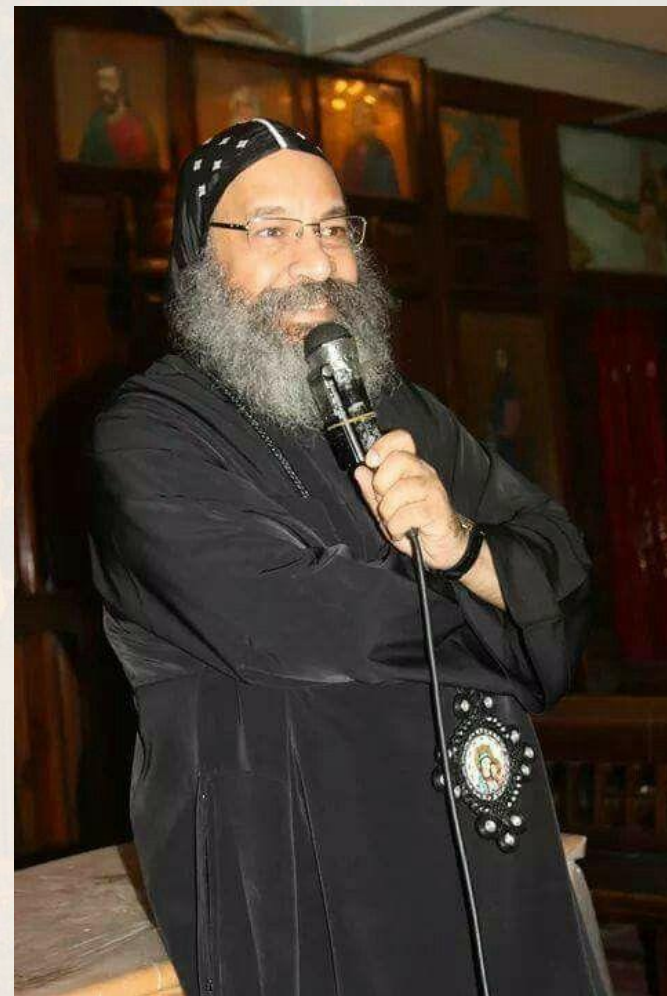




# DOGMA IN THE THEOTOKIAS

# Dogma in the Theotokias

- What is a Theotokia
- Origins
- Seven Annual Theotokia
- Dogmas:
  - Divinity of Christ
  - Natures of Christ
  - The Incarnation
  - Unchangeable
  - Fall of Man
  - Reason for the Incarnation
  - Joy of the Incarnation



# Theotokia - ΘΕΟΤΟΚΙΑ



- “Theotokia” from “Theotokos”:
  - “Mother of God”, relates to the Theotokos
  - Seven: for each day of the week
    - Midnight Praises: 4 Hos (praise), Psali, Theotokia
- Profound hymns:
  - explain the doctrine of the Divine Incarnation
  - highlight biblical symbols to illustrate the virgin birth.
- Simple theological presentation of St. Mary's deeds, qualities, and relationship with the Trinity, the heavenly host, the faithful, and all of humanity.

# Theotokos - ΘΕΟΤΟΚΟΣ

- Title appeared strongly since the Council of Ephesus 431 AD, in response to Nestorius.
  - Mentioned in the documents of the Council of Ephesus about 177 times
  - Oldest manuscript that includes the title “Theotokos” is an ancient Egyptian manuscript dating back to the third century



