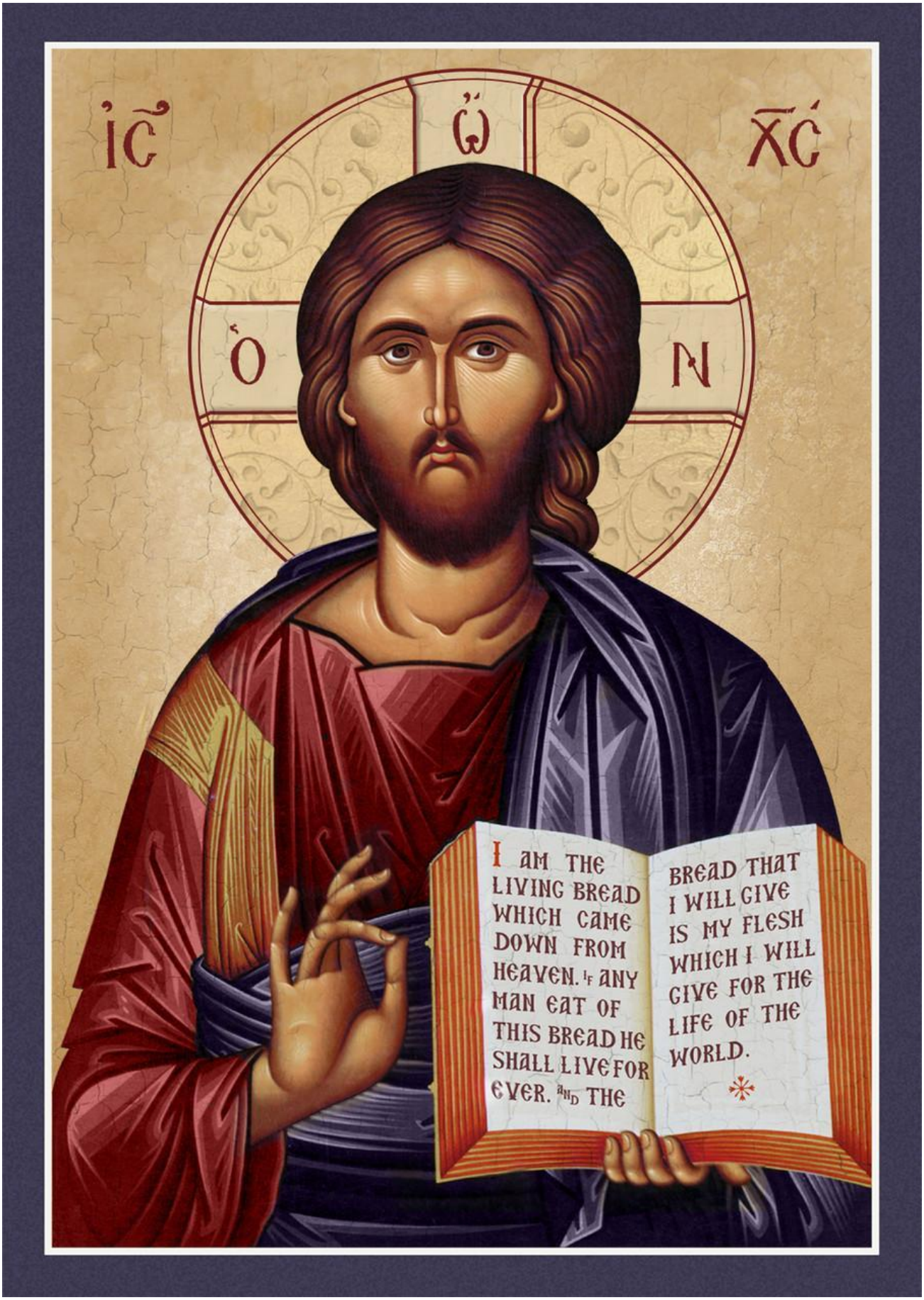

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I AM THE LIVING BREAD WHICH CAME DOWN FROM HEAVEN. IF ANY MAN EAT OF THIS BREAD HE SHALL LIVE FOR EVER. AND THE BREAD THAT I WILL GIVE IS MY FLESH WHICH I WILL GIVE FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD.

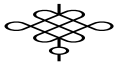
Our Beloved Orthodox Church

In Three Parts
written and compiled by:

Father Nicholas Seregos

PART I

INTRODUCTION



"BLESSED IS HE THAT COMETH IN THE NAME OF THE LORD"
Matthew 21:9

And what does the Evangelist say about this statement? "*But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you. I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.* (John 5: 42-43)

What is the name of the True God? And His name is: "*True God of true God, Light of Light*" (from the original Creed…see attached), *King of Kings*, *Lord of Lords* and "*I am the existing One*!" "*And Moses said unto God, 'Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?' And God said unto Moses, 'I Am That I Am:' and he said, 'Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I Am hath sent me unto you.'"* (Ex. 3:13-14) He is the only begotten Son of the Living God. "*He is of one essence with the Father"* (The Creed). It is through Him that all things that were made were made. "*All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made*." (John 1:3) It is He, Jesus Christ, who answered the Apostle Phillip, "*Philip said to Him, 'Lord show us the Father, and it sufficeth us.' Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father* '" (John 14: 8-9) Also, "*I and My Father are one*." (John 10:30) He is the Christ, the Word, the Living Word of God, the Father and the "*Logos*" that is, through Whom man will be deified! "*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*" (Galatians 3:27) Also, "*For this corruptible must put on Incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So, when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.'"* (1Corinthians 15: 53-54)

It is this God that I want, by God's Grace, to write about! It is He, Jesus the Christ, the Savior of the world, that I want to inform you about! Christ our Lord, the Rock, the Living Rock upon which Christ our Savior will establish His Church through which He will call all men to Himself in Himself! "*To whom coming as unto a living*

Stone, disallowed indeed by men, but chosen of God and precious." (1Peter 2:4) It is this Stone, this Rock that the Jews rejected. Also, "*…the stone which the builders disallowed, the same has been made the head of the corner*, and a *stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense…"* (1Peter 2: 7-8) It is upon this Rock, this precious Stone of Israel, "*From thence is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel*" (Gen. 49: 24) that I want with my whole being and with my whole heart, to write to you, His beloved children, who make up "Our Beloved Orthodox Church." who seek the truth!

Our Beloved Orthodox Church - Part I

Simon Peter answered and said, "*You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God"*
Matthew 16:16

Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter, meaning rock after he confessed that Christ was the Rock, the Son of the living God.

"And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, [meaning rock] *and upon* ***this rock*** [meaning Peter's confession of who Christ is] *I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*." (Math. 16:18) The reader of this paper should learn what Christ said to the devil when He descended to hell after He gave up His Godly Soul! *"Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory…"* (Ps 24:7-10) You see, the gates of hell did not and cannot prevail against the gates of the Eternal Church! "*And I say also unto thee that thou art Peter, and upon this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* (Math 16:18) We can readily see from this dialogue between Christ and the devil who is victorious! You see that the gates of the Church, and Christ - its Head, prevail against the gates of Hades and the devil! Christ said that He is the door; the gate to Paradise! He said that no one can come to the Father but through Him! "*Jesus said unto him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one cometh unto the Father except through Me."* (John 14:6) "*Then Jesus said to them again, 'Verily, verily,*

I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture.'" (John 10:7-9) So clearly, it was not Peter who is the rock that will crush the gates of hell but **Christ,** the Rock, the Living Rock and Chief Cornerstone! "*Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture,* "*Behold, I lay in Sion, a chief cornerstone, elect, precious; and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe He is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence'"*(1Peter 2: 6-8)

You see the Chief cornerstone became a stumbling block for those who rejected and denied Him and the crushing of Satan and his kingdom! Clearly it was not Peter who is the Rock but Christ the Son of the Living God! It was not Peter who descended to hell and tore down the gates of hell but Christ the Church, the Head of the Church! It was not Peter who said, "*I and My Father are one*." (John 10:30) It was not Peter who said Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood shall never taste of death! "Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:54) It was not to Peter that the Father said: "*And lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.*" (Math: 3:17). It was not to Peter that St. John the Baptizer said "*Behold! The Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the world*!" (John 1:29). And it was not Peter who said to Pilate: "*Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence*." (John 18:36). We can go on and on with Scriptural support that Christ is the High Priest, the eternal High Priest, the Living Rock and the very Son of God upon which our salvation is found.

Christ's Church began to grow from Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the heads of the Apostles in the form of fiery tongues. It was at this time that the apostles were fully enlightened and understood all the scriptures and recalled totally all that Jesus had preached and taught them. So, they began to preach the Word of God, and many were baptized. "*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers… [47] Praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."* (Acts 2: 42,47)

Now Christ only, is infallible and without sin! And no man born of a woman by the seed of a man is without sin. All men from the time of Adam's fall are born in a fallen state through the consequences of Adam's sin. Therefore, only Christ can redeem man and destroy sin. *"What is man that thou are mindful of him*?"(Psalms 8: 4) "*None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him… But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me*. (Psalm 49:7,15) Also in James 1: 21: "*Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls*." and in James 4:12 "There is one lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy...*"* Only He who first fashioned man in His image and likeness can refashion him again in His image and likeness. To declare that Peter is the foundation stone is blasphemy! To do so is to usurp Christ! It is not Peter's blood that washes away sin but Christ's! It is a Christian Church not a Peterian church! In Holy Baptism we are Christianized, that is, illuminated by the Holy Spirit which dwells in the bosom of Christ. And in so doing we put on Christ. "*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ*." (Gal: 3: 27) This point will be discussed further and later in this paper. Hence, we are not *Peterized*, putting on Peter, but rather Christ our Lord only! We are Christianized! Immediately after Peter confessed who Christ was he was rebuked by Christ as revealed to us in Math.16:21-23: "*From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, 'Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.' But he turned, and said unto Peter, 'Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.'"* It is for this reason that Christ came into the world. He came to take upon Himself our sins and pay the price of our redemption which was death. The law of sin dictates death! If you break the law, then death must follow. No one can live and not break the law! Only Christ can fulfill the law. Therefore, those who are baptized unto Christ share in His victory over sin, death and corruption! And this is the mark of the beast 666… Satan did not want Christ to save humanity. Therefore, Christ did not call Peter Satan to insult him but rather, to rebuke him for unwittingly serving as a mouthpiece of the devil!

Clearly, there is only one Living Rock, only one Foundation Stone and only One Head of the Church Body and that is Christ the Lord, the Anointed One! The Word Christ means the Anointed One! The Jewish kings were first anointed with oil upon their heads. This is why the Jews call their priests Christs because they are anointed!

And so Christ, at His Baptism was anointed with the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove revealing by God the Father that Jesus is the King, that is, the King of Kings! The Anointed One, the Temple of the Holy Spirit! "*And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him*." (Math. 3: 16). Also read in the Song of Songs 1:3: *"Because of the fragrance of your good ointments, your name is ointment poured forth;*" This fragrance of Christ's ointments are His virtues and the Grace that ever emanates from the Spirit of His boundless love for man! "*And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; …"* (Joel 2: 28) David said, "Can a man save a man?" "*What is man that You are mindful of him? and the son of man that You visit him? For You have made him a little lower than the angels. And you have crowned him with glory and honor."*(Psalms 8:4,5) Man cannot save a man but a Godman can! "*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16) The Apostle Matthew tells us clearly who this Godman is *"Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king…"* (Math. 18:23) And it is this King who is the Kingdom of Heaven Who became a man to save His people from eternal damnation through His precious Body and Blood! *"Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*" (John 6:54) Clearly, if we receive Christ we receive that Life. We receive the Kingdom of Heaven in that through Holy Baptism we become a member of His Body and, therefore, a living stone since He is the Rock, the Living Rock, the Chief Cornerstone, as Peter himself exclaims in "*To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, 'Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded'."* (1Peter 2:4-6) Let us search the scriptures a little further and discover more evidence that Christ and only Christ is the Living Rock upon which the Church is built up a "spiritual house:" *"…by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)* (Gen. 49: 24) Also in 1Cor. 10: 2-4, "…*all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and did all eat the same spiritual meat, and did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ*."

Let us examine several more scriptural verses as follows:

Ex. 17: 5,6 *"And the Lord said unto Moses, 'Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink…***"**

John 19: 34 "*But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced His side, and forthwith came there out blood and water."*

Gen. 35: 14,15 "*And Jacob set up a pillar in the place where he talked with him, even a pillar of stone: and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon. And Jacob called the name of the place where God spake with him, Bethel."* [which means the house of God. The wine is the blood of the Lamb and it - the Rock - was anointed with oil. Every king of Israel is anointed with oil! Hence, Christ, the Rock is the anointed One, The King!]

2Samuel 22: 2 "…*The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer*." [This is what the priest recites when he brings the Holies into the Holy Sanctuary and places it on the alter and then kisses it and the altar, as well.]

2Samuel 22: 47. "The Lord liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation."

Isaiah 17: 10 "*Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips*:

Psalm 18: 2 "*The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold*."

Psalm 94: 22 "*But the Lord is my defense; and my God is the rock of my refuge."*

And finally, we will quote from the Akathist of the Holy Mother this verse:
"*REJOICE, Sea which drowned the noetic Pharaoh. REJOICE, Rock which refreshed those athirst for life*."

It has been my desire for some time now to discuss and to write about all the Feast days and Holy events of Christ's life in the Orthodox Church. But, in order to do so, I needed to choose and to start with the appropriate Feast Day! I had to choose what would clearly be understood as the primary Feast Day celebration from which all the remaining feast days and Sunday Gospels would be generated. This primary Feast Day would be the foundation of all feast days and Gospels! It would be the Chief Foundation Stone for the Gospel of Jesus Christ; the Word of God, the Logos. The revelation of God is called the Logos whose purpose is the salvation and deification of man. Through Christ the Logos, men through Holy Baptism are united with the Living Rock and become themselves 'lively stones' as Peter put it. Men through Christ become building blocks of the Church, that is, members of His Body and He is the Head of that Body - the Chief Cornerstone. "*To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." (*1Peter 2: 4,5) And since Christ took His Flesh from His Mother, She is the Church and we are Her children. The Church teachers that every woman is a type of church because she brings forth children to God and every man is a type of Adam (Christ) the Husband of the Bride. Hence, the Church is the Bride and the Holy Spirit that dwells eternally in Christ is the Bridegroom and we are the offspring of the Church through His Blood! Hence, She is our Holy Mother and Christ is our Father! Amen!

