

## Russian Orthodox Church of the Resurrection of Christ

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### Weekday Services

Mon - Fri

Vespers Daily 6 PM

Matins Daily 8 AM

## Schedule for the Week of August 24 – 30, 2014

<b>Sunday</b> Aug 24	<b>Afterfeast of Transfiguration</b> Попразднства Преображения
<b>Wednesday</b> Aug 27	<b>Vigil of Dormition</b> Бдение под Успение Пр. Бцы 6:30 PM Vigil
<b>Thursday</b> Aug 28	<b>Dormition of the Theotokos</b> Успение Бр. Бцы 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия
<b>Saturday</b> Aug 30	5:30 PM Vigil
<b>Sunday</b> Aug 31	<b>MM Florus and Laurus</b> 8:15 AM Nocturns, Confessions 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия

удержала Ее останков, что Она и плотью воскресла и что Она – первенец из мертвых после Христа Воскресшего. (Мит. Антоний Сурожский)

### **Feast-day Reminder:**

Успение Пр. Бцы  
Dormition of the Theotokos

В Четверг, 28-го Августа  
Thursday, August 28

в Среду 27-го Авг. 6:30 PM Бдение  
Wed. 27<sup>th</sup> August, 6:30 PM Vigil

в Четверг 28-го Авг. 9:00 AM Литургия  
Thurs. 28<sup>th</sup> Aug. 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

### Успение Божией Матери

Успение – слово славянское, значит, что Божия Матерь уснула, как говорили в древности, *сном земли*, умерла. Но в слове “умереть” много горечи, чувства поражения. В слове “успение” -- чувство покоя. И действительно, в празднике Успения мы радуемся о том, что Божия Матерь, Чьей верой Христос пришел на землю, Чьей верой Он был свободен совершить Свой трагический путь, уснула сном земли, и что в этот момент Она снова оказалась лицом к лицу с воскресшим и вознесшимся на небо Своим Сыном и Своим Богом.

В Успении, как во всякой смерти, есть трагедия: человек не рожден для того, чтобы умереть, -- но есть и дивная встреча, встреча живой души со своим Богом. Каждый из нас, умирая, так встретит Бога. Но все мы, в той или другой мере, отуманены, осквернены грехом. Божия Матерь, Пречистая Дева Богородица могла войти в вечность и вступить в свет вечности, не внося в него никакой тени. Она вошла в жизнь, будучи Матерью Жизни вечной на земле, и мы ликуем о Ее Успении и радуемся о том, что, по преданию церковному, земля не



*В молитвах Неусыпающую Богородицу/ и в предстательствах непреложное упование/ гроб и умерщвление не удержаста:/ якоже бо Живота Матерь/ к животу престави// во утробу Вселивыйся приснодевственную.*

## Гефсимания, Гробница Божией Матери

При выходе из Святого града Овчими воротами паломник попадает на иерихонскую дорогу. Если пойти по ней направо, то она приведет в Гефсиманию. В Гефсимании, по преданию, завещала похоронить Себя Пречистая Богородица. В V в. над Гробницей Пресвятой Девы был поставлен храм. Сама гробная пещера была обращена в часовню. Каменное ложе, на котором три дня покоилось Непорочное Тело, служит и поныне престолом для совершения Божественной литургии. Первоначальный храм был уничтожен при нашествии персов в 614 г., но гробная пещера уцелела. Теперь вокруг нее построен подземный храм. Ко Гробу Пречистой ведет лестница. На половине лестницы справа и слева устроены приделы: направо в память Богоотцев Иоакима и Анны, налево – прав. Иосифа Обручника: видимо, они были также здесь погребены. Подземный храм имеет крестообразную форму.



*“We seek refuge under the protection of your mercies, O Mother of God; do not reject our supplication in need but save us, thou who alone art blessed.”*

Such a prayer sums up the feelings of millions devoted to Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ. In their eyes she is a kindly mother figure who can intercede for them with God and her Son and in some way temper His judgments toward them.

Mary was without doubt “highly favored” – more favored, in fact, than any other woman who has ever lived. (*Luke 1:28*). The angel Gabriel appeared to her and explained just how privileged she would be. “Rejoice!” he said. “You will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest.”

How was this miraculous event possible? Gabriel continued: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.” (*Luke 1:31,32,35*).

Mary humbly acceded to this divine direction and in time gave birth to Jesus. Mary said, “Behold the

maidservant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word.”

Yes, Mary was greatly blessed as the mother of the One who became the Christ, and finally in 431 A.D., she was officially given the title “Theotokos” by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ecumenical Council which met in Ephesus. This council decreed that Mary should be honored by this name which confirms Orthodox belief in the incarnation: that Christ was both true God and true man.

Mary’s life on this earth was special and so was her leaving it. On August 15/28 we commemorate her Falling asleep. This day is also sometimes called the Dormition, meaning passage through death and Assumption, which means ascension into heaven. At the beginning of Christianity, the whole Christian world used the term “Falling Asleep of the Mother of God.” The majority of icons we see depict the Mother of God lying on her bier. The Apostles surround her, and Christ is portrayed hovering near her, holding a small figure of her.

There are no relics of the Mother of God. Their existence has never been mentioned. St. John of Damascus gave several sermons on this (749). He tells how the East Roman Emperor Marcian (457 AD) and his wife Pulcheria asked the Bishop of Jerusalem at the Council of Chalcedon in the year 451AD to have the relics of the Mother of God brought to Constantinople. The Bishop is said to have answered, “Mary died in the presence of the Apostles; but her tomb, when opened later, on the request of St. Thomas, was found empty, and thus the Apostles concluded that the body was taken up into Heaven.”

In another sermon, St John clearly expresses the same belief: “Your sacred and happy soul, as nature will have it, was separated in death from your most blessed and pure body; and although the body was duly interred, it did not remain in the state of death, neither was it dissolved by decay... Your most pure and sinless body was not left on earth but you were transferred to your heavenly throne, O Lady, Queen, and mother of God in truth.”

Although there are no relics of the Mother of God, her belt and veil were kept in the Blachernae Church in Constantinople. This was the goal of many pilgrimages. In this very church the events which we commemorate on the Protection (Oct. 1/14) also took place. (*excerpted from The Orthodox Herald*)