

## THE MOTHER OF LIFE

**M**ost 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.

*The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin* . . . . . Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey . . . . . Litho in U.S.A.



**ST.DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
**NORTH WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY**  
**August 20, 2023**

**11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew**

**WELCOME ALL VISITORS:**

On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to welcome our Visitors for joining us today in our sacred worship service. If you need any assistance please notify any of the Parish Council members. God Bless our Visitors and may your stay here be pleasant and memorable. Please don't hesitate to come again.

**SPONSORING COFFEE HOUR:**

During the summer, The Ladies Philoptochos Society will not be sponsoring any coffee hours. If anyone is interested in sponsoring the coffee hour please contact the Church office –Monday-Wednesday-Friday (609) 522-0152 or contact Parish Council President Nick Konides (609) 425-0179.

**COFFEE HOUR:**

Today's coffee hour is a very special coffee hour; we would like all parishioners to attend!

**STEWARDSHIP NEWS:**

All our local and seasonal members and visitors are invited to register and enroll in our parish for the 2023 membership and join in weekly worship and to support of our parish "Stewardship Program" and ministries. The annual minimum enrollment offering is \$750 per family, and \$500 for single people. Please complete the parish membership registry forms that are available in the Narthex. Families that are in arrears are invited to reinstate their membership and participation in our parish life and ministries.

**LITURGICAL PROGRAM FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST:**

**Sunday, August 20 11th Sunday of Matthew – Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am**

**Sunday, August 27 12th Sunday of Matthew- Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am**

**ECCLESIASTICAL DECREE:**

Attention All Parishioners: It has come to the attention of Fr. Michael that we have parishioners that have been divorced (civilly) and have not taken care of their Ecclesiastical responsibilities to the church. If you are in this situation, please contact Fr. Michael and he will begin the application for an Ecclesiastical Divorce from the Church. If this does not occur, then you will be deprived of certain Ecclesiastical necessities within the Church. For further details please contact Fr. Michael. Thank you.

**SICKNESS AND HOSPITALIZATION:**

Whenever someone is sick particularly with a terminal illness or hospitalized, Fr. Michael should be notified so that he may visit the sick, offer prayers and give Holy Communion and anoint with Holy Unction.

**KOINONIA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:**

We have established our (NEW MONTHLY NEWSLETTER) which is named "KOINONIA". This newsletter was distributed via email. Going forward, please send all Church event related pictures via email to the Church Secretary, Julie Reeb, at [frmichaelstdemetrios@gmail.com](mailto:frmichaelstdemetrios@gmail.com) Most importantly, in order for our parishioners to be able to read the Newsletter, you must submit your E-mails so we can send the newsletter out to your computers. You can submit these to the email listed above or you can give this information to our Parish Council Secretary, William Mitchell. We will also have a few newsletters printed for those who have no computers or smart phones.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED:**

Fr. Michael is looking for a few Sunday school teachers that would offer their time and talents to the children of the parish. If anyone is interested please contact Fr. Michael 609-522-0152 ext 101 or cell 667-328-1083.



Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον. Ἦχος α'.

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων,  
καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἄχραντόν  
σου Σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτήρ,  
δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωὴν· διὰ τοῦτο αἱ  
Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι ζωοδότα. Δόξα  
τῇ Ἀναστάσει σου Χριστέ, δόξα τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου,  
δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου, μόνε φιλόφιλανθρωπε.

Ἀπολυτίκιον. Ἦχος βαρὺς.

Μετεμορφώθης ἐν τῷ ὄρει Χριστέ ὁ  
Θεός, δείξας τοῖς Μαθηταῖς σου τὴν δόξαν  
σου, καθὼς ἠδύναντο. Λάμπσον καὶ ἡμῖν τοῖς  
ἁμαρτωλοῖς, τὸ φῶς σου τὸ αἰδίον, πρεσβείαις  
τῆς Θεοτόκου, φωτοδότα δόξα σοι.

Apolytikion/Dismissal Hymn

The world has found in you a great champion in time of peril, as you  
emerged the victor in routing the barbarians. For as you brought to  
naught the boasts of Lysias, imparting courage to Nestor in the  
stadium, in like manner, holy one, great Martyr Demetrios, invoke  
Christ God for us, that He may grant us His great mercy.

Kontakion.

Grave Mode.

Upon the mountain were You transfigured,  
and Your disciples beheld Your glory as far  
as they were able, O Christ our God; so that  
when they would see You crucified they might  
understand that Your Passion was deliberate,  
and declare to the world that in truth You are  
the Father's radiance. [SD]

Apolytikion Resurrectional. Mode 1.

The stone had been secured with a seal by the  
Judeans, \* and a guard of soldiers was  
watching Your immaculate body. \* You rose on  
the third day, O Lord \* and Savior, granting life  
unto the world. \* For this reason were the powers  
of heaven crying out to You, O Life-giver: \*  
Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; \* glory to  
Your kingdom; \* glory to Your dispensation, only  
One who loves mankind.

Apolytikion. Grave Mode.

You were transfigured upon the mountain,  
O Christ our God, showing to Your disciples  
Your glory as much as they could bear. Do  
also in us, sinners though we may be, shine  
Your everlasting light, by the intercessions of  
the Theotokos, O Giver of light. Glory to You.

Κοντάκιον.

Ἦχος βαρὺς.

Ἐπὶ τοῦ ὄρους μετεμορφώθης, καὶ ὡς  
ἐχώρουν οἱ Μαθηταὶ σου τὴν δόξαν σου,  
Χριστέ ὁ Θεός ἐθεάσαντο, ἵνα ὅταν σε ἴδωσι  
σταυρούμενον, τὸ μὲν πάθος νοήσωσιν  
ἐκούσιον, τῷ δὲ κόσμῳ κηρύξωσιν, ὅτι σὺ  
ὑπάρχεις ἀληθῶς, τοῦ Πατρὸς τὸ ἀπαύγασμα.

