



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY

ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΝΕΑΣ ΙΕΡΣΕΗΣ

Message of His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey for the Feast of the Dormition of the Most Holy-Theotokos

*You gave birth yet preserved your virginity. You fell asleep in death yet did not desert the world,
O Theotokos. You were transported to life, as you are Mother of Life and, by virtue of your
intercessions, deliver our souls from death.*

Apolytikion of the Feast

15 August 2025

My Dearly Beloved Children in the Lord,

Rightly and fittingly has the living Tradition of our Church given the name of “the Summer Pascha” to the Feast of the Dormition and the Assumption into the Heavens of our All-Holy Lady, the Panagia. It is this lived experience and this faith of our pious Orthodox people concerning the unique manner of the departure of our Lady the Theotokos that St. Germanos, Patriarch of Constantinople, captures when he says, “Just as Your Son and the God of all tasted in his flesh a death like Yours and just as He glorified His own life-giving tomb, so also He glorified Your tomb, which at Your Dormition received You, the Mother of Life. Both tombs received in reality something exceptional, both Your bodies, but they enacted no decay upon them. Because it was impossible that You, who were the vessel that contained God, would be dissolved into the dust of death. Since He who humbled Himself and was borne in Your womb was from the beginning God and pre-eternal Life, it was only fitting that You, also, who are the Mother of Life, would dwell together with Life itself, with Your Son, in the Heavens.”

In Her Dormition, My Dear Children in the Lord, our All-Holy Lady has not abandoned Her people, She has not left her children orphans. As the living and breathing Ark of the Lord, She ascends from the corrupt things of this world to the

Heavenly Jerusalem that is eternal and incorrupt. The Most Holy Theotokos, the living Palace of the Son and Logos of God the Father, has become the Ladder that raises us to Heaven, and therefore Her death is a passageway to immortality. Thus today we celebrate, not only the Dormition of the Theotokos, but also Her glorious Assumption. We believe that the tomb could not hold Her all-pure body. Our All-Holy Lady died because, as a created being, she had to pay the debt that all humans must pay, namely death. But she was taken up because the Assumption was a sign of the incorruptible miracle, the pinnacle of the graces of the the Most Blessed Mother of God. In piety therefore let us bend the knee of our both our body and heart before Her sacred icon and let us entreat her for our salvation, for the end of all wars and the peace of the world. I wish you all many blessed years beneath the mighty shelter and protection of our Most Holy Mother.

With paternal love and blessings,



† **Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey**



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Μήνυμα τοῦ Σεβασμιωτάτου Μητροπολίτου Νέας Ἱερσέης γιά τήν Ἑορτή τῆς Κοιμήσεως τῆς Ὑπεραγίας Θεοτόκου

*«Ἐν τῇ Γεννήσει, τήν παρθενίαν ἐφύλαξας· ἐν τῇ Κοιμήσει, τόν κόσμον οὐ κατέλειπες Θεοτόκε,
μετέστης πρὸς τήν ζωήν, Μήτηρ ὑπάρχουσα τῆς ζωῆς,
καί ταῖς πρεσβείαις ταῖς σαῖς λυτρουμένη, ἐκ θανάτου τάς ψυχάς ἡμῶν».*
Ἀπολυτίκιον τῆς Ἑορτῆς

