

## WEEKLY MEDITATION

Our worship today anticipates both the feast of the Nativity of the Theotokos (tomorrow) and the feast of the Elevation of the Cross (next Sunday). In the first we celebrate the birthday of the one through whom God's plan of salvation was realized. In the second we reflect on the Lord's acceptance of the Cross as a revelation of divine love.

The Virgin Mary's acceptance of God's will - *be it unto me according to thy Word* - and our Lord Jesus Christ's acceptance of the Cross are both called *voluntary*. This means that their acceptance of what was to come - the Incarnation, death on the Cross - was free, unconstrained, a true choice, an act of will, an active consent. This is the kind of choice that really expresses and reveals the truth of the one who makes the choice. The choice made by Mary and the choice made by the Lord are acts of love. The love revealed in the choice shows the true nature of love to be self-offering, self-giving, self-sacrifice.

Most of the daily choices we make do not have this existential character. Many of them are in themselves quite trivial. Some of the choices we make are personal in the sense that they express our own characteristic needs, wants, desires, tastes. Choice is connected with self-expression. But at some point - at various points - in life each of us comes up against a critical moment, the need to make a deeply serious decision. Confronted by a truly serious decision, what do our important life choices say about who we are?

~Fr. Andrew

