

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

Jaelyn Dantine on her birthday, offered with love by her Godmother, Aunt Tammy and family, and the Dantine family.

Liz and her daughter **Paula**.

For the eternal memory of:

Walter on his birthday, offered by his sister Liz.

Readings:

- **Romans 12:6-14**
- **Matthew 9:1-8**

BRETHREN, having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; he who teaches, in his teaching; he who exhorts, in his exhortation; he who contributes, in liberality; he who gives aid, with zeal; he who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in your hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

At that time, he crossed over in a boat, and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven." And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins" --he then said to the Paralytic--"rise, take up your bed and go home." And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM**Sunday service:**

Hours – 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Private Confession – Half hour before any service. See Fr Matthew for other times.

General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month

Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month

Coffee hour – after Liturgy

(Church School has ended for the school year.)

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

Vesperal Liturgies

- The **Feast of the Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ** is on August 6th. We will have a Vesperal Liturgy for the **Transfiguration tomorrow evening, Monday, August 5th at 6:30 PM.**
- The **Feast of the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary** is on August 15th. We will have a Vesperal Liturgy for the Dormition on **Wednesday evening, August 14th at 6:30 PM.**

Announcements:

- General Confession will be held today before Divine Liturgy, at 9:45 AM.
- Volunteers are needed to clean the church. Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, downstairs, to indicate when you can help.
- **Dormition fast began** Thursday and lasts until the Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary on August 15th.

Special Announcements:

- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.

The Transfiguration of Christ:

(Service tomorrow 6:30 pm)

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*)



See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
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Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

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7 Holy Youths "Seven Sleepers" of Ephesus

**Glory to
Jesus Christ**

**Glory
Forever**

*Those who renounced the perishing comforts of this world,
Preferring the eternal things of Heaven,
Were incorrupt after death and rose from the dead
And buried the snares of the devils!*

O Faithful, let us then honor them, singing a hymn of praise to Christ!

Kontakion

Today the Church remembers:

Holy Seven Youths ("Seven Sleepers") of Ephesus: Maximilian, Jamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodian (Constantine), and Antoninus (250) • Martyr Eudoxia of Persia (362-364) • Martyr Eleutherius of Constantinople (4th c.)

August 4, 2013

Dormition Fast

6th Sunday After Pentecost

Tone 5 of the Octoechos