

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS



AUGUST 16, 2026



***ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH***

1501 8TH AVENUE

BEAVER FALLS, PA. 15010

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WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG

**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN SABA, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK
AND**

METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA

**HIS GRACE BISHOP THOMAS, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON, OAKLAND, AND MID-ATLANTIC**

REVEREND FR. CHRISTOPHER DAVIS

***Jesus said, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My Word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. (John 16:23)
When a new person is baptized or Chrismated we say to that person, "Welcome Home!" The Church is where each person voluntarily belongs as one who believes in and belongs to Christ .***

We take this opportunity to welcome those guests worshiping with us.

Anyone wishing to request prayers for Health and Well-being, or a Trisagion prayer, please contact Dan Volitich, Joann Rossman or leave message on 724-847-1111.

The Orthodox Church understands that the sacraments we experience are a fundamental part of the sacred life of a worshiping community that shares in "one body...one faith". (Eph. 4:5). Thus, we can only share Communion with those who are Orthodox and who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and Confession. If you are not Orthodox, or are not properly prepared, you are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing and then to take a piece of the blessed bread.

DIVINE LITURGY ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 2026

TONE 2 / EOTHINON 11; ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST & ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

**AFTER-FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS
RECOVERY FROM EDESSA OF THE ICON OF CHRIST NOT MADE BY
HANDS:
'THE HOLY NAPKIN'**

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Shout with joy to God, all the earth, give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His Name. Declare His works among the nations.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

In the city of our God, in His holy mountain, His place hath been made in peace, and His dwelling in Zion. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... (*Refrain*)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

The Lord loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling of Jacob. Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

God hath laid her foundation unto eternity. We have thought, O God, of Thy mercy in the midst of Thy people. (*Refrain*)

The most-high hath hallowed His tabernacle. (*Refrain*)

Glory... Both now... ***O, only begotten Son and Word of God...***

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Ready is my heart, O God, ready is my heart; I will sing and chant in my glory. What shall I render to the Lord for all that He hath given me? I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord.

*After the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of the **Dormition**.*

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hades with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF THE DORMITION IN TONE ONE

In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling-asleep thou hast not forsaken the world; for thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

APOLYTIKION OF THE ICON OF CHRIST IN TONE TWO

Thy pure image do we venerate, O good One, asking forgiveness of our sins, O Christ our God; for by Thine own will Thou didst ascend the Cross in Thy body, to save Thy creatures from the bondage of the enemy. Wherefore, with thankfulness we cry aloud to thee: Thou hast verily filled all with joy, since Thou didst come, O our Savior, to save the world.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

O beloved Apostle of Christ God, Come quick and save a people with no recourse. He who let you rest your head on his breast, will not reject your pleas on our behalf. Beseech him then, O wise and holy theologian. Dispel from us the dark and ominous clouds of disbelief. Grant us all of his peace and great mercy.

KONTAKION OF THE DORMITION IN TONE TWO

Verily, the Theotokos, who is ever watchful in intercessions, and whose prayers are never rejected, neither tomb nor death could control. But since she is the Mother of Life, He Who dwelt in her ever-virgin womb did translate her to life.

THE EPISTLE

(For the Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost)

The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me severely.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (9:2-12)

Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same?

THE EPISTLE (cont.)

For it is written in the Law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the Gospel of Christ.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Eleventh Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (18:23-35)

The Lord spoke this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also My heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Though died, Thou who art the life of all, in order to review me, the dead. Thou was laid in the tomb, that I might rise from the tomb. Thou was brought to life again, that I might believe in my resurrection.

(St. Tikhon of Zandomsk)

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER SERVICES

***(NO VESPER SERVICES FROM
MAY 1ST. THROUGH AUGUST 31ST.)***

AUGUST 16TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

**AFTER —FEAST OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS
RECOVERY FROM ODESSA OF THE ICON OF CHRIST NOT MADE BY HANDS
“THE HOLY NAPKIN”**

COUNCIL MEETING 12 NOON

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**AUGUST 23RD SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
LEAVETAKING OF DORMITION**

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**AUGUST 30TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
ALEXANDER, JOHN & PAUL THE NEW**

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SEPT. 1ST TUESDAY — ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR

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**SEPT. 6TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
MIRACLE OF THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL**

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UPCOMING EVENTS

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN OF THE EAST PROGRAMS

AWE plans for SEPTEMBER 2026:

- +Summer Book Club, culminating on September 13, 2026 via Zoom.**
- +Service Retreat on September 19, 2026 at St. Moses the Black Orthodox Church and Neighborhood Resilience Project in Pittsburgh, PA.**

SAVE THE DATE: Fall Retreat at Holy Protection Monastery, White Haven, PA on NOVEMBER 7, 2026. Additional information, including registration details available closer to date.

