

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Before we begin to discuss the Gospel reading, just a small reminder that we are in the middle of the Dormition Fast, a fasting period that is short but very strict, on a par with Great Lent. Through this fast, we prepare ourselves to honor the Mother of God as she leaves our world for the Heavenly Kingdom where she becomes the great Heavenly Mother and protector to all people who turn to her for assistance. [\(continue\)](#)