# Theotokia - Origins

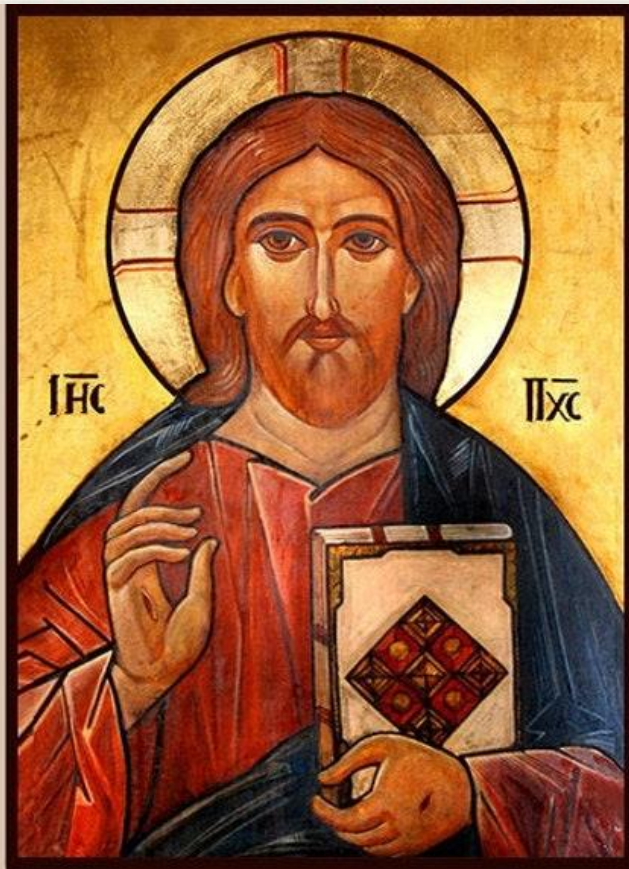


- No concrete conclusion on origin / author(s)
- Studies suggest similarity of many of its passages to sermons of prominent fathers:
  - Pope Cyril the Great
  - Patriarch St. Severus of Antioch
  - Pope Athanasius (last parts of Sunday Theotokos)
  - St. Proclus of Constantinople (438-446 AD)
  - Mar Ephrem the Syrian (poetic similarities)
- Author(s) studied the sermons of the saints
  - followed their defenses against heretics
  - formulated the doctrine in melodious texts.

# Seven Annual Theotokia

- Teaches us about the Virgin and her symbols in the Old Testament

| Theotokia | Symbolism                           | Example                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday    | Tabernacle                          | <i>A true tabernacle, is Mary the Virgin, placed in its midst, the true testimonies.</i>                                                                               |
| Monday    | Adam and Eve vs Christ and St. Mary | <i>Eve who was tempted, by the serpent, was condemned, by the Lord. Yet God felt compassionate, through his love for man, and was pleased, to free her once again.</i> |
| Tuesday   | Many symbols                        | <i>You are the treasure, that Joseph bought, and he found the pearl, hidden in its midst.</i>                                                                          |
| Wednesday | Old Testament Prophecies            | <i>They spoke of you with honor, O city of God, for you are the dwelling place, of all the joyful.</i>                                                                 |
| Thursday  | The Burning Bush                    | <i>The fire of His divinity, did not burn the womb of the Virgin, and after she bore Him, she remained a virgin.</i>                                                   |
| Friday    | Benefits of the Incarnation         | <i>He took what is ours, and gave us what is His, we praise and glorify Him, and exalt Him.</i>                                                                        |
| Saturday  | Many symbols                        | <i>You were likened to the ladder, which Jacob saw, rising up to heaven, with the awesome God standing above it.</i>                                                   |

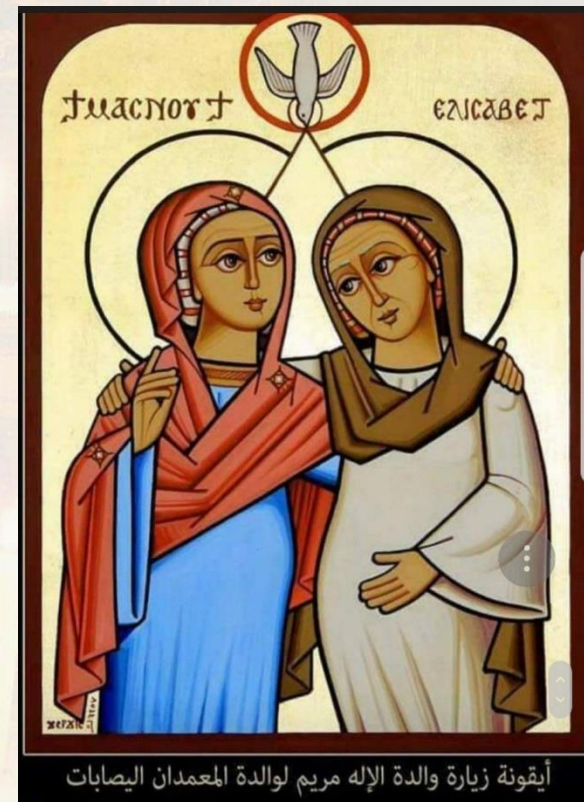


# DOGMA IN THE THEOTOKIAS: *DIVINITY OF CHRIST*

# Wednesday Theotokia, 6<sup>th</sup> Part

- + *The One feared by the angels, Mary the Virgin, has carried, in her womb.*
- + *She is exalted above the Cherubim, more honored than the Seraphim, she became a temple, for the One from the Trinity.*

