



THE MOTHER OF LIFE



Most 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.

St. Mary's Orthodox Church
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OUR WEBSITE...www.stmarysnativity.org

Rector: V. Rev. James Weremedic
Retired Attached: V. Rev Paul Ropitsky
Reader Hours: Kailyn Dymtrow

Sunday, August 20, 2023

Choir Director: Wash King
Reader Epistle: Michael Ropitsky

11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Afterfeast of the Dormition

Prophet Samuel. Hieromartyr Philip, Bishop of Heraclea and with him the Martyrs Severus, Memnon, and 37 Soldiers in Thrace. Martyrs Heliodorus and Dosa of Persia. Holy New Martyr Theocharis.

Tone 1 Troparion (Feast)

In giving birth you preserved your virginity. /In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, O Theotokos. /You were translated to life O Mother of Life, // and by your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

Tone 2 Troparion (Prophet Samuel)

We celebrate the memory/of Your prophet Samuel, O Lord;/through him we beseech You://“Save our souls!”

Tone 8 Kontakion (Prophet Samuel)

You were a precious gift given to God before your conception. /You served Him like an angel from your infancy, O blessed one. /You were granted the charism to announce beforehand future things. //Therefore, we cry to you: “Rejoice, Samuel, Prophet of God and great high priest.”

Tone 2 Kontakion (Feast)

Neither the tomb, nor death, could hold the Theotokos, /who is constant in prayer and our firm hope in her intercessions. /For being the Mother of Life, //she was translated to life by the One Who dwelt in her virginal womb

Services:

Sunday, August 20	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
Saturday, August 26	2:00 PM – Baptism, Kasandra Anne Buchanan
Saturday, August 26	5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, August 27	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship
Saturday, Sept 2	2:00 PM – Reception of Amy Lee Beamesderfer and her children in Baptism: Ixsaviar Junior Bracero, Emmanuel Julian Andrades, Ixsaiah Paul'lee Bracero, Izreal Edgar Bracero and Jhanyah Destiny Snow Bracero
Saturday, Sept. 2	5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions
Sunday, Sept 3	9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship

We welcome all our visitors today! We want to let you know that we are so glad you came to pray with us. Please come again; join us after the Divine Liturgy in the parish hall for fellowship. If you do not have a home church, we invite you to become a part of our parish family. Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.

Prayer List*:

Fr. James Weremedic, Matushka Lisa Weremedic

Ashley Buchanan and her newborn child, Kasandra Anne

Theodore Bogosh, Elizabeth Brennan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia Harahus, Karen & Rose Harkins, Nancy King, Olga Kushnir, Nancy Lorchak, Anna Marie Mantey, Dorothy & Joseph Macenka, Effie Mavrellos, Melissa Schmitt, Helen Sheers, Olga Sidoriak, Martha Stafiniak,

Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Marie Yurchak.

* Names will cycle off approximately every 30 days. You may request to have your name or the name of a loved one placed back on the list at any time by contacting Fr. James directly.

If anyone is in need of a priest, please call Father James Weremedic at 570-645-2772.

Visitation of the Sick and Infirm: If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Fr. James at the Rectory. Emergency Calls: Please call the Rectory (570-645-2772) anytime (day or night) in an emergency.

Candles (August 13)

7-day Vigils-Altar...In memory of **Marie Fedora** offered by Barbara Faenza and Family

Altar Candles... In memory of **Michael & Julia Roshac** offered by Alice "Roshac" Styer

Eternal Lamp... In health of **Andrew & Mary Bybel** offered by Bybel Family

7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... In memory of **Kay & Paul Maliniak** offered by William Yelsh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory **Brother, Harry Wyshosky** offered by Sister, Julie Forte

Vigil Crosses...In memory of **Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Flowers-Tetrapod ...In memory of **Mary Ann Macenka** offered by Paul Macenka & Family

August Birthdays:

5- Rose Harkins, 9- Samuel Buchanan, 14- David King, 15-Kaitlyn Dmytrow, 21-Rowan Buchanan, 22- Nancy Lorchak, Amy Beamesderfer, 24- John Law

August Anniversaries:

14-Ashley & Samuel Buchanan, 20-Dennis & Geri Vavra

Financials 8/13//2023: *Operating Acct:* Weekly Envelopes \$659, Non-envelope \$310, Holy Day \$26, Altar Candles \$10, Candles \$60, Donation \$2,000, Building Fund \$31

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

August 20 Russell King

August 27 Michael Tatusko

September 3 John Evetushick

11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Tone 2 Afterfeast of the Dormition

Prophet Samuel (11th c. B.C.). Hieromartyr Philip, Bishop of Heraclea and with him the Martyrs Severus, Memnon, and 37 Soldiers in Thrace (304). Martyrs Heliodorus and Dosa of Persia (380). Holy New Martyr Theocharis (Neapolis).

