



## Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

2030 Old Alabama Road · Roswell, Georgia 30076

Parish Office: (770) 993-0973

Fr. Deacon James Smith, Administrator: (404) 227-5401

Email: epiphanybyzantinechurch@gmail.com

Website: www.epiphanybyzantinecatholic.org

**August 7, 2016**

<b>Divine Liturgy</b>	Saturday, 5:30 PM · Sunday, 10:00 AM · Holy Days, 7:30 PM
<b>Confessions</b>	Saturday, 4:30-5:00 PM · Sunday, 9:00-9:30 AM
<b>Collection</b>	July 30-31, 2016: \$2,510.00. Thank you for your generosity.

**Father Steven.** Father Steven Galuschik has been assigned by Bishop Kurt for our pastoral and sacramental needs. Since Father will be here only on weekends, please let Deacon James or Deacon Michael know of any special needs, such as visiting the sick; they will make the necessary arrangements with Father Steven.



**Transfiguration of our Lord.** Saturday, August 6 is the feast of the Transfiguration. Christ appeared in His divine glory on Mount Tabor; a radiant light overshadowed Him and a voice from heaven was heard: “This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!” Please read this week’s *Theosis* reflection for more insight into the Feast and for some thoughts to accompany your spiritual journey.

It is our tradition in the Byzantine Church to commemorate this day with the blessing of fruits which represent the “metamorphosis” of the Christian into a new “creation”. After each of this weekend’s Divine Liturgies, please come forward to receive an anointing from Father

Steven, to venerate the icon and to receive blessed fruit. All are also invited to bring a basket of fruit to Church to be blessed and to take home to celebrate the feast in our families.

**Potluck Lunch.** Sunday, August 7, after the Divine Liturgy we will have our monthly potluck parish lunch. All are invited to participate and to share Christian fellowship and feast.

**Weekly Bulletin.** The weekly bulletin is now being published on the parish website. This way, if you are away for a weekend, you can still keep up with all our parish activities



and announcements. Also, remember to direct your friends to our site to learn more about our parish and the Byzantine Catholic Church.

**Adult Christian Formation.** Our Adult Formation program will begin again on **Sunday September 11 from 9:00AM – 9:40AM.** Father Deacon Michael will be teaching **Let Us Attend: A Journey through the Divine Liturgy, the Heavenly Banquet.** It is through the Liturgy which is the central focus of our faith that we encounter Jesus, the risen Christ, one-on-one and experience first-hand a foretaste of the Angelic Banquet. Adult Formation is for all adults, high-school and above; it is one of the best ways we can grow in Christ and become effective disciples of His Church as informed Byzantine Catholics. Our spiritual health depends on a constant renewal, understanding, and engagement with our faith. All are encouraged to attend.



**Dormition Fast.** Monday, August 1 begins the Dormition Fast for Byzantine Catholics. All parishioners are encouraged to keep the fast by refraining from meat and dairy products on Wednesdays and Fridays, by spending quiet time in spiritual reading and by encountering God in prayer to prepare for the feast of the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos.

**Dormition of the Mother of God.** Monday, August 15, is the *Falling Asleep of the Theotokos*, one of the Twelve Great Feasts of the Eastern Church and a **holy day of obligation** for all Byzantine Catholics. Sometimes called the Assumption in the West, this feast commemorates the death, resurrection and glorification of Christ’s mother. It proclaims that Mary has been “assumed” by God into the heavenly kingdom of Christ in the fullness of her spiritual and bodily existence. The Ever-Virgin Mary was and will always remain a human creature, yet she is the most exalted of all those who bear God’s image. Through her glorification she became the first fruit of her Son’s triumph over death and is the assurance for each one of us of the resurrection of the faithful that will occur at the Second Coming in glory of Jesus Christ.

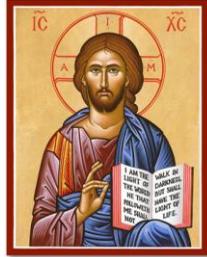
**The Vigil Divine Liturgy of the feast will be celebrated on Sunday, August 14 at 5:30PM.**

**Parish Council.** Under Canon Law the Parish Council assists the Administrator in his leadership role of planning, organizing, initiating, promoting, coordinating and reviewing the evangelization, worship, religious education, maintenance and service ministries within the parish. Its advisory purpose is to cooperate with the Administrator to assess the needs of the whole parish, to assist in the development of a pastoral plan which promotes the good of the entire parish, to foster unity and a sense of community, and to uphold programs and activities which will promote spiritual growth and Christian witness as disciples of Jesus Christ. The members of the Council are the “point of contact” for everyone’s ideas and suggestions on how to continuously build the Body of



Christ. In addition to Father Steven and Deacons James and Michael, five members of the Parish Council are appointed by the Administrator for a term of one and two years. The Council serves in an advisory capacity; all final decisions are reserved to the Administrator under Canon Law.

Next weekend after the Divine Liturgy, the members of the Parish Council will be installed by Father Steven as they are blessed and seal their pledge on the Holy Gospels.



**Word of God.** In each pew are copies of the Holy Bible, a most generous gift to all the parishes of the Eparchy from His Grace, Bishop Kurt. Through all the words of Sacred Scripture, God speaks only one single Word, his one Utterance in whom he expresses himself completely (cf. Heb 1:1-3). It is in Sacred Scripture that we constantly find our nourishment and strength, for we welcome it not as a human word but truly as the Word of God. It is in these words that our heavenly Father comes lovingly to meet his children, and talks with them. All are encouraged to take some time before or after Liturgy to

spend a few moments and “listen” to the Father as he speaks through His Word. Please leave these Bibles in the pews for use by everyone.





