

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



Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

OCA – Diocese of New York-New Jersey

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce, Rector

Sub-Deacon Edward Dawson

Sub-Deacon Vlashi

Parish Council President: Trudy Ellmore

Parish Council Vice President: Holly Dawson



Sunday, August 9, 2015

Tone 1

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

Epistle: I Corinthians 4:9-16

10th Sunday after Pentecost; Afterfeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord



*Glory to
Jesus Christ!*

*Glory
Forever!*

*Afterfeast of the
Transfiguration of our
Lord*

*You were Transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God,
Revealing Your glory to Your disciples as far as they could bear it.
Let Your everlasting Light shine upon us sinners!
Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to You!*

Today the Church Remembers

10th Sunday After Pentecost — Tone 1. Afterfeast of the Transfiguration. Glorification of Ven. Herman of Alaska, Wonderworker of all America (1970). Apostle Matthias (ca. 63). Martyr Anthony of Alexandria. Ven. Psoi of Egypt (4th c.). Martyrs Julian, Marcian, John, James, Alexius, Demetrius, Photius (Phocas), Peter, Leontius, and Mary, of Constantinople (730).

Weekly Bulletin Sponsors

For Health of:

Mark Dantine, on his birthday, offered with love by his Godmother, Nick and Elizabeth..

Elisaveta, Svetlana, Aris, and Igor offered by their family.

Liturgical Schedule:

Sunday, August 9th

9:40 am: Hours
9:45 am: General Confession
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, August 15th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, August 16th

9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, August 22nd

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, August 23rd

9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Readings:

Epistle: I Corinthians 4:9-16

Brethren, God has exhibited us apostles as last of all, like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to the world, to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You are held in honor, but we in disrepute. To the present hour we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad and buffeted and homeless, and we labor, working with our own hands. When reviled, we bless; when persecuted, we endure; when slandered, we try to conciliate; we have become, and are now, as the refuse of the world, the off-scouring of all things. I do not write this to make you ashamed, but to admonish you as my beloved children. For though you have countless guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. I urge you, then, be imitators of me.

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

At that time, when they came to the crowd, a man came up to him and kneeling before him said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; for often he

falls into the fire, and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him." And Jesus answered, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you." As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of man is to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day." And they were greatly distressed.





Bulletin Sponsor: Use the sign-up sheet at the candle stand for the health of, eternal memory of or a Pannikhida for a loved one or friend, for a donation of \$10. Sponsors will be remembered during Divine Liturgy for the day/week that you signed up for.

Memorial Candles: Candles be purchased at the candle stand, suggested donation of \$10 for a large one and \$2 for a small one.

Private Confessions: Can be heard a half hour before any service. See Father Matthew for other times and **General Confession:** Will be at 9:45 am on the first Sunday of the month.

Pannikhida Service: The third Sunday of each month there will be a Pannikhida after Divine Liturgy. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered please give a list of names to Father Matthew before that Sunday for those to be remembered in the month.

Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail:

Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.



Orthodox Church of the Mother of God: Parish News Coming Events for Your Calendar

Next Council meeting will be August 30, 2015 at 12:15 p.m.

The Dormition Fast began Saturday, August 1 and goes to August 14. Please be sure that all Social Hour foods (especially desserts) are according to the fasting requirements of the Orthodox Church during this period of time. Bagels, peanut butter and jam Aug. 1st - Aug. 14th. Dairy allowed after the 14th.

August lunch volunteers:

Aug. 2nd: Linda, Aug. 9th: Lore, Aug. 16th: Lore

Aug. 23rd: Need a volunteer

Aug. 30th: Potluck

Candles and Lampadas: *If you wish to extinguish the candles and lampadas please volunteer to do so. So that they are properly extinguish. The lampadas should not be extinguish with the candle snuffers, or by pulling them towards (as this cause the oil to come out) you and blowing them out or using another object to put them out. Also do use the snuffers for candles in the glass containers and please let the candles in the memorial box (with sand) to burn themselves out, unless it is at end of liturgy. Please us the turkey baster for putting out the lampadas and the candles in the glass containers. And let the candles completely dry before removing from memorial box, as this makes it easier to clean up.*

Afterfeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord



The Church's hymns today invite us to "ascend the holy mountain" and "with the eyes of faith," to "behold the radiant Transfiguration of the Lord." Christ has transformed our fallen human nature and restored its original beauty "by the burning radiance of His divinity."