I think we can more readily understand this point by elaborating on the creation of a woman from the rib of Adam. "*And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an helper comparable to him' …And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man"* (Gen. 2: 18,21-22) Since Eve came forth from the rib of Adam then it follows, say the Holy Fathers, that every woman is the rib of Adam and every man is a type of Adam but in a fallen state. After the fall man was cast out of Paradise! "*Therefore, the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed Cherabim at the east of the garden of Eden…"* (Gen. 3: 23,24) And since man can no longer partake of the fruit from the Tree of Life, he could no longer live forever: "'*…now, lest he put his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—-'"* (Gen. 3:22) But this was a mercy of God! Had God allowed man to partake of this fruit then evil would have been eternal in the world along with pain,

sickness, and sorrow. Therefore, out of mercy God permitted death but with the promise that in Adam's seed will come forth the Savior - the Maker of all things. "*All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made."* (John 1: 3) Hence, God incarnate!

Since every woman, say the Fathers, is a type of Eve (that is, the rib of Adam) then the All and Ever Virgin Mary, the Theotokos, is also the rib of Adam because She came forth from the seed of a fallen man. Therefore, when the Virgin conceived Christ the Son of God by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit and not the seed of a man - "*And the angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Ghost will come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee; therefore, also, that Holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the son of God.'"* (Luke 1:35) - Christ then took His flesh from Her blood*! "Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became a man."* (Verse lll of the Original Nicene Creed -See attached) Christ became the rib of Adam since He took His flesh from the Virgin, who is the rib of Adam, as is every woman. Christ did so, perfect and sinless, because the Holy Mother through the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit was set free from the consequences of the fall! And since He took from Her immaculate flesh, from Her Immaculate blood, and fashioned and became the new and perfect man - the new Adam; the Godman! Perfect man in the flesh and perfect God in the Spirit! And from His side poured out Blood and water; through the piercing of His side by the sword, from which came forth the Church, which is His Mother and Himself being the Head of the Body, that is, the Church! Now, the debt that Eve owed Adam for her flesh was paid by the Holy Mother; whereas the loan paid to Christ for His flesh can never be repaid! And men, now through Holy Baptism, can be called children of God again. Now men, having been set free are no longer slaves in bondage to sin, and can now, **as free men**, be heirs to the Master's goods. A slave cannot inherit the master's wealth but only the children of the Master! Since Christ's Flesh becomes ours, we can call God Father and since Christ took His flesh from the All Holy Mother we can then call Her our Mother! Glory to God in the Highest! This point will be discussed in more detail in Part two of this work.

My first choice for the primary feast day is the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ! And what could be more significant than Christ's Crucifixion on the Cross and the shedding of His all-Immaculate Blood for our salvation? Of which *one drop,* say the Holy Fathers, could burn the whole universe!

My second choice is the Feast of Pentecost; for it was on this day that the Third Person of the Holy Trinity descended upon the 12 Apostles in the form of fiery tongues. Pentecost is considered for this reason to be the Second Pascha! On this day the Apostles received the Holy Spirit and were given the ability to ordain clergy and to forgive sins and to baptize. All the mysteries of the priesthood were put in place. Hence, the Church became a living organism! My third choice, and what would clearly be understood as the primary feast day, from which all the feast days and Sunday Gospels would be generated, is The Feast of The Nativity of the Holy Mother! One will ask "W*hy is the Feast Day of the Nativity of the Holy Mother, the primary Feast Day, in lieu of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord and God Jesus Christ?"* Clearly, it is understood that without the Resurrection there is no salvation! And without the descent of the Holy Spirit there is no priesthood, no mysteries and no Church! These are very logical and valid points to make, however, what do the Holy Fathers say about this? They exclaim that if there was no Nativity of the Holy Mother then it logically follows there would be no Nativity of Christ! And, if there is no Nativity of Christ there would be no Crucifixion and Resurrection and there would be no Pentecost and, therefore, no descent of the Holy Spirit! Hence, there would be no salvation! It becomes quite apparent and logical that we choose as primary this most blessed event of the Nativity of the Holy Mother from which is generated all the Feast days and Sunday Gospels of the Orthodox Church. Also, what must be noted, the Nativity of the Holy Mother is the first Feast Day of the Ecclesiastical New Year! September 1 is the first day of the New Year and September 8th is the Nativity of the Holy Mother, therefore, it is the First Feast Day of the New Year. And the last Feast Day of the Church year occurs on August 15th - The Dormition of the Holy Mother. Hence, the year begins with the birth of Our Lady and ends with her Dormition!

I initially chose these three Feast Days in particular over all others because of their absolute significance in regard to the salvation of man and the establishing of God's Church -The Orthodox Church. Although the above is readily understood and undeniable, there is also another fact, a most mystical fact, that binds these three Great Feast Days together. There is a shared thread that these three primary feast days have in common. It is the significance and predominance of the number 8! However, in order to understand this, we need to first discuss more fully the narrative of the creation.

Christ our Lord, the Logos, the Word, made all that was made in Heaven and earth., *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."* (Gen.1:1) Also as

stated by John: "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made*." (John 1:1-3) The Lord, say the Holy Fathers, (especially St. John the Damascene, St. Basil the Great and St. John Chrysostomos) wrote and taught that God out of the Superabundance of His Goodness and the Superabundance of His love wanted to surround Himself with angelic beings with great beauty and power, wisdom and free will like Himself! The Lord, say the Holy Fathers, was not content in just contemplating His Goodness, His virtues, and His Glory and not having witnesses to His Glory, to not have intelligent beings who share and experience His love, His Goodness, His joy, visions and knowledge through His boundless Grace. So, our Lord the Word created the Heavenly Hosts. He created three hierarchies of angels with each having three angelic ranks. The first hierarchy and the closest to God according to proximity, are Seraphim; the second are Cherubim; and thirdly the Thrones. The second hierarchy is comprised by the ranks of the Powers first; the Authorities second; and the Dominions third. The third hierarchy comprises first the Principalities; then second the Archangels; and the third which is nearest to man - the Angels. (To learn more about the angelic realm see the paper entitled "Angels and The Angelic Life" by Fr. Nicholas Seregos.) What does St. Dionysius the Areopagite write about the creation of all beings? "*Since God is the superessential Being He gives being to all beings and produces all that is, His own Unity is said to become multiplied through bringing forth many beings from Itself (God) while remaining in Itself; These angelic entities are essentially then Emanations of Himself and yet He is in His Essence exempt and outside of His creation and can never be diminished! All that is made comes forth from His Divine Energies without loss!"* (See THE DIVINE NAMES by St. Dionysius the Areopagite).

What does St. John Chrysostomos write about this? He wrote that there are unimaginable multitudes of classes of angels that are beyond description in human language. He says that in truth there are other powers unknown to us! Their names and qualities are beyond speculation. And such powers will remain a mystery until the life to come when their names and qualities will become known to man. (See "Angels and the Angelic Life") Now through the Charity of The Holy Spirit, say the Fathers, each angelic rank partakes of the Grace of God to the degree of their nearness to Him. While God created the Heavenly realm He simultaneously created the substance that He would use to fashion the cosmos in anticipation of the fall of Lucifer and those with him! Lucifer, in his pride, thought that all the glory and gifts that he possessed was by the bounty of his own resources. It was at that instant he was cast out because there is

no pride or sin in God! *"How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground…*" (Isaiah 14:12) So God in His infinite Wisdom and foreknowledge… that is, foreknowing that Lucifer and a third of the angels would fall while creating the Heavenly Realm…He manifested *Ex Nihilo* (out of nothing) all the substance that He needed to make and to fashion all that was made through His Divine Energies "*All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made."* (John 1:3)

First, He commanded that the earth be formed. He commanded and it was done instantly, say the Fathers "*The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Then God said 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.: God called the light day and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day. Then God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day. (*Gen. 1: 2-8) God didn't make the sun, the moon and the stars until the 4th day "*Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. And He made the stars also*." (Gen. 1:16) It wasn't until the 6th day that Christ the Creator, the Logos made man - the crown of creation. He made man in His image and likeness! Therefore, man was a god and had the right to call God Father! "*I have said Ye are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High."* (Ps. 82:6) Now Christ Himself is fully the image and likeness of the Father. And so, it is written in the Creed; (Verse I) *"I believe in one God, Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only begotten, begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, very God, of very God begotten, not made, of one essence with the Father, and through whom all things are made.*" (The Original Nicene Creed – see attached)

Whereas, man bore the image and likeness of the Father partially, but he was meant to grow! He could not receive such fullness without having earned it! He was meant to grow spiritually in love of God and veneration. Satan knowing this, plotted against the first man early; before he could have grown and been able to see the wiles of the evil one. Christ Himself is fully the Power, Wisdom and Knowledge of the Father. *"...Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God*." (1COR 1:24) And what did Jesus

say to His apostle about this? "*Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father*?'" (John 14: 9) Also read Colossians 1:15-17 "[*He] Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by Him were all things created that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible...and He is before all things and for Him all things consist." Man was now created in the image and likeness of God.* "*And God said, "Let us make man in our image after our likeness... So, God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He them; male and female created He them*." (Gen. 1: 26,27) *And "Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made He man*." (Gen. 9: 6) God created man in His image and likeness out of the superabundance of His love. We are His children! And yes! He created man a little less than the angels but with the potential to be raised up to even greater than the angels. "*For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor."* (Ps. 8:5) "*Know ye not that we shall judge angels? How much more, things that pertain to this life*?" (1Cor. 6:3) And who born of a woman is more Holy and bears more perfectly the image and likeness of God than Mary? Whom we call our Mother and Her Son our Father! What angel can contain the uncontainable? And what angel can loan a body to the Logos to become what He was not - a man? What angel can call down from heaven the Holy Spirit and change bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ? And hold the Body and Blood of Christ in his hands? Read verse III of the CREED "*Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man."* Christ, through the Holy and ever Virgin Mary, became perfect man in the flesh and yet perfect God in the Spirit without confusion. He was a Godman!

Christ taking on our flesh for our salvation through His All Holy Mother was prophesied in Solomon's Song of Songs 3:11 "Go forth and look at King Solomon, at the crown with which his mother crowned him. In the day of his wedding." Solomon, the wise Solomon, is a type of Christ! Christ is the Power and Wisdom of the Father. 1Cor.1:30 : "But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God — And righteousness and sanctification and redemption—"Also, Heb. 1:3: "…who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power," What do the Holy Fathers say about this verse in the SOS 3:11 which is written that King Solomon's mother crowned her son in the day of his wedding? Since Solomon is a type of Christ then Solomon symbolizes the All Holy Mother the Theotokos and Ever Virgin Mary, who crowned Her Son Jesus Christ

with Her Immaculate flesh. “Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man.” Verse III of the Original Creed. Christ assumed His flesh from the Holy Mother and in the Resurrection He brought Himself to the right hand of the Father “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death and crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.” (Heb 2:9) Also Heb. 8:1 “Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens.” And rising with Him and in Him are those souls who lived and died in Christ. “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.” (Thess. 4:16) Since baptism is a union with Christ, the righteous, are united with Him in His flesh through Holy Communion! We become then members of His Body and, therefore, share in the Resurrection and everlasting life of Christ in Christ our Lord and God and Savior. Baptism then is a wedding! It is a union between Christ the Bridegroom and His Bride the Church. The Church are all those blessed souls that are joined to Him in Holy Baptism! This is why in the Orthodox wedding crowns are placed on the heads of the bride and the bridegroom. Hence, the Body of Christ, is the Church, made up of living members that were baptized unto Christ. Therefore, His Body is His Mother’s flesh which He assumed. This makes Her the Church and Christ the Head of the Church as a man is the head of the bride! “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.” (Gen. 2:24) And since in baptism we take upon us His Flesh becoming one with Him then it logically follows we are also joined to His Mother whose flesh He assumed! Therefore, The Holy Virgin becomes our Mother. Through Christ and His All Holy Mother we are saved.

What does David say in his Psalms… *“*Can a man save a man?” See Psalm 49: 7-9,15 which states: *“None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth forever:) That he should still live forever, and not see corruption… But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me*.” *“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.” (*Mark 10:45). Also see Isaiah 35:10: “*And the ransomed of the Lord shall return*…” and 1Tim. 2:6 “…*Who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time*.”

Clearly, if men are the children of God, bearing His image and likeness, then it follows that men are the offspring of God through the Blood of the Sacrificial Lamb in Holy Baptism and are so saved! Then it follows, also, that we are gods of God. "*Jesus answered them, 'Is it not written in your law, I said, 'ye are gods*?'" (John 10:34) and found in Ps. 82:6 "*I said, 'Ye are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High*.'" Christ and only Christ the Godman fulfilled the law perfectly as only a Godman can. He was Perfect man in the flesh, spirit and mind without sin. Therefore, those who partake of His Body and Blood share in His victory over sin, death and corruption! This is the mark of the beast 666 which is sin, death and corruption. Through sin comes death and through death comes corruption. Therefore, through Holy Baptism we share in His perfection and all righteousness and will enter into the Kingdom of God who is Christ our Lord. In other words, we put on Christ "*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."* (Gal. 3: 27) Therefore, no one can be invited to the wedding feast if he isn't wearing the wedding garment; that is, no one can enter the Kingdom of heaven if he is not wearing the garment of Christ given him at baptism which is a wedding! Through Baptism we are united to Christ. "*And when the King came in to see the guests, He saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: and he saith unto him, "Friend how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?" And he was speechless. Then said the King to his servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into the outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* (Math 22: 11-13) It should be noted that in those times no one came to the wedding feast if he wasn't wearing the garment given him by the bride and groom! All guests wore white garments. "*And when the King came in to see the guests, He saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: and he saith unto him, 'Friend how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment?' And he was speechless".* (Math: 22: 11,12) Hence, those who tried to come to the wedding feast without wearing this garment would be cast out. This means that no one can enter the Kingdom of Heaven if he is not wearing the wedding garment, that is, the garment of Christ! At baptism we put on Christ and become, therefore, children of God, that is members of the Royal Family!

