

The Transfiguration of Christ:

The **transfiguration** of Christ is one of the central events recorded in the gospels. Immediately after the Lord was recognized by his apostles as "**the Christ, the Son of the Living God,**" he told them that "he must go up to Jerusalem and suffer many things ... and be killed and on the third day be raised". The announcement of Christ's approaching passion and death was met with indignation by the disciples. And then, after rebuking them, the Lord took Peter, James, and John "up to a high mountain" -- by tradition **Mount Tabor** -- and was "transfigured before them."

In the Transfiguration, the apostles see the glory of the Kingdom of God present in majesty in the person of Christ. They see that in him, indeed, all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, that in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily. They see this before the crucifixion so that in the resurrection they might know who it is who has suffered for them, and what it is that this one, who is God, has prepared for those who love him. This is what the Church celebrates in the feast of the Transfiguration.

The presence of **Moses and Elijah** is also of great significance for the understanding and celebration of the feast. Many of the hymns refer to these two leading figures of the Old Covenant as do the three scripture readings of Vespers which tell of the manifestation of the glory of God to these holy men of old. Moses and Elijah, according to the liturgical verses, are not only the greatest figures of the Old Testament who now come to worship the Son of God in glory, they also are not merely two of the holy men to whom God has revealed himself in the prefigurative theophanies of the Old Covenant of Israel. These two figures actually stand for the Old Testament itself: **Moses for the Law** and **Elijah for the Prophets**. And Christ is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets.

They also stand for the living and dead, for Moses died and his burial place is known, while Elijah was taken alive into heaven in order to appear again to announce the time of God's salvation in Christ the Messiah. Thus, in appearing with Jesus on the mount of Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah show that the Messiah Saviour is here, and that he is the Son of God to whom the Father himself bears witness, the Lord of all creation, of the Old and New Testaments, of the living and the dead. The Transfiguration of Christ in itself is the fulfillment of all of the theophanies and manifestations of God, a fulfillment made perfect and complete in the person of Christ. **The Transfiguration of Christ reveals to us our ultimate destiny as Christians, the ultimate destiny of all men and all creation to be transformed and glorified by the majestic splendor of God himself.**

There is little doubt that the feast of the Transfiguration of Christ belonged first to the pre-Easter season of the Church. It was perhaps celebrated on one of the Sundays of Lent, for besides certain historical evidence and the fact that today Saint **Gregory Palamas, the great teacher of the Transfiguration of Christ**, is commemorated during Lent, the event itself is one which is definitely connected with the approaching death and resurrection of the Saviour.

The **feast of the Transfiguration** is presently celebrated on **August 6**, probably for some historical reason. The summer celebration of the feast, however, has lent itself very well to the theme of transfiguration. The blessing of grapes, as well as other fruits and vegetables on this day is the most beautiful and adequate sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the paradise of God's unending Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord.

(From: *The Orthodox Faith*)

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Sunday Bulletin

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**Christ is in our
midst!**

**He is and always
will be!**

*On the Mountain You were Transfigured, O Christ God,
And Your disciples beheld Your glory as far as they could see it;
So that when they would behold You crucified,
They would understand that Your suffering was voluntary,
And would proclaim to the world,
That You are truly the Radiance of the Father!*

Kontakion - Transfiguration of our Lord

On this day the Church remembers:

- **Afterfeast of the Transfiguration** • Martyr Dometius of Persia • 2 Martyred Disciples of Dometius of Persia • First finding of the relics of St Metrophanes
- Venerable Pimen the Much-Ailing of the Kiev Near Caves • St Mercurius the Bishop of Smolensk, Kiev Near Caves • Martyr Marinus the Soldier at Caesarea in Palestine
- Martyr Asterius the Senator at Caesarea, in Palestine • Venerable Horus of the Thebaid, Egypt • Virginmartyr Potamia the Wonderworker • Venerable Dometius of Philotheou of Mt Athos • Venerable Pimen the Faster of the Kiev Caves
- Venerable Anthony of Optina • St Theodora of Sihla • St Nicanor, Wonderworker of Mt. Calistratus • St Theodosius the New, Healer of Peloponnesus

August 7, 2011

Tone 7 of the Octoechos.

8th Sunday after Pentecost

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For the health of:**

Jaelyn Dantine on her birthday, offered by her family.

Paula on her birthday, offered by her mother, Liz Pastore.

Readings:

- **2 Peter 1:10-19 (Transfiguration)**
- **Matthew 17:1-9 (Transfiguration)**
 - 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (today)
 - Matthew 14:14-22 (today)

BRETHREN, be more zealous to confirm your call and election, for if you do this you will never fall; so there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Therefore I intend always to remind you of these things, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to arouse you by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. And I will see to it that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

At that time, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led him up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead."

Summer Sunday service:

Hours - 9:10 AM

Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM

(General Confession on the first Sunday of each month)

Coffee hour after Liturgy

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- The **Feast of the Dormition**, or Falling-asleep of the Theotokos, is celebrated on the fifteenth of August, **preceded by a two-week fast**. This feast, which is also sometimes called the Assumption, commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ's mother. It proclaims that Mary has been "assumed" by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence.
It is the custom to bless flowers on the feast of the Dormition. We will celebrate the feast day next Sunday, **August 14th**. **Flowers may be brought to the church on this day.**
- Summer Schedule: Hours 9:10 am
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
Regular service schedule returns September 11th.

Special Announcements:

- A **Panihida** will be held after the Divine Liturgy for **Nadia (Adele) Taran** today. (40 Days - May her memory be eternal.)
- New colored votives in gold, green, blue and red are being donated in Adele's memory by her family.
- **There will be a meeting of the Sisterhood of the Protection of the Theotokos today**, after coffee hour.
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the sign-up sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org