



**The Holy Protection of the Most Holy Theotokos  
Which the Holy Church Celebrates on October 1.**

The Feast of the Protection commemorates the appearance of the most holy Theotokos in the Church of Blachernae in Constantinople in the early tenth century, as recorded in the life of Saint Andrew the Fool for Christ's sake. While the multitudes of the faithful were gathered in church, Epiphanius, the friend of Saint Andrew, through the Saint's prayers, beheld the Virgin Mary above the

faithful and spreading out her veil over them, signifying her unceasing protection of all Christians. Because of this we keep a yearly feast of gratitude, imploring our Lady never to cease sheltering us in her mighty prayers.

Rest from labour. Wine and oil allowed.

Text: *The Great Horologion* © 1997 The Holy Transfiguration Monastery Brookline, Massachusetts 02445

*Dismissal Hymn of the Holy Protection. First Tone  
While Gabriel was saying  
(According to the Greek usage)*

**O** VIRGIN, we extol the great grace of thy protection, \* which thou didst spread out like a bright cloud beyond all understanding; \* for thou dost invisibly protect \* thy people from the foe's every assault. \* Since we have thee as our shelter and certain help, \* we cry to thee with our whole soul: \* Glory to thy great deeds, O most pure Maid. \* Glory to thy shelter most divine. Glory to thy care and providence for us, O spotless one.

*Dismissal Hymn of the Holy Protection. Fourth Tone  
(According to the Russian Usage)*

**T**ODAY we Orthodox people joyfully keep festival, being illumined by thy glorious coming among us, O Mother of God; and gazing upon thy most pure image, we say with compunction: Shelter us with thy most precious Protection, and deliver us from all evil, and pray to thy Son, Christ our God, that He save our souls.

*Kontakion of the Holy Protection. Plagal of the Fourth Tone  
To thee, the Champion Leader  
(According to the Greek usage)*

**L**ET the faithful hasten to the Theotokos now \* and venerate her sacred veil, as we chant unto her, \* singing hymns to praise and honor her, as is fitting; \* for she shelt'reth with her shelter all her faithful flock \* and preserveth them unharmed from all calamities, \* as they cry to her: \* Rejoice, Protection most radiant.

*Kontakion of the Holy Protection. Third Tone  
(According to the Russian usage)*

**T**ODAY the Virgin doth stand before us in the church, and with the choirs of Saints invisibly prayeth to God for us. Angels worship with Hierarchs, Apostles rejoice with Prophets, for the Theotokos prayeth for us to the Eternal God.



Courtesy Saint Gregory of Sinai Monastery  
<http://www.gsinai.com/index.html>

## Theotokos of the sign