

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD



Icon of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

August 6, 2023: Transfiguration of Our Lord		
Epistle: 2 pet. 1: 10-19		Gospel: Mt. 17: 1-9
Mon., Aug. 7	9:00	+ Romaine Strony (Howard Smith)
Tues., Aug. 8	10:00	Funeral: + Frances Klem
Wed., Aug. 9	9:00	+ Roman Kushner (Wife, Eileen)
Thurs., Aug. 10	9:00	+ Victor Minajew (Slawek Czyzewski)
Fri. Aug. 11	9:00	+ Paul & Rose Mizerak (Paul & Rosemary Mizerak)
Sat., Aug. 12	No Morning Divine Liturgy	
	2:00 pm	Confessions
	4:00 pm	+ Mina Shumek (Michael Shumek Family)
Sun., Aug. 13	10:30	For Our Parishioners

10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT JESUS' TRANSFIGURATION

1. What does the word “transfiguration” mean?

The word “transfiguration” comes from the Latin roots *trans-* (“across”) and *figura* (“form, shape”). It thus signifies a change of form or appearance.

This is what happened to Jesus in the event known as the Transfiguration: His appearance changed and became glorious.

Before looking at the Transfiguration itself, it’s important that we look at what happened immediately before it in Luke’s Gospel.

2. What happened right before

the Transfiguration?

In Luke 9:27, at the end of a speech to the twelve apostles, Jesus adds, enigmatically: There are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God.

This has often been taken as a prophecy that the end of the world would occur before the first generation of Christians died out.

The phrase “kingdom of God” can also refer to other things, though, including the Church — the outward expression of God’s invisible kingdom.

The kingdom is embodied in Christ

himself and thus might be “seen” if Christ were to manifest it in an unusual way, even in his own earthly life.

3. Did such a manifestation occur?

Yes, and it is the very next thing that Luke relates: the Transfiguration.

Pope Benedict states that it has been...

...convincingly argued that the placing of this saying immediately before the Transfiguration clearly relates it to this event.

Some—that is to say, the three disciples who accompany Jesus up the mountain—are promised that they will personally witness the coming of the Kingdom of God ‘in power.’

On the mountain the three of them see the glory of God’s Kingdom shining out of Jesus. On the mountain they are overshadowed by God’s holy cloud. On the mountain—in the conversation of the transfigured Jesus with the Law and the Prophets—they realize that the true Feast of Tabernacles has come. On the mountain they learn that Jesus himself is the living Torah, the complete Word of God. On the mountain they see the ‘power’ (dynamis) of the Kingdom that is coming in Christ (Jesus of Nazareth, vol. 1, p. 317).

We thus may have the key to un-

derstanding Jesus’ mysterious statement just before the Transfiguration. He wasn’t talking about the end of the world. He was talking about this.

In fact, Luke notes that the Transfiguration took place “about eight days after these sayings,” thus stressing its proximity to them and suggesting that it was the fulfillment of this saying, concerning the fact that some of them would see the kingdom of God. Mark gives a different number of days, saying it was “after six days” (Mark 9:2), but these both approximate a week.

4. Who witnessed the Transfiguration?

The three who are privileged to witness the event are Peter, James, and John, the three core disciples. (Andrew was not there or not included.)

The fact that Jesus only allowed three of his disciples to witness the event may have sparked the discussion which swiftly ensued about which of the disciples was the greatest (Luke 9:46).

5. Where did the Transfiguration take place?

Luke states that Jesus took the three “on the mountain to pray.”

This mountain is often thought to be Mt. Tabor in Israel, but none of the gospels identify it precisely.

6. Why did the Transfiguration

take place?

The Catechism explains it this way:

Christ's Transfiguration aims at strengthening the apostles' faith in anticipation of his Passion: the ascent onto the 'high mountain' prepares for the ascent to Calvary.

Christ, Head of the Church, manifests what his Body contains and radiates in the sacraments: 'the hope of glory' [CCC 568].

7. What does Luke (in particular) tell us about this event?

Luke mentions several details about the event that the other evangelists do not:

He notes that this happened while Jesus was praying.

He mentions that Peter and his companions "were heavy with sleep, and when they wakened they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him."

He mentions that Peter made his suggestion to put up booths as Moses and Elijah were departing.

8. Why do Moses and Elijah appear on the mountain?

Moses and Elijah represent the two principal components of the Old Testament: the Law and the Prophets.

Moses was the giver of the Law, and Elijah was considered the greatest

of the prophets.

The fact that these two figures "spoke of his departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem" illustrates that the Law and the Prophets point forward to the Messiah and his sufferings.

This foreshadows Jesus' own explanation, on the road to Emmaus, of the Scriptures pointing to himself (cf. Luke 24:27, 32).