"*For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ*." (Gal. 3:27) In those times no one could come to the wedding feast if he wasn't wearing a white garment given to him by the family of the bride and groom. And so it is with the Kingdom of Heaven… no one can enter if he isn't wearing a garment of Light given him at Baptism. In baptism we die to sin with Him but rise up with Him unto eternal life! We are saved by His labors - not ours; and by His Sacrifice - not ours. Through God's

Superabundance of love, He created offspring bearing His image and likeness. And man, through love, brings forth offspring bearing his own image and likeness. Now, if a man should reject the love of God then he is no longer a son of God but an outcast bearing the image of Satan. Such men become sons of darkness. Lucifer, seeing to what heights man was destined for, became furious and was, therefore, set upon man's destruction! He refused, say the Holy Fathers, to have the dust under his feet (in a manner of speaking) to be raised up to such a glorious height so as to be even greater than the glory which he once enjoyed! Lucifer was determined that man would bear his image and likeness. But God in His infinite wisdom and foreknowledge knew that He would have to come into the world and save man from eternal damnation by shedding His Immaculate Blood on the Cross. As we are created out of the superabundance of His goodness and love, so we are saved by the superabundance of the worth of His sacrifice on the Cross! His Blood would be the antidote to the deadly venom of the serpent from the partaking of the forbidden fruit from the forbidden tree! Christ became the fruit, that is, the fruit that hung on the Cross which became the Tree of Life! And what did Elizabeth say to Mary when She came to visit her cousin? "*Blessed is the fruit of thy womb!"* (Luke 1:42) As mentioned in the beginning of this paper; Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter (meaning rock) after he confessed that Christ was the Rock- the Son of the living God. Now Christ only is infallible and without sin! And no man born of a woman by the seed of a man is without sin. All men from the time of Adam are born in a fallen state through the consequences of Adam's sin. Therefore, only Christ can redeem man and destroy sin. Ps. 8: 4 "*What is man that thou art mindful of him?"* "*None of them can by any means redeem his brother, Nor give to God a ransom for him: …But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, For He shall receive me*." (Ps. 49: 7,15) Also read James 1: 21 "*Therefore lay aside all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls*." and James 4: 12 "*There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy*…" Only He who first fashioned man in His image and likeness can refashion him again in His image and likeness. To declare that Peter is the foundation stone is blasphemy! To do so is to usurp Christ! It is not Peter's blood that washes away sin but Christ's. It is a Christian Church not a Peterian church! In Holy Baptism we are Christianized, that is, illuminated by the Holy Spirit which dwells in the bosom of Christ. And in so doing we put on Christ. (This point will be discussed more deeply later in this paper) Hence, we are not Peterized, putting on Peter, but rather Christ our Lord only! Immediately after Peter confessed who Christ was Peter was rebuked by Christ as revealed to us in Matthew 16:21-23." *From that*

time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, 'Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.' But he turned, and said unto Peter, 'Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men." Clearly, there is only one Living Rock, only one Foundation Stone and only **One Head of the Church Body**! And that is Christ the Lord, the Anointed One. *"Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth;"* (Song of Songs 1:3) and "After shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh;" (Joel 2:28)

Since man was now in a fallen state through disobedience and no longer had the right to call God Father, he was estranged from God and in bondage to death and corruption. He no longer bore the image and likeness of his Creator as before the fall and it was not in man's power to refashion himself in God's image and likeness. So, it became necessary for God to become what He was not (a man!) so that through His Body and Blood we can become what we were no longer - a god! "Whoso eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." (John 6:54) By partaking of His Body and Blood which is the fruit of the Tree of Life we become a member of His Body. And since Christ is the Rock, we become living stones ourselves and share once again in His godliness! "*To Whom coming as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed by men, but chosen of God and precious. Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ*." (1Peter 2:4,5) and "*He saith unto them, 'But whom say ye that I am?'. And Simon Peter answered and said, 'Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed art thou Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood has not revealed it unto thee, but My Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee that thou art Peter, and upon this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*.'" (Math. 16:15-18) also, "*For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ*." (1Cor.3:11) This point will be discussed in depth when we elaborate more about the Nativity of the Holy Mother and all the feast days and events in Christ's life. And in doing so, we will come to the inevitable conclusion that the Feast Day of the Nativity of the Holy Mother holds primacy in that it must be the foundation to all the other feast days and events in Christ's life. She bore in Her Immaculate womb the Chief Foundation Stone, the living Rock from which His living Church is built up and as a result of this we will come clearly to see the mystery of the number "8" connecting these feast days. Incidentally, the

name Jesus Christ in the Greek language of the scriptures comes out to be 888! And we will come to see how this blessed number is significant in the feast days and events in Christ's life. We will also come to see and understand the mystical meaning of names and numbers in Holy scripture. Names and numbers have hidden within themselves revelation of Scripture. This will be more readily elaborated on quite extensively in Part III of this book.

It is true that the primary feast days of the Gospels are the Nativity of the All-Holy Mother, the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord and God Jesus Christ, and thirdly, Pentecost! It should also be pointed out that there are many equally significant feast days and events in Christ's mission for our salvation. However, first, and foremost is the Nativity of the Holy Mother; without Her Nativity there would be no Incarnation and birth of Jesus Christ and, therefore, no salvation! The birth of the Holy Mother is September 8th which is the first month of the Ecclesiastical New Year! And it was ordained by God that the Holy Virgin should be born on the 8th day of the month which is a prophecy that She will conceive and give birth to the 8th day, the Eternal Day, the mystical day which is the 8th and eternal age of the faithful in God's Glorious Kingdom! And the last great Feast Day of the Orthodox Church is August 15th which is the Dormition and Resurrection of the Holy Mother. Only the Holy Mother rose from the dead with Her body…for how could the flesh of the Holy Mother, from which Christ took His Body, know corruption? Read what it says in the Akathist to the Holy Mother about Her incorruption in EKOS 7: "*The Creator showed us a new creation when He appeared to us who come from Him. For He sprang from a seedless womb, and kept it incorrupt as it was, that seeing the miracle we might sing to Her, crying out: Rejoice, flower of incorruptibility! Rejoice, crown of continence!"* Therefore, the Ever and All Holy Virgin Mary is our Mother and Christ is our Father whose flesh we become through Holy Baptism. She is the new Eve and Christ the new Adam. They are the first parents of the new creation of the Holy Orthodox Church. Hence, you might say, that the Holy bookends of the Gospels of Christ are the Nativity of the Holy Mother and Her Dormition and Resurrection! What is the significance of the number 15 on the day of the Holy Mother's Dormition? The Holy Mother gave birth to Christ the Savior when She was 15 years old! Also, it was the 12th month of the church calendar which tells us that through her Son Jesus Christ the twelve apostles would preach the Dogma of the true Church!

At this time, I would like to point out, that in Part two of this paper I have chosen 60 events and Feast days in Christ's life and ministry that I will write about in more detail. These events will first be preceded by the Nativity of the Holy Mother and will be followed at the completion of the writing on the 60 events in Christ's Life and will end with the Dormition of the Holy Mother.

The two great feast days of the Holy Mother are the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end of the New Testament. It begins with Her birth; for She conceived and gave birth to the Alpha and Omega*. "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending…"* (Rev. 1:8) Since our Lord took His flesh from His Mother She fully shares in His mission and life! What does it say in Ode IX of the preparation prayers for Holy Communion? *"God took flesh of thy pure blood;"* And, therefore, since our Lord cannot know corruption, neither can the Holy Mother! "*For thou wilt not leave My soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption*." (Ps 16:10) Hence, the Nativity of the Holy Mother is the first great Feast Day of the Ecclesiastical New Year and Her Dormition is the last great Feast Day of the church calendar year. The Alpha and the Omega! It is my conviction that we should also elaborate further, to some extent, on the hidden revelation that is mystically concealed in the names and numbers of Holy Scripture. And in so doing we will broaden our understanding of Orthodox Faith and the teaching of the Holy Fathers. This elaboration will further reveal certain mysteries that would, otherwise, remain hidden. Which would be most unfortunate since it could deprive the inquisitive reader the gift of experiencing and obtaining a greater understanding of the Grace, richness and true meaning of the faith as it was revealed in Holy Scripture; taught and expounded upon by the Holy Fathers and Doctors of the Orthodox Church. It will become readily evident that my elaboration will not only allow the reader to more fully understand the Holy Scriptures but in Part III of this paper, I will also write more extensively on the hidden meanings of names and numbers!

The following is a brief introduction to what I will elaborate in more detail in Part III of this paper:

What did Christ say in the Gospel of John 11: 9,10? *"Jesus answered 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because the light is not in him*.'" In our reading of these verses, He describes that there are 12

hours in the day of natural light and that, conversely, it would be understood, that there are 12 hours of natural darkness in the night. Therefore, the whole day itself is 24 hours long comprised of twelve hours of day followed by twelve hours of darkness. What do the scriptures relate to us in Gen. 1:5? "*God called the light Day and the darkness He called Night. So, evening and morning were the first day*." Clearly our Creator ordained from the beginning that the day should be 24 hours long. And that the day should be divided into two 12-hour periods, one of light and the other of darkness. We will come to see that there is great theological meaning in these two 12-hour periods! Now, the Creator had to create the universe in the manner that it is in order to have a 24-hour day! He created the sun, moon and the earth and stars and all galaxies in such a way that all celestial bodies had the proper mass, orbits, rotations and required distances from each other in order to support and accommodate all life, especially man that would bear His Image and Likeness. He created it all natural and good. "*Then God saw everything He had made, and behold, it was very good."* (Gen. 1:31). He created it with natural light and natural darkness*. "God saw the light; that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day; and the darkness He called Night; and the evening and the morning, were the first day*. (Gen. 1:4,5) This light and darkness was a natural light and a natural darkness. However, in time it will become a prophecy that there would be a fall, and He will separate the light bearing souls from the dark souls! God in His infinite foreknowledge saw that the fall of the first man Adam would soon be realized! This is why Christ preached what was said in John 11: 9,10 "*Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because the light is not in him.'"* And also, in John 9: 4,5 *"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night [anti-Christ] cometh when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world."* Clearly, the light is Christ, and the night is the anti-Christ who will wage war against man and inspire him to do evil and to walk and stumble in spiritual darkness. That is why Paul wrote in his epistle to the Thessalonians "*Ye are all the children of the light and the children of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness*." (1 Thess., 5: 5)

In Part III of this paper, I will discuss in greater detail the mystical meaning of names and numbers in Holy Scripture. However, since we have already discussed to some extent the mystical meaning of the number 12, I will now elaborate more fully on this point to further our understanding of the number 12 in scripture. We see the 24-hour day is divided into two 12-hour periods, which can represent the twelve tribes of

Israel and the twelve Apostles and even Creation itself. In the creation we see there are 12 constellations. What are they? This is called the Zodiac, which is a belt-shaped region of the sky that extends approximately 8 degrees North and South celestial latitude of the ecliptic which is the apparent path of the Sun across the celestial sphere over the course of the year. What do we notice immediately? There are twelve signs representing 12 sectors of the sky. Hence, we see already the creator's foreknowledge of the 12 tribes of Israel followed by the 12 apostles who will preach the Gospel given to them from above! It is given to us by Christ, Who is Himself, the 8th day, the eternal day… the Resurrection Day that will inaugurate the eternal and 8th Age. And these twelve constellations are 8 degrees North and South Celestial Latitude, the apparent path of the sun across the celestial sphere over the course of the 12 months of the year. Coincidence? I think not! Men will be guided from above by the word of the Gospel from Christ, the 8th day. Also, you will notice that it extends by 8 degrees north and south. His number "8"- the eighth day! Science also tells us that there is a total of 88 constellations in the solar system! His number again, is 8 and 8! That is Christ the perfect Son of God in the Spirit and Perfect man in the flesh. These are His two natures! And of the 88 constellations 30 of them are visible with the naked eye. Is it a coincidence that thirty are visible? Christ began to preach and was then visible for all to see and hear Him at thirty years of age!

There are 24 hours in the day. And in those 24 hours of the day the scriptures speak of 8 hours of labor, then 8 hours of rest and finally 8 hours in contemplation of our Lord and God and Savior; 8 and 8 and 8 or 888 which numerically speaking is the number of Jesus Christ! Another coincidence? I think not! Also, Christ the King is of the lineage of King David who was the 8th son of Jesse. Hence from the root of Jesse shall come the King of Kings - Christ the Lord our Savior. He is our bread and wine! In Him we take our rest and in Him we will forever contemplate 888. Read Isaiah11:10: "*And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign to the people; to it shall the gentiles seek: and His rest shall be glorious*." And read also Rev. 22:16: "*I, Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright and morning Star*."

The first day of Creation when the Lord said, "*Let there be light*!" was a Sunday. Man was created on the 6th day which is Friday and God rested from all His works on the 7th day which is Saturday. The following day is the first day of the new week – Sunday, which in itself is the 8th day and thereby depicts Christ, the 8th day - the eternal day. It is the Day of the Resurrection of Christ, the 8th and eternal Day, where the sun

is Christ and never sets! He is the 8th, and Eternal and Everlasting Day. The Kingdom of the Most High God! Please see Revelation 22:5 “And t*here shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light...”*

We see this clearly again in the Holy Week, which is the new Creation Week. It begins with Palm Sunday; the new first day of the new creation when Christ enters triumphantly into Jerusalem as the Light of the World! On the 6th day He was crucified; for man on that day was restored through the Blood of The Sacrificial Lamb! On the 7th day He descended into hell having finished His work in the world; essentially resting from His works in the world. “*...It is finished*. *And bowed His head, and gave up the ghost.*” (John19:30) Therefore the following day, Sunday, is both the first day of the new week and the 8th Day as well as the Resurrection Day; the beginning of the eternal and everlasting Day - the 8th Age!

At this point, we must fully discuss and elaborate on Genesis 1: 3-5 (which will give us a better understanding of the scriptures and of the primary feast days when we begin our discussion of these events). “And God said, “*Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day and the darkness He called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day*.” What is the significance of the words “*Let there be light*”? It is the declaration of life! Christ is declaring that He will bring forth life into His creation. “*In Him was life, and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4).* And it can be said conversely that spiritual darkness is the absence of spiritual light and is spiritual death*, “And the light shineth in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not*.” (John 1: 5) Let us for a moment recall the parable of the Samaritan woman who was asked by Christ for water “*Jesus, therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour. There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus saith unto her, ‘Give me to drink’* (John 4: 6,7) It is written that it was the sixth hour of the day, which is high noon, when the sun is at its highest point and therefore directly above Christ. It is as if the sun was crying out and pointing to Christ and saying, “*Behold! the Light of the world*!”