Πρὸς Κορινθίους Α' Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ  
ἀνάγνωσμα.

Ἀδελφοί, ὁ Θεὸς ἡμᾶς τοὺς Ἀποστόλους  
ἐσχάτους ἀπέδειξεν ὡς ἐπιθανατίους, ὅτι  
θέατρον ἐγενήθημεν τῷ κόσμῳ καὶ ἀγγέλοις καὶ  
ἀνθρώποις. Ἡμεῖς μωροὶ διὰ Χριστόν, ὑμεῖς δὲ  
φρόνιμοι ἐν Χριστῷ· ἡμεῖς ἀσθενεῖς, ὑμεῖς δὲ  
ἰσχυροί· ὑμεῖς ἐνδοξοὶ, ἡμεῖς δὲ ἄτιμοι. Ἀχρι τῆς  
ἄρτι ὥρας καὶ πεινῶμεν καὶ διψῶμεν καὶ  
γυμνητεύομεν καὶ κολαφιζόμεθα καὶ ἀστατοῦμεν  
καὶ κοπιῶμεν ἐργαζόμενοι ταῖς ἰδίαις χερσίν·  
λοιδορούμενοι ἐυλογοῦμεν, διακόμενοι  
ἀνεχόμεθα, δυσφημούμενοι παρακαλοῦμεν· ὡς  
περικαθάρματα τοῦ κόσμου ἐγενήθημεν, πάντων  
περίψημα, ἕως ἄρτι. Οὐκ ἐντρέπων ὑμᾶς γράφω  
ταῦτα, ἀλλ' ὡς τέκνα μου ἀγαπητὰ νουθετῶ. Ἐάν  
γὰρ μυρίους παιδαγωγούς ἔχητε ἐν Χριστῷ, ἀλλ'  
οὐ πολλοὺς πατέρας· ἐν γὰρ Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διὰ  
τοῦ Εὐαγγελίου ἐγὼ ὑμᾶς ἐγέννησα. Παρακαλῶ  
οὖν ὑμᾶς, μιμηταὶ μου γίνεσθε.

ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΟΝ. Ματθαῖον (17:14-23)

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἄνθρωπός τις προσῆλθεν τῷ  
Ἰησοῦ, γονυπετῶν αὐτὸν καὶ λέγων· Κύριε,  
ἐλέησόν μου τὸν υἱόν, ὅτι σεληνιάζεται καὶ  
κακῶς πάσχει· πολλάκις γὰρ πίπτει εἰς τὸ πῦρ καὶ  
πολλάκις εἰς τὸ ὕδωρ. καὶ προσήνεγκα αὐτὸν τοῖς  
μαθηταῖς σου, καὶ οὐκ ἠδυνήθησαν αὐτὸν  
θεραπεῦσαι. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν· Ὡ  
γενεὰ ἄπιστος καὶ διεστραμμένη! ἕως πότε  
ἔσομαι μεθ' ὑμῶν; ἕως πότε ἀνέξομαι ὑμῶν;  
φέρτε μοι αὐτὸν ὧδε. καὶ ἐπετίμησεν αὐτῷ ὁ  
Ἰησοῦς, καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ἀπ' αὐτοῦ τὸ δαιμόνιον καὶ  
ἐθεραπεύθη ὁ παῖς ἀπὸ τῆς ὥρας ἐκείνης. Τότε  
προσελθόντες οἱ μαθηταὶ τῷ Ἰησοῦ κατ' ἰδίαν  
εἶπον· Διατί ἡμεῖς οὐκ ἠδυνήθημεν ἐκβαλεῖν  
αὐτό; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· Διὰ τὴν ἀπίστιαν  
ὑμῶν. ἀμὴν γὰρ λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐάν ἔχητε πίστιν ὡς  
κόκκον σινάπεως, ἐρεῖτε τῷ ὄρει τούτῳ,  
μετάβηθι ἐντεῦθεν ἐκεῖ, καὶ μεταβήσεται· καὶ  
οὐδὲν ἀδυνατήσει ὑμῖν. τοῦτο δὲ τὸ γένος οὐκ  
ἐκπορεύεται εἰ μὴ ἐν προσευχῇ καὶ νηστείᾳ.  
Ἀναστρεφομένων δὲ αὐτῶν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν  
εἶπεν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Μέλλει ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ  
ἀνθρώπου παραδίδοσθαι εἰς χεῖρας ἀνθρώπων  
καὶ ἀποκτενοῦσιν αὐτόν, καὶ τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ  
ἐγερθήσεται.

The reading is from Paul's First Letter to the  
Corinthians.

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last  
of all, like men sentenced to death; because  
we have become a spectacle to the world, to  
angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake,  
but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you  
are strong. You are held in honor, but we in  
disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and  
thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless,  
and we labor, working with our own hands. When  
reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure;  
when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have  
become, and are now, as the refuse of the world,  
the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this  
to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my  
beloved children. For though you have countless  
guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers.  
For I became your father in Christ Jesus through  
the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

GOSPEL: Matthew (17:14-23)

At that time, a man came up to Him and  
kneeling before Him said, "Lord, have  
mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he  
suffers terribly; for often he falls into the fire, and  
often into the water. And I brought him to Your  
disciples, and they could not heal him." And  
Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse  
generation, how long am I to be with you? How  
long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to  
me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon  
came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly.  
Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and  
said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to  
them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I say  
to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard  
seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move hence  
to yonder place,' and it will move; and nothing  
will be impossible to you. But this kind never  
comes out except by prayer and fasting." As they  
were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them,  
"The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands  
of men, and they will kill Him, and He will be  
raised on the third day."