PRAYERS ARE OFFERED FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF:

Fr. Steven, Kh. Paraskeva, Carol, Debbie, Trish, Shannon, Justin, Perry Sassic & family, Roddy, Jan, Fr. Andrew, Frank, Charlene, Cindi, Harriet, Joann, Cindy, Ray, Marlene, Julianna, Elias, Carrie, Oliver, Pauline, Despina, Julius, Jonathan, Kristen, Luca, Sam, Michael, Esteven, Phephile, Kyriel, Justin, Levon, Aiden, Kayla, Joni, Kirsten, Jonathan K., Andrew, Yvonne, Rosemary and Patty.

FOR THOU ARE THE RESSURECTION, THE LIFE, AND THE REPOSE OF THY SERVANTS WHO HAVE FALLEN ASLEEP ESPECIALLY:

Prayers are offered in memory of..... Trisagion for Dean Rossman

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THE SYNAXARION

On **August 16** in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the **Recovery from Edessa to Constantinople of the Icon of Christ Not Made by Hands**, known as 'The Holy Napkin.'

Verses

*Thou didst wipe Thy face with linen while yet living,
Who later, being dead, wouldst be wrapped in linen.*

Prince Avgar of Edessa sent a portrait-painter, Ananias, to Palestine with a letter to Christ our Savior, in which he begged the Lord to come and heal him of his leprosy. In the event that Lord was unable to come, the prince commanded Ananias to paint His likeness and bring it, believing that the portrait would heal him. The Lord replied that he could not come, as the time of His Passion was at hand. Our Savior took a napkin and wiped His face, leaving a perfect reproduction of His most pure face on it. The Lord gave this napkin to Ananias, with a message that the prince would be healed by it, but not entirely, and He would later send him an envoy that would rid him of the remainder of the disease. Receiving the napkin, Avgar kissed it and the leprosy fell from his body, with just a little remaining on his face. Later, the Apostle Thaddaeus came to Avgar, fully healed him and baptized him. Then the prince smashed the idols that stood at the city's gateway and placed the napkin with the face of Christ above the entrance, stuck onto wood, surrounded with a gold frame and ornamented with pearls. The city eventually fell to Arab conquest, and the Holy Napkin was translated to Constantinople in 944.

On this day, we also commemorate the Martyrs Diomedes the physician of Tarsus in Cilicia and Alkiviades.

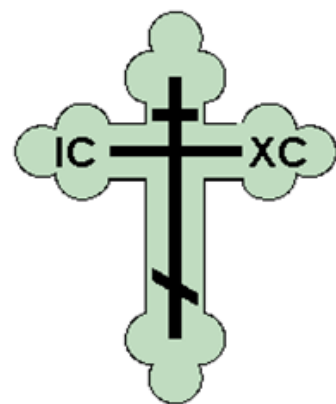
THE FALLING ASLEEP OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

In the Apostolic Church, the Most Holy Virgin Mary was treated with great reverence and respect. It is said Christians came from all over the world to hear her speak about the wondrous events she experienced in her life and her intimate knowledge of the teachings of her Divine Son. Have you ever wondered what she was like? Drawing information passed down from other early saints, Ambrose of Milan has this to say about the Theotokos: "She was humble in heart and full of wisdom. Her rule of life was to offend no one, to intend good for everyone and to be virtuous in all she did. Her steps were quiet and her voice straightforward, so that her face was an expression of her soul. She was the personification of purity."

Nicephorus Callistus, a 14th century church historian, describes the physical appearance of the Mother of God in this manner: "She was of average stature, with golden hair. Her eyes were bright and her face was marked with great character. She was not overly concerned with her outward appearance, nor did she pamper herself. A special grace surrounded all of her actions."

Although there are no scriptural details chronicling her death, accounts of her last days on this earth have been handed down to us from the writings of saints such as Dionysius the Areopagite and Meliton of Sardis. At the end, the Holy Spirit gathered together in Jerusalem all the Apostles (except Thomas) so that she could give them one final blessing and so that they could be privileged to witness her burial. Her Dormition occurred at the Third Hour (9AM). Tradition tells us she had a vision of her Son shining brilliantly in her chamber, after which she uttered her last words — words that had guided her life from the moment the Archangel Gabriel appeared to her and announced that God had special plans for her: "My soul magnifies the lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

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**CHECK WEBSITE FOR FEAST DAY SERVICES
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**OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment**