



*Doris Mae Debes*

*June 16, 1927 - March 9, 2023*

Monday, March 13, 2023 10:00 a.m.  
St. Michael's Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church  
Beaumont, Texas  
The Very Reverend Father Michael Pavez

# THE FUNERAL SERVICE

*The Funeral Service may be held at the house, or in the Church,  
or at a funeral parlor, or at the grave.*

Priest: Blessed is our God always: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## *Psalm 90*

Reader: Whoso dwelleth under the defense of the Most High, shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say unto the Lord, Thou art my hope, and my stronghold; my God, in him will I trust. For he shall deliver thee from the snare of the hunter, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall defend thee under his wings, and thou shalt be safe under his feathers; his faithfulness and truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for any terror by night, nor for the arrow that flieth by day; For the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor for the sickness that destroyeth in the noon-day. A thousand shall fall beside thee, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee. Yea, with thine eyes shalt thou behold, and see the reward of the ungodly. For thou, Lord, art my hope; thou hast set thine house of defense very high. There shall no evil happen unto thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee in their hands, that thou hurt not thy foot against a stone. Thou shalt go upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him; I will set him up, because he hath known my Name. He shall call upon me, and I will hear him; yea, I am with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and bring him to honour. With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.

*After Psalm 90 is finished, the following Hymns are sung:*

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

The Choir of the Saints have found the Fountain of Life and the Door of Paradise. May I also find the right way, through repentance. I am a lost sheep. Call me, O Saviour, and save me.

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

O thou who of old didst create me from nothingness, and didst honor me with thine image divine, but because I transgressed thy commandments hast returned me again unto the earth from which I was taken: Bring me back to that likeness, to be reshaped in that pristine beauty.

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

I am an image of thy glory ineffable, though I bear the brands of transgressions: Show thy compassions upon thy creature, O Master, and purify me by thy loving-kindness; and grant unto me the home-country of my heart's desire, making me again a citizen of Paradise.

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

Ye holy Martyrs, who preached the Lamb of God, and like unto lambs were slain, and are translated into life eternal, which groweth not old; pray ye unto Him that he will grant us remission of our sins.

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

Give rest, O Lord, to the soul of thy servant, and establish *her* in Paradise; where the Choirs of the Saints, and of the Just, shine like the stars of heaven; Give rest to thy servant who hath fallen asleep, regarding not all the charges against *her*.

Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

Ye who have trod the narrow way most sad; all ye who, in life have taken upon you the Cross as a yoke, and have followed Me through faith, draw near: Enjoy ye the honors and the crowns which I have prepared for you.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Devoutly do we hymn the triple Splendor of the one Godhead, crying aloud: Holy art thou, O Father, who art from everlasting: O Son, Co-eternal; and Spirit divine! Illumine us who with faith do worship thee; and rescue us from fire eternal.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Hail, O Holy One, who for the salvation of all men didst bring forth God in the flesh; through whom the race of men hath found salvation; through Thee have we found Paradise, O Theotokos, O pure and blessed One.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to thee, O God. (*thrice*)

## THE EKTENIA

*(Priest censes the Body while saying the Ektenia)*

Priest: Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the servant of God, *Doris*, departed this life, and that thou wilt pardon *her* every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That the Lord God will establish *her* soul where the Just repose.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: The mercies of God, the kingdom of heaven and remission of *her* sins, let us ask of Christ, our Immortal King and our God.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

Priest: For thou art the Resurrection and the Life and the Repose of thy departed servant, *Doris*, O Christ our God, and unto thee we ascribe glory, together with thy Father who is from everlasting, and thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.  
Amen.

*Then the following Hymns are sung: (Tone 5)*

Give rest with the Just, O our Saviour, unto thy servant, and make *her* to dwell in thy courts, as it is written. Overlooking, as thou art good, *her* sins both voluntary and involuntary, and all things done with knowledge or in ignorance, O Thou who lovest mankind.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

And all things, done with knowledge or in ignorance, O thou who lovest mankind.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### *THEOTOKION*

O Christ our God, who from the Virgin didst dawn forth upon the world, through Her making us children of the light, have mercy upon us.

