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The Apostles brought this tradition to the Church of the New Testament (1 Cor 16:1-2). Instruction regarding bringing fruit to temple is found in the Third Rule of the Apostolic Canon, the earliest collection of ecclesiastic laws (canons), known since the second century. In Greece, August is the month of ripeness of fruit, mostly grapes and new ears of corn. Since old time, the faithful have been bringing them to temple for consecration and as Thanksgiving to God. St. John Chrysostom wrote, "Plowman receives fruit from the earth not so much for his labour and diligence, as out of goodness of God Who grows this fruit, because neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."

Grapes are brought to temple because they are directly related to the Eucharistic sacrament; that is why in the prayer for consecration of grapes the priest says, "Bless, Lord, this new fruit of vine which reached ripeness because Thou kindly provided good weather, drops of rain and stillness. Let eating this fruit of vine make us joyful. And give us the honor of offering this fruit to Thee, as the gift of purging of sins, altogether with the Holy Body of Thy Christ."

For the Feast of the Dormition, it is the custom in most parishes to bless flowers on this Feast. Pick and prepare a bouquet of flowers to bring to the Church to be blessed. Use the flowers to decorate an icon or the family table.

Come celebrate the Feast Day in Church as a family.

Explain the significance of the Feast day to your children.

Use the Troparion and Kontakion hymns as prayers before and/or after meals, and as part of the children's evening prayers during the 8-day "afterfeast."

If you have an icon of this feast, display it in your family's place of prayer for veneration. If you have children, discuss the icon with your children so that they are able to recognize all the figures and be able to tell the story.