- Jesus is God:
  - Same Person born of the Virgin
    - *carried, in her womb*
  - is the one born before all ages
    - *the One from the Trinity*
    - *feared by angels*



# Wednesday Theotokia, 7<sup>th</sup> Part

*+ For the Incorporeal was incarnate, and the Word became flesh, the One without beginning began, the Eternal came under time.*  
*+ The Incomprehensible has been touched, and the Unseen has been seen, and the Son of the living God, truly became the Son of Man.*

| God                   | Incarnate             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Incorporeal           | was incarnate         |
| Word                  | became flesh          |
| One without beginning | began                 |
| Eternal               | came under time       |
| Incomprehensible      | has been touched      |
| Unseen                | has been seen         |
| Son of the living God | became the Son of Man |



# DOGMA IN THE THEOTOKIAS NATURES OF CHRIST

# Sunday Theotokia, 2<sup>nd</sup> Part

+ *One nature out of two, a holy divinity,  
co-essential with the Father, and incorruptible.*  
+ *A holy humanity, begotten without seed,  
co-essential with us, according to the Economy.*  
+ *This which He has taken, from you O undefiled,  
He made one with Him, as a hypostasis.*



- Cyrillian formula: council of Ephesus
  - μία φύσις τοῦ θεοῦ λόγου σεσαρκωμένη:  
“one physis of the Word of God made flesh”  
“one Nature united out of two”
- Athanasian formula: ὁμοούσιος
  - ὁμοούσιος: “**same** in essence”
  - ὁμοούσιος μετὰ τῷ πατρί: co-essential with the Father
  - ὁμοούσιος μετὰ ἡμῶν: co-essential with us
  - How?? *This which He has taken, from you O undefiled, He made one with Him, as a hypostasis.*
  - “I am the true vine, My Father is the vinedresser.” (Jn 15:1)

# Thursday Theotokia, 3<sup>rd</sup> Part

+ *Let us proclaim and say unto Him, “Glory be to the Incomprehensible One, the good Lover of Man the Savior of our souls, He came and saved us.”*

+ *He did not cease to be divine, He came and became the Son of Man, for He is the true God, who came and saved us.*

- Mystery: *Incomprehensible One*
- Our savior: *the good Lover of Man the Savior of our souls, He came and saved us.*
- True God: *He did not cease to be divine, He came and became the Son of Man, for He is the true God, who came and saved us.*



# **DOGMA IN THE THEOTOKIAS**

## **THE INCARNATION**

# Thursday Theotokia, 4<sup>th</sup> Part

+ *When he appeared to Joseph, he likewise said,  
“The One she will give birth to, is from the Holy Spirit.”*  
+ *For the Word of the Father, came and took flesh from her,  
she bore Him without change, the angel said to him.*  
+ *“She shall give birth to a Son, and He shall be called  
Emmanuel, which means, God with us.”*

- Born of the Holy Spirit
- Without change
- “God with us”



# Thursday Theotokia, 5<sup>th</sup> Part

*+ For she is where, two were united,  
the undefiled virginity, and the true Birth.*

*+ For marriage, did not precede birth,  
neither did the Birth, loosen her virginity.*

*+ For He who was born is God, born without pain from the Father,  
and He was also born according to the flesh, without pain from the Virgin.*

- Perpetual virginity
  - two were united, the undefiled virginity, and the true Birth.
  - marriage did not precede birth, neither did the Birth, loosen her virginity.
- Born as a human:
  - He was also born according to the flesh



# Thursday Theotokia, 6<sup>th</sup> Part

*+ O what a great wonder, He took a rib,  
from Adam's side, and created a woman from it.  
+ She gave all the form of humanity,  
with perfection to the Lord, the Creator, the Word of the Father.  
+ This is He who took flesh, from her without change,  
she gave birth to Him as a human, and He was called Emmanuel.*

