



### *The Dormition Fast*

Each year during the first fifteen days of August our Church honors the Mother of God in a special way. The time period is known as the Dormition Fast. It begins on August 1 and concludes on August 15 with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. During these two weeks the Church observes a small Lent wherein the faithful are invited to renew their relationship with Jesus Christ through fasting, increased prayer, reading of scripture, acts of charity towards the poor, and attendance at special church services. This period is one of four throughout the calendar year that call Christians back to a fuller experience of their Faith and love of God.

This fast in preparation for the final feast of the Church year: the Dormition or falling asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos. This feast is commonly referred to as the “summer Pascha.” As we see in the verse above taken from the Vespers for this feast, the tomb of the Virgin becomes a ladder to heaven. The Theotokos, she from whom our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ received His flesh, is rightfully the first to share in the fulness of the promise of the Resurrection. Just as she carried the Incarnate Word made flesh in her arms, now she is carried by Him, body and soul, into the joy of eternal life.

During period of fest we celebrate a special service known as the “Paraklesis” also known as the Supplication service. Basically it is series of hymns that supplicate God and the Virgin Mary for healing of both soul and body.

Why is it that we assign this service, although it can and is prayed throughout the year, specifically to the time frame of the Dormition Fast? The reason has to do with the perspective our Faith has towards the Virgin Mary, the Theotokos (God-Bearer). We see Mary as an exceptional Christian. She was with the Lord Jesus from the moment of conception, what we refer to as the Annunciation, and she was with the Lord Jesus at His Cru-

cifixion. From the beginning of His life to the end and even as a witness to the Resurrection she demonstrated an unflinching and unwavering faith in Jesus Christ. We also understand that she uses her particular position before the Lord as His Mother and disciple to intercede on our behalf.

It was said that this feast is also call as “summer Pascha”. It is right to call this the feast the “summer Pascha” because it reminds us once again how Christ has trampled down death by His death. It carries with it, somber similarities to the Feast of Feasts in how we celebrate it. Just as we, in procession, carry the shroud of our Lord and lay it in a tomb on Holy Friday, so too, on the eve of the Feast, do we carry a shroud of the Theotokos, lay flowers before it, and venerate it.

We should fast in preparation for this Feast... The Mother of our Lord is approaching death, and we do well to prepare, to be attentive, and to be vigilant. If, in our own families, a dear loved one were approaching death, would we not “drop everything” to be at their side? So too, this fast allows us to “drop” the cares of the world, to remind ourselves of our need to imitate the humble obedience of the Theotokos, and to view death in light of Christ’s Resurrection, not as an end, but as a beginning to eternal life.

Let us approach this fast and view it as an opportunity, for prayer, for quiet reflection, for increased participation in the services of the Church, as a call to repentance.

### **SAFE ENVIRONMENT:**

The Eparchy, within all its parishes, institutions, and programs, is committed to assuring a Safe Environment in ministry for its children and vulnerable adults that conforms to the USCCB Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People. For additional information regarding the eparchial Safe Environment Program or to report any

concerns, **please contact:**

Subdeacon Paul Kilroy, Safe Environment Program Coordinator

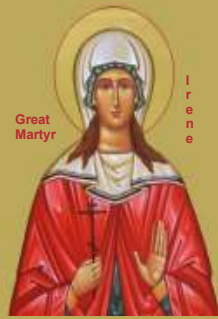
Cell: (702) 498-5972 ~ Office: (602) 861-9778 ext. 203 ~ Email: [sbdcnkilroy@ephx.org](mailto:sbdcnkilroy@ephx.org)

Or

Victim Assistance Coordinator, Deacon Michael Hanafin

Cell: (480) 307-5182 ~ Email: [vac@ephx.org](mailto:vac@ephx.org)





# SAINT IRENE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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## EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### Schedule of Services JULY 31—AUGUST 7, 2022

**Sunday, July 31—Eighth Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:25 a.m. Matins  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy *For parishioners, founders, donors, decorators of our church and for their relatives*

**Monday, August 1—The Procession of the Wood of the Venerable and Life-creating Cross The Holy Seven Maccabees, their Mother Solomone and the Elder Eleazar**  
7:00 p.m. Divine Liturgy  
*After Devotions procession with Holy Cross and veneration it. Small blessing of water and blessing of honey*