Hence, Christ is life itself, and this life is the light of men. “Then spake Jesus again unto them saying, “I am the light of the world: He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life.” (John 8: 12) Christ gives light to every man that comes into the world. “*That was the true Light which lighteth to every man that cometh into the world*.” (John 1:9) Christ commanded and it was done! He created all

that was made! Instantaneously! "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made." (John 1: 1-3) After each stage of His creation He sanctifies it with the words "it was good." Christ wills, He creates and He judges (it was good). All comes forth by the Will of the Father, the Son and the Holy spirit the three persons of the One God. God is the Giver of life. He creates life in the air, in the water and on the land. The Holy Trinity is revealed in His creation; therefore, Jesus, as the Creator, separates the natural light from the natural darkness, as stated above in Gen. 1:4,5, and He will separate the light-bearing souls from the dark souls. See John 1:5 above and also Math 25: 32-33: "*And before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left*." Now in the same vein of thought, the opposite of high noon is when the sun is at its lowest point, and all is then in darkness. And so will it be also with the souls who reject the Light - Jesus Christ. Such souls are ruled by the powers of darkness, the anti-Christ, who is in direct opposition to this Light which is Life and the Light of men. Again, refer to John 1:4 above… Those who reject Christ reject the Light of Life! Metaphorically, we see this separation in Gen. 1: 4,5 (above). In Genesis it is written of a natural separation of day and night and light and darkness: but in the end, on the last day, there will be a separation of light-bearing souls from the dark souls. And on this last day Christ will crush under His feet the powers of darkness and all spiritual enemies of goodness and righteousness "*The LORD said to my Lord, 'Sit thou at My right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool*." (Ps. 110:1)

On the 6th day, which is a Friday, He creates man from the dust of the earth. "A*nd God said 'Let Us make man in Our image: after Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth*." (Gen 1: 26) "*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul."* (Gen. 2:7) Now, on the 7th day God rested from all His works and this was the Sabbath Saturday- the day of rest. "*Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because that in it he had rested from all his work which God had created and made*." (Gen. 2: 3) The creation day is called by Moses and the Fathers the "One Day" because it has primacy over the other days since all came forth from the first day, therefore, the 8th day is Sunday again, and it is repeated every 8 days. Sunday is symbolic of the eternal Kingdom where there is no

sunset and, therefore, no next day! This is the day that Adam and Eve, had they not fallen, would have evolved along with the creation itself. Heaven and earth would have been united, and the creation would have been almost fully spiritual! Christ through the Incarnation came to redeem mankind and the creation and to restore it in Himself. This will happen on the last day ushering in the eternal day, the 8th day, the eternal Age! "And he who sat on the throne said, "*Behold I make all things new*." (Rev. 21: 5) "*Also, there shall be no night; and they need no candle neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light : and they shall reign forever and ever*." (Rev. 22: 5) We now begin to see the mystery of the 8th day, and we will now come to understand more fully how it will be revealed to us in the three primary feast days. Hence, the 8th day- the eternal day to come- is Sunday! Resurrection Sunday! The Day of renewal and everlasting life, the eternal age, the 8th age!

The Holy Fathers call the 6th day the Hebrew age… the age of the Law… which was given by Moses to help guide men to salvation. The law was broken as no man can fulfill the law except the Godman Jesus Christ! He came Who was the Living Law and fulfilled the law as only God could do. As expressed in the Gospel of Matthew 3:13-15 "*Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbade him, saying. 'I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?' And Jesus answering said unto him, 'Suffer it to be so now, for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness…*'" The term "*all righteousness"* is referring to the Law! (We will return to this point later in this book.) The Godman Himself was rejected and despised by men and was crucified. But Christ gave us His Church, His Body and Blood which began the 7th Age, the Militant Church, for man will undergo great spiritual warfare to win paradise and so enter the Eternal Day; the Eternal age; the 8th Age - The Sunday of Sundays, the Eternal day and the Sunday which will have no sunset! This is what John meant when he cried out "*Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*!" (Math 3:2) "*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." (*Ephesians 6:12)

We are not yet ready to begin our narrative on the 60 Feast days and events in Christ's Life and Ministry. We must yet further elaborate to some extent, on the hidden revelation that is mystically concealed in the names and numbers of Holy Scripture! And in so doing we will indeed broaden our understanding of our Orthodox Faith and the teaching of the Holy Fathers. It will further reveal certain mysteries that would

otherwise remain hidden! This would be most unfortunate since it could deprive the inquisitive reader the gift of experiencing and obtaining a greater understanding of the Grace, richness and true meaning of the Faith as revealed in Holy Scripture, and as taught and expounded upon by the Holy Fathers and Doctors of the Church!
It will become readily evident that it will not only afford the reader to more fully understand the Gospels and Feast days and events in Christ's life and ministry but also to gain a deeper understanding of the Old Testament. Part Three of this paper will reveal more extensively the mystical knowledge hidden in the names and numbers in Scripture.

As expounded above: Then we are sons of the Day, we are the children of God and live in Christ, the Eternal Day, the 8th day- the 8th and everlasting age! Whereas the sons of darkness will be cast into the outer darkness! The 8th age, the eternal age is the Triumphant Church! It is the Church of the faithful who are members of His Glorious Body and, therefore, enjoy all that God ordained for His children; for all who love Him unconditionally! Its members are those who triumphed over the world and won their crowns of victory over the devil. As Christ entered triumphantly into Jerusalem so the faithful enter triumphantly into the Heavenly Jerusalem! The faithful are those who picked up their Cross and followed Christ and fulfilled the command of Christ. "*Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me*" (Math 16: 24) He also said, "Do as I do" (John 13:15). "*Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me*" (John 16: 33) Christ, will be our Father and we will be His children, and His Mother is our Mother because Christ took His body from His All Holy and Ever-Virgin Mother and His Flesh became ours at our baptism in Christ! Hence, She becomes our Mother, as well!" O what joy awaits for those who love Him! "*He that eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood dwelleth in Me, and I in him*." (John 6: 56)

It must be our will then to want to be his children; to be children of light and not of the night. Remember in the Gospel of John where he talks about the man born blind, that is, without eyes? And what did Christ say about this? *"I I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.* "(John 9:4-7) Christ

is saying that he is the light of the world and the faithful are filled with this light and are able to do good works. But he goes on to say "*that the night is coming and no one can work*!" This means as opposite as the night is from the day, so is the Antichrist opposite of Christ our Lord and Savior. Therefore, he who has the light has the life of Christ in him and he who has not the light has the darkness in him which is unto everlasting death and damnation. "I*n him was life, and the life was the light of men."* (John 1:4)

We see that those who overcome the world will share in the resurrection of Christ and will enter into the eternal age of everlasting joy and happiness. But while we are in the world, we are at warfare, a spiritual warfare, with Satan and his minions! This is the age of the militant Church, and He gave us the greatest weapon against the evil one - His Cross! Christ anointed us through baptism, and we were then enlisted in His army. He gave us our weapons which is the Cross and our garment - our uniform - was Christ! *"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ*" (Galatians 3:27) The age of the Militant Church is the seventh age that which is the age of spiritual warfare in the Church. The 8th age is the Triumphant Church. This is the Kingdom of Heaven given to those who overcome the world through Christ! The Jews, the Hebrew people, were given the light but they rejected it. What is our understanding of the Jewish religion? The Hebrew religion is the sixth age, the age of the law of Moses, which was a guide to Christ the living law. The law, says the holy Fathers, was like a tutor, or you might say a finger pointing the way to Christ, the living law, since only He could fulfill the law. This is why Christ answered John when John exclaimed: "*I have need to be baptized of Thee..*"! (see Matthew 3:14) and only through Him could the law be fulfilled. No man can live and not break the law! Only through Him can the law be fulfilled. Again, **no man can live and not break the law**. Therefore, those who are baptized unto Christ fulfill the law through Christ by Grace, that is, through His labors and not ours. The Jews chose darkness over the light. And who are the sons of darkness of the night, that is, sons of the devil? They are those who hate the Light, who war against Christ and against those who follow Him and share in His life. The sons of the devil are those who reject Christ the Son of the Living God *" I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of*

fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not. "(John 8:37-45)

You see, the devil is the serpent that deceived Eve in the garden. And Christ called these Pharisees sons of the devil - their father. This is exactly what John the Baptizer said to the Pharisees and Sadducees when coming to his baptism, "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said unto them, 'O generation of vipers'…" (Math 3: 7) John calls them *vipers* because they are the offspring of satan the serpent! The faithful in Christ are sons of the Day; they are sons of the Light. Whereas the unfaithful, the non-believers are sons of the night, the children of the devil. What did John say about this? He said, "*And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not."* (John 1: 5) We first see this in Gen. 1: 4,5: "*And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day and the darkness He called Night. So, evening and morning were the first day*." It was the beginning of the ages! Just as God divided the light from the darkness so shall He separate the sons of the Day from the sons of the night on the last day! "*When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*;" (Math 25: 31-34)

It should be noted that when Christ said He will separate the Day from the Night He doesn't mean that the night was itself evil because there was no evil in the world in the beginning! It was a natural darkness as opposed to the unnatural night of the last day when the Lord will separate the sons of the Day from the sons of the night! St Basil the great wrote that the highest contemplation of the soul was when he saw the Light as three and the three as One simultaneously! And beyond that was darkness and this Darkness he called the 'Divine Darkness' Because no one can see God in His Essence without being God Himself and this is impossible! However, we are *godlike* and we can

see His Glory and (up to the extent that we are able, for beyond that is darkness) the Divine realm!

As children of God, then we are heirs of God*, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.* (Romans 8: 14-17) And how do we suffer with Him? We endure with patience against unjust persecution. We bless those who curse us. We forgive our enemies, that is, we hate the sins but not the sinner! Christ said in Math 16: 24 "*Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me*." Also in Math 10: 38: "*And he who taketh not his cross and followeth after me is not worthy of me.*" Also, take heed of what the Lord taught in Math. 7:12 "*Therefore, all things whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets*."

Now it was on the 6th day, that is Friday, that God made man in His image and likeness. He did so after He first created the cosmos and the earth where man was planted to live and grow and enjoy all the wonders that God had prepared for him. And it was also on a Friday that Jesus the new Adam came forth from the new Eve, the Ever and All Holy Virgin Mary! The Lord prepared a special place for Adam called paradise! Now, in the beginning, that part of the earth was called The Garden of Eden which means *garden of delight*. It was an elevated place like a mountain. And does not every king throughout history establish his palace high above his subjects? Adam who, like God, would be a king who could look over and rule his kingdom "*And God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creepeth on the earth… And God blessed them, and God said unto them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it: have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.'... And God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."* (Gen. 1: 26, 28, 31) And in Gen. 2: 1-3 "*Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had made.*

And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it; because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made."

When Adam fell, however, he was cast out of Paradise. *"So, he drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and the flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life*." (Genesis 3: 24) There, say the Holy Fathers, Adam sat on a large rock and contemplated his state with great sadness and regret! The act of sitting upon a rock was a prophetic message that Christ, the New Adam, the Living Rock, would establish His church **upon the rock** through whom Adam and Eve will be restored in Christ, their creator thereby bearing once again his image and likeness! "…*And upon this rock I will build my Church,* " (Mathew 16:18) Read also Exodus 17: 6 - "*Behold I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall water come out of it, that the people may drink…*". And when Christ was on the cross, did they not strike our Lord, the Living Rock on his side? And did not come forth water and blood? For the Lord said of this *"Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day*. " (John 6: 54)

Adam was now cast out of the Holy mountain, the garden of Eden, only to be restored in the Heavenly mountain of Mount Zion in Christ. Zion means "*all together"* where all those saved in Christ are one body, the living Church, with Christ at the head of the Church! But until that great day comes, Christ gave us another holy mountain in the world so we can contemplate that which one day will be the heavenly mountain- mountain Zion- the kingdom of heaven. This holy mountain in the world is Mount Zion. The fathers teach us that the Holy Mother was in a boat with the apostle Paul when a storm sent the boat to the three peaked mountain of Agion Oros (known as Mount Athos). There the Holy Mother exclaimed that one day men will come there to pray and worship her Son in all righteousness and that she will be its queen! Hence, upon Agion Oros, we will have our King and Queen, to remind the faithful of the heavenly Paradise what is promised to those who love them!

The creation day is called by Moses and the Holy Fathers the "One Day" because it has primacy over the other days of the creation narrative since all came forth from the One Day"- that is the first day. Therefore, the 8th day is Sunday - the first day repeated. It is repeated every 8 days! Sunday is symbolic of the Eternal Kingdom where there is no sunset and, therefore, no next day! This is the Day that Adam and Eve, had they not fallen, would have spiritually evolved along with the creation itself!

Heaven and earth would have been united, and the creation would have been almost fully spiritual! Christ through the Incarnation came to redeem mankind and the creation and restore it in Himself. "*For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now*." (Romans 8: 20-22) This will happen on the last day ushering in the eternal day, the 8th day, the eternal age… the 8th and eternal age! "*And he who sat upon the throne said "Behold I make all things new..."* (Rev 21:5) Also read Rev, 22:5: "*And there shall be no night there; they need no candle neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light: And they shall reign forever and ever*." We are now beginning to see the mystery of the 8th day, and we will come to understand more fully how it will be revealed to us in the primary feast days! The 8th day, the eternal day, is Sunday -the Resurrection Sunday - the Day of renewal and everlasting life, the eternal age… the 8th age!

The Holy Fathers call the 6th day the Hebrew age! The age of the Law which was given by Moses to help guide men to salvation. This is the Hebrew religion, which was not catholic, that is, not a universal religion but meant only for the Jews through whom God chose to bring forth the Messiah - the Savior of the world. It was Abraham and those who followed him who became the Jewish people. And those who did not follow Abraham became known as the gentiles! It should also be noted that the Jewish religion was the giving of the Law to Moses as a guide to salvation in the coming of the Savior, the Messiah! Through Christ's redemptive work and through His Blood came the catholic faith, that is the *universal* religion; the Holy Catholic and Apostolic Orthodox Church. The law of Moses, that is, the 10 Commandments given to him on Mt. Sinai by Christ, Who is Himself, the Author of the law; not for our actual salvation but, rather, as a guide to a righteous life! No one can live and not break the law! The law was given as a guide, a tutor, you might say, to a righteous God-fearing life! It was a path to Christ in preparation for the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One, to lead the Jews to Christ, through Moses, who himself, was a Christ like figure. Moses prophesied to the Jews that One greater than himself will come Whom they must listen to. "*The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear…"* (Deut. 18:15). Truly no man can fulfill the law of Moses, that is, the ten Commandments, but the Godman Jesus Christ Himself! He came who was Himself, the Living Law and fulfilled the law as only God can do. "*Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. And John tried to prevent*

*Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me? But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." (*Math 3:13-15*)* What did Jesus mean when He said the following to the Jews? "…*to fulfill all righteousness*"? John knew that Jesus was truly the Son of God and had no sin and, therefore, had no need of confession and repentance. John's divine mission was to prepare the way of the Lord Who is the Kingdom of Heaven. "…*and saying, "Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand!" For this is he who was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.' … and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins*." (Math 3:2,3,6) John then by preaching to the multitudes "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" knew very well by these words that Jesus Himself was indeed the kingdom of heaven! And when Jesus began His own ministry He also began with the same words "Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." However, When Christ spoke these words He was referring to Himself. Math 18:23 "the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king…" Christ indeed is the King! He is the King of kings and Lord of Lords" Rev.19:16 and Ps 10:16 "The Lord is King forever and ever;"

When Jesus said to John at His baptism *"Let it be to fulfill all righteousness*!" He was actually saying that no one can fulfill the law of Moses except the Author of the law, Christ Himself! All souls that accept Christ and His saving mission and are baptized unto Him become then members of His Body! And in so doing share in Christ's sinlessness, in His death and Resurrection and in His victory over sin, death and corruption but through His Grace! We are saved by His labors! And since Christ is the Rock the Chief cornerstone then those, through the mystery of baptism, become members of His body, that is, rocks also! Read 1Peter 2:4,5 "*Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house…"* Also, this is what the Lord meant when He said in John 14:2 *"In My Father's house are many mansions*;" Clearly what the Lord meant by mansions is an eternal and spiritual dwelling place that exists in Himself. He has prepared in Himself a place for those who love Him! Read what John said *"But now I come to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves. "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; "that they all may be one, as You Father, are in Me, and I in you; that they also might be one in Us, that the world might believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as we are one. I in them, and You in Me, that they may be made perfect in one,*

and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You loved Me." (John 17:13, 20-23, 24, 26)

