***“Thought for the Week”* 7 2 17**

***“Behind the second curtain stood a tent called the Holy of Holies…”***

My beloved in Christ Jesus today we rejoice at this most blessed feast of the deposition of the Robe of the Theotokos in Blachernae. In today’s Epistle, St. Paul talks about the “Holy of Holies” which is the mysterious place where God was present. But, as he said later on, all of these things-even the earthly temple- were mere copies and shadows of the heavenly things. We, as those who belong to Christ, can now taste directly the heavenly things. Our Lady Theotokos shows us that the Holy of Holies is not a tent but is a human person. She showed us that God does not appear in a temple made with hands, but comes to us through her body. He comes to us because of her humility and purity. And as she now sits at the right hand of our Lord in Heaven, so through and with her, our prayers ascend directly to the heavenly throne. In one of the prayers of the Proskomedia we say ***“In honor and memory of our most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, through whose intercessions, do Thou accept this sacrifice upon Thy most heavenly Altar.”*** Our worship is no longer earthly and is not bound by human reasoning but rather we taste directly of heaven in the Holy Liturgy. As a mother, she is constantly interceding for us and protecting us, for it is through her that we become the family of God. Without a mother how can we be a family? Without her, how could we be saved, for salvation was born in her womb.

Let us now descend from heaven and “get practical.” Just as our earthly mothers show us how we should live our lives so does our heavenly mother. In the wedding of Cana, she asks our Lord to perform a miracle that He, at first, appears to refuse- ***“Woman, what have I do with Thee, mine hour is not yet come.”*** Having been obedient to his mother for 30 years, the Lord now shows us that our first obedience is to our heavenly Father before all things- even before our earthly parents. And she, in her humility, is not insulted. She accepts her Son’s decision. She trusts Him. She tells the servants ***“Whatever He says to you do it.”*** In saying this we must not understand that she is insisting that He perform the miracle. She is, rather, saying to each one of us, whatever the Lord wills, let us accept it even if we don’t understand it. He knows all things, He knows what is best for us. When difficulties and suffering comes into our lives, let us not ask **“why has God allowed this-Why me?**” Rather, let us ask, ***“Lord help me not to fall away from You and sin in the face of my difficulties.-lead me not into temptation.”*** The Holy Theotokos teaches us that if we accept humiliation and difficulties with faith and with hope, then we will speed the coming of the Glory of God. We will receive much more than we ask for. In our humility and patience, God will grant us every good thing. **“Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, Save us!**