

Epiphany of Our Lord Byzantine Catholic Church

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August 6, 2017 + 9th Sunday after Pentecost

The Transfiguration of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

Divine Liturgy
Confessions
Collection

Saturday, 5:30 PM · Sunday, 10:00 AM · Holy Days, 7:30 PM
Saturday, 4:30-5:00 PM · Sunday, 9:00-9:30 AM
Last week: **\$2,036.00**. God bless you for your continued generosity.

Sunday Readings
Sacramental Needs

2 Peter 1:10-19 + Matthew 17:1-9
Please call Fr. Deacon James 770-993-0973 or 404-227-5401

The Light of the East ...

“As it is impossible to verbally describe the sweetness of honey to one who has never tasted honey, so the goodness of God cannot be clearly communicated by way of teaching if we ourselves are not able to penetrate into the goodness of the Lord by our own experience.”

Saint Basil the Great (*Conversations on the Psalms*)



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

The Transfiguration of our Lord, celebrated each year on August 6, 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.”**

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

Together in the Holy Trinity ... One Faith, One Church, One Future!

“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.

All are invited after Sunday Liturgy to stay awhile and partake of harvest fruits and pastries to celebrate Christ’s glorious Transfiguration and the “new life we possess in 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

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 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.



Dormition of the Theotokos. Next Sunday, August 13th, we will continue our tradition to honor the Mother of God as we prepare for her “Falling Asleep”. All parents are requested to bring their children to the church narthex no later than 9:50AM to prepare for the procession to place flowers and the burial shroud of our Blessed Mother in her tomb.

Altar Lamp. During the month of August, the Divine Presence Altar Lamp burns continuously before Our Lord in memory of

+Linda Goodloe, the mother of Susan Russo, and +Mary Ellen Evan, Nick Russo’s aunt. May their memory be eternal. *Vičnaja pamjat.*