It should now be quite evident that we are truly saved by His labors and not ours! So, what was Jesus actually doing then when He permitted John to baptize Him in the waters of the Jordan River? Jesus, by entering the waters of the Jordan, was not being washed clean, of which He clearly had no need of, but rather He washed the waters clean! More accurately, He was sanctifying the waters! He sanctified the waters by the Holy Spirit which dwells in His bosom since He is the temple of the Holy Spirit. And what did our Lord do in the very beginning of the creation? "*And the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters. Then God said "Let there be light" (*Gen. 1:2,3) And what is this Light but the life in Him which is the light of men. "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men." (John 1:4) We see this prophetically in Ex. 15:23-25 "*Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah for they were bitter. Therefore, the name of it was called Marah [means bitter]. And the people murmured against Moses, saying "What shall we drink?" So, he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree; and when he cast it into the waters, the waters were made sweet*…" Clearly the "tree" pre-figures the Cross which became the Tree of Life by the Blood of the Lamb at His crucifixion which was made clean by the washing of His Blood! This is why at baptism the priest first sanctifies the waters of baptism by making the sign of the cross in the water by his hand! And so, the waters of the Jordan were blessed and sanctified by Christ the temple of the Holy Spirit. He took upon Himself the curse that was placed on the waters, when God washed away the sinners of the world! *"For after seven more days I will cause it to rain on the earth forty days and forty nights, and I will blot out from the face of the earth every living thing I made. So, Noah did all the Lord God commanded him." (*Gen. 7:4,5) As God used the waters to wash away and destroy the sinners of the world He now through His baptism washes away the curse that was on the waters, thereby, sanctifying it with His Grace the Holy Spirit. Christ then took upon Himself the curse and the bitterness of our sins so that He may nail the curse and sin to the Cross which then became a source of life, that is, the Tree of Life! *"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become the curse for us; for it is written*, "*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree*" (Gal. 3:13) Read also Deut. 21:23 "*his body shall not remain overnight on the tree, but you shall surely bury him that day; for he who is hanged on a tree is accursed of God;…"* Christ through His baptism washed away the sin, death and corruption by His Immaculate Blood; which one drop could burn the universe! This is why it is said in scripture now the prince of this world is cast out "*Now is the judgement of this world; the ruler of this world will be cast out." (*John 12:31) Christ became the curse and bore

upon Himself all our sins from the first man Adam to the last man yet to be born! Therefore, on the Cross Christ nailed unto it sin, death and corruption. This is the meaning of (666) . Christ made man in His image and after His own likeness. However, satan in his absolute hatred of God and His image was set on destroying the man who was created on the sixth day. Satan was determined that man shall bear his dark and foul image. And since Christ is not guilty of any sin He essentially paid the price of sin which is death. He was the ramson for humanity! "*For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (*Mark 10:45) Christ came to fulfill the law as a perfect man in the flesh while always being perfect God in the Spirit. Since the law of Moses dictates death to those who break the law which no one, born of a woman, can avoid. The Son of God, out His boundless love and compassion for His children, allowed Himself to be born as a perfect man of the All Holy and ever virgin Mary! He took His flesh from Her immaculate Blood after She was baptized by the overshadowing upon Her of the All Holy Spirit. Therefore, His immaculate and sinless Blood on the tree washed the sins of humanity! He was sent into the world for this purpose, to die for our sins, to pay the price of sin which is death! It was the will of the Father to send the Son into the world and it was the will of the Son to be sent and it was the will of the Holy Spirit that the Son should be sent since the Spirit dwells in the bosom of the Son Who in turn rests in the bosom of the Father. The Holy Trinity have the same Will and share the same Essence! Our Lord was obedient unto death to pay the debt of sin on behalf of fallen humanity. "*And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." (*Phil. 2:8) But His death was a deathless death "Athanatos!" as said in the Greek Resurrection hymn "Christos Anesti...", that is, "*Christ has risen!*" Therefore, in baptism we share in His death and in His Resurrection! Christ, through His Crucifixion and Resurrection from death, gave humanity a new law "The Law of Grace" -which dictates life- through the Immaculate Blood of the Immaculate Sacrificial Lamb Jesus Christ. "*The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold!" The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."* (John 1:29)

Christ, upon giving up the Spirit, by His own will, descended into hell to fulfill the law of Moses which teaches that no sinner can dwell in Paradise. He preached to the souls in hell and all those souls that heard and believed were saved. Prior to the Lord's descent into hell John was already preaching to these souls preparing them for the coming of the Lamb as he did while in the world. And all those souls that heard Christ and believed were saved and were then baptized by a drop of His Immaculate Blood that the angel of the Lord was commanded to take from the Cross, the Tree of Life!

Clearly, we can readily see that Christ was not only the High Priest but also the Sacrificial Lamb! He was the Offeror and the Offered! In Judaism the priests were called "*Christ*", which is a Hebrew word that means the anointed one. It is known that at the pool of Bethesda, where an angel of the Lord would come down and stir the waters, whomever stepped in first was healed of whatever malady he was suffering. There was an underground freshwater spring that not only supplied water for the pool, but it was also the spring where the Jewish priests went to wash the sacrificial lambs that had no spot nor blemish for the sacrifice. As written above, Christ, Who is the True Sacrificial Lamb, had no need to be cleansed but rather by entering the water at His baptism by John, He cleansed the waters! When the angel of the Lord stirred the waters of the pool only one soul was healed. However, when Christ entered into the waters… the whole human race was healed! Through Baptism in Christ we are restored in His image and likeness more fully again. We once again wear the garment of His glorious light. "*I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire*." (Math. 3:11)

The Godman Himself was rejected and despised by men and was crucified! But Christ gave us His Church His Body and Blood which began the 7th age, that being, the Militant Church; for man will undergo great spiritual warfare to win Paradise to enter into the Eternal Day, that is, the Eternal Age, that is, the 8th Age, the Sunday of Sundays, the Eternal Age, the Sunday which will have no sunset! This is what John meant when he cried out *"Repent ye, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."*(Math 3:2) "*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* (Eph 6:12) And what is this eternal day that the faithful struggle to enter into while yet in this world? It is the 8th and eternal age. However, this age is the militant age! It is the 7th age. It is the age of spiritual warfare. This is the militant church from which the victorious shall ascend and enter into the triumphant age, The Triumphant Church, the 8th age - the eternal day where there is no sunset and therefore, **no next day**! "*There shall be no night there: They need no lamp or light of the sun,for the Lord gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever."*(Rev. 22:5) These blessed souls who are citizens of that ever-blessed eternal day who possess and achieve true love of God and neighbor! "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' "This is the first and great commandment. "And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

“On these two commandments hang all the law and the Prophets.” (Math. 22:36-40) This is the meaning of the two beams of the Cross! First the love of God and the second represents the love of neighbor who is made in the image of God. And who loves man more than Christ, who is perfect man in the flesh?... and… Who loves God more than Christ, who is perfect God in the Spirit? And this is the Godman Jesus Christ. He is perfect man and perfect God as one but without confusion. And so, the two beams of the Cross intersect as one and yet remain two! We can more readily see what has been written thus far in “*Wisdom built her house, and she supported it with seven pillars*.” (Prov. 9:1) And the prophet Isaiah wrote “*There shall come forth a rod from the root of Jesse, and a flower shall grow out of his root. The Spirit of God shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of council and might, the Spirit of knowledge and godliness. The Spirit of the fear of God.”* (Is. 11:1-3) Hence, it begins with the fear of God and ends with the seventh pillar -Wisdom. And what is this flower that shall grow out of the root of Jesse? The Bridegroom has become a flower, that is, a mortal (this is the Incarnation). The Son of God becomes a man. ”*I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.”* (Song Of Songs 2:1). St. Anthony the Great said, “I no longer fear God I love Him!” The love of God is the 8th virtue of the Holy Spirit. It begins with fear then, as Isaiah wrote, ascends to the 7th virtue which is wisdom. Hence, as written, Wisdom has built her house on 7 pillars. However, in the 8th age the blessed souls have achieved the virtue of the true love of God the highest and 8th virtue. Therefore, the seven virtues of the Holy Spirit begin with the fear of God and rises to the wisdom of God while in this world of spiritual warfare the militant age. But in The Kingdom of Heaven, which is Christ the King, “...*the Kingdom of heaven is like a certain King…”* (Math. 18: 23) A righteous soul which loves God while yet in the world the 7th age reaches a perfect love of God without distraction in the 8th and everlasting day in Christ our Lord and King!

Christ is Holy Wisdom “*Christ the power of God and the Wisdom of God.”* (1Cor. 1:24) And He built His house… and what is this House? The house is first the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Secondly, His House is the Church, and this house is built on Christ, the Mother of God and on the apostles and the prophets. And Christ Himself is the Chief Cornerstone. “...*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone;* ” (Eph. 2:20) Christ is the Light of the world! And This Light is a spiritual light which gives life… “*In Him was life and the life was the light of men.”* (John 1:4) And it can be said conversely that spiritual darkness is the absence of spiritual light and is a spiritual death. “*And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.”* (John 1:5) Let us for a

moment recall the parable of the Samaritan woman who was asked by Christ for water; "…*Jesus, therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour. A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give Me a drink'"* (John 4: 6,7) It is written that it was the sixth hour of the day which is high noon when the sun is at its highest point and, therefore, directly above Christ. It is as if the sun in the heavens was crying out and; pointing to Christ and declaring, "*Behold the Light of the world!" "…I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of Life."* (John 8:12)

Therefore, as the Creator, Jesus Christ separated the natural light from the natural darkness as stated in Gen 1:4-5. And so, He will separate the light bearing souls from the dark souls. See also John 1:5 "*And the light shineth in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not."* And Math 25:32,33 ""*And before him shall be gathered all nations; and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: and He shall set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left*." Now in the same vein of thought the opposite of high noon is when the sun is at its lowest point and all then is in darkness. And so, it will be with the souls who reject the Light - Jesus Christ! Such souls are ruled by powers of darkness, the anti-Christ, who is in direct opposition to this Light which is life and is the light of men as written in John 1:4 above. Those who reject Christ reject the Light of life as written in John 1:5 and quoted above. Metaphorically, we see this separation in Genesis 1:4-5 as also written above. In Genesis it is written of a natural separation of day and night and light and darkness; but in the end, on the last day, at the sounding of the final trumpet, there will be a separation of the light bearing souls from the dark souls. *"…in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."(*1Cor 15:52) And on this last day Christ will crush under His feet the powers of darkness and all spiritual enemies of goodness and righteousness *"The Lord said to me Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make your enemies your footstool*." (Psalm 110: 1)

Read what Matthew writes in chapter 8 verse 12 "*But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* 'The children of the kingdom' are the Jews who reject the Light of the world -Jesus Christ- and will be cast out into the outer darkness with all the unbelievers. *"And this is the condemnation, that light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil*." (John 3:19) Look what the great Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians *"Ye are all the children of the light and the children of*

the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness." (1Thes 5:5) Also read Eph 5:8 "*For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of the light:"* You see, if we are sons of the Day we are the children of God and live in Christ - the Eternal Day, the 8th day, that is, the 8th and everlasting Age - whereas the sons of darkness will be cast into the outer darkness. Read again, John 3:19 **"*And this is the condemnation, that light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil*."** "*Through the tender mercy of our God, where the Dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death; to guide our feet into the way of peace."* (Luke 1:78,79) *"While ye have light, believe in the light that ye may be the children of light."* (John 12:36)

The 8th age then is the eternal age. It is the Triumphant Age - the Triumphant Church! It is the Church of the faithful who are members of His Glorious Body and, therefore, enjoy all that God has ordained for His children, for all who love Him unconditionally! Its members are those who triumphed over the world and won their crowns of victory over the devil. And as Christ entered triumphantly into Jerusalem so the faithful will enter triumphantly into the Heavenly Jerusalem! The faithful are those who picked up their Cross and followed Christ and fulfilled the command of Christ. *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"* (Math 16:24) He also said, "*Do as I do*" The faithful then share in His victory! *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me"* (John 16:33) Christ will be our Father and we will be His children, and His Mother is our Mother because Christ took His Flesh from His All Holy and ever Virgin Mother and His Flesh became ours at our baptism in Christ! It is written in ODE IX in the Canon for Holy Communion; "*God took flesh of Thy pure blood*;" Hence, Her womb is the baptismal Font of the Church. "*Rejoice Womb of the Divine Incarnation*," (taken from the Akathist to the Holy Theotokos). Also, *"Rejoice, thou who dost depict the image of the font*." This too, is from the Akathist to the Holy Theotokos therefore, She becomes our Mother, as well! Read the third verse of the CREED "*Who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became a man*."

Christ, the Son of God, in the Spirit, took upon Himself, at the Incarnation, flesh from the blood of the Ever and All Virgin Mary. And as the Church teaches, the Holy Spirit overshadowed the Holy Virgin Mary; and at that moment She was baptized by

the Holy Spirit and, consequently, was set free from the consequences of the original sin and was made Immaculate! Her Immaculate Blood became then the new living virgin dust from which God fashioned from this Holy clay, the new Adam, Jesus Christ! Christ being perfect God in the Spirit became simultaneously a perfect man in the flesh! Christ became the Godman through Whom shall come the salvation of the human race. And since Eve took her flesh, that is, her body from the rib of Adam, she is essentially then, the rib of Adam as are all women, thereafter, the rib of Adam! “Thus God brought a trance upon Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and filled up the flesh in its place. Then the Lord God built the rib He took from Adam into a woman, and brought her to him. So Adam said. This is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called women, because she was taken out of man. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.” (Gen. 2:21-24) Marriage is a great mystery since it points to the marriage of Christ and His Bride the Church. For Christ left His Father and became man to seek a Bride. And He loved His Bride and gave Himself for Her. The Apostle John saw this Bride as the “New Jerusalem” coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a Bride adorned for Her Husband” (Rev.21:2) Christ showed in the Gospel that He is God the creator when He built up twelve baskets of fish and bread from two fishes and five loaves of bread. (John 6:13) Also, when He made eyes out of spittle from clay with saliva; and anointed the eyes of the blind man who was born without eyes. (John 9:6) The All-Holy Mother then is also the rib of Adam because She came forth from a mother and the seed of a man. Therefore, She also inherited the consequences of the fall but was set free at the Incarnation by the Holy Spirit as expounded above!