1 Corinthians 9:2-12 (Epistle)

If I am not an apostle to others, yet doubtless I am to you. For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. My defense to those who examine me is this: Do we have no right to eat and drink? Do we have no right to take along a believing wife, as do also the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working? Who ever goes to war at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of its fruit? Or who tends a flock and does not drink of the milk of the flock? Do I say these things as a mere man? Or does not the law say the same also? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain." Is it oxen God is concerned about? Or does He say it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written, that he who plows should plow in hope, and he who threshes in hope should be partaker of his hope. If we have sown spiritual things for you, is it a great thing if we reap your material things? If others are partakers of this right over you, are we not even more? Nevertheless we have not used this right, but endure all things lest we hinder the gospel of Christ.

Silent Prayer before the Gospel:

Illumine our hearts, O Master Who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee. For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Matthew 18:23-35 (Gospel)

Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made.

The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, 'Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying, 'Pay me what you owe!' So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you all.' And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, they were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done.

Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?' And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. **So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses."**

Prophet Samuel

The Prophet Samuel was the fifteenth and last of the Judges of Israel, living more than 1146 years before the Birth of Christ. He was descended from the Tribe of Levi, and was the son of Elkanah from Ramathaim-Zophim of Mount Ephraim. He was born, having been besought from the Lord through the prayers of his mother Hannah (therefore he received the name Samuel, which means "besought from God"). Even before birth, he was dedicated to God. Her song, "My heart exults in the Lord," is the third Old Testament ode of the Canon (1 Sam/1 Kings 2:1-10).

When the boy reached the age of three, his mother went with him to Shiloh and in accord with her vow dedicated him to the worship of God. She gave him into the care of the High Priest Eli, who at this time was a judge over Israel. The prophet grew in the fear of God, and at twelve years of age he had a revelation that God would punish the house of the High Priest Eli, because he did not restrain the impiety of his sons. Eli's whole family was wiped out in a single day.

The prophecy was fulfilled when the Philistines, having slain in battle 30,000 Israelites (among them Hophni and Phinees, the sons of Eli the High Priest), gained victory and captured the Ark of the Covenant. Hearing this, the High Priest Eli fell backwards from his seat at the gate, and breaking his back, he died. The wife of Phinees, upon hearing what had happened in this very hour, gave birth to a son (Ichabod) and died with the words: "The glory has departed from Israel, for the Ark of God is taken away" (1 Sam/1 Kgs 4: 22).

Upon the death of Eli, Samuel became the judge of the nation of Israel. The Ark of God was returned by the Philistines on their own initiative. After returning to God, the Israelites returned to all the cities that the Philistines had taken. In his old age, the Prophet Samuel made his sons Joel and Abiah judges over Israel, but they did not follow the integrity and righteous judgment of their father, since they were motivated by greed.

Then the elders of Israel, wanting the nation of God to be "like other nations" (1 Sam/1 Kgs 8: 20), demanded of the Prophet Samuel that they have a king. The Prophet Samuel anointed Saul as king, but saw in this a downfall of the people, whom God Himself had governed until this time, announcing His will through "judges," His chosen saints. Resigning the position of judge, the Prophet Samuel asked the people if they consented to his continued governance, but no one stepped forward for him.

After denouncing the first king, Saul, for his disobedience to God, the Prophet Samuel anointed David as king. He had offered David asylum, saving him from the pursuit of King Saul. The Prophet Samuel died in extreme old age. His life is recorded in the Bible (1 Sam/1 Kgs; Sirach 46:13-20).

In the year 406 A.D. the relics of the Prophet Samuel were transferred from Judea to Constantinople.