

The Dormition of the Holy Theotokos



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The Children's Word

"Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them, for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

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Pray for your family!

Have you ever tried to find the perfect gift for somebody? Maybe you got your brother the toy he always wanted. Sometimes we think long and hard to think of the perfect thing for somebody.

Did you know, the really perfect gift for your family is your prayers! When we pray for our family, we ask God to help, and what can be better than that?

In today's Gospel reading, we read about how a man had a son who was very sick. He didn't know what to do, so he did the smartest thing he could think of. He "came up to Jesus and kneeling before Him said, 'Lord, have mercy on my son.'" Later on, we hear how Jesus did have mercy on his son. He had mercy, and He healed him.

God wants us to do this same thing! We can come to Jesus in prayer. We can kneel down before our icon, and say, "Lord, have mercy on" my father, or my mother, or my grandparents, or my brother or my sister. We can always do that, and it's exactly what God wants us to do, especially when we need help.

Just like the man in the Gospel reading today, always remember to pray for your family. Your family is probably praying for you too!



WORD SEARCH

Can you find these words in the jumble?

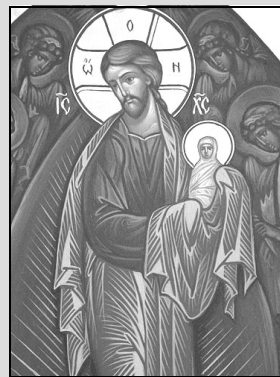
Celebration
Dormition
Fasting
Feastday
Have Mercy
Healing
Mary
Pascha
Prayer
Summer

O	U	M	P	H	N	C	N	Q	F	M	A	S	K	C
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K	G	N	B	Q	Y	T	K	E	G	K	R	I	B	W
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R	P	B	Q	T	C	O	E	O	Y	W	S	E	I	Y
X	A	K	O	N	D	L	J	A	Z	C	T	N	X	F
N	A	O	Q	K	E	A	N	V	F	D	V	C	S	D
D	A	Q	Y	C	D	Q	Y	Q	N	J	Q	Y	Z	P

WHAT'S IN THE ICON?

In the middle of the Dormition icon, Christ holds the soul of his mother, Mary.

Does it remind you of an icon of the Theotokos holding her baby son, Jesus?

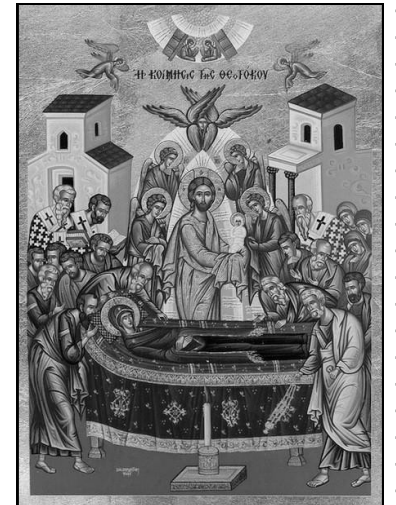


PASCHA IN AUGUST?

THE GREAT FEAST OF THE DORMITION

In springtime, we celebrate the great feast of Christ's Resurrection. You might call that special day Easter, or you might call it Pascha. Pascha means "passing over." We remember how our Lord, Jesus Christ, "passed over" death to life again. We know that our Lord is living, watching over us still.

We celebrate another Pascha too, and we celebrate it this week! This feastday is called the Dormition, and some people call it another Pascha, because God's mother, the Theotokos, "passed over" death into life. We know that the Theotokos is living too, and she is watching over us too!



Orthodox Christians celebrate this day in a big way! Pascha in April is a celebration, but this is a celebration too. God gave us life when He rose from the dead, but Mary gave us life too when she gave baby Jesus life. So, we have to celebrate!

All through the first half of August we have been praying to the Theotokos, and we ask her to "save us." We can always ask her for help, especially in getting close to her son, Jesus Christ. After all, she was the closest person to Him! This week, let's celebrate this other Pascha, and thank the Theotokos for her help.

We celebrate this great feast on Saturday, August 15th (OC: August 28th).