Hence, through the Incarnation begins the new creation through the Virgin Mary, the new Eve, and Her Son and Savior Jesus Christ. The first Eve was disobedient unto death and corruption through sin. When she gave council to Adam to partake of the forbidden fruit all was lost! This is why a woman cannot give council, that is, teach or preach in the Church because through her council came death and corruption. Read 1 Tim. 2:12-15 “And I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, but to be in silence. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived fell into transgression. Nevertheless she will be saved in childbearing if they continue in faith, love, and holiness, with self control.” And since she sheds blood monthly she cannot partake of the Blood of the Lamb! Whereas, the New Eve, The Ever Virgin Mary was obedient to the will of God as She cried out “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be according to your word.” (Luke

1:38) The new Adam Jesus Christ Who is perfect God in the Spirit and perfect man in the flesh - having two natures yet God but not confused. He is the Godman, the Savior! Now through the new Adam, Jesus Christ, mortality and corruption are set aside! “For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” (1Cor. 15:53) This is what Paul meant when he said in Gal. 3:27 “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” We are saved through the new Adam and new Eve. We foresee this in the prophetic names of the parents of the Holy Mother Joachim and Anna. The name Joachim means “To be restored!” and the name Anna means “Grace of God” Hence, man will be restored through the Grace of God through their offspring the Virgin Mary and Her Son God Incarnate!

Through the great miracle of the Incarnation, the womb of the Virgin Mary became the new Garden of Eden and in it God planted the New Adam Jesus Christ just as He once planted the first man Adam in the garden of Eden. What a great miracle this is! When the Holy Mother conceived by the Holy Spirit, Christ, in Her Womb She essentially, over a period of nine months, weaved the living veil to cover the Divinity of Christ. And at the same time, by the requests of the temple priests, weaved with her hands the scarlet veil to cover the entrance to the Holy of Holies. Clearly, She is greater than the temple made by hands and She, while in the Holy of Holies until she was 14 years of age, was sanctifying the Holy of Holies! When the Holy Mother gave birth to our Lord in the cave, He came forth as Light as She cried out at that moment “Behold the Light of the world!” And when our Lord gave up the Spirit at the Crucifixion the temple veil tore in two and God came forth for all humanity not just the Jews. Indeed, with God all things are possible.

O what joy awaits for those who love Him! “*He that eatest My flesh and drinketh My Blood dwelleth in Me, and I in him.*” (John 6:56) Christ our Lord is the Wellspring of eternal life! And those who drink from this Fountain of living water, that is, His Blood, shall receive inconceivable joy and power of life. And what did Christ say to the Samaritan women; *“Jesus answered and said unto her. If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, give Me to drink. ‘thou wouldst have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water.”* (John 4:10)

We can see further symbolism in the 12-hour days. After the fall of Adam and his descendants the world was thrust into the spiritual darkness but was given hope that the light will once again shine in the souls of men and, of course, then you have a new

heaven and a new earth. "*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away…"* (Revelation 21:1) It should be understood that the first earth was different before the fall. It was incorruptible and materially different! Adam and Eve shined like the sun, and they saw each other shining with the great light. And the garden of Eden was heaven on earth. Had men not fallen, then man and all of creation would have changed into a more spiritual state and the whole of creation would have been joined into the heavenly Paradise; into the eternal age. This point will be elaborated more later in this book. In Genesis 1:5 where God separates the day from the night and as discussed above you will notice that day and night are capitalized! Because it was a natural light and a natural darkness which existed before the fall, they could be seen as metaphors for good and evil! "*And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."* (Gen 1:31) The darkness which connotates evil came after the fall of Adam!

The Lord, the creator, promised Adam that in his seed shall come forth the Savior, the Redeemer and the Creator Who will refashion all of creation to what it was before the fall and raise it up to Heaven even more glorious and incorruptible! We can read and understand this in Christ's dialogue with Satan and the woman, Eve. "*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her Seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."* (Genesis 3:15) You will observe in this passage that the word seed in "*between thy seed*" is not capitalized because it is evil, whereas the word seed in "her Seed" **is** capitalized because it refers to Christ the new Adam in whom all creation will be restored*. "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ… For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ*." (Galatians 3:16; 26-27) Now the serpent's seed are those who reject Christ and follow the devil. "*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.* (John 8:44) "*He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.* "(I John 3:8)

The new Adam would restore that which was changed for the worse through the disobedience of the first man Adam. But in the beginning, everything that was made, was "*and God saw everything that he had made and, behold, it was very good*."

(Genesis 1:31) Man was ordained to be children of the Day, which is Christ, Who is the eternal and everlasting Day. And the natural darkness was the world before the fall. "*In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men*. " (John 1: 14)

I think it would behoove us at this point to examine how and in what manner Christ manifested himself in the world in order to bring about the salvation of man and creation! As Adam was first formed from the virgin dust on the earth since there was not as yet, sin or corruption. He was formed as a complete man and the Lord then breathed into him the breath of life, a soul, made in the image and likeness of his Creator. "*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness…"* (Genesis 1: 26). "*And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul*…" (Genesis 2: 7,8) In verse 8 we learn that "*the Lord God planted the first man Adam eastward in the Garden of Eden*…" (which means life!) So, in a similar fashion the new Adam, Jesus Christ, was formed not just from virgin soil but from **living** virgin soil, from the blood of the Ever-Virgin Mary. And upon being so formed he was then planted in the new garden of Eden, the womb of the Holy Virgin Mary! And there he grew until the time of his coming forth! This is clearly revealed to us in the third verse of the creed, *"who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and became incarnate of the holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary, and became a man*. "Eve came forth from the rib of Adam which was living dust! So, Christ took back the rib in the incarnation as described in the Creed. Mary however, through the Incarnation with the Holy Spirit was cleansed of the consequences of original sin and then bore, as a result, in Her womb the Son of God in the flesh from Her blood. This is fully expressed in ODE IX of the Preparation Prayers for Holy Communion. "*God took flesh of Her pure blood;"* Through the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit The Virgin became Immaculate by the Fire of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, She conceived in her womb immaculately the Son of the Living God without any taint of sin. Christ is perfect man in the flesh, and perfect God in the Spirit! Christ by taking upon Himself the flesh of the Virgin, who is the rib of Adam, gave birth to the new Adam who bore not just the image and likeness of the Father but, rather, fully the image and likeness of the Father. He is "*Light of Light, very God of very God*…" verse II of the Creed. Mary became the new virgin soil by which the new Adam would be formed and planted into the new garden of Eden (LIFE)…the womb of the virgin!

Therefore, the Virgin Mary was the daughter of the Father, the mother of His Son and the bride of the Holy Spirit.

Adam was cast out of Paradise because of disobedience and sin and thrust into that which became a corrupt world under sin, death and corruption. Adam and his descendants would now be forever under the yoke of sin, death and corruption, unless God, in his infinite love and mercy could intervene. Since only the creator and fashioner of all that was made can recreate and refashion all that was made, now through sin Adam was cast out of paradise, from the garden of Eden, into a fallen and corrupt world. Because man sinned and was unrepentant, he entered into a fallen state; he was cast out of Paradise. And being in a corruptible state he could no longer partake of incorruptible food! As a result, God changed the whole universe into a corruptible condition. Adam, now in a state of Corruption, had to eat corruptible food. He would now experience digestion and waste. He would now experience the elements of being cold and hot as well as hunger and thirst. He would now experience all the natural and unnatural passions of a fallen man. It would remain so until the time of our Redemption through his Creator Jesus Christ, the Godman. "*For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, 'Death is swallowed up in victory'."* (1Cor. 15:53,54) The Lord promised our first parents that in 'her seed' they will be restored *"I will put enmity between you and the women between your seed and her Seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall be on guard for His heel*." (Gen. 3:15) Clearly the women's Seed is first Christ, and second His Church. The serpent's seed are those who reject Christ and follow the devil "*He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil*." (1John 3:8-10) Not only do we and our first parents wait for the redemption so does all of creation since the Lord caused the whole of creation to become corruptible for our sakes. But, also, for our sakes He will restore it! "*because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly awaiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body*." (Romans 8:21-23)

Christ, the Son of the living God entered into the womb of the Virgin (the new garden of Eden) having voluntarily left the Heavenly Paradise and entered into a

corrupt world of the first man. Rather, He emptied Himself into the Womb into Christ and became a Godman! Nevertheless, being God, He is everywhere and everywhere the same and the same everywhere! Christ, being born from the Virgin Mary, came to refashion all that had been corrupted by the fall! "*Behold, I make all things new*." (Revelation 21: 5) All those souls who fight the good fight and overcome the world by grace and are baptized unto Christ and in Christ shall inherit eternal life. Those souls that are baptized in Christ receive His body and blood which He took from His mother, therefore, She becomes our mother through the womb of the church - the baptismal font. And what does the church confess in the Akathist to the Theotokos, "*REJOICE, thou who dost depict the image of the font.*" Christ took His flesh, His body from the blood of the Holy Virgin and in so doing She became His mother! And those baptized unto Christ have their flesh transformed into His flesh making the baptized into children of God. And His mother becomes ours. We once again have the right to call God our Father and His mother our mother. We become members of the royal family and as children of God we are free men. Who are free men? The children of God? "Nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, 'In Isaac your seed shall be called." (Romans 9:7-9) That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son." The free men then are the children of the promise, that is, of the Seed not of Abraham but of Isaac the son of promise. "Now Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, who was born to Abraham, "Cast out this maidservant and her son, for the son of this maidservant shall not be heir with my son Isaac. And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham's sight because of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of your son and your maidservant. Whatever Sarah said to you, listen to her voice, for in Isaac your seed shall be called." (Gen. 21:9-12) Since Hagar was a woman of bondage, a slave, then she was not a free woman! The Seed of promise is Christ who is the source of true freedom. The children of Isaac then are children of freedom! This means the children of God have a blessed bondage, that is, they are bound to Christ who is the source of life and true freedom! Such souls are baptized unto Christ unto Who is Life and freedom itself. Whereas the children of bondage are bound to sin, death and corruption. They are the children of the flesh.

Three angels appeared to Abraham as three men to reveal the son of promise to Abraham through Sarah a free woman. "Then God appeared to him at the oak of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door during the noon hour. So he lifted his eyes and looked and behold, three men stood before him... Then He said to him, "Where is

Sarah your wife?" He replied. "Here in the tent. Again He said, I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son."… "At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." (Gen. 18:1-2, 9-10,14) Look, now the three men were three angels representing the Trinity. But it was the middle angel that spoke and this was the son of God! We can see here the mystery of the Incarnation because the tent represents the womb of the Virgin and Christ will enter Her womb. Sarah is a symbol of the Mother of God!

Therefore, Isaac foreshadows Christ the true Son of Promise. Christ is the fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham. God told Abraham to take his son Isaac and go to Mt. Moriah and sacrifice his beloved son who was born to him in his old age when he was 100 years old and had no other children with Sarah until Isaac. "Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said, 'Here I am.'Then He said, 'Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.' So Abraham rose early in the morning and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son; and he split the wood for the burnt offering, and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted his eyes and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his young men, 'Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and we will come back to you.' So Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife, and the two of them went together. But Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said, 'My father!' And he said, 'Here I am, my son.' Then he said, 'Look, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?' And Abraham said, 'My son, God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.' So the two of them went together. Then they came to the place of which God had told him. And Abraham built an altar there and placed the wood in order; and he bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, upon the wood. And Abraham stretched out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, 'Abraham, Abraham!' So he said, 'Here I am.' And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me." (Gen. 22:1-12) Because Abraham was willing to sacrifice his beloved son to God then God in turn would sacrifice His most beloved Son instead! Why? Because the blood of Isaac cannot save man from his sins but only the Immaculate blood of the Son of God can. Therefore, God made His covenant with Abraham. "Then the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven,

and said, ‘By Myself I have sworn,’ says the Lord, ‘because you did this thing, and for My sake did not spare your beloved son. I will certainly bless you, and assuredly multiply your seed as the stars of heaven’…” (Gen. 22:15-17) These are Abraham’s seed based on the word of promise. This Seed is Christ and His church begotten from Him - Gal. 3:16: “Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promise made. He does not say, And to seeds, as of many, but as of one, And to your Seed, “ who is Christ.”

It should be pointed out, at this time, the meeting between Melchizedek and Abraham and how It can be clearly seen as a prophecy that God will sacrifice His Son in lieu of Abraham sacrificing his son Isaac! “Now Melchizedek the King of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. He blessed Abram and said, ‘Blessed be Abram of God Most High, creator of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High’,” (Gen 14: 18,19) Melchizedek, say the fathers, was the pre-incarnate Christ! Moses called him the Priest of the Most High God and, moreover, the King of Salem which means peace. And the fact that he blessed Abram means that Melchizedek was greater than Abraham. Clearly Christ is not only the King of peace but the Priest of the Most High God. This is why after the Resurrection Christ said to the Apostles “I give you My peace; My Peace I leave with you...” ” (John 14:27) And what did Melchizedek the High Priest of God give to Abraham? He gave him bread and wine! This is a symbol of the Body and Blood of Christ. That Christ the High priest of God is the Offeror and that which is offered. And since Abraham was asked by God to sacrifice his son Isaac on the alter on Mt Moriah Melchizedek gave him the bread and wine. Not that his son can save humanity but that through him the true sacrifice will come forth. It should be noted here that when Solomon built the temple on Mt. Moriah he built the temple with this very rock that Abraham placed his son Isaac for the sacrifice as the altar of sacrifice! What else do we know about Melchizedek? We do not know of his birth or his death. Like Christ He has no beginning and no end. And yet He is the King of peace and the High Priest of the Most High God. We know that Christ is the Sacrifice Himself. “who does not need daily, as those high priest, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people’s , for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.” (Heb. 7:27)

We learn through the High Priest of The Most High God that Melchizedek’s priesthood is greater than that of the Levitical priesthood established by Aaron of the tribe of Levi. There is a contrast between the earthly or Levitical priesthood and the eternal priesthood of Melchizedek which is clearly fulfilled in Christ. The Levitical priesthood is limited because the priesthood is made up of ordinary human beings,

they can assist the people in worship but they cannot reconcile the people to God! The priesthood of Melchizedek appears long before the Levitical priesthood and further he receives tithes from Abraham showing that he is superior to Abraham in rank and, there, by extension, superior to Abraham's descendants - the Levites. See Gen 14: 21 "....Then Abram gave him a tithe of all." Therefore, He may be a Theophany, that is, a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ or at the very least a type of Christ. As free men we become heirs to the Master's goods! "*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together..."* (Rom 8: 16,17) And in as such we bear His image and likeness once again, we share in His life which is the light of men! "*In Him was life, and the life was the light of men*." (John 1:4) Before the fall only the pure light was present in men and creation; but after the fall this light was diminished. Hence, darkness, death and corruption prevailed.

