

**DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS
LEAVE TAKING OF THE DORMITION**



AUGUST 23, 2026



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

1501 8TH AVENUE

BEAVER FALLS, PA. 15010

(724) 847-1111

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 23, 2026

TONE 3 / EOTHINON 1

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST &

TWELFTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW

LEAVE-TAKING OF THE DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS

Martyr Lupus, servant of the Great-Martyr Demetrios;

Hieromartyr Irenaios, bishop of Lyons;

Venerable Nicholas and Dionysios of Olympus

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 THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

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 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 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises. Clap your hands, all ye nations.

The Reading from the First Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (15:1-11)

Brethren, I would remind you in what terms I preached to you the Gospel, which you received, in which you stand, by which you are saved, if you hold it fast—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He rose on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve. Then He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the Apostles. Last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared also to me. For I am the least of the Apostles, unfit to be called an Apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God, which is with me. Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

THE GOSPEL

(For the Twelfth Sunday of Matthew)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew. (19:16-26)

At that time, a young man came up to Jesus, kneeling and saying, "Good Teacher, what good deed must I do, to have eternal life?" And He said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. If you would enter life, keep the commandments." He said to Him, "Which?" And Jesus said, "You shall not kill, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not bear false witness, honor your father and mother, and you shall love your neighbor as yourself." The young man said to Him, "All these I have observed; what do I still lack?" Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." When the young man heard this, he went away sorrowful; for he had great possessions. And Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, it will be hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this they were greatly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?" But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

MEGALYNARION OF THE FEAST IN TONE ONE

All we the generations ever call thee blessed, the only Theotokos.

The bounds of nature are overcome in thee, O immaculate Virgin; for thy childbirth is virginal, and thy death is the espousal of life. O thou who after childbirth art virgin, and who after death art living, do thou, O Theotokos, ever save thine inheritance.

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THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

The humble person does not criticize anyone except himself, because he knows he does not have any appointment to judge and censor others.

(Father Philotheos Zervakos)

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER SERVICES

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

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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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SEPT. 8TH TUESDAY — NATIVITY OF THE THEOTOKOS

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**SEPT. 13TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
SUNDAY BEFORE THE CROSS**

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**SEPT. 20TH SUNDAY — DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
SUNDAY AFTER THE CROSS**

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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, Patty, Jessica, Eric, Mikayla, Mira, Asher, and Benjamin.

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

Prayers are offered in memory of.....

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THE SYNAXARION

**On August 23 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the holy
Martyr Lupus.**

Verses

***Lupus was a servant, but the sword's manumission
Sent him unto Christ as a friend and a freeman.
On the twenty-third the sword's edge Lupus slew.***

He was the servant of the Great-Martyr Demetrios. When Demetrios was beheaded by the Emperor Maximian, Lupus dipped the hem of his garment and his ring in the martyr's blood. Lupus worked many miracles and healings in Thessalonica with this garment and ring. The Emperor Maximian discovered this, and commanded that Lupus be tortured and killed. But the soldiers who drew their weapons on Lupus turned one on the other and wounded one another. Lupus prayed to God that He would somehow bring about his baptism before his death. On this, water suddenly poured down on the holy martyr from a cloud, and he thus received baptism. After harsh torture, Lupus was beheaded and entered into the heavenly Kingdom.

On this day, we also commemorate the Hieromartyr Irenaios, bishop of Lyons; and Venerable Nicholas and Dionysios of Olympus. .

THE MOTHER OF LIFE

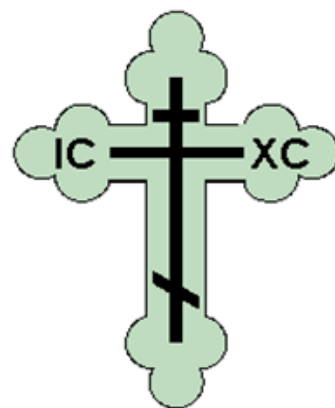
Most people shy away from the sight and talk of death. Yet “it is appointed unto man once to die,” and of all the appointments of life, this one must be kept. As a Christian, we must prepare ourselves for this reality of earthly life. We are reminded of our mortality as the Church observes the great feast of the REPOSE OF THE THEOTOKOS.

The Sacred Scriptures are silent about the last days of the birthgiver of God. Tradition, however, tells us about her departure from this life to Heaven. The Apostles are said to have gathered for her repose, and all came as she “passed over into life,” except for St. Thomas. When he does put in an appearance, the tomb is said to be empty.

Iconography tells the rest of the story. The Figure of Christ is in the background, holding an infant in His arms. This was the Iconographer’s unique way of depicting the spirit of the Holy Virgin being received into the realm of eternity by her Son. Angels are often shown hovering over, while the apostolic group lingers close to the bier. Her internment is said to be in the Garden of Gethsemane at Jerusalem, although Ephesus has long claimed to be the place of burial.

A fasting period precedes the observance of this festival in the Church. Perhaps this is the Church’s way of directing our thoughts to our own falling asleep in the Lord. Let us, then observe the feast, and let us so live as to one day join the Holy Virgin in the Kingdom of her Son.

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