



FROM THE AMBIVON

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 8. The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ

Birthdays & Anniversaries for August

Birthdays: Savina Shepherd (8/5); Fr Michael Shepherd (8/18);

Nameday:

Anniversary: Eli & Paula Stavisky (8/4);

Baptism:

Travelers: Fr Michael, Matushaka Emilia, Maximus, Rodion & Savina; Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Silas, & Nadezdha

Prospora Schedule: We need families to start baking prospora at home

Counting: Please Sign up to Count for the month of August

Visitors: *PLEASE JOIN US FOR COFFEE HOUR DOWNSTAIRS for an Agape Meal. Thank you to everyone who donated. Please donate what you would spend for a cup of coffee at the agape meal to replenish our supplies.*

CONTEMPLATION

To contemplate the miraculous Transfiguration of the Lord Jesus: "And after six days Jesus took Peter, James and John his brother and brought them: up into a high mountain apart. And was transfigured before them" ([St. Matthew 17:1-2](#)):

1. How the face of the transfigured Lord shone as the sun;
2. How, even I, darkened by sin, can shine by Christ's power and grace with the original radiance of sinless man.

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive themselves by fasting and a recent (monthly) confession..If you have questions please ask Fr Michael!*



Service Schedule AUGUST

SUN, August 13th: Hours @ 9:20 AM Hours,

10th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 1

TUES, August 15th: Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 AM Dormition -

All are invited to St Nicholas - Olyphant

SUN, August 20th: Hours @ 9:20 AM Hours, 11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 2

SAT, August 26th: @ 5:00 PM Great Vespers. Confession following

SUN, August 27th: Hours @ 9:20 AM Hours, 12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 3.



Announcements

Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events

Silent Prayers and Confession: Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:30PM or you can make an appt for confession. Not during the 8-20Aug

Church Work Day: Every Friday is Church Maintenance day. Come help! Please come and help maintain the Church and its grounds.

Heavenly Host Program: Natasha Coyoy is our coordinator. We will have a meeting on this on the 27th of August.

Parish Council Meeting: TODAY! All are welcome to attend. Every First Sunday of the Month.

Vacation - Fr Michael and his family will be on vacation 08Aug-22Aug. Fr Gregory White, Holy Resurrection Cathedral, will be the on call priest. He can be reached at 570-822-7725 or gregory.white@stots.edu. Fr David Hester will celebrate Liturgy on 13th & 20th of August with no Vespers.

Registration - Please continue to sign up on the website to receive the weekly emails. We are going live with our services! Please go to the website to register for our youtube channel.

There is alot going on in the parish: The parish council is now moving forward our Heavenly Image and address alot of our maintenance that needs some love and attention.

1. Locks on Church replaced - closed circuit -
2. A/C - We have contracting company who will be coming in this week to fix the A/C
3. Cupolas - Monday we will have an estimate for us to repaint the Cupolas
4. Parking Lot - We are looking into estimates and to repair/pave the parking lot and address the sides with asphalt
5. Continue to work on changing out lights and fire alarms in the nave
6. Fix the many leaks that have damaged the walls e.g. repair, prime, paint etc.
7. New carpet
8. Paint ceiling darker blue with stars to display the cosmos with the pantocrator
9. Office and Bookstore downstairs



Epistle: 2 Peter 1:10-19

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

From the Saints & Teachers

On August 6th, we celebrate another very special Great Feast of the Orthodox Church - the feast of the Transfiguration of our God, Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

This feast commemorates the wondrous glorification of Christ on Mount Tabor, accompanied by the Old Testament prophets Moses and Elijah, as witnessed by the disciples' Peter, James, and John.

The story behind the feast

As we read in the synoptic Gospels, prior to the Transfiguration the disciples followed Jesus as He taught in Galilee. They were growing in faith and understanding with Peter eventually confessing that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God.

One day, Christ ascended the mount Tabor to pray, taking with Him Peter, James, and John - His three closest disciples. While Christ was praying, the disciples fell asleep. When they woke up, they saw Jesus standing on the peak of Mount Tabor with the uncreated light radiating from Him, with His face shining and His clothes becoming whiter than snow. They also saw two Old Testament prophets - Moses and Elijah.

The apostles were frightened and Peter said: "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." (Matthew 17:4)

Then the disciples heard the voice of God telling them that Jesus was, in fact, His Son.

What does it mean to be transfigured?

Christ did not change His nature or revealed a different one. He, being fully God and fully man, revealed a glimpse of who He really is. By this He also showed us the ultimate honor and glory of human nature, being created in the image and likeness of God.

The feast of the Transfiguration is an important theological statement affirming the Christian teaching that Christ is fully God and fully man. It also reaches back to the manifestation of the Divine Logos in the Old Testament and points forward to Christ's return to the Father in Heaven to sit at His right hand.

It also shows the fate of all matter - it will be transformed. ***We will all be transformed into the Kingdom of God.***

The moment of deification, when a person is most Godlike, is also the only time when they become their truest selves, they become most human. This idea is vital to all aspects of the Orthodox faith.

On the day of the Transfiguration we sing the following hymn:

"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!"

The icon of the Transfiguration tries to truly depict something that is very difficult to depict - Christ, revealing the fullness of His Divinity to his Apostles. What we see on the wonderful Transfiguration icon is Christ wearing a bright white garment, the beams of light radiating from Him, the prophets Elijah and Moses and Christ's disciples falling down and not being able to look at the transfigured Jesus.

Ultimately, the Transfiguration is a joyous celebration in anticipation of our own metamorphosis (which is the actual Greek word for 'transfiguration'), our transformation from a slave of sin into a beloved child of the Heavenly Father.