



*The Holyday of the Dormition of the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary
is on Sunday, August 15th.*

BULLETIN FOR AUGUST 8-21, 2021

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 8-14, 2021

*SUN	8/8/2021	SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy (<i>Live-Stream</i>) <i>Blessing of Fruit</i>
		<i>Panachida: +Mary Barbara Hardy (40th Day Observance)</i> <i> +Joseph Pacinda (Perpetual)</i> <i> +Andrew & +Anna Gelety (Perpetual)</i>
		<i>August Board Meeting</i>
MON	8/9/2021	
	6:00 PM	Moleben to the Mother of God <i>With Prayers of Special Intention for the Living</i>
TUES	8/10/2021	
	8:30 AM	Matins
WED	8/11/2021	
	6:00 PM	Paraklis to the Mother of God <i>With Prayers of Special Intention for the Living</i>
THURS	8/12/2021	
	6:00 PM	Akathist to the Dormition
FRI	8/13/2021	LEAVE-TAKING OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
	9:00 AM	Divine Liturgy <i>Special Intention: In Thanksgiving on the 10th Anniversary of His Priestly Ordination, by Fr. David</i>
SAT	8/14/2021	EVE OF THE DORMITION
	6:00 PM	Vespers

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES & EVENTS FOR THE WEEK OF AUGUST 15-21, 2021

- *SUN 8/15/2021 DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (*Live-Stream*)
Blessing of Flowers and Fragrant Herbs
- (*Coffee Hour Resumes*)
- TUES 8/17/2021
8:30 AM Divine Liturgy ++*Hromyak Family (Perpetual)*
- THURS 8/19/2021
8:30 AM Parastas +*John & +Irene Lutz, by Anthony*
- SAT 8/21/2021 Golf Scramble and Dinner
- *SUN 8/22/2021 NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy (*Live-Stream*)
- Panachida: +Steve & +Anna Blanar (Perpetual)*
- Parents and Grandparents
+Charles & +Stella Cherepko
and +John & +Mary Yasnowsky
By Donald, Joann and Kevin Yasnowsky*

BLUE is the liturgical color for feasts honoring the Mother of God. You will see blue vestments on the clergy and blue covers on altar and tetrapod. Blue is the color of the heavens. When we see blue used for Our Lady, we are reminded that her womb became “more spacious than the heavens” (as we sing in the hymn “In You, O Woman Full of Grace” from St. Basil’s Liturgy) because she contained the uncontainable God. Additionally, her body was assumed into heaven after the Dormition. **Consider joining in the festivity by wearing something blue to Liturgy on August 15th!**

The Dormition Fast continues through August 14. It is the “summer Lent” before the “summer Pascha”. Fast as you are able, with a joyful heart.

Daily Services continue through the Dormition. At many of these services, we will include intercessory prayers for the living. Please use the available prayer sheets.

Holy Confession is available 30 minutes before evening services; after services as needed; before Liturgy on Sundays (but no later than 8:50 AM); and by appointment.

To mark the great feast of the Dormition (*Falling Asleep*) of the Mother of God, we will offer the following services: **Great Vespers** will be celebrated on Saturday, August 14th at 6:00 PM. **Divine Liturgy** will be on Sunday, August 15th at 9:00 AM, with the traditional **blessing of flowers and herbs**.

*We Orthodox honor the Mother of God on many days throughout the year, but August 15th is her **primary** holyday. In many majority Orthodox and Catholic countries, August 15th is a national holiday, and people flock to churches and monasteries. Countless people travel to go on pilgrimages for this feast. We can make a special sacrifice to honor the Ever-Virgin Mary. Come and celebrate the Mother of God at her “falling asleep”!*

GET MOM FLOWERS!

Bring Flowers and Herbs on August 15th

According to the church’s tradition, when the Mother of God died, she was buried in the Garden of Gethsemane. All the apostles were present, except for Thomas. Thomas arrived three days later and went to pay his respects at the Virgin Mary’s tomb. When the tomb was opened, it was empty, and there was a strong and beautiful aroma of flowers. To remember this, flowers and sweet-smelling herbs are blessed on this holyday. Historically, many of the plants brought for this blessing were used in medicine, and thus the prayers ask that these plants be efficacious for the healing of body and soul.