15 Αὐγούστου 2025


Τέκνα ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀγαπητά,

Πάσχα τοῦ Καλοκαιριοῦ, ἀξίως καί δικαίως, ὀνόμασε τήν ἑορτή τῆς Κοιμήσεως καί τῆς εἰς οὐρανούς Μεταστάσεως τῆς Παναγίας μας ἡ ζῶσα Παράδοση τῆς Ἐκκλησίας μας. Αὐτό τό βίωμα καί αὐτή τήν πίστη τοῦ εὐσεβοῦς λαοῦ μας γιά τήν ἐκδημία τῆς Κυρίας Θεοτόκου μέ μοναδικό τρόπο ἀποτυπώνει ὁ Ἅγιος Γερμανός Πατριάρχης Κωνσταντινουπόλεως ὁ ὁποῖος λέγει: «Ὅπως ὁ Υἱός σου καί Θεός τῶν ὅλων γεύθηκε κατὰ τήν σάρκα Του τόν ἴδιο θάνατο καί ὅπως δόξασε τόν δικό Του ζωοποιό τάφο, ἔτσι δόξασε καί τό δικό Σου μνήμα, πού ἐδέχθη κατὰ τήν κοίμησή Σου Σέ τήν Μητέρα τῆς ζωῆς. Καί οἱ δύο τάφοι δέχθηκαν μέν, χωρίς νά φαντάζονται, κάτι ξεχωριστό, τά σώματα καί τῶν δύο, ἀλλά δέν ἐνήργησαν καμιά διαφθορά σ' αὐτά. Διότι δέν ἦταν δυνατόν Σύ πού ἦσουν δοχεῖο πού χώρεσε τόν Θεό νά διαλυθεῖς στό χῶμα τῆς νεκρώσεως. Ἐπειδή Αὐτός πού ταπεινώθηκε καί κυοφορήθηκε μέσα Σου ἦταν ἐξ ἀρχῆς Θεός καί ζωή προαιώνιος, ἔπρεπε καί Σύ, ἡ Μητέρα τῆς Ζωῆς, νά γίνεις σύννοικος μέ τήν Ζωή, μέ τόν Υἱό Σου, στά οὐράνια».

Ἡ Παναγία μας, τέκνα ἐν Κυρίῳ ἀγαπητά, μέ τήν μακαρία Κοίμησή Της δέν ἐγκατέλειψε τόν λαό Της, δέν ἄφησε ὀρφανή τήν κληρονομία Της. Ἡ ἔμψυχη Κιβωτός τοῦ Κυρίου ἀπό τά ἐπίγεια καί φθαρτά ἀνέρχεται στήν ἐπουράνια Ἱερουσαλήμ τήν

αιώνια καὶ ἄφθαρτη. Ἡ Ὑπεραγία Θεοτόκος, τό ἔμψυχον παλάτιον τοῦ Υἱοῦ καὶ Λόγου τοῦ Θεοῦ Πατρός, ἔγινε ἡ κλίμακα πού μᾶς ἀνεβάζει στόν οὐρανό, γι' αὐτό καί ὁ θάνατός Της εἶναι διάβαση πρὸς τὴν ἀθανασία. Ἔτσι, λοιπόν, σήμερα δέν ἐορτάζουμε τὴν Κοίμηση μόνο τῆς Θεοτόκου ἀλλὰ καὶ τὴν ἔνδοξη Μετάστασή Της. Πιστεύουμε ὅτι ὁ τάφος δέν μποροῦσε νὰ κρατήσῃ τό πανακήρατο σῶμα Της. Πέθανε ἡ Παναγία μας διότι, ὡς κτιστό δημιούργημα, ἔπρεπε νὰ ἐκπληρώσῃ τό κοινὸ πανανθρώπινο χρέος πού εἶναι ὁ θάνατος. Μετετέθη, ὅμως, διότι ἡ μετάσταση ἦταν σημεῖο τοῦ ἀφθάρτου θαύματος, κορύφωση τῶν χαρίτων τῆς Ὑπερευλογημένης Μητρός τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ἀς κλίνουμε, λοιπόν, εὐλαβικά γόνυ σώματος καὶ καρδίας ἐνώπιον τῆς ἱερῆς εἰκόνας Της καὶ ἅς Τὴν παρακαλέσουμε γιὰ τὴν σωτηρία μας, γιὰ τὴν κατάπαυση τῶν πολέμων καὶ γιὰ τὴν εἰρήνευση τοῦ κόσμου. Χρόνια πολλά καὶ εὐλογημένα ὑπὸ τὴν κραταιὰ σκέπη καὶ προστασία τῆς Παναγίας Μητέρας μας.

Μέ πολλή πατρική ἀγάπη καὶ εὐχές



† Ὁ Νέας Ἱερσέης Ἀπόστολος