



**FROM THE LAMENTATIONS AT THE BURIAL SERVICE
FOR THE MOST HOLY THEOTOKOS AND EVER VIRGIN MARY**



In a grave they laid you yet, O Christ, you are life and they now have laid the Mother of Life as well: both to angels and to men a sight most strange!

We exalt you greatly, Theotokos most pure, and we glorify your holy dormition now, as we bow before your honored precious tomb.

In your womb you held him who cannot be contained; you are life to all the faithful: how can you die, and your body be contained within a tomb?

You brought forth, Pure Maiden, God the heavenly King, and today in manner royal are carried forth to the Kingdom of the Heavens as a Queen.

Holy Theotokos, You have passed from this world, in departing not forsaking those left on earth, but delivering this world from every ill.

Look upon your children who are gathered this day: may your honored eyes be open that you behold those who glorify with honor your repose.

To us grant your blessing when you open your lips O Most Holy Theotokos, departing now at the ending of your time upon the earth.

Leave us not as orphans when you leave us on earth, for, O Mother, you are taken to heaven now, to abide there with your Son and with your God.

Gathered 'round your bedside, we are calling to you, our all-holy Virgin Mother, with fervent voice, "Save the faithful and have mercy upon us!"

Mother Anna, join us, Come and stand in our midst! Come and lead the celebration of this glad feast of your holy daughter, Mother of our God!

Now the God of Glory takes His mother to Him and the Son who has received you, O Purest One, has prepared for you a seat at His right Hand.

Every generation offers hymns, O Virgin, to honor your entombment.

Come with all creation to sing the hymns of parting as you are raised, O Virgin.

Disciples of my Lord Christ, arrive to tend the body of my God's purest Mother.

O Mother, do not leave us behind you now as orphans, without your love and caring.

"We shall not abandon the Mother of our Teacher!" the Lord's apostles cried out.

You, who are God's Mother with joyful heart now enter into your Son's glad presence.

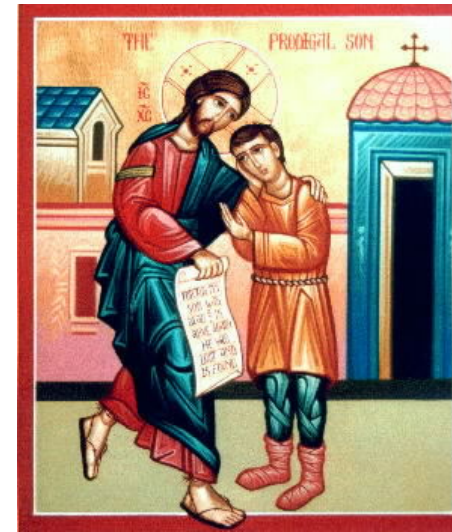
To Heaven you are taken, and with your Son are living: Let me be also taken.

Deem your servants worthy to enter in the Kingdom that is your Son's, O Virgin.

ST. GEORGE BULLETIN

11TH SUNDAY OF ST. MATTHEW
ST. EMILIAN THE CONFESSOR

AUGUST 8, 2010



Today's Gospel confronts us with a message that so many of us would rather ignore or forget: forgiveness. In the parable of the master forgiving his servants, and the servants who were forgiven refusing to forgive those who owed them, Jesus teaches a powerful lesson: *how can we who beg and expect God to forgive us, then not show the same mercy to those who offend us?* Holding a grudge, fostering a resentment, refusing to give up our anger against someone who has hurt us seems the natural thing to do. Jesus calls us beyond nature to a higher level. He calls us not to follow our baser instincts, but to follow His merciful ways. Should we choose to follow his example, mercy will find us. Should we choose, instead, to withhold forgiveness from anyone — we will be banished from mercy, from compassion, from the very presence of God. Think about it. Who in YOUR life have you NOT forgiven? What choice will you make?

Resurrectional Apolytikion

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You.

Seasonal Kontakion

You were transfigured upon the mount, O Christ our God, and Your disciples, in so far as they could bear, beheld Your glory. Thus, when they see You crucified, they may understand Your voluntary passion, and proclaim to the world that You are truly the effulgence of the Father.

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A REMINDER

When you make your stewardship offerings by check, PLEASE REMEMBER TO WRITE ON THE MEMO LINE "2010 STEWARDSHIP." Checks are coming in without ANY identification or with "Donation" written on them. Please assist our financial staff by indicating that your offering is TOWARDS STEWARDSHIP — otherwise the offerings will be placed in the general fund rather than under your stewardship pledge. Many thanks!