### *A CANON OF THEOPHANES - HEIRMOS (Tone 6)*

There is none holy like unto thee, O Lord my God, who hast exalted the horn of thy faithful, O Good One, and hast established them upon the rock of thy confession.

### *KATHISMA (Tone 6)*

Truly, all things are vanity, and life is but a shadow and a dream. For in vain doth every one born of earth disquiet himself, as saith the Scripture. When we have acquired the world, then do we take up our dwelling in the grave, where kings and beggars are the same. Wherefore, O Christ our God, give rest to thy servant departed this life; forasmuch as thou lovest mankind.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*THEOTOKION (Tone 6)*

O All-holy Theotokos, forsake me not during the years of my life, nor make me dependent upon human protection: But do thou defend me and have mercy upon me.

*HEIRMOS - Ode 6 (Tone 6)*

As I behold the sea of life surging high with the tempest of temptations, I set my course toward thy tranquil haven and cry aloud to thee: lead thou my life forth from corruption, O Most Merciful One.

*KONTAKION (Tone 8)*

With the Saints give rest, O Christ, to the soul of thy servant, where there is neither sickness, nor sorrow, nor sighing, but life everlasting.

*OIKOS*

Thou alone art immortal, who hast created and fashioned man. For out of the earth were we mortals made, and unto the same earth shall we return again, as thou didst command when thou didst fashion me, saying unto me: Earth thou art, and unto the earth shalt thou return. Whither, also all we mortals wend our way, making our funeral dirge the song: Alleluia.

*HEIRMOS - Ode 9 (Tone 6)*

It is not possible that men should see God, upon whom the Orders of the Angels dare not gaze. But through thee, O All-immaculate One, was the Word Incarnate made visible to mortal men: and magnifying Him together with the Heavenly Hosts, we call Thee blessed.

## THE EKTENIA

*(Priest censes the Body while saying the Ektenia)*

- Priest: Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
- Priest: Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the servant of God, *Doris*, departed this life, and that thou wilt pardon *her* every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
- Priest: That the Lord God will establish *her* soul where the Just repose.
- Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
- Priest: The mercies of God, the kingdom of heaven and remission of *her* sins, let us ask of Christ, our Immortal King and our God.
- Choir: Grant this, O Lord.
- Priest: For thou art the Resurrection and the Life and the Repose of thy departed servant, *Doris*, O Christ our God, and unto thee we ascribe glory, together with thy Father who is from everlasting, and thine all-holy, and good, and life-giving Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Then the Idiomela by John, the Monk of Damascus, are sung in the eight Tones.*

*Tone I.* What earthly sweetness remaineth unmixed with grief? What glory standeth immutable on earth? All things are but feeble shadows, all things are most deluding dreams: yet one moment only, and Death shall supplant them all. But in the light of thy countenance, O Christ, and in the sweetness of thy beauty, give rest unto *her* whom thou hast chosen: forasmuch as thou lovest mankind.



*Tone II.* Woe is me! What manner of ordeal doth the soul endure when it is parted from the body! Woe is me! how many then are its tears, and there is none to show compassion! Turning its eyes to the angels, it supplicates in vain; stretching out its hands to men, it findeth none to succour. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, meditating on the brevity of our life, let us beseech of Christ rest for *her* who hath departed hence; and for our souls great mercy.

*Tone III.* All mortal things are vanity and exist not after death. Riches endure not, neither doth glory accompany on the way: for when death cometh, all these things vanish utterly. Wherefore let us cry unto Christ the Immortal King: Give rest, in the dwelling-place of all those who rejoice to him who is departed from among us.

*Tone IV.* Where is desire for the world? Where is the display of transient mortals? Where are the gold and the silver? Where is the multitude of household servants and their clamour? All are dust, all are ashes, all are shadows. But come, let us cry aloud unto the deathless King: O Lord, of thine eternal good things account *her* worthy who hath departed from among us, giving unto *her* rest in thy blessedness which groweth not old.