- Adam → Eve → Virgin Mary → Jesus
- Born as a human, and also God: Emmanuel





# **DOGMA IN THE THEOTOKIAS UNCHANGABLE**

# Wednesday Theotokia, 7<sup>th</sup> Part

*+ Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever,  
in one hypostasis, we worship and glorify Him.  
+ The Father looked from heaven, and found no one like you,  
He sent His only-begotten, who came and took flesh from you.*

- Incarnation did not change Him:
  - Same Person born of the Virgin
    - *Jesus Christ the same ... in one hypostasis*
    - *who came and took flesh from you.*



# Thursday Theotokia, 3<sup>rd</sup> Part

+ *Which mind or which speech, or sound can attain,  
the unutterable expression, of Your love for mankind O God.*  
+ *The One and only Word, begotten before all ages,  
as the divinity without body, from the only Father.*

- Eternal birth - Divinity
  - *begotten before all ages,  
as the divinity without body, from the only Father.*
- Temporal birth - Humanity
  - *was born bodily, without change or alteration,  
from His Mother only.*
- Born of the Father, incarnate from the virgin,  
without human seed!

# Thursday Theotokia, 3<sup>rd</sup> , 4<sup>th</sup> Parts

*+ And He Himself also, was born bodily,  
without change or alteration, from His Mother only.*

.....

*+ For the Word of the Father, came and took flesh from her,  
she bore Him without change, the angel said to him.*

- “He made it one with his Divinity without mingling without confusion and without alteration ” .  
بغير إختلاط ولا  
أمتزاج ولا تغيير
- without: fading, distortion, or confinement  
ولا تلاشي ولا تشويش ولا انحصار
  - None of this occurred:
    - Fading: gradually grow faint and disappear
    - Distortion: altering out of true, natural, original state
    - Confinement: keep within limits



# Sunday Theotokia, 2<sup>nd</sup> Part

*+ The ark overlaid, roundabout with gold,  
that was made, with wood that would not decay.  
+ It foretold the sign, of God the Word,  
who became man, without separation.*



- “The ark is made of wood, overlaid with gold, inside and outside.  
The wood was covered with the glory of gold, without turning it into gold.” (St. Cyril)
  - Humanity was overlaid with Divinity without turning humanity into Divinity
  - *“without mingling, without confusion and without alteration”*

# Kiahk Exposition on Ceuort

*You are the ark of the covenant, O perfect Virgin Mary, whom they made of incorruptible wood and painted with gold inside and out.*

*God, our Savior, who became incarnate from you with an unspeakable oneness, dwelt in us by dispensation and was equal with us as a human being, and equal with God the Father in the essence of the Godhead: one of two, divinity and hypostasis, a composite hypostasis.*

أنت هي التابوت الذي للعهد  
يا مريم العذراء الكاملة التي  
عملوها من خشب لا  
يسوس وطلوها بالذهب من  
داخل وخارج.

الله مخلصنا الذي تجسد منك  
بوحداية لا ينطق بها، حل  
فينا بالتدبير وساوى معنا  
كالبشرية، ومساوى مع الله  
الأب بجوهر اللاهوت: واحد  
من اثنين لاهوت وناسوت،  
باقنوم مركب





# **DOGMA IN THE THEOTOKIAS FALL OF EVE (AND ADAM)**

# Monday Theotokia, 2<sup>nd</sup> Part

+ *Eve who was tempted, by the serpent, was condemned, by the Lord.*  
+ *“For in abundance, I will greatly multiply, your sorrows, and your sighs.”*

## Exposition of 11th hour of Pascha Monday

*And you Eve why did you do this and disobey my commandments. It was not that an angel or a bird talked to you about it but a serpent, beast by its nature and you listened to his advice.*

*Many shall be your sorrows and great will be your weeping.*

وأنت يا حواء لماذا صنعت  
هكذا وخالفت وصاياي؟ ليس  
ملاك تكلم معك ولا طائر من  
الجو. بل وحش ثعبان بطبيعته  
فسمعت منه مشورته.  
فكثيرة هي الأحزان التي تكون  
لك والتنهيد والنوح العظيمان

- Who spoke to Eve?
- Who spoke to St. Mary?



