



Orthodox Mission of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

306 W. Main Street
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

The Rev. Fr. Elias Yelovich, Pastor

<http://EntranceMission.org>

Most Holy Theotokos, We Magnify You! **Week of June 21, 2015**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

O hope of the hopeless, help of the helpless, and aid of them that place their hope in thee, O Holy Theotokos, extend thy helping hand unto us.

This prayer is said at the end of the eighth Kathisma when we pray the Psalms according to the direction of spiritual fathers of old. On Tuesdays we pray the seventh, eighth and ninth Kathismata, and so this prayer was said today. We should always pray with respect, never assuming that we are worthy for our prayers even to be heard; we should pray in humility before her who gave birth to the Savior of mankind; and above all, we should pray with love and thanksgiving.

Knowing full well who and how I am, I do not approach the Mother of God lightly. *“My soul trembles when I think of the All-Holy Theotokos,”* wrote St. Siloam of Mt. Athos. And so does mine.

Nevertheless, there are times that the priest must ask for her intercessions on behalf of others, particularly on behalf of others from the congregation of which she is patroness. Yesterday I asked for her aid regarding the burial of Richard Hess, our friend from Hillside who died suddenly a week and a half ago. The only thing I knew was that he had been cremated by the coroner of Adams County, PA,

since he had no family and no money. Knowing that we have no legal rights to his remains, I wondered if they could even be given over to us. So, as I did when we needed a place to worship together, I asked the Most Holy Theotokos for help, and told her that I would not keep silent when it was given. And given it has been.

Virtually immediately, I was able to reach the coroner. When the coroner heard that we were a church wanting to give Richard a Christian burial, she told me that she would release his remains to me after I found a place to bury them locally. With only one phone call necessary, the caretaker of the historic and beautiful Evergreen Cemetery in Gettysburg told me that he would donate the grave, prepare it and place a marker on it for Richard. Accordingly, Richard will be laid to rest in Evergreen Cemetery on Monday morning at 9 AM with the reading of the Akathist for the Departed. I will bring Richard's remains to the church temporarily on Wednesday or Thursday and place them beneath the analogion with the festal icon on it in the southwest corner of the church. Then, we will take those remains to the cemetery in Gettysburg on Monday morning.

We will pray the Akathist to the Mother of God prior to Typika tomorrow morning (Wednesday) in thanksgiving to her for her intercessions on our behalf. She is truly the patroness of our small community!

Most Holy Theotokos, we magnify you! And we thank you with all our hearts for all of your intercessions on behalf of us who, unworthy though we be, are disciples of your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Remember what the LORD has done for you! Give Him thanks and praise! Glory to His NAME for all things! Pray for me, His most unworthy of priests.

In Christ our true God,

+Fr. Elias

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