We will again have the Tomb set up for the Dormition, and two tables placed nearby for plants. Let’s ALL bring some flowers and/or herbs (like basil, mint, etc.) to beautify Our Lady’s Tomb and properly celebrate the holyday in this traditional manner!



Thoughts on Stewardship

by Dan Hromyak

"Get up and eat or the journey will be too much for you!" - 1 Kings 19:7

God knows that committing to a stewardship lifestyle is difficult. However, we are not designed to do it on our own, we need His help. Fortunately, God gave us the greatest gift of all, His son, Jesus. Through the gift of the Eucharist we join our sacrifice of the Divine Liturgy and receive the strength and courage to be His joyful disciples.

"And Mary said, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior." - Luke 1:46

After Jesus, we look to Mary as our model of stewardship. Her entire life was lived in obedience to God's will. Just as the moon reflects the light of the sun, Mary reflects the light of Christ. Like Mary, we too are called to reflect Christ to the world. We do this by living grateful and generous lives. We do this by putting others' needs before our wants.

GOLF SCRAMBLE NOTES

The 2021 Golf Scramble will be held on **Saturday, August 21st at Avalon at Buhl Park**. Shotgun Start will be at 8:30 AM.

The post-golfing meal will again be held at our church hall, and will feature our *signature* all-you-can-eat buffet with spit roasted lamb, roasted chicken, sausage and peppers, side dishes, desserts and beverages. Dinner will begin to be served at 2:30 PM. We will also hold the ever-popular Basket Raffle at this dinner.

**Dinner-only tickets are available for \$20 per person.
See Francine Fabian to get your ticket!**

Learn About the Dormition

The Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 15 each year. The Feast commemorates the repose (dormition) or "falling-asleep" of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord. The Feast also commemorates the translation or assumption into heaven of the body of the Theotokos.

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.

The Icon of the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos shows her on her deathbed surrounded by the Apostles. Christ is standing in the center looking at His mother. He is holding a small child clothed in white representing the soul of the Virgin Mary. With His golden garments, the angels above His head, and the mandorla surrounding Him, Christ is depicted in His divine glory.

This great Feast of the Church and the icon celebrates a fundamental teaching of our faith—the Resurrection of the body. In the case of the Theotokos, this has been accomplished by the divine will of God. Thus, this Feast is a feast of hope, hope in Resurrection and life eternal. Like those who gathered around the body of the Virgin Mary, we gather around our departed loved ones and commend their souls into the hands of Christ. As we remember those who have reposed in the faith before us and have passed on into the communion of the Saints, we prepare ourselves to one day be received into the new life of the age to come.

We also affirm through this Feast as we journey toward our heavenly abode that the Mother of God intercedes for us. Through Christ she has become the mother of all of the children of God, embracing us with divine love.

Scripture readings for the Feast of the Dormition are the following: At Vespers: Genesis 28:10-17; Ezekiel 43:27-44:4; Proverbs 9:1-11. At the Matins: Luke 1:39-49, 56. At the Divine Liturgy: Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28.

Adapted from an article on goarch.org

SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Very Rev. Protopresbyter Michael Polanichka

Rev. Deacon John Anderson

A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese—Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Sacramental and Membership Information

Sick Calls can be made at any time. Please phone the rectory (724-346-4457) when a family member is admitted to the hospital, or to request a home visit. Hospitals do *not* call to alert the parish when someone is admitted.

Marriages are solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. Circumstances may require a dispensation from the diocesan bishop. Consult the pastor at least six months in advance and before any plans have been made for the wedding reception. Marriages cannot be celebrated during the fasting seasons of the church, or on Fridays.

Baptisms are usually scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays. Consult the pastor. Two godparents (godfather and godmother) are required, at least one of whom must be a practicing Orthodox Christian in good standing at an Orthodox parish, and the other (at least) a practicing, baptized Christian.

Church Funerals are, under ordinary circumstances, provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and material obligations to the parish; otherwise, the funeral service is conducted at the funeral home. The Church does *not* permit cremation.

Parishioners in "good standing" are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John's Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular church attendance, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (and receive these sacraments no less than once a year); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and financially support the parish (especially through an annual "pledge").

Prospective members and returning members are asked to fill out an application form, copies of which are available in the church office.

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