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The Dormition: Icon of Hope

[Ξένες γλώσσες / In English](#)



On

August 15, the Dormition of the Mother of God is celebrated by most Christians in

the world. The Church year begins on September 1, and the first [Great Feast](#) of the year is the Nativity of the Theotokos, making the Dormition of the Theotokos the last great feast of the year. It is entirely fitting that these two feasts - celebrating the birth and falling-asleep of Mary respectively - should buttress the entire church calendar. The Church calendar tells us the story of our Salvation in the traditional way, with the climax of the story coming in the middle, which is when Easter is celebrated, before ending in a way which is somewhat symmetrical and complimentary to the beginning. Therefore, the final "scene" in our story of Salvation is the Dormition of Mary, the Mother of God.

The Icon of the feast depicts various strands of the story in one single frame. The story is this:

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