



TRANSFIGURATION

✠ ✠ OUR LORD'S TRANSFIGURATION ✠ ✠

Although not specifically mentioned in any of the 3 Gospels that describe this event, MT. TABOR has long been revered as the site of our Lord's Transfiguration. The first church was built upon it in the 4th century and today, both the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches have a presence there. Located in the region of Lower Galilee, the mountain rises to an elevation of nearly 2,000 feet. Although this is not considered to be terribly high, its size dominates the level landscape around the Jezreel Valley, which it overlooks. The view from the top of Mt. Tabor is breathtaking, but reaching it is a grueling task - even today. Tour buses are permitted to only go so far; then pilgrims proceed by foot, or catch a ride with local drivers. With its winding trails and rugged terrain, one can only imagine how difficult it was for our Lord - accompanied by Peter, James and John - to make that challenging climb.

What occurred on Mt. Tabor is shrouded in mystery. While praying there, Jesus was suddenly joined by Moses and Elijah. The symbolism here should be quite clear to us: our Lord was the fulfillment of the Law - represented by Moses and the words of the Prophets - represented by Elijah. The Apostles present were privileged to catch a glimpse of Christ's glory, as ". . . *His Face shone as the sun and His garments became white as snow.*" (Matt 17:2) Adding to the drama of the Transfiguration was the Voice of the Father, Who proclaimed: "*This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.*" (Matt 17:5) This heavenly happening was all too brief; in an instant it was over, and Christ would come down from the mountain and embark upon an even more grueling walk to Golgotha.

St. Mary's Orthodox Church
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Phone.....570-645-2772
OUR WEBSITE...www.stmarysnativity.org

Rector: V. Rev. James Weremedic
Retired Attached: V. Rev Paul Ropitsky
Reader Hours: Edward Pierson

Sunday, August 6, 2023
Choir Director: Wash King
Reader Epistle: Michael Ropitsky

9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

Entrance Verse

Send out Your light and Your truth; they have led me
and brought me to Your holy mountain. (Ps. 42:3)

Tone 7 Troparion

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God,
revealing Your glory to Your Disciples as far as they could bear it.
Let Your everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners,
through the prayers of the Theotokos!//
O Giver of Light, glory to You!

Tone 7 Kontakion

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.

Services:

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| Sunday, August 6 | 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy with Blessing of Fruit (Transfiguration) |
| Saturday, August 12 | CANCELED, Great Vespers (Due to Parish's Knoebel's Day) |
| Sunday, August 13 | 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship (Parish Council Meeting) |
| Monday, August 14 | 5:00 PM – Vespers with Litya (Dormition of the Theotokos) |
| Tuesday, August 15 | 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy (Dormition) with Blessing of Flowers & Herbs |
| Saturday, August 19 | 4:30 PM – Parastas |
| Saturday, August 19 | 5:00 PM – Great Vespers & Confessions |
| Sunday, August 20 | 9:30 AM – Divine Liturgy & Fellowship |

We welcome all our visitors today! We want to let you know that we are so glad you came to pray with us. Please come again; join us after the Divine Liturgy in the parish hall for fellowship. If you do not have a home church, we invite you to become a part of our parish family. Only those Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves may approach the Chalice and receive Holy Communion.

Prayer List*:

Fr. James Weremedic, Matushka Lisa Weremedic

Ashley Buchanan and her newborn child, Kasandra Anne

Theodore Bogosh, Elizabeth Brennan, Stephanie Chmel, Ilene Devine, Julia Forte, Michael & Julia Harahus, Karen & Rose Harkins, Nancy King, Olga Kushnir, Nancy Lorchak, Anna Marie Mantey, Dorothy & Joseph Macenka, Melissa Schmitt, Helen Sheers, Olga Sidoriak, Sonny Skumorucha, Martha Stafiniak, Michael Teno, Elizabeth Warcholak, Russell Wishousky, Russell Yallas, & Marie Yurchak.

* Names will cycle off approximately every 30 days. You may request to have your name or the name of a loved one placed back on the list at any time by contacting Fr. James directly.

If anyone is in need of a priest, please call Father James Weremedic at 570-645-2772.

Visitation of the Sick and Infirm: If you are going into the hospital for any reason, please inform Fr. James at the Rectory. Emergency Calls: Please call the Rectory (570-645-2772) anytime (day or night) in an emergency.

We express our deepest sympathy to the family of Charles Russell Linkhorst

Who fell asleep in the Lord on July 27, 2023.

Memory Eternal!

