seen. And in the ninth century near the subterranean Gethsemane church a monastery was built, in which more than 30 monks struggled.

Great destruction was done the Church in the year 1009 by the despoiler of the holy places, Hakim. Radical changes, the traces of which remain at present, also took place under the crusaders in the year 1130. During the eleventh to twelfth centuries the piece of excavated stone, at which the Savior had prayed on the night of His betrayal disappeared from Jerusalem. This piece of stone had been in the Gethsemane basilica from the sixth century.

But in spite of the destruction and the changes, the overall original cruciform (cross-shaped) plan of the church has been preserved. At the entrance to the church along the sides of the iron gates stand four marble columns. To enter the church, it is necessary to go down a stairway of 48 steps. At the 23rd step on the right side is a chapel in honor of the holy Ancestors-of-God Joachim and Anna together with

their graves, and on the left side opposite, the chapel of Saint Joseph the Betrothed with his grave. The right chapel belongs to the Orthodox Church, and the left to the Armenian Church (since 1814).

The church of the Dormition of the Theotokos has the following dimensions: in length it is 48 arshin, and in breadth 8 arshin [1 arshin = 28 inches]. At an earlier time the church had also windows beside the doors. The whole temple was adorned with a multitude of lampadas and offerings. Two small entrances lead into the burial-chamber of the Mother of God. One enters through the western doors, and exits at the northern doors. The burial-chamber of the All-Pure Virgin Mary is veiled with precious curtains. The burial place was hewn out of stone in the manner of the ancient Jewish graves and is very similar to the Sepulchre of the Lord. Beyond the burial-chamber is the altar of the church, in which Divine Liturgy is celebrated each day in the Greek language.

The olive woods on the eastern and northern sides of the temple was acquired from the Turks by the Orthodox during the seventh and eighth centuries. The Catholics acquired the olive woods on the east and south sides in 1803, and the Armenians on the west side in 1821.

On August 12, at Little Gethsemane, at the second hour of the night, the head of the Gethsemane church celebrates Divine Liturgy. With the end of Liturgy, at the fourth hour of the morning, he serves a short Molieben before the resplendent burial shroud, lifts it in his hands and solemnly carries it beyond the church to Gethsemane proper where the holy sepulchre of the Mother of God is situated. All the members of the Russian Spiritual Mission in Jerusalem, with the head of the Mission presiding, participate each year in the procession (called the "Litania") with the holy burial shroud of the Mother of God.

The rite of the Burial of the Mother of God at Gethsemane begins customarily on the morning of August 14. A multitude of people with hierarchs and clergy at the head set off from the Jerusalem Patriarchate (nearby the Church of the Resurrection of Christ) in sorrowful procession. Along the narrow alley-ways of the Holy City the funeral procession makes its way to Gethsemane. Toward the front of the procession an icon of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos is carried. Along the way, pilgrims meet the icon, ***Con't Next Pg***

## ***Dormition Con't from Previous PG***

kissing the image of the All-Pure Virgin Mary and lift children of various ages to the icon. After the clergy, in two rows walk the black-robed monks and nuns of the Holy City: Greeks, Roumanians, Arabs, Russians. The procession, going along for about two hours, concludes with Lamentations at the Gethsemane church. In front the altar, beyond the burial chamber of the Mother of God, is a raised-up spot, upon which rests the burial shroud of the Most Holy Mother of God among fragrant flowers and myrtle, with precious coverings.

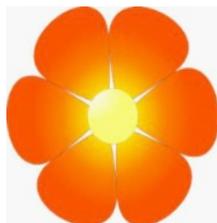
“O marvelous wonder! The Fount of Life is placed in the grave, and the grave doth become the ladder to Heaven...” Here at the grave of the All-Pure Virgin, these words strike deep with their original sense and grief is dispelled by joy: “Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with Thee, granting the world, through Thee, great mercy!”

Numerous pilgrims, having kissed the icon of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, following an ancient custom, then stoop down and go beneath it.

On the day of the Leave-taking of the feast (August 23), another solemn procession is made. On the return path, the holy burial shroud is carried by clergy led by the Archimandrite of Gethsemane.

There is an article in the “Journal of the Moscow Patriarchate”, 1979, No. 3 regarding the rite of the litany and Feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God in the Holy Land.

Today flowers are blessed in church, and people keep them in their homes. During times of family strife or illness, the flower petals are placed in the censer with the incense, and the whole house is censured. See the Prayer at the Sanctification of any Fragrant Herbage.



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