*Tone V.* I called to mine the Prophet, as he cried: I am earth, and ashes; and I looked again into the graves and beheld the bones laid bare, and I said: Who then is the king or the warrior, the rich man or the needy, the upright or the sinner? Yet, O Lord, give rest unto thy servant with the righteous.

*Tone VI.* Thy creating command was my origin and my foundation: for it was thy pleasure to fashion me out of nature visible and invisible, a living creature. From the earth thou didst shape my body, and didst give me a soul by thy divine and quickening breath. Wherefore, O Christ, give rest to thy servant in the land of the living, in the habitation of the Just.

*Tone VII.* When in the beginning, thou didst create man after thine own image and likeness, thou didst set him in Paradise to reign over thy creatures. But when, beguiled by the malice of the Devil, he tasted of the food, he became a transgressor of thy commandment. For which cause, O Lord, thou didst condemn him to return again unto the earth whence he was taken, and to entreat repose.

*Tone VIII.* I weep and I wail when I think upon death, and behold our beauty, fashioned after the image of God, lying in the tomb disfigured, dishonored, bereft of form. O marvel! What is this mystery which doth befall us? Why have we been given over unto corruption, and why have we been wedded unto death? Truly, as it is written, by the command of God, who giveth the departed rest.

*THE BEATITUDES (Tone 6)*

Remember us, O Lord, when thou comest into thy kingdom.

Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst for righteousness' sake:  
for they shall be filled.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

A citizen of Paradise, O Christ, thou didst make of the Thief, who,  
because of his repentance, upon the cross cried unto thee: Remember me!  
Make thou me, a sinner, worthy also of the same.

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

O thou who reignest over life and death, in the courts of thy Saints  
grant rest unto *her* whom thou hast removed from temporal things, and  
who crieth unto thee: Remember me also, O Lord, when thou comest into  
thy kingdom.

Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children  
of God.

O thou who rulest over souls and bodies, in whose hand is our  
breath, the Consolation of the afflicted: In the land of the Just give rest  
unto thy servant whom thou hast taken from us.

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake:  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

May Christ give thee rest in the land of the living, and open unto thee the gates of Paradise, and make thee a citizen of his kingdom; and give thee remission of those things wherein thou in life hast sinned, O thou who lovest Christ.

Blessed are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you, falsely, for my sake.

Let us go forth, and gaze into the tombs: man is naked bones, food for the worms, and stench: and we shall learn what are riches, and comeliness, and beauty, and strength.

Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Let us hearken unto what the Almighty crieth: Woe unto those who seek to behold the terrible day of the Lord! For lo, it is darkness: for all things shall be tried with fire.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Him who hath no beginning in birth or cause, the Father, I worship; Him who is the Only-begotten Son, I glorify; and unto the Holy Spirit who shineth together with the Father and the Son, I sing praises.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### *THEOTOKION*

How dost thou press milk in abundance from thy breasts, O Virgin? How dost thou nourish the Nourisher of creation? He knoweth it who made the water to well forth from the rock; streams of water for a people that were athrist, as it was written.

## THE APOSTLE

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: Prokeimenon. Blessed is the way in which thou shalt walk today; for a place of rest is prepared for thee.

*Verse.* Unto thee will I cry, O Lord my God.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Lesson from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Thessalonians.

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: Brethren: I would not have you to be ignorant concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Priest: Peace be to thee that readest.

Choir: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Blessed is he whom thou hast chosen and taken, O Lord.

## THE GOSPEL

*(The People Stand.)*

Priest: Wisdom! Attend! Let us hear the holy Gospel. Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

Priest: Let us attend! The Lord said to the Jews which came unto him: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. Verily, verily I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life in himself, so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. I can of mine own self do nothing; as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

Choir: Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

*(The people sit)*

#### EKTENIA

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great goodness, we pray thee: hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for the repose of the soul of the servant of God, *Doris*, departed this life; and that Thou wilt pardon *her* every transgression, both voluntary and involuntary.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: That the Lord God will establish *her* soul where the Just repose; the mercies of God, the kingdom of heaven and remission of *her* sins, let us ask of Christ our Immortal King and our God.