**Tuesday, August 2**  
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

**Wednesday, August 3**  
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

**Thursday, August 4**  
No Divine Liturgy

**Friday, August 5**  
9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

**Saturday, August 6—Transfiguration of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ SOLEMN**  
9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
*Blessing of Fruit and Mirovanje after Divine Liturgy*

**Sunday, August 7—Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, and postfestive day of the Transfiguration**  
9:25 a.m. Matins  
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy *For parishioners, founders, donors, decorators of our church and for their relatives*

### Please remember in your prayers:



**For health and salvation:** Fr. Christopher Andrews, Fr. Chris Zuger, Tony and family, Michael Baron, Ed, Dennis, Max, Pani Mary, Mary, Vasyl Zhabko, Faye, Jessica, Sophia, Diane Pierce, Vincent Carich, Tusita Docie & Scott Docie, Sarah Docie, Emily Docie, Mia Docie, Martin,

**For the repose of the departed:** +Bishop Gerald N Dino, +Fr. Frank Knusel, +Brenda Washicko, +Frank Sliwinski, Jr., +Lawrence & Lucille Carich, +Ivan & Matilda Carich, +Josip & Amanda Grabovac, +George Pavlakovich, +Carol Pavlakovich, +Bud & Virginia Arnold, +Israel Castillo Lara, +Jesse Gonzalez, +John, +Lucy Ortiz, +Martha Williams, +Martin Brandenfels.  
*Please let Father know if you would like to add new names to our prayer list.*

### 7-DAY CANDLE OFFERING:

**Eternal Light:** *For +Jesse Gonzalez by Anna Gonzales*

**ANSWERING GOD'S CALL:** "Bring them to me." Jesus miraculously fed the thousands by blessing the loaves and the fish. To do this, he asked his followers to gather and bring the food to him. He still uses us as his servants, particularly those men and women who are monastics, as well as through men called to holy orders. Is this something God is calling you to? Contact the Vocations Office at 206-329-9219 or email: [vocations@ephx.org](mailto:vocations@ephx.org)

**The Dormition Fast.** The Dormition Fast. Tomorrow, August 1 we begin the two week fast in preparation for the final feast of the Church year: the Dormition or falling asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos. This feast is commonly referred to as the "summer Pascha." This fast will last until August 15.

**The Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord.** On Saturday, August 6, we will celebrate the Divine Liturgy of the Transfiguration, followed by the blessing of fruit. We bless the first fruit of the harvest as a giving back to the Lord what is His and has come from Him. We ask you to bring your own basket of fruit to the church to be blessed. A table will be set up in the front of the church for baskets to be blessed. The cores and the peel of fruit should be buried in the garden and not thrown in the rubbish bin.



**Thank you for your donation!**

**God save you!**

**LITURGY INTENTIONS:** you may request a liturgy intention for the deceased or living. Kindly use the envelopes located in the narthex in church and drop the envelope into the Collection Basket or hand it to Father. Please print legibly. Thank You.

**Advisory Board meeting:** The next Advisory Board meeting will be on Sunday, August 14, after Divine Liturgy in the church. We will focus on our plans for up-coming new Church year. Please plan to be present if you are on the board.

"Don't be troubled if you don't feel the love of God in yourself, but thing about the Lord, that He is merciful, and guard yourself from sins, and the grace of God will teach you."

*St. Silouan the Athonite,*

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix – USCCB

## Confidential Parish Survey on Synodality

Our Eparchy is inviting you to share your thoughts on ways to cultivate a more Synodal Byzantine Catholic Church. Please take 10 minutes to complete this confidential online survey!

**Your thoughts and opinions matter!**  
**Please complete by Sunday, July 31**



Point your camera phone here to open!

Eparchial Committee on Synodality

Co-Sponsored by the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Phoenix & St. George Byzantine Catholic

2022 Annual Pilgrimage Our Lady of Perpetual Help Shrine

Fri-Sat, August 19-20, 2022



This Year's Theme  
**SAINT MICHAEL & THE WORK OF THE HOLY ANGELS**

9730 Yelm Highway SE, Olympia, WA 98513 – [olpsholympia.org](http://olpsholympia.org)

