

BULLETIN

THE DORMITION OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS

It must be remembered that it is not the assumption that the Holy Orthodox Church observes on the 15th of August, but the Feast of the Dormition (Keemeesis or Koimisis) or “falling asleep” of the holy Virgin. This most sacred feast marks the falling asleep of the Mother of God, which was followed by the translation of her sacred body three days later into heaven. This feast, therefore, marks her soul being commended into her Son’s hands and the short sojourn of her body in the tomb. Death is not the annihilation of our existence, but a passage from earth to heaven...

Saint John of Damascus writes: *If her Fruit, Whom none may comprehend, on Whose account she was called a heaven, submitted of His own will to burial as a mortal, how should she, who gave Him birth without knowing a man, refuse it?*

In accordance with divine providence, the Theotokos, having come from mortal loins, had a death conformable to nature for the consolation of all people, so that they too might not fear to proceed to heaven by the same gates of death through which the Queen of heaven passed, sharing the lot of all the earthborn. Saint John of Damascus writes: “It was necessary that that which was composed of earth should return to earth and only then pass to heaven, having embraced on earth a most pure life through the subjection of the flesh. It was necessary that the body should be purified through death, as gold through fire, from every darkness and coarse burden of filth, and should rise from the grave incorrupt, pure and illumined by the light of immortality.”

O pure Virgin, sprung from mortal loins, thine end was conformable to nature: but because thou hast borne the true Life, thou hast departed to dwell with the divine Life Himself.

Saint John of Damascus’ brother, the bishop and poet Saint Kosmas (8th C.), speaks of the Virgin’s death as a crossing into a better and eternal life, that is, it has translated her from this mortal life to that which knows no end and is indeed divine, where she may look with joy upon her Son and Lord.

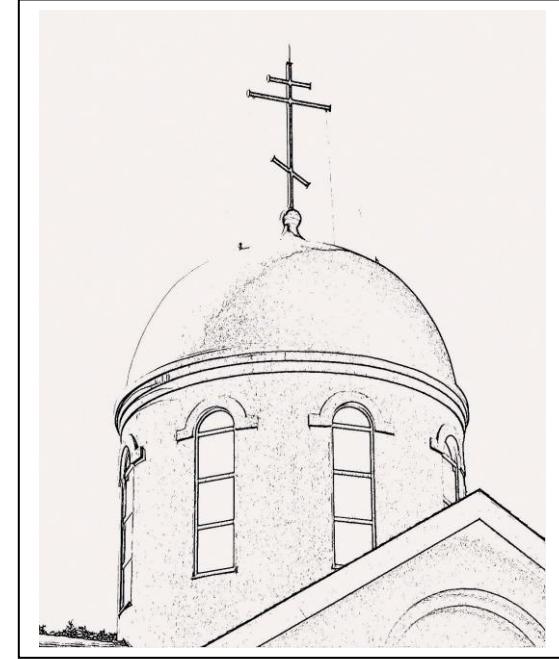
Source: *The Great Synaxaristes of the Orthodox Church, August. Holy Apostles Convent.*

August 18 - Holy Martyrs Florus and Laurus

Revealed as perfect stones cut by martyrdom
and quarried by torments, O holy ones,
ye fashioned yourselves into a church of the Lord,
casting the temples and worship of the idols down to the ground.
Therefore, we call them blessed as inhabitants of Paradise//
and offerings of the temple of heaven.