EPISTLE I Corinthians 9:2-12

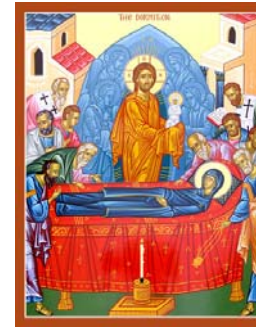
BRETHREN, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, "You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain." Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:23-35

The Lord said this parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the jailors, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to everyone of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."



"Abba Isaac recounted how a demon approached him disguised as a youth. "You are mine" he said. I asked how he could say that. "Because three Sundays running you have received holy communion whilst being at daggers-drawn with your neighbor", he said, and I told him he was lying. But he said, 'Are you not harboring a grudge against him because of a plate of lentils? I am the one who is in charge of grudges, and, from now on, you are mine.' When I heard that, I left my cell, went to the brother and prostrated myself before him in order to be reconciled with him. When I returned to my cell I found that my visitor had burned my mat on which I prostrated myself, because he was so consumed with jealousy for our love." (From the Spiritual Meadow)



PREPARING FOR THE DORMITION OF THE HOLY THEOTOKOS

The Feast of the Dormition or Falling Asleep of the Theotokos commemorates the death, resurrection, and glorification

of Christ's mother. To help us in our preparation of the feast, it is preceded by a two week fast. As with the **Nativity of the Virgin** (September 8/21) and the feast of her **Entrance to the Temple** (November 21/December 4), the Feast of the Dormition also comes from the Tradition of the Church. There we learn that Mary died as all people die because she had a mortal human nature affected by the corruption of this world. The Church proclaims that Mary needed to be saved by Christ just as all of us are saved from trials, sufferings, and death of this world. Having truly died, she was raised by her Son as the "Mother of Life" and already participates in the eternal life of paradise which is prepared and promised to all who "hear the word of God and keep it." (**Luke 11:27-28**) Finally, we celebrate the fact that what happens to Mary happens to all who imitate her holy life of humility, obedience and love. It is important to remember that there are no relics of the Theotokos. Their existence has never been mentioned throughout history. At one time in Constantinople there was a center of pilgrimage where the belt and veil of the Virgin were venerated. Following the day of Pentecost, the Theotokos remained in the city of Jerusalem, comforting the infant Christian community.

She was living in the house of the beloved Apostle John, later the Evangelist. At the time of her death (tradition states she was in her early fifties) many of the Apostles were scattered throughout the world preaching the Gospel. All but Thomas were miraculously brought to the Virgin aloft on clouds. As they stood around her bedside, she commended her spirit to the Lord and Jesus descended from Heaven, taking up her soul in His arms. The Apostles sang the funeral hymns in her honor and carried her body to a tomb in Cedron near Gethsemane. When a Jewish man tried to interrupt their solemn procession, an angel of the Lord came and punished him by cutting off his hands, which were later healed. The Apostle Thomas arrived on the third day and wished to see the Virgin for the last time. They discovered an empty tomb. Church tradition relates that the Theotokos was resurrected bodily and taken to heaven, the same reward that awaits all the righteous on the Last Day.



40 DAY BLESSING

A 40-Day Blessing will be given today to Natalie Karissa, daughter of Robert and Donna Beagle. May God grant her many years!

MEMORIAL

A Memorial Service will be offered today for Panagiotis "Pete" Buas (40 Days), requested by his wife Dena, and his children and grandchildren. May his memory be eternal!

PRAYER LIST: Antonia "Nitsa" Kempf, Connie Kanaris, Diana Lazar, George Markomanolakis, Argie Palaios, Katherine Panagakos, Priscilla Preuss, George Virvan, Sylvia Basdekas, George Speris, Mariah Smiley, Doris Webb, the child Camille Feruzzi who is gravely ill, the child Heather Greene, Irene Pappas, Marty Levine, Lindsey Reijsoo, the child Ashley Lyvers, the child Alexis Ross, Joseph Papadakis, Marilyn Kauffman, the child Joseph Saxon, Francine Bruggeman, Estrella Grandea Ocampo, Stephanie Skanderis, Georgia Haldas, Eric Ricasa, William Coulopoulos, Milton Kayafas, Mary Agis, and Robert Shriver. **US ARMED FORCES:** (Col.) Fr. Alexander Webster, Rev. Fr. John Kalantzis, Lt. Nicholas Karnaze, Spc. Spiro Nino, John Xanthakos, Colonel James Karas, and Gary Hogman (Iraq) and his wife Cindy, 2nd Lt. Phillip Natsios and PFC Brett Hughes.