Choir: Grant this, O Lord.

### *THE PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION*

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Our Lord Jesus Christ, by his divine grace, as also by the gift and power vouchsafed unto his holy Disciples and Apostles, that they should bind and loose the sins of men: (For he said unto them: Receive ye the Holy Spirit: Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted; and whosoever sins ye retain they are retained. And whatsoever ye shall bind or loose upon earth shall be bound or loosed also in heaven.) By that same power, also, transmitted unto us from them, this my spiritual child, *Doris*, is absolved, through me, unworthy though I be, from all things wherein, as mortal, *she* hath sinned against God, whether in word or deed, or thought, and with all her senses, whether voluntary or involuntary; whether with knowledge or through ignorance. If *she* be under the ban or excommunication of a Bishop, or of a Priest; or hath sinned by any oath; or hath been bound, as man, by any sins whatsoever, but hath repented *her* thereof, with contrition of heart: *she* is now absolved from all those faults and bonds. May all those things which have been proceeded from weakness of *her* mortal nature be consigned to oblivion, and be remitted unto *her*: Through His loving-kindness; through the prayers of our most holy, and blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles, and of all the Saints. Amen.

## THE BENEDICTION

Priest: May He who rose again from the dead, Christ our true God: through the intercessions of his all immaculate Mother; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers, and of all the Saints, establish in the mansions of the righteous the soul of his servant, *Doris*, who hath been taken from us and number *her* among the Just; and have mercy upon us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Amen.

*The Priest then, in the form of a Cross, strews earth and pours oil upon the Body, saying:*

The Earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof: the round world, and they that dwell therein.

\*\*\*

*Then the remains are taken forth to the grave, preceded by the Holy Cross and the Clergy, singing:*

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us.

\*\*\*

## THE INTERMENT

*When they come to the Grave, and the Body is ready to be laid into the earth, the Priest shall recite the "Trisagion for the Dead," in its usual form.*

\*\*\*

*After the Interment, the Priest shall return to the house, or the place where the Body had lain, and recite the "Trisagion for the Dead."*

*“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control . . .” – Galatians 5:22-23*



**Doris M. Debes**, 95, of Beaumont, Texas passed into eternal life on March 9, 2023. She was the embodiment of the fruit of the Spirit and personified it every day of her life. Doris is preceded in death by her loving husband, Wilford, parents Ameen and Julia Shakour her brothers, Fred, Richard, Johnny, Eddie, and George Shakour, and her sisters, Mary Shakour and Annie Moses.

Born on June 16, 1927, to immigrant parents, Doris led a life of limitless, unconditional love and faithfulness. Called to serve the Lord, Doris found her greatest joys in her church and family. With unwavering devotion, there was nothing that this youngest of eight would not do for her family. She was the matriarch of the family even though she and her husband Wilford never had children of their own. Her love and generosity extended abundantly to all her siblings, nieces and nephews and their children. Faithful and gentle, she served as the caregiver to everyone throughout their lives with never a complaint or even a hint of exhaustion or frustration. Even into her final days, her peace and fulfillment came from being surrounded by her family.

Doris was truly devoted to her faith and to Saint Michael Christian Orthodox Church. She served in many capacities as Christ’s steward from parish council to fundraising to the heartwarming greeter every Sunday in the vestibule. She was selfless, brought people together, and showed them how to live the way God intends. Her church and the Orthodox religion were not just a building and a doctrine, but her way of life. As Christians, we are reminded that our ultimate goal is to become more like Christ, walking in humility toward others and obedience toward our heavenly Father and her walk exemplified that fully. She continually shined her light on the world through her service, and for that the community of St. Michael Orthodox Church will be impacted forever.