The 6th Day

The creation is divided into six days and on the 6th day man was created from the dust of the earth bearing His image and likeness. This day is the sixth age of man and creation. The sixth day would come to be called the Hebrew age. In this age came the fall, the destruction of the sinners of the world, and its continuation through Noah and through Noah's ancestry came forth Abraham, the father of many nations. The covenant of circumcision was made by God with Abraham and thereafter came the ten commandments, the law of Moses. Those who followed Abraham became members of the Hebrew race and those who did not follow Abraham became known as the gentiles who worshiped idols… false gods! This is the age that prophesied the coming of the Messiah! And yet when He came, He was rejected and despised by men and was crucified for our sins. "*He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."* (Isaiah 53:3) His Crucifixion and Resurrection marked the beginning of the seventh age which is the age of the Church of Christ. This age marked the spiritual war between the men of God (Christians) and those who did the will of Satan! It is known as the militant age, the age of spiritual warfare. At the end of this age will enter the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Great Judgment. Then begins the eighth and final age. The eternal age of Christ in Christ for those who overcome the world and were victorious over the devil. This is the triumphant and eternal age for those who love our Lord and overcame the devil

through the life and grace of Christ the Lord. From the seed of Abraham came forth Isaac and from him came Jacob and from Jacob the 12 tribes of Israel. It was in this age, the Hebrew age (although in darkness because the light had not yet come) that foretells the coming of the Light, the Messiah, the Savior of the world who would restore all of creation again! "*Behold, I make all things new."* (Revelation 21:5) The promise of His coming was through Abraham, Moses and the Prophets. The sixth age, the Hebrew age, was an age of spiritual darkness because the Light of the world had yet to come forth from the virgin! It was an age of the 12 tribes of Israel. From Judah, a son of Jacob, shall come forth the King and Messiah. "*The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet. Until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. Binding his foal to the vine, and his ass's colt, to the choice wine; he washed his garments in wine, and his clothes in the blood of grapes*." (Genesis 49:10-11) See John 15:1,5: "I *am the true vine… I am the vine, ye are the branches."* Hence through baptism we are grafted onto the tree of life, and as sons of God we participate in His resurrection and His victory over sin, death and corruption. Now with the birth of Christ, namely the Son of God in the flesh from the ever Virgin Mary, the promised Light is now in the world. This marks what will become the end of the sixth age of darkness and the beginning of the seventh age of the Light of the world through Christ and his 12 apostles. We see in the 12 tribes of Israel - although still in darkness - the knowledge that the coming of the Light had been foretold. That the birth of the Christ, the Messiah fulfills the promise of the coming Light that would be restored in man again. As outlined above, Christ's coming and giving the world His twelve Apostles would mark the beginning of the seventh age as well as the beginning of the new Israel in Christ, His Apostles, and the Baptized. This is the beginning of the militant Church; the age of spiritual warfare between the children of God and the devil.

Christ and His apostles represent the age of redemption and restoration. This is accomplished by Christ uniting Himself with man through Holy Baptism and thereby restoring in man the Living Light. The image and likeness of God is redeposited in man once again. The preaching of the Gospel and Baptism begins with the Apostles and continues with the priesthood to this day. It is the Gospel of Christ's preaching and teaching that the salvation of man comes through the sacrificial blood of the Lamb. "*Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."* (John 6:54) It begins in Christ and continues through the foundation of the twelve Apostles and it is through the priesthood (which follows the Apostles) that

the Church of Christ, the Militant Church will grow! Clearly, Christ is the chief foundation stone upon which the Church is built "*and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it."* (Matthew 16:18) Christ then **is** the chief cornerstone: "*…coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood…'Behold, I lay in Sion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious… The Stone which the builders has disallowed, the same is made the Head of the corner.*'" (1Peter 2:4-7) Hence, Christ is the rock, the chief cornerstone upon which the church is built and the lively stones are those who are joined to that church through Baptism. Just as a physical church is made up of bricks, so the heavenly church is built up with "*lively stones"*. These are spiritual bricks, meaning those who live in Christ, and the Apostles make up the 12 foundation stones. "*And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God:… And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb*." (Rev 21:10- 11,14)

We can see that the 24-hour day is divided into two twelve-hour periods. There are 12 hours in a day and twelve hours of darkness in the night. We can symbolically interpret that the twelve hours of darkness is the period after the fall of man, that is the Old Testament period. At that time the Holy Spirit had not been given yet with the exception of the Holy prophets, Patriarchs and Holy judges and which, nevertheless, was taken away at their death! It will not be given to man permanently, until the coming of "the Christ" and the institution of Holy Baptism. It is the beginning of the New Testament symbolized by a 12- hour day of light; the Light of Christ who is the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

The fall of man who corrupted himself with the stain of sin and stamped it unto his offspring will remain as such until the time of his redemption in the Messiah… Jesus Christ. This dark period, the Old Testament period, the Hebrew age or the 6th age is the age that foretold the coming of the Light the Messiah who will save man from sin, death and corruption. Along this line of thought and reasoning we can readily understand that the 12- hour day refers to the time of man's redemption and salvation in the Light, that is, through the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is the Light of the world and, therefore, the giver of life! "God, who gives life to the dead …." Also, John 5:21 ".... even so the Son gives life to whom He will." (Romans 4:17) Read what John writes about this Living Light; *"In Him was life, and the life was the light of*

men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world." (John 1:4,5,9) Also in John 9:5 Christ says, "*As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world*." Christ coming into the world is the beginning of the 7th age. It is the age of the Church, that is, the Militant Church. It is, as written above, the age of spiritual warfare between the powers of darkness and the light! It is warfare between that which is Holy and that which is evil. "*For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood , but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places*." (Eph. 6:12)

Therefore, the 8th age, which begins with the Resurrection of Christ is the triumphant age. It is the age of eternal life with everlasting love and joy of God and neighbor. To love God is to love His image everlastingly! It is the Kingdom of Heaven, the new Paradise and no longer corrupt but Holy and spiritual. "*And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. Having the Glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. Also She had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west, Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb."* (Rev. 21:10-14) Hence, the 8th and final age, is in Christ, and is comprised of all the righteous souls of the twelve tribes of Israel, the Holy prophets, Patriarchs and Holy judges of the Old Testament. And finally, all the Holy Apostles and the saints and martyrs of the Church of the Apostolic age and all its righteous souls. It is the Triumphant Church whose King is Christ the Lord and His Queen the All Holy and Ever Virgin Mary His Mother! This is the age that the Holy spirit is given and is ever possessed and ever ascending from Glory to Glory in Christ the Lord. But in the 8th age to come, that is the triumphant Church in the resurrected Christ, there will be no night but only the Light that was preordained for Adam and Eve had they not fallen. "*And there shall be no night there, and they need no candle, neither light of the Sun, for the Lord God gives them light: and they shall reign forever and ever*." (Revelation 22:5)

Now, of course, Paradise has been separated from the earth and yet people still go to Paradise! We know of many blessed souls who have been there like Saint Efrosynos, the cook, who brought back apples which people ate like holy bread. He

actually experienced Paradise as if it were something physical but nevertheless it was different from our everyday material reality. It is gone from us now. Adam was originally different from what we are now. He was a of a higher nature. The Holy Fathers say that he was fleshly but somehow more of a spiritual nature than the creation is now. That is, all of creation was sustained perfectly by the Holy Spirit which worked through Adam. Had Adam not fallen the garden of Eden would have expanded and become more spiritual and the whole of creation **through Adam** would also have become more spiritual than material. There would have been no decay nor corruption. Eventually all of creation would have been transformed and risen up to the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, all of creation is subject to the uncreated creator. And had there not been a fall the creation would have changed into a more spiritual state by the immovable mover, the uncreated creator Jesus Christ, who Himself cannot change, or be added to, or be taken away from. He is everywhere and everywhere the same… Always the same! "*For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."* (Rev 22:18,19) He is everywhere the same!

The 7th Day

Now God, on the seventh day of the creation rested from all his works. "*And on the seventh day, God ended his work which he had done, and he rested on the 7th day from all his work which he had done*." (Genesis 2:2) Had there not been a fall then men and all creation would have evolved into the 8th day which would be eternal. Sunday is the first day of the creation, the 8th day would be the 8th age, the eternal age in Christ who himself is the eighth age. Sunday of the resurrection would be the eternal day! There will no longer be night but eternal light from Christ Again, Revelation 22: 5 "*And there shall be no night there; they need no candle neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light: And they shall reign forever and ever*." The Tree of Life in the garden was a symbol of Christ himself, giving immortality.

The cross fulfills the tree of Life in Paradise. The cross was a curse for it is said "… *(for he that is hanged is accursed of God) …* " (Deut. 21:23) and *"Christ hath*

redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, 'cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree'" (Galatians 3:13) Christ became the curse for us and He became sin for us and died to those sins for us. And in so doing He nailed the curse, the sin and death, and corruption on the cross but without any guilt of committing sin! Hence, He paid the ransom for our sins because the law dictates death to those who break the law. But who can live and not sin? Only Christ, the incarnate son of God. Christ replaced the law which dictates death and replaced it with the law of Grace which dictates life. All through his immaculate body and blood. "*Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day* ". (John 6: 54) The last day is the eternal day in Christ. It is the eternal Sunday of everlasting life in Christ, the 8th day, the 8th age. His blood is the ransom of those who love him. "*None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him*." (Psalms 49:7) Hence, the tree, the accursed tree, the Cross becomes the other tree of life. There is no more curse on the holy city; the curse of Genesis 3: 14 -19 is reversed:

"*And the Lord God said unto the serpent, 'Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.' Unto the woman he said, 'I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.' And unto Adam he said, 'Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return*.'"

Therefore, the fruits and leaves of the tree are completely and universally therapeutic, reversing the effects of the tree of disobedience: *"And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as go ds, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her*

husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, 'Where art thou?' And he said, 'I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' And he said, 'Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?' (Genesis 3: 2 - 11) Christ's obedience unto death canceled the death sentence of the disobedience of the first man Adam, which was unto death and cancelled only by the blood of the sacrificial lamb Jesus Christ, our Lord and God, and Savior Jesus Christ.

Now after the fall, man was no longer able to enter into Paradise. Rather he was cast out and the 8th day - the eternal day of super primacy- was not to be obtained. And Adam, being no longer in Paradise could no longer partake of the fruit of the tree of life, which he needed in order to live forever. "*Then the Lord God said,'Behold the man has become as one of us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put forth his hand, and eat, and live forever*.'" (Genesis 3: 22) Having been put out of paradise he could no longer partake of incorruptible food because being cast out of paradise he would now know death and corruption and as pointed out above, he would now require corruptible food. So, God had to change the whole of creation into a state of constant change but for the worse not for the better: until the Resurrection on the last day! "*For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope, Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body* ". (Romans 8: 20 – 23)

Therefore, all of creation had to change for the worse in order to accommodate man's fallen nature. All of creation was no longer sustained incorrupt by the grace of the Holy Spirit but now was subject to change as governed by the law of physics. The laws of physics that govern the universe now (as scientists understand it) were inherent in creation but had no influence until the Fall. After the Fall, God had to change that which was incorruptible under the grace of God. This is why science can

never explain or understand the creation, neither its beginning, nor its evolution. This knowledge is in the power of the Creator only. He is unchangeable and immovable and always the same and is the same everywhere. He is the immovable mover and the uncreated creator. He is outside of all that is created yet connected to it by His Grace and by His divine energies from which all that is created came forth and, further, we can only know Him to the extent that He is unknowable!

Christ promised that he will restore man not only to his former condition but raise him up even higher in His eternal and incorruptible and spiritual kingdom. He will be our father, and we will be His children and the Ever-Virgin Mary will be our mother and we, her offspring. This will happen on the great day of our Lord Jesus Christ, the 8th day, the eternal day, the everlasting eighth age! And on that ever-glorious day he will make a new Heaven and a new Earth. "*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first Earth were passed away… And he that sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And he said to me 'Write: for these words are true and faithful'*." (Revelation 21: 1, 5) Therefore, at the last day is that great day of the Resurrection when the righteous shall enter the triumphant Church and receive eternal life and everlasting happiness in Christ our Savior. And what does John write in Revelation 21: 7? "*He that overcomes, shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be my son* ".

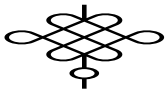
The final note that I want to make on the mystery of the number eight will be revealed when we begin our narrative on the feast days of the Nativity of the Holy Mother, the feast day of Her Dormition and the narrative on the 60 Gospel events in Christ's Ministry which will make up part II of this book, as well, as our narrative on the hidden and mystical meanings of names and numbers in Holy Scripture. The dogma of the Holy Orthodox Church was given to us on Pentecost through the Apostles, the scriptures were later defined and explained by the seven ecumenical councils. However, it should be noted that the councils were not convened to dogmatize but to explain the doctrines as revealed to us through the scriptures and the Apostles; and in so doing condemn the heresies which appeared even during the time of the Apostles. These councils were convened and established over 8 centuries. The Seven ecumenical councils were convened to establish once and for all time the true dogma of the Church as foretold in "*wisdom has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars.*" (Proverbs 9:1) It is the Holy Spirit which enlightened the Holy Fathers of the seven councils to explain the dogma of the Church. "*Which things also we speak, not in words which men's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit*

teacheth;" (1Cor 2:13) The number seven represents the Holy Spirit. It was on the 7th day that the Lord blessed and sanctified His creation when He called it good. "*And God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it: because that in it he rested from all his work which God created and made."* (Genesis 2-3) And read what the apostle Peter tells us about the understanding of scripture, "*Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*" (2 Peter 1:20-21) Therefore the final word is not the Bible but the Holy Spirit! Heresy comes forth from those who interpret the scriptures by their own logic and not by the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. Hence, the ecumenical councils directed and informed the Holy Fathers of the seven councils through the Holy Spirit. *"Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them*." (Math. 18:20)

Rome fell when it declared the pope of Rome to be the head of the church on earth which clearly usurps the position of Christ on earth! It was not Peter whose blood was shed to establish the church but, rather, the Immaculate blood of Christ of which one drop, say the Holy Fathers, could burn the whole universe! It is the Blood of Christ that sanctifies the blood of the martyrs*. "And Jesus came and spoke to them saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."* (Math. 28:18) Clearly there is only One head of the Church both in Heaven and on earth! Rome further compounded their error with declaring the pope of Rome to be infallible. But what does our Lord Himself proclaim… "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." (Math. 18:20) The protestant church goes even further into darkness when it teaches that everyone can interpret scripture as the spirit moves them. And what spirit is that? It is certainly not the Holy Spirit. This is why they have so many sects. And going into further darkness they do not teach or believe that the bread and wine becomes the very Body and Blood of our Lord when the Lord Himself said in John 6:54 "*Whoever, eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life and I will raise him up at the last day*." If the Lord is able to change water into wine is He not then able to change wine into His blood? He need to go no further to declare that The Holy Catholic, Apostolic, Orthodox Church is the true and only Church of Christ on earth and in Heaven. The Lord said of Himself, "*I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* (John 14:6) Also, *"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture." (*John 10:9) And just as described in Matthew 21:9, every true and faithful servant will cry out in truth,

"Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord." Amen!