Candles (August 6)

7-day Vigils-Altar...In memory of **Martha Teno** offered by Julia Forte

Altar Candles... In memory of **Aunt Olga Hebda** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

Eternal Lamp... In memory of **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members

7-day Vigils-Tetrapod... In health of **Danial Schroeder** offered by Terri Bogosh

Decorated Candles/Tetrapod- In memory **Andrew & Mary Bybel Family** offered by Family Members

Vigil Crosses...In memory of **Mother Mary Lutash** offered by Raymond & Mary Jo Danchak

August Birthdays:

5- Rose Harkins, 9- Samuel Buchanan, 14- David King, 15-Kaitlyn Dmytrow, 21-Rowan Buchanan, 22- Nancy Lorchak, Amy Beamesderfer, 24- John Law

August Anniversaries:

14-Ashley & Samuel Buchanan 20- Dennis & Geri Vavra, 23-Mary & Richard Hertzog

Financials 7/30/2023: *Operating Acct:* Weekly Envelopes \$985, Non-envelope \$390, Holy Day \$5, Candles \$95, Donation \$25, Building \$5

Fellowship Hour Hosts:

August 6 John Evetushick August 13 OPEN August 20 Russell King

August 27 Michael Tatusko September 3 John Evetushick

If you have any Redner receipts, please call or get them to Helen King

Please use your Boyer's card when shopping at Boyers; if you need one call Helen King



The Orthodox Church in America
DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA AND EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
The Most Rev. Mark, Archbishop of Philadelphia

July 29, 2023

Dear beloved clergy and faithful,

Christ is in our midst! He is and ever shall be. By the grace of God and with the assistance of our clergy, Diocesan faithful and faithful from outside the Diocese we enjoyed a blessed week at our summer camp program. Through the sacrificial offering of time, talents and donations our youth enjoyed a wonderful time of prayer, fellowship, Christian education, arts and crafts and many various activities.

We are grateful to all who participated in preparation, scheduling, education, food preparation, and overseeing and assisting with the many aspects of providing our Orthodox Youth with a quality program. The financial support received covered the costs for numerous children, especially those with multiple siblings who otherwise would not been able to attend. We received many donations from parishes and individuals to sponsor our Diocesan Youth program. The cost for just the food for campers and staff exceeded \$14,000. We also appreciate the donation of food from our parishes. Through your generosity, last year and this year we had many first time campers.

We were blessed to have many talented and gifted adults who offered of themselves both before camp, during the week of camp and breaking things down. We are working to provide a debriefing for all who participated for their valuable feedback. There is always room for improvement, new ideas and new activities.

Once again we are blessed to partner with St Tikhon's Seminary and St. Tikhon's Monastery for access and use of their facilities and participation. Given the wonderful response this year, we will likely see registration in the coming year closing early.

Please encourage your youth to attend and your adults to volunteer to serve Christ and His Holy Church in the coming years!

+ Mark

+ MARK, Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania
Locum Tenens of the Albanian Archdiocese of the Orthodox Church in America



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"Thou hast made us for Thyself, O Lord, and our heart is restless until it finds its rest in Thee." Augustine

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

2 Peter 1:10-19 (Epistle, Transfiguration)

Therefore, brethren, be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth.

Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

Silent Prayer before the Gospel:

Illumine our hearts, O Master Who lovest mankind, with the pure light of Thy divine knowledge. Open the eyes of our mind to the understanding of Thy gospel teachings. Implant also in us the fear of Thy blessed commandments, that trampling down all carnal desires, we may enter upon a spiritual manner of living, both thinking and doing such things as are well-pleasing unto Thee. For Thou art the illumination of our souls and bodies, O Christ our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father, Who is from everlasting, and Thine all-holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Matthew 17:1-9 (Gospel, Transfiguration)

Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"

And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid." When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, "Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead."

Before and after any Work

BEFORE ANY WORK:

O Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of the eternal Father, Thou hast said, "Without me you can do nothing." In faith I embrace Thy words, O Lord, and bow before Thy goodness. Help me to complete the work I am about to begin for Thine own glory: in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

AFTER ANY WORK:

Thou, O Christ, art Thyself the fulfillment of all good things! Fill my soul with joy and gladness, and save me, for Thou art all merciful.

Before and after Meals

BEFORE MEALS:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father Bless!

(Priest) O Christ our God, bless the food, drink, and fellowship of Thy servants, for Thou art holy always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

AFTER MEALS:

We give thanks to Thee, O Christ our God, that Thou hast satisfied us with Thy earthly blessings; deprive us not also of Thy Heavenly Kingdom. As Thou didst come to Thy disciples and didst grant them peace; so come to us and save us, O Savior.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father Bless!

(Priest) Blessed is God, Who has fed and nourished us with His bountiful gifts by His grace and compassion always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.