

FEAST OF THE DORMITION



“REJOICE, I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS”

One may wonder what became of the Theotokos after her Son ascended into heaven? We know that she was entrusted to the care of the Apostle John. The Book of Acts mentions her being with the apostles on the first Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon them in the form of tongues of fire. Other than that, it is thought that she spent most of her time in Jerusalem and the surrounding areas, visiting the meaningful

places that were significant in the earthly life of Christ. Sacred tradition tells us that she spent much time praying on the Mount of Olives and in the Garden of Gethsemane, asking God to take her from this world and reunite her with her beloved Son.

One day, her prayers were answered. The Archangel Gabriel appeared to her, telling her that in three days, her earthly existence would come to an end. She received this news joyfully, and returned to John's home in Jerusalem, fervently hoping to see all of the apostles one final time.

God was to fulfill her desire. All of Christ's faithful followers, with the exception of Thomas, managed to be with her when she peacefully commended her soul into God's hands. She was buried in the Garden of Gethsemane near the tombs of her parents, Joachim and Anna.

Three days later, the Apostle Thomas arrived, wanting to pay his respects to the Theotokos. When the Virgin's tomb was opened, only the winding sheet was found. Her body was not there! Later that evening, the apostles had a vision of the Mother of God, surrounded by a multitude of angelic hosts. She left them with these words: "REJOICE, I WILL BE WITH YOU ALWAYS." This is why we continue to pray to her and ask her to intercede on our behalf.

The exact age of the Theotokos at the time of her falling asleep cannot be stated definitively. The popular belief, however, is she was at least 60 years of age.

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ST. RAPHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church in America, Diocese of the South

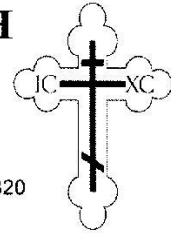
1277 N. Paul Dr., Inverness, FL 34453

Fr. Sergious Gerken, Parish Priest

Warden Barbara Aldunate, Co-Warden Joel Miller, Treasurer Linda Labosky

Please Visit: **[www: straphaelchurch.org](http://www.straphaelchurch.org)** Church: 352-201-1320

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SUNDAY, AUG. 15, 2021 - 8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - Tone 7.
The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.

| HOLY WORSHIP THIS WEEK | <i>Please join us after Divine Liturgy for a Coffee Fellowship in Myrrhbearers Hall Confessions - Ask Fr. Sergious for a time</i> | DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS |
|---|---|---|
| Sat: Great Vespers 4:00 PM | | Mon: Colossians 1:12-18, Luke 9:51-56; 10:22-24, 1 Corinthians 11:31-12:6, Matthew 18:1-11 |
| Sun: Reading of The Hours 9:45 AM Divine Liturgy Dormition 10:00 AM | | Tue: 1 Corinthians 12:12-26, Matthew 18:18-22; 19:1-2; 13-15 |
| Thu.: Akathist to St. Herman 4:00 PM | | Wed: 1 Corinthians 13:4-14:5, Matthew 20:1-6 Thu: 1 Corinthians 14:6-19, Matthew 20:17-28 |
| | | Fri: 1 Corinthians 14:26-40, Matthew 21:12-14; 17-20 Sat: Romans 14:6-9, Matthew 15:32-39 |

+EPISTLE+ (Philippians 2:5-11) Brethren: Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Choir Practice Sunday at 9 AM

+GOSPEL+ (Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28) Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." And it happened, as He spoke these things, that a certain woman from the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Blessed is the womb that bore You, and the breasts which nursed You!" But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Practice Christianity every day with each person you meet and each word you say.
Christ spoke saying: But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

St. Mat. 15:18 Readings: St. Mat. 15:16-20. St. Mark 7:18-23, St. James 3:5-12, Prov. 18:2-29:20R

THE GIFTS - AUG. 8

Attendance 23

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| Regular Offerings | 549 |
| Candles | 87 |
| Charity - St. Raphael | |
| Parishioner Aid | 10 |
| Myrrhbearers Hall | |
| Renovation | 100 |

*We sincerely thank and bless
Charles and Lou Ellen Davis for
their ongoing generous donations.*

VIGIL CANDLES - AUGUST 8

Zina Juskin - Memory of husband Vladimir Juskin.

Nancy Kinley - Health of Bill, Julianna & Family, Andrew & Family, Mary Ann H., Patricia, Judy, Pat & Nick, Judith, Patty, Olga, Joel.

Nick Borick - Health of Olga, Ryan, Mary Ann H., Nick & Pat. Memory of Eva.

Dolores Lichatz - Health of Dorothy, Christine, Joan.