# Theosis



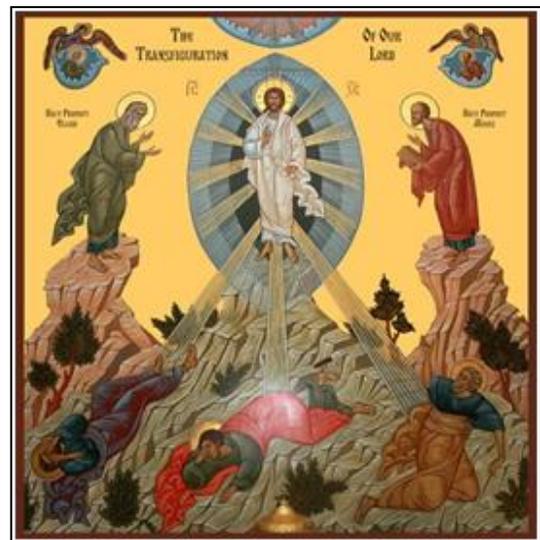
*A Reflection for our Spiritual Journey*

## The Transfiguration

August 6

The Transfiguration of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on August 6; this feast commemorates when Christ appeared in His divine glory on Mount Tabor. While Jesus was speaking to Peter, James and John, a radiant light overshadowed Him and a voice was heard from heaven: *“This is my beloved Son with Whom I am well pleased; listen to Him.”*

We all instinctively long for happiness. But often we do not know what happiness is and where it lies; we search in places where there is no happiness and where it cannot be. Jesus shows us by His Transfiguration that true happiness lies only in union with God. The entire human essence is transfigured. Unspeakable peace, harmony and joy settle in the soul; the intellect receives enlightenment and all the abilities of a person reach their utmost extent; the soul is filled with divine light and becomes godlike; hearts are filled with a beatitude never before experienced. Now the Kingdom of God enters the human person.



The Transfiguration of our Lord is a revelation of the highest grace of God’s Kingdom. It is not a physical light but a spiritual one, of Christ’s divine nature previously hidden under the veil of His human flesh; it is the fulfillment of all the manifestations of God, made perfect and complete in the person of Christ. It reveals to us the ultimate destiny of all men and all creation to be transformed by the majestic splendor of God Himself. At the Transfiguration the cover which concealed the spiritual world fell from the Apostles’ eyes; now with their spiritual eyes they beheld Christ in his divine power. Only then were their hearts filled with the beatitude they had never experienced before.

The presence of Moses and Elijah at our Lord’s Transfiguration is also of great significance. They are the ones to whom God revealed himself in the Old Covenant: Moses for the Law and Elijah for the Prophets. They now come to worship the Jesus Christ who is the fulfillment of the

Law and the Prophets. Moses and Elijah show us that the Savior is here, that he is the Son of God to whom the Father himself bears witness; he is the Lord of all creation, of the Old and New testaments, of the living and the dead: *“I have the keys of hell and of death”* (Rev. 1:18).

In the icon of the Transfiguration Christ is the central figure appearing within a circular *mandorla* (an almond shaped circle radiating the brilliance of divine glory and light). He is clearly at the visual and the theological center of the icon. His right hand is raised in blessing and his left



hand contains a scroll symbolic of his authority as the Living Word of God. Elijah and Moses stand at the top of separate mountain peaks to the left and right of Christ. Together they represent the Law and the Prophets; both men experienced visions of God (Moses on Mount Sinai and Elijah on Mount Carmel). Below Christ the three Apostles lie overcome by the Uncreated Light of Divinity. The icon directs our attention toward the transfiguration and to the glory of God as revealed in Jesus. He would soon journey to Jerusalem to experience humiliation, torture and death; however, the glorious light of the resurrection is revealed to strengthen the Apostles in the trials they also will soon endure for the Kingdom of God. Enthroned in light, Christ draws together the perspective of time and eternity: the past in Moses and Elijah; the present in

the Apostles; and the future when all of creation will be transfigured and filled with divine light ... revealing to us who we are and who we are called to be.

The Eastern Church commemorates this day with the blessing of fruits, since our Lord's Transfiguration took place during the Hebrew Festival of Harvest Fruits. It represents the fullness of God's gifts, the "metamorphosis" of the Christian into a new "creation" as described by Saint Paul. Just as our Lord was transfigured with the glory of God on Mount Tabor, so we are changed like the tiny seed which blossoms into delectable fruit. Enthroned in the light of glory, Christ calls us to the fullness of not just who we are but who we are to be. It is a time-honored tradition of Byzantine Catholics to bring fruit to Church on the Feast to be blessed, to share after Liturgy and to take home to celebrate the feast in our families. These traditions are a wonderful way of connecting our spiritual commitment with our everyday life, especially for our children. All are invited to bring a fruit dish this coming Sunday to share after Liturgy; partake of harvest fruits and celebrate the glorious Transfiguration of our Lord and the "new life we possess in Christ Jesus!"

*I wish to stay all by myself and setting aside flesh and the world, not touching anything corporal without extreme need, talking to myself and God, live above all things visible, and always carry in myself clear divine images unmixed with earthly delusive impressions, be and become an unshadowed mirror of God and divinity, acquire light to light, adding the brightest to the paler; and all this until we rise to the Source of Illumination and reach the blessed end.*

St Gregory the Theologian