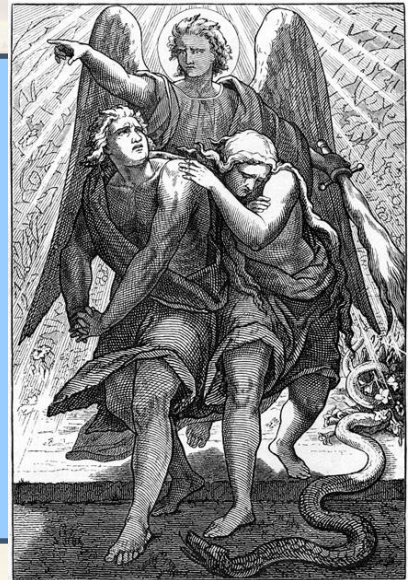
# Wednesday Theotokia, 4<sup>th</sup> Part

- + *Great is the honor, which you are worthy of O Gabriel, the messenger angel, your face beams with joy.*
- + *For you announced to us the birth, of God who came to us, and you declared to Mary, the undefiled Virgin.*
- + *Saying “Hail to you O full of grace, the Lord is with you, you have found grace, the Holy Spirit shall come upon you.*



# Monday Theotokia Lobsh

- + *Through the advice of Eve, our first mother, Adam ate from, the fruit of the tree.*
- + *So came to our race, and all the creation, the authority of death, and corruption.*
- + *Through Mary, the Theotokos, Adam was restored again, to his authority.*





# **DOGMA IN THE THEOTOKIAS REASON FOR THE INCANATION**

# Thursday Theotokia, 8<sup>th</sup> Part

- + The One of the Trinity, co-essential to the Father, when He looked upon our tribulation, and our bitter slavery.*
- + He bowed the heaven of heavens, and came to the womb of the Virgin, He became man like us, save for sin only.*

Bright Saturday Psali Watos - Ἀ ΠΟΤ ΤΑΩΕ ἰΡΙ ΝΕΜΑΝ

- + Blessed are You O Christ the crucified, for You turned our sadness to joy, and You freed us from the bitter slavery, holy Immortal have mercy upon us. (ἍΓΙΟC ἈΘΑΝΑΤΟC ΝΑΙ ΝΑΝ)*
- + You had compassion on our weakness, we who are sinners, as a good One and Lover of men, holy Immortal have mercy upon us.*
- + The Lord said, "Now I will rise, and openly save My creation," holy Immortal have mercy upon us.*

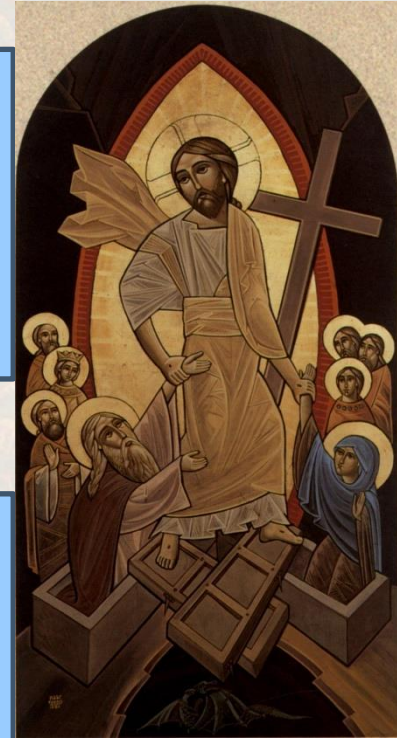


# Monday Theotokia, 8<sup>th</sup> Part

- + For He has destroyed, the middle wall,  
and killed the enmity, with perfection.*
- + He has torn, the verdict of slavery,  
pronounced on Adam and Eve, and He freed them.*

