

THE JOY OF ALL WHO SORROW

**Our Church is privileged to have several icons of the Theotokos that are known to be wonderworking and miraculous in nature. One such icon is referred to as
“The Joy of all Who sorrow.”**

One event associated with this sacred image dates back to 1688. Tradition has it that a certain woman named Euphemia, who was the sister of Patriarch Joachim in Moscow, was suffering from a dangerous wound. Doctors were unsuccessful with every treatment that attempted and there was little hope that Euphemia would survive. Believing that prayer was the best “medicine,” Euphemia earnestly and fervently prayed to the Virgin Mary for her intercession. She then heard a voice with these instructions: “Go to the Church of the Transfiguration of my Son. There you will find my icon: The ‘Joy of All Who Sorrow.’ Ask the priest to pray before that icon, and you will be healed.” Obediently, Euphemia did as she was told. The priest offered a service before this holy icon and blessed her with holy water. To her amazement, Euphemia was completely healed!

This wonderful icon depicts the Theotokos standing among the flowers in paradise. Her Son, the King of Heaven and Earth, is visible above her in the clouds. Along both sides of the icon – framing the Mother of God – are those asking for her intercession, just as Euphemia did so long ago. Angels are present to guide the needy. She stand with her arms extended and her head tilted, as if she is listening to everyone. The compassion of a loving mother is evident in her face. Symbolically, she stands in paradise, and yet dwells among us.