

**Russian Orthodox Church of the
Resurrection of Christ**
1201 Hathaway Lane NE
Minneapolis, MN 55432-5720
Phone: 763-574-1001
web site: <http://www.resurrectionskete.org/>
email: rsmnch@msn.com

Schedule for the Week of August 23 - 29, 2020

Sunday Aug 23	Martyr Lawrence
Thursday Aug 27	Vigil for Dormition of Theotokos Бдение - Пр. Бды <u>6:30 PM</u>
Friday Aug 28	Dormition of the theotokos Успение Пресвятыя Богородицы 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия
Saturday Aug 29	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday Aug 30	Martyr Myron 8:15 AM Nocturns, Hours, Confessions 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия
Saturday Sep 5	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday Sep 6	Heirom. Eutyches 8:15 AM Nocturns, Hours, Confessions 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия

О самодостаточной вере

(Из писем святителя Николая Сербского)

Вы говорите, что верите в Бога, и считаете, что этого достаточно. Но и бесы веруют, и трепещут, -- говорит апостол Иаков (2:19). А Вам, человеку, надлежит иметь нечто большее, чем просто вера. Допустим, кто-то должен Вам пять предметов, а вернет только один, разве Вы не разгневаетесь? И Творец ждет от Вас пяти предметов, а Вы предлагаете только один. Вот эти пять предметов: вера в Бога; познание любви Божией; познание воли Божией.; познание действия Божия; познание суда Божия.

Просто к вере Вы могли прийти как язычник: созерцая природу, сделать вывод, что всякая тварь должна иметь Творца. Но все остальное без Христа и Его Евангелия понимаю язычника недоступно, ибо во Христе явилась любовь Божия к человеку.

Через Христа открылась человеку воля Божия -- то, что Господь ждет и хочет от людей. Христос явил действие Божие в мире и в жизни человека. Христос открыл и суд Божий делам человеческим, и то, как Он будет судить мир в конце времен.

Если Вы считаете, что довольно одной веры в Бога, я спрошу Вас: как Вы узнаете о том, что должно делать для спасения души? Евнух эфиопской царицы, уверовав во единого Бога, поспешил в Иерусалим, чтобы спросить апостола Филиппа, что ему нужно делать, чтобы спастись (Деян. 8:26-39).

А как же Вы узнаете, как Вам приблизиться к Тому, в Кого веруете? Что добро, а что зло? Как Вам утвердиться в добре, а как уберечься от зла? Как Вы узнаете, что Господь ждет от Вас какую награду Вам готовит?

Разве скажет Вам бессловесная природа, как молиться Богу и что просить у Него? Обо всем этом бесы не спрашивают, ибо не желают спасения.

А поскольку Вы хотите спастись, то должны спросить и узнать об истинной вере в истинного Бога и о том, что эта за собой влечет.

Следовательно, одной только веры недостаточно, и знать, что Спаситель мира принес людям и что хочет от них, необходимо. А если было бы достаточно только языка природы и только веры, тогда и приход Сына Божия в мир был бы не нужен, а Его крестные страдания бессмысленны. Поэтому, пока смерть не настигла Вас, поспешите облечь мертвый скелет своей веры в плоть и жизнь.

DORMITION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN

The glorious lot of the ever-blessed Virgin in the work of God's salvation of the world made all Her life wonderful and exemplary. After the Crucifixion of Christ, the Mother of God was taken to live in the house of Her adopted son, the Apostle John. Tradition notes that even after the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, the Mother of God remained in Jerusalem, visiting those places where the Saviour of the world preached, suffered and died. She did not want to leave the country that was dear and holy to Her. When king Herod Agrippa began to persecute the Church, both the pagans and the Jews, indignant of the respect that the Mother of God was receiving from the Christians, wanted to kill Her. It was during this time that She traveled with Apostle John to Ephesus. Church tradition has this also as the time of Her visit to Cyprus to Bishop Lazarus, who had been raised from the dead after four days, and to Mount Athos. When the persecution ended, the Mother of God returned to Apostle John's house at Zion in Jerusalem.

Once, when She went to the Mount of Olives to pray, Archangel Gabriel appeared and spoke of Her approaching departure from this world. Upon returning home, She told Apostle John all that the Archangel had said to Her and started preparing Herself for Her final day on earth. Friends and relatives gathered, and eleven of the apostles were miraculously transported from various parts of the world to Her deathbed. They were all amazed to see each other there. When Apostle John explained that the Mother of God would soon be departing this world, they understood why God had brought them together and became sad. But She comforted them, saying: "Do not cry and darken My happiness with your sadness. I am going to My Son and your God, and you will bury My body and return each to your work." As the time of Her death neared, the room shone with a divine light, the roof disappeared, and a wondrous sight appeared before all: the Lord Jesus Christ descended from heaven surrounded by many angels. All looked upon this wondrous sight with awe and reverence, and when they approached Her bed, the holy body of the Mother of God shone radiantly, and a fragrance of incense pervaded the room.

The apostles carried the body of the Mother of God through the city to Gethsemane, to be buried at Her request in the tomb of Her family and Joseph. They buried Her body, closed the tomb with a stone and remained there at the site in prayer for three days. On

the third day Apostle Thomas arrived and was very saddened that he did not find the Mother of God alive. To make him feel better, the other apostles rolled away the stone to let him pay his respects to the body. But on entering the tomb, they found that the body was not there -- only the winding sheet. They returned home to partake of a communal meal at which they always left a place for the Resurrected Lord. After the meal, they raised the bread left for Christ aloft and exclaimed: "Lord, Jesus Christ, help us." And they heard a choir of angels, and when they looked up they saw the Holy Virgin surrounded by angels. She greeted them, saying: "Rejoice, for I am with you through all the days." Then the apostles were filled with joy, and instead of using the usual words, they exclaimed: "Most holy Mother of God, help us." And now they understood and believed that upon the third day after Her dormition, the Mother of God had been resurrected.

Thus, the dormition of the Mother of God is not a sad event, but a joyous one. Her death is but a short sleep, after which follows Her resurrection and ascension to heaven. From the very beginning, the Church saw in the Mother of God the One who would pray for all of mankind. She is the haven of all the mothers in the world. She teaches us how to live in total faithfulness to the will of God. She, who kept in Her heart the divine words, is an example of faithfulness, love and service.

(from Orthodox Russia, 1999)

