



*Message from Fr. Michael...*

Dearly Beloved Faithful:

As we have embarked upon the fast period for the Dormition of the Theotokos, we interrupt this period of fast as we celebrated one of our Lord's inspiring feast days yesterday. As noted in last week's Bulletin, today we celebrate the feast of our Lord's Holy Transfiguration.

On that momentous occasion, the Lord took three of his disciples and climbed Mount Tabor. It was there that a great metamorphosis took place. The Lord's countenance had the brilliance that was like the sun. His raiment became white as light. Through such Divine light appeared the images of the Prophets, Moses and Elias. Their appearance gave the hint that the Saving Passion of our Lord was about to unfold. The presence of these respected servants of God showed that the Lord is God and King of the Universe. A cloud came upon them. From the cloud, the same voice which had been heard at the river Jordan at the Baptism of our Lord was once again heard, testifying to the Divinity of Jesus and said: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased; hear ye Him" (Matt. 17: 5).

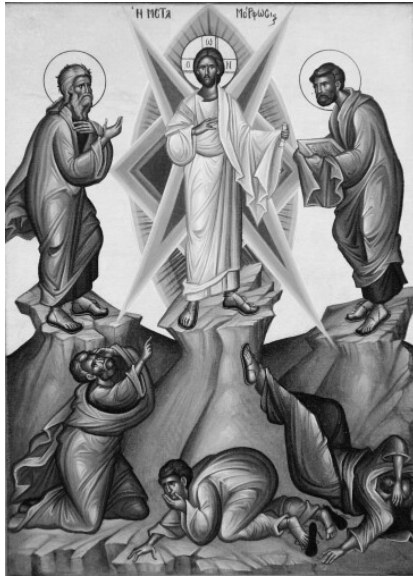
Brothers and sisters, we are called to marvel again at the Holy Transfiguration of our Lord, and to be inspired and to remain in awe! We are to be spiritually strengthened and nourished in knowing that God has revealed Himself to us! The celebration of this Holy Feast should help us to rid ourselves of any doubt that we may have. How could we dare think of anything to the contrary of Lord's Holy Transfiguration as it brings a special grace upon us to transform us from a sinful life to a life worthy of salvation? On this special feast, we are called to ascend Mt. Tabor and be transfigured with the Lord. By doing so, we give up a life of sin, to gain a life of prayer and purity. On this day, often the first fruits of the harvest, such as grapes, were brought to the church to be blessed by the priest. We pray that through the consumption of these blessed fruits that they will transform us to holiness, i.e to be transfigured to be divine!

Please try to come to the service of the Dormition of the Theotokos on Tuesday, August 15th, as this would be a great blessing to have all the Greek Orthodox faithful together on this sacred feast day.

Again praying that the Holy Spirit comes upon us and transforms us to do God's will, I remain

Your humble servant,  
+Fr. Michael

## Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ



Our Lord had spoken to His disciples many times not only concerning His Passion, Cross, and Death, but also concerning the coming persecutions and afflictions that they themselves would endure. Since all these evils were near at hand, but the enjoyment of good things which they hoped to receive in their stead was yet to come, our Savior desired to give them full assurance, evidently and openly, concerning that glory which is prepared for those who endure to the end. Therefore, fulfilling that which He had promised shortly before, that "there be some standing here which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom" (Matt. 16:28), He took His three foremost disciples

and ascended Mount Tabor, where He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light. Suddenly, together with this dread and marvelous effulgence of light, there appeared those pinnacles of the Prophets, Moses and Elias, who spoke with the Lord Jesus concerning His saving Passion which was about to take place. Standing before Him as reverent servants, they showed that He is the Lord of both the living and the dead, for Moses came forth from Hades, having died many centuries before, and Elias, as it were from heaven, whither he had been taken up while yet alive. After a little while a radiant cloud overshadowed them and out of the cloud they heard that same voice which had been heard at the Jordan at the Baptism of Christ, testifying to the Divinity of Jesus and saying: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased; hear ye Him" (Matt. 17: 5).

Such are the marvels, truly worthy of God, celebrated in this present feast, which is an image and prefiguring of the future state of the righteous, whose splendor the Lord spoke of, saying: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun" (Matt. 13:43). It is because of this that the Kontakion of this Feast is said daily (when there is not a great feast) in the Service of the Typica in perpetual commemoration of the glory that will be the lot of the Saints. According to tradition, the Lord's Transfiguration came to pass forty days before His Crucifixion; this is why the Transfiguration is celebrated forty days before the Exaltation of the Cross.

**FATHER MICHAEL REQUESTS**...that we, as a faithful community keep the following individuals in our prayers: Michalena (Skiadas) Sukenik, Suzanne Vaishnani, daughter of Ted Simon, and Presbyteria Magdalena Michalopoulos. Please notify Fr. Michael if you have anyone else who should be included for special prayers. May they be under the grace and tender watch of our Lord.

**Service of the PARAKLESIS for the Theotokos** will be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 7:15 pm. All are invited! We look forward to your prayerful attendance.

DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS - Tuesday, August 15, 2017

Orthros: 9 am

Divine Liturgy: 10 am

Artoclasia (Blessing of the Five Loaves to follow) (we are requesting that someone volunteer to bake and provide the five loaves for this service)

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SERVICE ON AUGUST 20, AS FR. MICHAEL AND BOTH OF OUR CHANTERS WILL BE AWAY.**

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy today, we will have a 40 Day Blessing for Cassie (Skiades) Kermidas and the Churching of her daughter, Athena Rose. Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Kermidas and to the entire Skiades family. May God bless them and shine His Divine light on them.

Whether you are an Orthodox Christian, or this is your first visit to an Orthodox Church, we are pleased to have you with us. Although Holy Communion is reserved for baptized and chrismated (confirmed) Orthodox Christians, all are invited to receive the "ANTIDORON" (blessed bread) which is not a sacrament, but is a reminder of the "agape feast" that followed worship in the early Church. After the Divine Liturgy this morning, please join us in the Church Hall for fellowship and refreshments. We hope that you will return often to worship with us, to grow in Christ and in our Orthodox Faith. For any spiritual, religious, or sacramental matters, please contact Fr. Michael (607) 795-1474. For any building, facility or church property issues, please contact Parish Council President Steve Anastos, (607) 296-9799. Deadline for suggestions for the bulletin is 12:00 noon on Thursday.