



## ***Dormition of the Theotokos***

“Dormition” means “Falling Asleep.” When a Christian dies, we say he has “fallen asleep,” because the Lord will raise him up again on the Last Day.

When the time came for the Dormition of the Theotokos, the Lord sent the Archangel Gabriel to announce this to Her. The Archangel brought a branch to Her from Paradise. After Her Falling-Asleep, the Apostle John carried that very branch before the coffin of the Theotokos.

Soon after Her Dormition, the Lord raised the Theotokos from the dead. She appeared to the Apostles, and told them that She will always be with Christians to help and protect them.

The Dormition of the Theotokos is the last of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Church Year.

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