

THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS



After her son ascended into heaven, scriptures have very little to say about the Theotokos. We know she was entrusted to the care of the Apostle John the Theologian, but aside from a brief mention of her being present in the Upper Room with the Apostles as they gathered in waiting for the coming of the Holy Spirit, the New Testament says nothing more about her. Tradition tells us that the Virgin Mary, in effect, became the “first pilgrim,” making spiritual journeys to the sacred places that were so significant in the public ministry of our Lord. She became an inspiration to the early Christians, who eagerly sought to know more about Christ from the person who knew Him best.

Ultimately, the Theotokos learned she would leave this world in the same manner she received word she was to be the Mother of God: through a revelation from the Archangel Gabriel. Given three days to prepare for her departure from this earthly life, the Virgin longed to see the Apostles one last time. Only Thomas failed to arrive in Jerusalem prior to her death. When he reached Holy City three days later, Thomas begged to be given the opportunity to bid farewell to the Theotokos. When her tomb in the Garden of Gethsemane was opened, Mary’s body was nowhere to be found! That evening after dinner, the Apostles heard the singing of angels in the radiance of heavenly glory. Their joyful response was one that we are also encouraged to exclaim in times of tribulation and uncertainty: **MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, HELP US!**

Ss CONSTANTINE & HELEN

GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE PACIFIC



AUGUST 21, 2016

9TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

930 Lunalilo Street, Honolulu, HI 96822
(808) 521-7220 www.greekorthodoxhawaii.org
Office: office@greekorthodoxhawaii.org
Fr. Alexander Leong: fralexanderleong@yahoo.com

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9TH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

Commemoration of: Holy Apostle Thaddeus; Martyr Bassa & her Children

Apolytikia - Entrance Hymns

En ti genisi (Dormition) Tone 1
In giving birth you retained your virginity, and in dormition you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. You were translated unto life, being the Mother of Life. And thus by virtue of your intercessions you deliver our souls from death.

Ex ipsus katilthes (Hymn of the Day) Tone 8

En ti genisi (Dormition) Tone 1

Tu Stavru su ton tipon (Hymn of the Church) Tone 8
Having seen in the sky the form of Your Cross and, like Paul, having received his calling not from men, Your apostle among Kings, Lord, placed his reigning city in Your hand, which you guard in peace forever, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, for You alone love mankind.

Kontakion Tone 6

Tin en presvies
*The Theotokos, unsleeping in intercession * and the immovable hope of protection, * could not be retained by any tomb or death. * For being Life's own Mother, she was transferred to life by Him * who dwelt in the ever-virgin womb.*

Epistle Reading 1 Corinthians 3:9-17
BRETHREN, we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, God's building. According 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. For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw - each 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. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are.

Gospel Reading Matthew 14:22-34
At that time, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the

land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them, saying "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

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

Today

✘ SUN, 8/21– 9th Sunday of Matthew; Farewell Luncheon for the Kalantzis Family

This Week

- ✘ MON, TUE & WED, 8/22, 8/23 and 8/24- Volunteers are tentatively needed to help make pastry bents this Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday starting at 9:30 a.m. Please see Anita Akel-Soileau.
- ✘ SAT, 8/27– Greek Festival 12 to 9 p.m.
- ✘ SUN, 8/28– 10th Sunday of Matthew– Orthros 7:50 a.m., Divine Liturgy 9 a.m. (to accommodate our Festival schedule); Greek Festival 12 to 9 p.m.

Pearls of Wisdom from the Holy Fathers

"Let us be satisfied simply with what sustains our present life, not with what pampers it. Let us pray to God for this, as we have been taught, so that we may keep our souls unenslaved and absolutely free from domination by any of the visible things loved for the sake of the body. Let us show that we eat for the sake of living, and not be guilty of living for the sake of eating. The first is a sign of intelligence, the second proof of its absence."

~St. Maximos the Confessor

TO OUR VISITORS:

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. Just a reminder, however: the Sacrament of Holy Communion is a manifestation of the *unity of the Body of Christ*. As such, only those who are members in spiritual good standing of the Orthodox Church – and who have prepared themselves for the Sacrament – may partake of the Holy Chalice. However, *everyone* is welcome to come up with our people at the end of the service to receive blessed bread.

Please be sure to join us at Coffee Hour following Services.