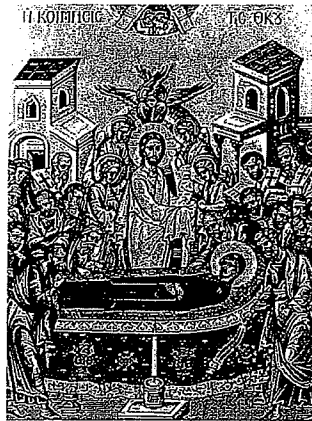


The Olive Shoots
St. Symeon Orthodox Church
August 11, 2013

Date of feast (August 15, 2013)

✙Dormition of the Most-Holy Theotokos✙



“Most Holy Theotokos save us!”

Wednesday- 6:30 pm: Vespers

Thursday- 6:00 am: Divine Liturgy



Troparion Tone 1

In giving birth, Thou didst preserve Thy virginity!
In falling asleep Thou didst not forsake the world, O
Theotokos!

Thou was translated to life, O Mother of Life,
And by thy prayers thou deliverest our souls from death!

Kontakion Tone 2

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos,
Who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her
intercessions.

For being the Mother of Life,
She was translated to life by the One who dwelt in her
virginal womb!

Today's Bible Verse-

"My soul doth magnify the Lord, And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed forever."

— Luke 47- 55

The Dormition of the Most-Holy Theotokos

The Dormition (death) of the Theotokos is one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church, celebrated on August 15. This feast remembers the death of Christ's mother.

The Holy Scriptures tell us that when our Lord was dying on the Cross, He saw His mother and His disciple John and said to the Virgin Mary, "Woman, behold your son!" and to John, "Behold your mother!" (John 19:25-27). From that hour, the Apostle took care of the Theotokos in his own home.

Along with the biblical reference in Acts 1:14 that confirms that the Virgin Mary was with the Holy Apostles on the day of Pentecost, the tradition of the Church holds that she remained in the home of the Apostle John in Jerusalem, continuing a ministry in word and deed.

At the time of her death, the disciples of our Lord who were preaching throughout the world returned to Jerusalem to see the Theotokos. Except for the Apostle Thomas, all of them including the Apostle Paul were gathered together at her bedside. At the moment of her death, Jesus Christ himself descended and carried her soul into heaven.

Following her repose, the body of the Theotokos was taken in procession and laid in a tomb near the Garden of Gethsemane. When the Apostle Thomas arrived three days after her repose and desired to see her body, the tomb was found to be empty. The bodily assumption of the Theotokos was confirmed by the message of an angel and by her appearance to the Apostles.

http://www.goarch.org/special/listen_learn_share/dormition/

DORMITION