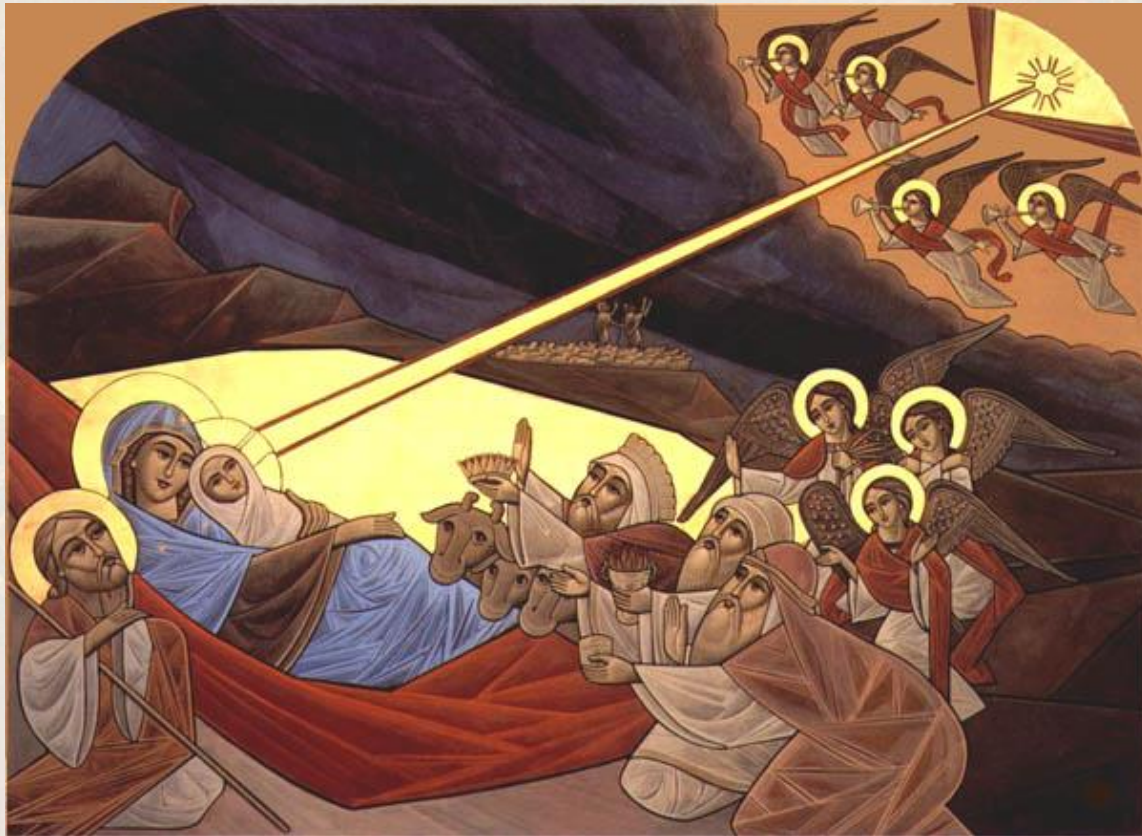
# Friday Theotokia, 5<sup>th</sup> Part

- + Through His Cross, and His holy Resurrection,  
He restored man once again, to the Paradise.*
- + He took what is ours, and gave us what is His,  
we praise and glorify Him, and exalt Him.*



# Sunday Theotokia, 10<sup>th</sup> Part

- + He who offered Himself, as an acceptable sacrifice, ΦΑΙ ΕΤΑΥΕΝΕΥ*  
upon the Cross, for the salvation of our race.
- + His good Father, smelled Him, in the evening, on Golgotha.*
- + He opened the gate, of Paradise,  
and restored Adam again, to his authority.*



# DOGMA IN THE THEOTOKIAS JOY OF THE INCARNATION

# Thursday Theotokia, 2<sup>nd</sup> Part

- + *The pride of all virgins, is Mary the Mother of God, for her sake He has revoked, the first curse.*
- + *Which was pronounced upon our race, through the violation, incurred by the first woman, when she ate from the fruit of the tree.*
- + *Because of Eve, the door of Paradise was closed, and through the Virgin Mary, it was opened to us once more.*

## Hymn of the Resurrection - TENNAY

+ All joy befits you O Theotokos. For through you Adam returned to Paradise. And Eve gained grace to replace her sadness. Through you she gained freedom once more, as well as eternal salvation. And we too let us glorify you, as a treasure of the Resurrection. "Hail to the sealed treasure through which we were given life. Hail to her who gave birth to Christ our God, who gave us life through His Resurrection." Blessed are You O Lord, teach me Your justice.

# To Learn the Church Dogma...

Praises

Attend

Liturgies