Prayers by the Lake, St. Nikolai Velimirovich, XVII:

How tedious to me are the counsels of human leaders and wise men--oh how tedious they seem to me--ever since Your wisdom caused my heart and mind to tremble, Holy God.

Those whom the dark desires of the heart are dragging into the abyss do not believe in Your light. There are no obstacles for a stone while it is rolling down a hill. The higher the steep slope and the deeper the abyss -- the swifter and more unrestrained is the rolling of the stone.

One dark desire lures another with its success; and that one hires yet another, until all that is good in a person withers, and all that is evil gushes out in a torrential flood--until, along with everything else, all that the Holy Spirit has built is washed away, both inside and out; until the

scorners of the light begin to scorn themselves and their teachers; until the sweetest sweets begin to choke them with their stench; until all the material goods, for which they killed neighbours and razed cities, begin to mock their monstrosity.

Then they stealthily lift their eyes toward heaven, and through the dung of their profaned and putrid existence, they cry out: "Holy God!"

How it irritates me like a burning arrow to hear men boasting of their power, ever since I came to know of Your powerful hand, Holy Mighty!

They build towers of stone and say: "We are better builders than your God." But I ask them: "Did you, or your fathers, build the stars?"

They discover light inside the earth, and boast: "We know more than your God." But I ask them: "Who buried the light beneath the earth for you to discover?"

They fly through the air and arrogantly say: "By ourselves we have created wings for ourselves, where is your God?" But I ask them: "Who gave you the idea of wings and flying if not the birds, which you did not create?"

Yet see what happens when You open their eyes to their own frailty! When irrational creatures show them their monstrous power; when their mind becomes filled with wonder at the starry towers, that stand in space without pillars or foundations; when their heart becomes filled with fear of their own frailty and insanity--then, in shame and humility, they stretch out their arms toward You and cry: "Holy Mighty!"

How it saddens me to see people overrating this life, ever since I tasted the sweetness of Your immortality, Holy Immortal!

The shortsighted see only this life, and say: "This is the only life there is, and we shall make it immortal by means of our deeds among men." But I tell them: "If your beginning is like a river, then it must have a source; if it is like a tree, it must have its root, if it is like a beam of light, it

must come from some sun." And again I tell them: "So, you intend to establish your immortality among mortals? Try starting a fire in water!"

But when they look death in the face, they are left speechless, and torment seizes their heart. When they smell the flesh of their dead brides; when they leave the empty faces of their friends in the grave; when they place their hands on their sons' chests that have grown cold; when they realize that even kings are not able to buy off death with their crowns, nor heroes with their mighty deeds, nor wise men with their wisdom--then they feel the icy wind of death breathing down their necks too, and they fall down on their knees and bow their heads over their toppled pride, and pray to You: "Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!"

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, XVI

God and Us – God takes care of everyone

Do not say, "this happened by chance, while this came to be of itself." In all that exists there is nothing disorderly, nothing indefinite, nothing without purpose, nothing by chance ... How many hairs are on your head? God will not forget one of them. Do you see how nothing, even the smallest thing, escapes the gaze of God?

St. Basil the Great

The Prologue of Ohrid *St. Nikolai Velimirovic*

Reflection

One form of martyrdom--and a sign of one's overwhelming love for one's fellow man--is to take another's sin upon one's self. As death is the consequence of sin, to take another's sin on one's self means: to add to your own death still another death, *And sin, when it is finished, brings forth death* (James 1:15). However, God rewards with resurrection those who, out of love, take another's death upon themselves. There are many examples of the saints taking upon

themselves the sins of their fellow men. Thus, it is said of St. Ammon: A brother came to Ammon and confessed that he had fallen into sin, and because of the sin he committed, he felt he had to leave the monastery and return to the world. Ammon told that brother that he would take the brother's sin upon himself, and counseled him to remain in the monastery. The brother remained in the monastery, and Ammon was steadfast in offering repentance and prayers to God. After a short time, Elder Ammon received a revelation from God--that the sin was forgiven because of Ammon's love for the brother. When St. Macarius, St. Simeon the Fool-for-Christ, St. Theodora and others were accused of promiscuity, they did not defend themselves, but, taking upon themselves the sin of others, received the weighty [and unjust] punishment for sin, and patiently endured everything, until God revealed their innocence to men.