She was a strong, independent woman, with a zest for living. Her life was full of joy, and she was always surrounded by family and friends. She and Wilford enjoyed dancing, bowling, card games, and entertaining in their beautiful home which was always so welcoming to everyone. An amazing cook and hostess, she passed on many of her famous Lebanese recipes as her legacy. Every Thursday



was her special time for herself as she enjoyed her weekly poker games with her longtime friends. However, on every other afternoon of the week, you could always gather around the breakfast room table for a cup of coffee, a freshly cooked treat, and the warmest smile around.

Outside of her unwavering commitment to her family and faith, she was a bit of a pioneer for working women. At a young age, she took a business course and later joined American National Bank (shortly after becoming Texas Commerce Bank). She diligently worked her way up and was promoted as the first female Vice President. In true testament to who she was and her calling in life, Doris managed Customer Service where she became known to everyone in the community.

After years of service at the bank, Doris retired to tend to the needs of her family and friends. The consummate care giver to everyone she knew, she filled her days of respite in retirement with meal preparation, volunteering in the community, hosting her entire family for Sunday lunch, and of course caring for her husband, sisters, and brothers throughout their lives. Never meeting a stranger, her kind heart and gentle spirit touched everyone she met. Her door was quite literally always open to anyone, from the constant barrage of her nieces and nephews with their children to the stranger in need who knocked on her door, her generosity was overwhelmingly inspiring.

As her health declined, she moved into Calder Woods Retirement Home. Our family would like to extend our sincere gratitude for the years of care and support given to her in her new “home”. She always showed appreciation and said thank you to all without fail. Love went full circle as she was so well loved by everyone there.

Aunt Doris is survived by numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews, great-great-nieces and nephews, and a great-great-great-nephew. Her exemplary life will always be cherished by everyone she loved, and we are all blessed that God shared this angel among us for so many years. May your memory be eternal!





**COUNTERFEIT?** — Miss Karen Abbott, left, buyer for Aaron Rose Jewelers, tries her hand at distinguishing a fake bill from a genuine one. On display for a week at the American National Bank, the exhibit is provided by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas in cooperation with the United States Secret Service. Mrs. Doris Debes, assistant cashier and in charge of customer service, is at right. (Staff photo by Tom Knapp)









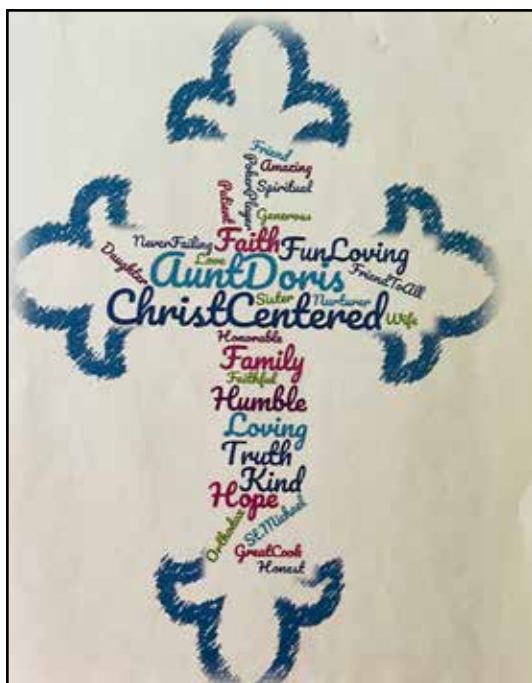












**Pallbearers**

Don Moses  
Alex Moses  
James Moses  
Clint Moses  
Chris Agostinelli  
Stavros Megas  
Mike Butts

**Honorary Pallbearers**

Aiden Agostinelli  
Ethan Megas

**Interment**

St. Michael Orthodox Cemetery  
Beaumont, Texas

**Memorial Contributions**

St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church  
680 North 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Beaumont, Texas 77702

~

Organization of one's choice

*All are invited to a Mercy Meal to follow  
her interment in the church hall.*

The logo for Broussards, featuring the name in a stylized, cursive script font. Below the name, the text "Established 1899" is written in a smaller, sans-serif font.

Please sign Mrs. Debes' guest book and share your memories at  
[broussards1889.com](http://broussards1889.com)