



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF AUGUST 3, 2008

Please Remember in Prayer

Nina Gordon, who is recovering from surgery, Fr. Christian, Carol Boris, Constantina, and Christos. Requests? Let Fr. John know.

Parish Council

The next Council Meeting will be on Sunday, Sept. 28th.

The Feast of the Transfiguration – August 6th

of the Lord is celebrated on August 6th. There will be Vespers on Tuesday at 7:00pm, and Divine Liturgy on Wednesday at 9:00am. This feast, which is one of the 12 Great Feasts, recalls how the Lord revealed His divine glory to His disciples on Mount Tabor. On this feast we bless fruit as a symbol of transfiguration, new life, and God's gifts.



SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD 7TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5TH 7:00p.m. Great Vespers w/ Litya

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6TH TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD *One of the Twelve Great Feasts*

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Blessing of Fruit

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH ST. HERMAN OF ALASKA 6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10TH 8TH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

Tip: The Feast of Transfiguration is observed from August 6th thru the 13th. During this time, we sing/say the Troparion and Kontakion (see pg. 2) at evening and morning prayers and at all meals.



The Feast of the Dormition – August 15th

The feast of the Dormition (or "Falling Asleep") of the Mother of God is called the Summer Pascha as it commemorates the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of the Virgin. As a reminder we are currently fasting in order to more worthily celebrate this Great Feast.

Our Patronal Feast – August 16th

The feast of our Mission is celebrated each year on August 16th, when the Church commemorates the revealing of the Icon Not-Made-By-Hands. There will be Vespers the evening before and Divine Liturgy on the feast day itself, August 16th. Following Divine Liturgy those interested are encouraged to gather for a festal brunch in celebration.



Saint Elisabeth Convent – Belarus – August 15th

On Friday, August 15th, the feast of Dormition, we will have a visitor to our parish from St. Elisabeth the New Martyr's Convent in Minsk, Belarus. Sister Irina will tell us about the Convent, show a DVD and offer things for sale which were made by the Sisters. For more information regarding her visit, please see the handout in the back of the church.

Many Thanks!

to those who offered their time and expertise for the installation of our new cabinets, countertops, and sink, as well as our new cross and icons on the Royal Doors. May the Lord, Who sees all things, reward you for your labors!



READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, August 10th

Jody McElwee

Sunday, August 17th

Troy Duker



Prayers for Teacher and Students

will be offered for the new academic year on Sunday, August 31st.

Special Parish Meeting – September 21st – Save the Date

Information regarding the Parish Meeting on September 21, 2008 is available in the back of the church or by speaking with Fr. John.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

From the Prologue of St. Nikolai Velimirovich



In the third year of His preaching, the Lord Jesus often spoke to His disciples of His approaching passion but at the same time of His glory following His suffering on the Cross. So that His impending passion would not totally weaken His disciples and that no one would fall away from Him, He, the All-wise, wanted to partially show them His divine glory before His passion. For that reason, He took Peter, James and John with Him and, with them, went out at

night to Mt. Tabor and there was transfigured before them: "And His face shone as the sun and His garments became white as snow" (St. Matthew 17:2). There appeared along side Him, Moses and Elijah, the great Old Testament prophets. And, seeing this, His disciples were amazed. Peter said: "Lord, it is good for us to be here: if You will, let us make here three tabernacles; one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah" (St. Matthew 17:4). While Peter still spoke, Moses and Elijah departed and a bright cloud overshadowed the Lord and His disciples and there came a voice from the cloud saying: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear Him" (St. Matthew 17:5). Hearing the voice, the disciples fell to the ground on their faces as though dead and remained that way, lying in fear, until the Lord came near to them and said: "Arise and be not afraid" (St. Matthew 17:7). Why did the Lord take only three disciples on Tabor and not all? Because Judas was not worthy to behold the divine glory of the Teacher, Whom he will betray and the Lord did not want to leave him [Judas] alone at the foot of the mountain so that the betrayer would not, by that, justify his betrayal. Why was our Lord transfigured on a mountain and not in a valley? So as to teach us two virtues: love of labor and godly-thoughts. For, climbing to the heights required labor and height represents the heights of our thoughts, i.e., godly-

Troparion (Tone 7)

Thou wast transfigured on the Mount, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light shine upon us sinners! Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

Kontakion (Tone 7)

On the mountain wast Thou transfigured, O Christ God, and Thy disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father!

AUGUST CONGRATULATIONS!

Anniversaries:

8/12 Gregory & Carole Boris
8/17 Oleg & Genevieve Dudkin
8/20 Michael & Katherine Cook

Birthdays:

8/2 Denise Royal
8/5 Tanya Jenkins
8/8 Katherine Kulyk
8/9 Alice Dzwomczyk
8/15 Anna Yanuk
Evelyn Dodge
8/16 Basil Cook
8/19 Gregory Boris
8/21 George Hamaty
Jodi McElwee
8/25 Lee Jenkins
8/27 Anna Evanusa
8/31 Alice Peters

Namesdays:

8/23 *Martyr Aleksandra*
Alice Peters

If your name is not on this list and it should be, please see Fr. John, as soon as possible!

thoughts. Why was our Lord transfigured at night? Because, the night rather than the day is more suitable for prayer and godly-thoughts and because the night, by its darkness, conceals all the beauty of the earth and reveals the beauty of the starry heavens. Why did Moses and Elijah appear? In order to destroy the error of the Jews, as though Christ is one of the prophets; Elijah or Jeremiah or some other that is why He appears as a King above the prophets and that is why Moses and Elijah appear as His servants. Until then, our Lord manifested His divine power many times to the disciples but, on Mt. Tabor, He manifested His divine nature. This vision of His Divinity and the hearing of the heavenly witness about Him as the Son of God, should serve the disciples in the days of the Lord's passion, in strengthening of an unwavering faith in Him and His final victory.

WHY DO WE WEAR A CROSS?

From Orthodox.net

In pre-Christian times, the Cross was the instrument of a shameful and horrible death. The Romans invented it and used it in order to intimidate the peoples whom they had subjugated. Everyone looked on this instrument of execution - the shameful Cross - with horror.

But a remarkable change took place with respect to the Cross after Our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified on it. The Lord suffered and died on the Cross. He took horrible sufferings upon Himself in order to save us from sins. The Cross received great glory, such as no other object made by the hands of man has possessed. The Cross became the sign of our salvation, through which we receive the power of God - the grace of God.

The Cross is the first and greatest Christian sacred object. When the priest sanctifies water, he immerses the Cross in it, and the water becomes holy. When we wear the Cross on our breast, our body constantly touches it, and from this touch it, too, is sanctified. The Cross that we wear protects us from all kinds of danger.

In Communist Russia, believing people would wear a Cross at great risk, since there could be much unpleasantness from the godless for this. But these remarkable people were not afraid to confess their faith, and they would fearlessly wear a Cross. One ought not to look upon the Cross as some kind of jewelry like a bracelet or brooch. The Cross must adorn our soul and not our clothing, and must constantly remind us that we are Orthodox Christians, called to live according to our faith, which is founded on the Savior's sufferings on the Cross.



ASK FATHER: 1 QUESTION / 1 ANSWER

Q. While leaving the church last Sunday, I noticed that we have a gold-plated Gospel Book cover on the "Wish List". Shouldn't we be using our money to help the poor and destitute instead?

A. Thank you for this question – I was hoping that someone would ask it!

Without a doubt we, as a church, should be engaged in charity. In the Scriptures, the very word for "charity" means "love", and since "God is love" the primary work of the Christian is charity. One only needs to remember the words of St. Paul in 1 Corinthians, "though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels... and though I understand all mysteries and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so as to move mountains, and do not have charity, I am nothing."

However, then St. Paul says something which might be a little surprising, he says, "and though I give out all my goods to feed the poor... and have not charity, I am profited nothing." Why would St. Paul say this? Well, one answer is that St. Paul is talking about the need to have the right intentions when helping the poor. No doubt, this is definitely true, but perhaps St. Paul talking about something more as well?

If we consider the Gospel message in its entirety, in its fullness, as St. Paul always does, we would have to acknowledge that charity is about more than meeting people's temporal needs, no matter how poor or destitute

they may be. Real charity is about meeting their eternal needs as well. This is why Christ, when healing the physical infirmities of the people, always took more care for their spiritual restoration and healing. Christ's primary focus was to raise mankind from earth to heaven, to impart forgiveness and reconciliation with God. And to this day, the Church, in continuing the Lord's ministry, follows His example. This is why the Church's primary objective is not to end world hunger or find cures for diseases (as good as these things may be), the Church's primary objective is to save souls, to bring all of mankind into the Kingdom of God, making each and every person joint heirs with Christ of the Father's eternal inheritance.

And so when we see our churches adorned with beauty and splendor, it is so that both the poor and rich alike might glimpse something of the eternal inheritance which awaits them, should they be willing to leave the transitory behind and enter into the joy of their Father's House. Perhaps, King Solomon, who constructed the first Temple, said it best, "where there is no vision, the people perish." (Proverbs 29:18)

On a practical note, all the liturgical items used in our church, while beautiful enough to convey something of God's glory, are also of modest value (i.e. our chalice is gold-plated rather than solid gold). In this way, the Church, while focusing on what is most important, what is super-essential, still has funds to minister to the temporal and material needs of God's people as well – Christian charity demands no less.

