

## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church of America

A Parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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August 15, 2021

*Dormition of the Most Holy  
Theotokos*

- 9:10 am - Hours
- 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy followed by blessing of flowers and herbs.
- Epistle:* 1 Cor. 1: 10-18 Phil. 2:5-11
- Gospel:* Matt. 14:14-22 Luke 10:38-42
- **Coffee Hour** – Church Hall. Everyone is invited for a fellowship followed the service.

### *Schedule of Services*

**Saturday, August 21**

- 5:00 pm – Great Vespers.

**Sunday, August 22**

- 9:10 am - Hours
- 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy

♦ We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for coffee hour after the service. Please note that reception of the Holy Eucharist is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.

### *Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos*

Concerning the Dormition of the Theotokos, this is what the Church has received from ancient times from the tradition of the Fathers. When the time drew nigh that our Savior was well-pleased to take His Mother to Himself, He declared unto her through an Angel that three days hence, He would translate her from this temporal life to eternity and bliss. On hearing this, she went up with haste to the Mount of Olives, where she prayed continuously. Giving thanks to God, she returned to her house and prepared whatever was necessary for her burial. While these things were taking place, clouds caught up the Apostles from the ends of the earth, where each one happened to be preaching, and brought them at once to the house of the Mother of God, who informed them of the cause of their sudden gathering. As a mother, she consoled them in their affliction as was meet, and then raised her hands to Heaven and prayed for the peace of the world. She blessed the Apostles, and, reclining upon her bed with seemliness, gave up her all-holy spirit into the hands of her Son and God.

With reverence and many lights, and chanting burial hymns, the Apostles took up that God-receiving body and brought it to the sepulchre, while the Angels from Heaven chanted with them, and sent forth her who is higher than the Cherubim. But one Jew, moved by malice, audaciously stretched forth his hand upon the bed and immediately received from divine judgment the wages of his audacity. Those daring hands were severed by an invisible blow. But when he repented and asked forgiveness, his hands were restored. When they had reached the place called Gethsemane, they buried there with honor the all-immaculate body of the Theotokos, which was the source of Life. But on the third day after the burial, when they were eating together, and raised up the artos (bread) in Jesus' Name, as was their custom, the Theotokos appeared in the air, saying "Rejoice" to them. From this they learned concerning the bodily translation of the Theotokos into the Heavens.

### Parable: The Devoted Mother :

A mother duck and her little ducklings were on their way to the lake one day. The ducklings were very happy following their mother and quack-quacking along the way. All of a sudden the mother duck saw a fox in the distance. She was frightened and shouted, "Children, hurry to the lake. There's a fox!"

The ducklings hurried towards the lake. The mother duck wondered what to do. She began to walk back and forth dragging one wing on the ground.

When the fox saw her he became happy. he said to himself, "It seems that she's hurt and can't fly! I can easily catch and eat her!" Then he ran towards her.

The mother duck ran, leading the fox away from the lake. The fox followed her. Now he wouldn't be able to harm her ducklings. The mother duck looked towards her ducklings and saw that they had reached the lake. She was relieved, so she stopped and took a deep breath.

The fox thought she was tired and he came closer, but the mother duck quickly spread her wings and rose up in the air. She landed in the middle of the lake and her ducklings swam to her.

The fox stared in disbelief at the mother duck and her ducklings. He could not reach them because they were in the middle of the lake.

Dear children, some birds drag one of their wings on the ground when an enemy is going to attack. In this way they fool their enemies into thinking they are hurt, when the enemy follows them this gives their children time to escape.

### *Intercessory Prayers*

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Genevieve Bobenko, Barbara Bogart, Michael Bzik, Mary Ann Dolak, Barbara Kary, Margaret Kovalytsik, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Patricia Galley.

### *Birthday Greeting*

Happy Birthday go out this week to **Marilyn Stagen** – August 15 and **Samuel Czech** August 17. May God continue to enrich their life with the fullness of joy and happiness for many years – Mnogaya Lyeta!

### *Announcement*

♦ **A dream coming true at Saint Andrew's Camp!** On Friday, August 6, 2021, the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, His Eminence Archbishop Michael led a Service of Prayer and the Breaking of Ground for a new Camp Kitchen, Dining and Activities Center, at St. Andrew's Camp, on the shore of Lake Oneida, in Jewell, New York. Saint Andrew's is the Diocesan Camp where our young people have gathered every summer for nearly seven decades for fellowship, fun, and spiritual formation.

♦ **The flowers** adorning the Plaschanitz of Dormition Mother of God on the center tetrapod were given by **Helen Margitich**. Thanks and God Bless her.

♦ Following the Liturgy, today on the Feast of the dormition, the traditional blessing of flowers takes place. This centuries-old custom is done to remind us that Mary is the flower of the human race that brought forth the fruit of our salvation, Jesus Christ. ( **Note:** Remember that when you need to dispose of your blessed flowers, burn them, bury them or simply put them on the ground to decompose naturally. The main thing is to **NOT** throw them in the trash; doing so shows sinful disregard of their blessing.)

