

**WELCOME TO THE GOD-LOVING & GOD-PROTECTED PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL'S!**

*A parish of the UOC-USA and the Ecumenical Patriarchate*  
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Borislav Kroner

*“Each one shall give what he has decided in his own mind, not Grudgingly or because he is made to - for God loves a cheerful giver.” - II Cor. 9:7*

**August 27, 2017**

**SERVICE SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Forefeast of the Holy Dormition**

Tone 3

Epistle: 1 Cor. 15:1-11; Gospel: Mt. 19:16-26

**9:00AM** Divine Liturgy

**DORMITION FAST**

**Monday, Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> Dormition of the Birth-Giver of God**

Epistle: Phil. 2:5-11; Gospel: Lk. 10:38-42; 11:27-28

**10:00 AM** Divine Liturgy, followed by the blessing of flowers.

**Saturday, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**6:00 PM** Great Vespers

**Sunday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost / Afterfeast of the Holy Dormition**

Tone 4

Epistle: 1 Cor. 16:13-24; Gospel: Mt. 21:33-42

**9:00AM** Obidna / Typica (**Father will be away, this weekend.**)

**Saturday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>**

**6:00 PM** Great Vespers

**Sunday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

Tone 5

Epistle: 2 Cor. 21-2:4; Gospel: Mt. 22:1-14

**10:00AM** Divine Liturgy

**Monday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> Beheading of St. John the Baptist**

**STRICT FAST DAY**

*Remember: even when you are absent, expenses continue.*

## PARISH NEWS

We extend birthday greetings to: **Abigail Baker (Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup>)**, and wedding anniversary greetings to **Dn. Michael and Pani Faith Abrahamson (Aug. 24<sup>th</sup>)**, may God grant you **Many, Happy Years. Многая літа**

**"The festival committee is seeking items for the penny social raffle. We are looking for themed baskets and gift cards. If you are interested in donating but not sure what to get/give, a cash donation will work and the raffle committee will do your shopping for you." Thank you! Дякую!**

The Ladies Sodality is asking for a donation of a clean, older electric blanket for the kitchen. As well as: Donations of 5# bags of Gold Medal all-purpose flour (bleached or unbleached) and gallon jugs of Wesson vegetable or Mazona corn oil. **Thank you! Дякую!**

*From Father Borislav: When you fill out the names to be remembered at the Proskomedia, please print the names, clearly, instead of writing them. Also, when approaching the chalice for Holy Communion please say your name to Father. Thank you! Дякую!*

Can you help??? We are in need of some coffee hour volunteers!! Your "turn" would come up 2 to 3 times during the year. Explanation will be given on what is needed and how to set up, etc. Please see Cindy Charest to add your name. (The more volunteers we have, the fewer times we each have to volunteer!) Please give it your consideration! **Thank you Дякую!**

**Have you started your summer cleaning yet?? Save your stuff for us AND OUR CLOTHING DRIVE!** Items and clothing can be brought to the church basement during coffee hour. Please use white kitchen bags (no boxes, please) for your clothing as they are easier for us to lift. Also, do not bring electronic devices (tv, computers and similar items). Last day we will be accepting clothing is Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, but we will continue to accept items for the Flea Market until Spring. **Thank you! Дякую!**

Our coffee hours are offered each week for fellowship and sustenance for those who have fasted. While the donations put in the basket are voluntary, they are not nearly meeting the expenses of hosting the coffee hours. Please use a guideline of at least a \$1 donation per person for coffee hour. Your donation benefits our UOL groups. **Thank you! Дякую!**

We now have a church calendar for events on the counter of the kitchen at the "window" area. If you (church school, parish board, kitchen etc) have something coming up, please put it on the calendar and check with a board member to be sure it's ok. We would just like to keep up with all activities and not have conflicts. **Thank you! Дякую!**

If you have any ideas for fund raisers for the church, please let a council member know! And a reminder, please consider our scrip program for gift cards is an excellent way for the church to benefit from your gift card purchases!! See Val Sternadore for more info.

## **KITCHEN SESSIONS:**

**Monday, August 28, 7:30 am, making holubtsi**

**Wednesday, September 6, 7:30 am, frying cabbage**

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> – Annual Parish Picnic**

**Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> – St. Michael's Parish Feast Day**

**Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Semi-Annual Meeting**

**Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> – Cookie Walk**

**Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Nicholas Day Celebration**

### ***The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary***

***Commemorated on August 15 / 28***

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.

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.

During the persecution, by King Herod against the young Church of Christ, 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.

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. The enemies of the Savior sought

to hinder Her, 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.

Seeing one another, after their arrival, the Disciples rejoiced, but in their confusion they asked each other why the Lord had gathered them together in one place. Saint John 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.

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.

Then came the third hour (9 A.M.), when the Dormition of the Mother of God was to occur. The holy Disciples surrounded her, 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 rose 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.

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. 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 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.

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.

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, 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 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 Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos is celebrated with special solemnity at Gethsemane.

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 (Nov. 21 / Dec. 4). 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 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.

The rite of the Burial of the Mother of God at Gethsemane begins customarily on the morning of August 14 / 27. 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, 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 monks and nuns of the Holy City. 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.

***On the feast day 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 censed.***

***<https://oca.org/saints/lives/2017/08/15/102302-the-dormition-of-our-most-holy-lady-the-mother-of-god-and-ever-v>***