PART II



In Part II of this book, I have chosen to write about 60 significant events, miracles and parables of Christ's Ministry, as well as the most pertinent events in the Life of the Holy Mother which led up to the Lord's Nativity.

First, I must point out that the very first event to be discussed is the conception and Nativity of The All Holy and Ever-Virgin Mary. Clearly, without the birth of the Holy Mother there is no Nativity of Christ and, She is, therefore, no Gospels and no salvation. Hence, the Nativity of the Holy Mother precedes the 60 events that we will write about. Therefore, She is the foundation from which comes forth the Logos. the Living Rock upon which the Church is built. "*And I say also unto thee that thou art Peter, and upon this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."* (Math 16:18) Also, read what the psalmist David says about this in the 24th psalm. In this Psalm he talks about how the devil is defeated and the gates of hell are shattered by Christ's entering into hell to preach to the souls trapped there. "L*ift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of Glory? The Lord of hosts, he is the King of Glory*." (Psalm 24: 7-10) And at the conclusion on the writing of the 60 events outlined below, we will follow and close with Her Dormition!

The reader will note that the first Great Feast Day of the Orthodox calendar year is the Nativity of the Holy Mother which is celebrated on Sept 8th of the first month of the ecclesiastical new year. The Nativity of the Holy Mother, falling on the 8th day of the first month of the church calendar, is a prophecy, in itself; that She will give birth to the 8th Day, the eternal day the 8th and eternal age which is Jesus Christ! Read Rev 22: 5 "*And there shall be no night there; they need no candle neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light: And they shall reign forever and ever*." Also, read Rev. 21: 23 "*The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God did lighten it and the Lamb is the light thereof*." Therefore, if there is no sunset then it follows that there is no next day! Christ is the eternal Light, the eternal Day…

the everlasting Light. And what is this Light? "*In him was life, and the life was the light of men."* (John 1:4) Also we find in John 1:9 "*That was the true Light which lighteth every man who cometh into the world."* and in John 8: 12 *"… I am the light of the world: He that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life*."

The last Great Feast Day of the Church calendar is the Dormition of the Holy Mother celebrated on the 15th of August which is the last month of the Church's calendar year. One can readily see now that the 60 events to be discussed falls between the Nativity of the Holy Mother on Sept. 8th and Her Dormition on August 15th. It is reasonable to consider then, that the Nativity and the Dormition of The Holy Mother are like bookends of the faith. Rather, she is the Alpha and the Omega (the first and the last) of all the events inclusive of Christ's Life; His Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection and the Great feast of Pentecost… But… what did Christ say of Himself? Read Rev. 1:8 "*I am Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the Ending, saith the Lord, which is and which was and which is to come, the Almighty*."

Therefore, since the Holy Mother loaned to Christ Her Immaculate flesh for the taking upon Himself of our nature, our humanity, then by this assumption of Her flesh she is united mystically to the Alpha and the Omega to Christ Himself, her everlasting and eternal Son the very source of Life Itself! Since Christ cannot know death and corruption then neither can The Holy Mother. The moment that the Holy Mother received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at the Incarnation She was cleansed of original sin and its consequences and remained a virgin everlastingly unlike the first mother of life, Eve. At the very moment of the Incarnation of Christ, She became Immaculate and free of sin and on Fire with the Holy Spirit! She became the mother of God in the flesh and therefore the Bride of the Holy Spirit and the Daughter of the Father. Hence, She was united to the Alpha and the Omega! Therefore, at Her Dormition She could not know death and corruption just as Her Son - our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. "*For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."* (Ps 16:10) Clearly then, only the All-Holy Mother ascended to Heaven with body and soul, and Her children will follow with body and soul at the Resurrection, the Second Coming of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ!

It should be understood that Christ assumed, fully, our human nature but not that of a fallen state! He became for us the new Adam so that through the dispensation and Grace of the Holy Spirit that dwells in Christ, the righteous will become the offspring of

our new first parents; Jesus Christ, the new Adam and the new Eve - the “Ever And All Holy And Ever-Virgin Mary”. Christ became the New Adam formed from the new virgin soil, the Blood of the Holy Mother and the Holy Spirit! Verse III of the Original Creed: “*Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man*.” Also, read what it says in Ode IX of the Preparation prayers for Holy Communion “*God took flesh of thy pure blood;”.* Christ, the new Adam, was not just made in the Image and Likeness of the father as was the first man Adam. Christ, the new Adam, was made fully in the Image and Likeness of the Father! He is very God of very God! See verse II of the Original Creed *“And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-Begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light of Light, True God of True God; Begotten, not made; being of one essence with the Father by whom all things were made.”* Read John 1:1-3 “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”* Also read Psalms. 33:6 “*By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.”* Clearly the “Word” is Christ, and the “Lord” is the Father, and the “host of them” are the angelic hosts made by the breath of his mouth which is clearly the Holy Spirit. It is the same Spirit that Christ breathed into Adam depositing in him the image and likeness of God. Hence, Adam became the son of God in the flesh. Christ the Son of the Father became in a point in time a perfect man in the flesh with a human soul and yet always remaining perfect God in the Spirit; the Godman! Christ, by becoming fully human assumed all the natural attributes of man before the fall but none of the passions of man after the fall! The fall of man was through his disobedience to the command of God not to eat of the forbidden fruit. Therefore, to say Christ experienced the fallen passions of man is blasphemy! The mind, that is, the “*nous*” of His Immaculate soul was totally and completely subject to the Will of God without any deviation. Christ, the Godman, can never experience demonic temptations. How can God be tempted? Christ experienced only those natural passions, such as, hunger, thirst and fatigue which He allowed Himself to experience.

Read the three temptations of Christ in Mathew 4:1-11:

“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred. And when the tempter came to him, he said, ‘If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.’ But he answered and said, ‘It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth

of God.' Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple, And saith unto him, 'If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.'Jesus said unto him, 'It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.' Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.' Then saith Jesus unto him, 'Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve.' Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him."

Christ by becoming fully human in the flesh also allowed Himself to know death. Death was the consequence of the fall. Man was never created to die but to be immortal and ever growing into a more and more spiritual state until he, and the entire human race and all of creation through him would have entered into the Eternal Age in Christ in the Kingdom of Heaven. Read Roman 8:21-23 "*because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that but we also, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves eagerly awaiting the adoption, the redemption of our body."* Christ being sinless, nevertheless, allowed Himself to experience death in order to fully experience the nature of man, that is - birth and then death. But His death was a deathless death -"*Athanatos*" - by choice not because of sin which dictates death and then corruption! This is the mark of the beast 666! Death has no power over Christ Who is the Temple of the Holy Spirit which is the "Giver of life!" See verse VIII of the Creed "*And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life…"* Christ is the very source and Fountainhead of Life Itself! Read John 10:17,18 "Therefore, My Father loves Me, because I lay down my life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again." Also, John 5:26 "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself." All souls that are baptized in Christ become one flesh with Him. We become members then of His body and on that last day, the final and terrible day of the final judgement the righteous will be raised up with him in everlasting Glory!

Because Christ's birth, as a man of flesh, was sinless and immaculate from the All Holy And Ever Virgin then she too, ever remaining a virgin and sinless after giving birth to our Savior Jesus Christ, will also be raised up with an incorrupt body after Her

passing. She gave birth immaculately to the living Light! "*In Him was life, and the life was the light of men*." (John 1:4) She cried out in ecstasy after giving birth "*Behold the Light of the world*!" He came forth from Her womb as light and appeared in Her arms with body and soul. Therefore, unlike Eve the first mother, she had no sin and gave birth without suffering any pain or discomfort and remained, unlike Eve, a virgin everlastingly!

Although Christ's Immaculate soul left His sinless body; his Immaculate body could not know corruption, in that It was still fully one with the Holy Spirit. It was on the third day that He rose from the dead (a deathless death) **in His incorrupt body** and by His own will and power! "*For You will not leave My soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy one to see corruption*" (Ps. 16:10) It is fitting, therefore, that the All Holy and Ever Virgin Mary, would also rise from the dead incorrupt, like Her son, on the third day since She herself was Immaculate and free of sin. Since Christ took His Immaculate flesh from Her sinless blood how then can she know corruption? This would be impossible! She too then, being fully human, would also experience death as all men do. But on the third day after her passing She rose up to Heaven with a body totally incorrupt sitting on the right side of Her Son in all glory! And yet, While Her body was still in the tomb, it remained completely incorrupt by the Divine energies of the Holy Spirit. And the rest of all the righteous souls will also on the last day rise up with an incorrupt body. The righteous will rise up in glory and the sinners and unrepentant will rise up in darkness in the outer darkness where there will be the weeping and gnashing of teeth. "*Then the King said to the servants 'bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into the outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* (Math. 22:13) Also see Matthew 25:30: "*And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth*." And all the righteous souls will rise up with Christ in Christ on that final day "*Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."* (John 6:54) Also: " *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality*." (1Cor. 15:52,53) And who are these that are resurrected in Christ? They are those who lived a life of confession and repentance. They were baptized in Christ and kept their garment (their flesh) clean. *"But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts*." (Romans 13:14)

Holy Baptism is Holy Matrimony! It means that through baptism a soul is cleansed of original sin and is cleansed in Christ. And through the Body and blood of Christ we become a member of His Immaculate Body. Hence, the baptized soul becomes one with the Bride of the Church, that is, the Holy Mother. And the Head of the Body is Christ the Bridegroom! Read what the Great Apostle Peter wrote in 1Peter 2:4-6 "*Coming to Him as to a living stone; rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious. You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is also contained in Scripture:* "*Behold, I lay in Zion a Chief Cornerstone elect and precious,…"* You see in heaven we are all prophets, priests and Kings. Since we are a member of His body! Peter who once confessed that Christ was the Rock upon which the Church is built now again declares that Christ is indeed the Chief Cornerstone. And that other Great Illuminator, Apostle Paul, also confessed that Christ is the Rock the Chief Cornerstone in 1Cor. 10:2 *"all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that Spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ."*

Indeed, on that final day, that Great Day of the judgement of God, all the righteous shall be raised up in glory receiving their appropriate crowns while the unclean and unrepentant shall rise up in utter darkness and cast forever into the realm of the outer darkness! Blessed are those who cry out "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" They shall have everlasting peace and happiness in God's eternal Kingdom. Amen!

ALPHA: The Conception of the Holy Mother and Her Nativity

1. The Entrance of the Virgin Mary Into the Temple
2. The Virgin Living in the Temple until the age of 14
3. The Virgin's Betrothal to Joseph
4. The Annunciation of the Ever-Virgin Mother of God
5. The Mother of God Visits the Righteous Elizabeth
6. The Reproaching of the Mother of God by Joseph
7. The Nativity According to the Flesh of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ
8. The Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Flesh
9. The Three Wise Men from the East
10. The Meeting of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
11. The Flight into Egypt
12. The Massacre of the 14,000 Infants in Bethlehem
13. Christ at Twelve Years Old in the Temple
14. The Repose of the Righteous Elder Joseph
15. The Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Jordan River
16. The Three Temptations of Jesus Christ after His Baptism
17. The Beginning of Christ's Galilean Ministry
18. The Marriage at Cana
19. When Jesus Asks His Disciples "Who Do Men Say That I, the Son of Man Am?" Math 16:13-19; John 10:29,30
20. The Transfiguration Mark 8:34-9:1
21. The Samaritan Women John 4:1-43
22. The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37
23. A Women Healed on the Sabbath Luke 13:10-17
24. The Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32
25. The Greatest Commandment Math 22:34-40
26. The Sons of the Devil Reject the Son of God John 8:37-47,56,58; Math 3:7-9
27. The Man Born Blind John 9:1-7
28. A Paralytic Is Healed John 5:1-15
29. The Word Is God John 1:1-18 & 8:12
30. Feeding the 5000 John 6:1-14
31. Walking on Water Math 14:22-33

32. Jesus at the Feast of Tabernacles and the Promise of Pentecost John 7:37-39 & John 8:12
33. The Good Shepherd John 10:9-18
34. The Paralyzed Servant Healed Math 8:5-13
35. The Widow's Son of Nain Is Raised From the Dead Luke 7:11-16
36. Jairus's Daughter Is Raised Up and A Woman Who Bled for Twelve Years Is Healed Luke 8:40-56
37. The Rich Man and Lazarus Luke 16:19-31
38. The Pharisee and the Publican Luke 18:9-14
39. Zacchaeus Is Restored Like 19:1-10
40. Christ's Prayer For Himself John 17:1-13
41. Who Enters the Kingdom? Math. 22:1-14
42. "Sins Are Forgiven" A Paralytic Mark 2:1-22
43. O Faithless Generation Mark 9:14-29
44. The Gadarene Demoniac Mark 5:1-19
45. A Certain Man Gave A Great Supper and Invited Many Luke 14:15-24
46. Sins Are Forgiven: A Paralytic Mark 2:1-12
47. Raising Lazarus John 11:17-44
48. Palm Sunday: First Day of Holy Week, the New Creation Week (The Triumphant Entrance into Jerusalem) Luke 19:28-46
49. The Last Supper Luke 22:7-22
50. Jesus Sweats Blood Luke 22:39-46
51. The Arrest of Jesus Luke 22:47-53
52. Jesus Before the Sanhedrin Luke 22:66-71
53. Jesus Before Pilate Luke 23:1-5, 13-25
54. Procession to Golgotha John 19:17-24
55. Jesus's Death Math. 27:38-54
56. The Resurrection Math. 27:62-66, Math. 28:11-15
57. Jesus Appears to the Disciples John 20:19-29
58. Jesus Eats with the Eleven and Peter's Restoration John 21:1-19; Luke 22:31-3
59. The Ascension Acts 1:9-26
60. Pentecost Acts 2:1-4

OMEGA: The Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady theTheotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

THE

ORIGINAL CREED

As Formulated By The Seven Ecumenical Synods

I. I believe in one God, Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

II. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, very God, of very God begotten, not made, of one essence with the Father, and through whom all things are made.

III. Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and became incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became a man.

IV. And was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried.

V. And rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures.

VI. And ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father.

VII. And shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, and whose kingdom shall have no end.

VIII. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father, and together with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, and who spake through the prophets.

IX. In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.

X. I acknowledge one baptism, for the remission of sins.

XI. I look for the Resurrection of the dead.

XII. And life in the world to come. Amen.