Contemplation

To contemplate the punishment of God upon the people of Israel for the sins of the sons of Eli, the judge and high priest (1 Samuel 4 [also known as 1 Kings 4]):

1. How the sons of the high priest [Hophni and Phinehas] sinned openly in Shiloh, and also secretly before the Ark of the Covenant;
2. How God gave the Philistines victory over Israel, and many thousands of Israelites were slain, including the sons of the high priest; and the Ark of the Covenant was seized;
3. How, because of the sins of the elders of the people, God sent suffering on the entire nation.

Homily:

About the nothingness of the sinful before the majesty of God

"Enter into the rock and hide thee in the dust, for the fear of the Lord and for the glory of His majesty"
(Isaiah 2:10).

This is a bitter derision of an idolatrous Israel by the prophet. The people had rejected the faith in

the one true God, and worshiped idols of stone and earth. "What will you do, O evil people, when *the fear of the Lord* appears? Where will you flee, when *the glory of His majesty* appears? Flee into the rocks from which you have made a god for yourselves! Flee into the dust, from which you have made a god for yourselves!" Oh, what a terrible mockery by this discerning prophet! Who can enter into a rock and hide himself? Who can flee into the dust and conceal himself from the Most High?

However, brethren, let us leave the idolatry of the Jews--for which they have been punished enough--and, for a moment, let us look at the idolatry among us Christians. What is a heap of gold, but an idol? What are harvested fields but an idol of dust? What are luxurious clothes but an idol made from the skins and hairs of animals? Where will the idolaters of our generation hide when *the fear of the Lord* appears, and when *the glory of his majesty* appears? Flee to gold, worshiper of gold! Flee to the earth, worshiper of the earth! Hide in the skins of animals, and bury yourself with the hairs of foxes, and the fibers of the dead silk worm, O you idolaters! Oh, bitter irony--all of this will be burned in the Day of the Lord, on that Dreadful Day. Man will stand face to face with the only Majestic and Eternal One. All the idols of mankind will be destroyed by fire before men's eyes; then the Immortal Judge will ask the idolaters: "Where are your gods?"

Isaiah, the son of Amos, the prophet of God, lived on earth a long time ago--but his vision, even today, is dreadful and instructive, and again dreadful.

You are the only One, the only living Lord, and You do we worship! All else is passing dust. Help us, O Lord, help us--that our minds and hearts adhere not to transitory dust but to You; only to You, the only Living

To Thee be glory and praise forever. Amen.

***Thoughts for Each Day of the Year
According to the Daily Church
Readings from the Word of God
By St. Theophan the Recluse***

This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. If this kind goes out by the prayer and fasting of another person, then it is even less able to enter one who fasts and prays. What protection! Although there are a slew of demons and all the air is packed with them, they cannot do anything to one who is protected by prayer and fasting. Fasting is universal temperance, prayer is universal communication with God; the former defends from the outside, whereas the latter from within directs a fiery weapon against the enemies. The demons can sense a faster and man of prayer from a distance, and they run far away from him so as avoid a painful blow. Is it feasible to think that where there is no fasting and prayer, there already is a demon? Yes, it is. The demons lodging in a person, do not always reveal their presence, but lurk there, stealthily teaching their host every evil and turning him away from every good thing; so this person is certain that he is doing everything on his own, but meanwhile he is only fulfilling the will of his enemy. Just commence prayer and fasting and the enemy will immediately depart, then wait on the side for an opportunity to somehow return again. And he truly will return, as soon as prayer and fasting are abandoned.