“Lord, I Call” Stikheron

WEEKLY



Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Very Rev. Fr. Sergius Kuharsky, Retired Attached Priest

Very Rev. Fr. Paul Kucynda, Retired Attached Priest

Rev. Fr. Alexander Smida, Attached Priest

Tara Paxton, Senior Warden

Matthew Hascha, Choir Director

August 18, 2019

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Tone 8. Afterfeast of the Dormition. Martyrs Florus and Laurus of Illyria (2nd c.). Martyrs Hermes, Serapion and Polyænus, of Rome (2nd c.). Hieromartyr Emilian and with him Martyrs Hilarion, Dionysius, and Hermippus (4th c.). Ss. John (674) and George (683), Patriarchs of Constantinople. Ven. Macarius, Monk. Repose of Ven. John, Abbot of Rila (946). Ven. Sophronius of St. Anne's Skete (Mt. Athos). Ven. Arsenios of Paros (1877).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:9-17

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-34

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

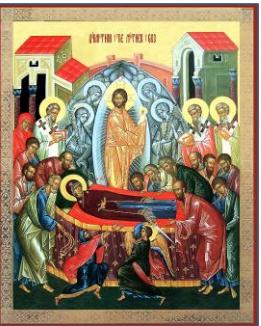
Saturday - **7:00pm Great Vespers**

Sunday – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23



Dormition of the
Most-holy Theotokos

Keep up on OCA news by visiting www.oca.org, diocesan news by visiting www.nynjoca.org, and parish news by visiting www.occa-brick.org.

Coffee Hour Teams:

Today – TEAM D (Paxton, May, Alpaugh)

Next Sunday – TEAM E (Bass, Petrides)

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for coffee hour after the service. Please note that **reception of the Holy Eucharist** is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is **offered at the end of the service** and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are: **Betty James, Olga Kornafel, Deryl Tczap, Reader John Economou, Meni Mari, Matushka Cathy Smida, Tom Collins, Tom Kopec, Alan Diaz, Cathy Diaz, Ann Marie Gahr, Dennis Gahr, Ron Madensky, Dorothy Studier, Helen Ciurczak, Pauline Barnowsky, Elba Cinciarelli, and Catherine Ratushnuk.**

Annunciations

TODAY - Sunday, August 18 – An event called “**Solidarity of the Faiths: an Evening of Entertainment and Food with comedian Rabbi Bob Alper**” will take place at Temple Beth Or. 200 Van Zile Road at 4:00pm. This is an effort to bring the faith communities of Brick together to enjoy each other’s company and to express our solidarity as people of faith in these turbulent times. The event consists of a comedy show and a “food court” following the show. Tickets for the show can be purchased at the door today for **\$25 apiece**. The optional food court is offered at **\$18 per person**. For more information, please speak with Father Gary at Coffee Hour.

THIS TUESDAY – The Parish Council will meet at the parish rectory at 6:30pm.

Saturday, August 24 – By the Grace of God, **Deacon John Kotalik** will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood at St. John the Baptist Church in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. **Many Years** to Father Deacon John, who is with us this weekend serving his last several services as a deacon, and Matushka Janine (Alpaugh) Kotalik as they begin this new chapter in their lives of service to God and His Church!

Saturday, September 14 – His Eminence, **Archbishop Michael** will visit our parish for the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross**. At the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on this Day, His Eminence will tonsure Matthew Hascha and Andrew Bair to be Readers. Also on this day, Reader Veljko Pejovic will be **ordained to the Holy Diaconate**. Please plan to come and rejoice and give thanks to God on this momentous day.

Sunday, September 29 – The **Annual Parish Ethnic Fair and Gift Auction** will take place on the grounds of the church from noon until 6pm. **Monetary donations** are being accepted to cover the costs of food and other items necessary for the event. A **donation sign-up sheet** is located in the narthex. Many thanks for your generosity.

Congratulations to the newly-baptized handmaiden of God, **Catherine (Meghan) Humphrey**, who was baptized and chrismated here yesterday. Congratulations also to her parents, Steven and Georgina; her sister, Miranda; and her sponsor, Stephanie Smida. At the baptismal service, Steven was **received into the Catechumenate**. May God grant them all Many Blessed Years!

The **Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors (DDB)** program is an essential vehicle for funding our diocesan activities and programs. Please consider participating in the program. More information can be found at www.nynjoca.org.

OUTREACH

- **Food Pantry donations** are always accepted. Place non-perishable food items in blue bin in the narthex
- **Clothing donations** are accepted on the last Sunday of each month. Place donations next to the food pantry bin.