9. Why was Peter's suggestion misguided?

The fact that Peter's suggestion occurs when Moses and Elijah are preparing to depart reveals a desire to prolong the experience of glory. This means Peter is focusing on the wrong thing.

The experience of the Transfiguration is meant to point forward to the sufferings Jesus is about to experience. It is meant to strengthen the disciples' faith, revealing to them in a powerful way the divine hand that is at work in the events Jesus will undergo. This is why Moses and Elijah have been speaking "about his departure, which he was to accomplish at Jerusalem."

Peter misses the point and wants to stay on the mountain, contrary to the message the two heavenly visitors have been expounding.

As a seeming rebuke of this, a the-

ophany occurs: "A cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were afraid as they entered the cloud. And a voice came out of the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!'"

10. What can we learn from this event?

The Transfiguration was a special event in which God allowed certain apostles to have a privileged spiritual experience that was meant to strengthen their faith for the challenges they would later endure. But it was only a temporary event. It was not meant to be permanent.

In the same way, at certain times in this life, God may give certain mem-

bers of the faithful (not all of the faithful, all the time), special experiences of his grace that strengthen their faith.

We should welcome these experiences for the graces they are, but we should not expect them to continue indefinitely, nor should we be afraid or resentful when they cease.

They may have been meant only as momentary glimpses of the joy of heaven to sustain us as we face the challenges of this life, to help strengthen us on the road that will--ultimately--bring us into the infinite and endless joy of heaven.

*--by Jimmy Akin
(National Catholic Register)*

SCHEDULING DIVINE LITURGY INTENTIONS

The Divine Liturgy Scheduling Book has arrived. If you wish to schedule any intentions, please do so as soon as possible. The schedule fills up very quickly.

Also, as weekends are very popular, and in order to try to accommodate

everyone, we ask that you limit your requests for weekend Liturgy intentions to no more than 4 per year. If you would like to have more Divine Liturgies, please schedule them for a week day.

IT'S VACATION TIME... (BUT NOT FOR CHURCH BILLS)

It's that time of year again... Vacation Time. We take time out of our normal routine for rest and relaxation. Sometimes we stay at

home; sometimes we take trips to visit friends, explore new places or go on adventures. We may even forget about our normal routines for a little while.

DUNMORE CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL / BISHOP O'HARA HIGH SCHOOL PLANS 50TH CLASS REUNION

The Dunmore Central Catholic High School/Bishop O'Hara Class of 1973 (50th the class reunion) will have a meeting to update and discuss the reunion in the Fall 2023. Come on August 10, 2023 Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the VFW Post #6082 at 123 Electric Street, Peckville. PA' All classmates are invited to attend this meeting. We all look forward to seeing you!!! We are still in need an update of 50+ classmates

addresses. The original planning committee members are: Michele Gerrity, Florence sweeney, Kevin Mchugh, Collen Mangan, Dottie Egan, Sharon O'boyle. Family and friends of the Class of 1973 please help us in updating our class list information.

Contact Lauren Telep (Publicity for the Reunion) at cell/text 646-241-9443 or home 570-383=0319

UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE FOLK FESTIVAL

On Sun., Aug. 27, at 12:00 PM, the Ukrainian American Sport Center Tryzub (County Line and Lower State Rds., Horsham, PA) invites you to the Ukrainian Independence Folk Festival 2023. Commencing at 1:30 PM, enjoy "A Celebration of Liberty, Bravery and Unity", a vibrant Outdoor Summer Concert of Ukrainian Dance, Music and Song, celebrating the 32nd anniversary of Ukraine's Independence, the Unity of her People and their Struggle for Freedom, Prosperity and Dignity. The performers -- "Voloshky" and "Carpathia" Ukrainian Dance Ensembles, violinist "Innesa", "Ariana Lem Joy Trio", singer "Yuliya Stupen" and "Vox Ethnika Orchestra" -- have created a dynamic, integrated

concert program for your delight. This Year's Special Guest Performers are Ukrainian Superstar singer-songwriter "Iryna Lonchyna", "Efsane" Crimean Tatar Ensemble and the "Ferko Mummers String Band". Live, vibrant music by the "Vox Ethnika Orchestra" will follow the concert and play on until 8:00 PM. Ukrainian ethnic foods and baked goods, a BBQ and cool refreshments for all ages will be plentiful. Visit vendors' mall and the Ukrainian Arts and Crafts market. Admission: \$15; Free for kids to age 14. Info: 267-664-3857; info@tryzub.org; www.tryzub.org. \$2 of each paid admission goes to Humanitarian Relief in Ukraine.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team for Marlene Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky, and the month of July 2023 is Team #3: Cheryl Matuszewski.

Sunday Collection for July 22 & 23, 2023: \$



AUGUST 17 6:00 P.M.

Doors — 5:30 p.m., **free admission**
Mairian Chapel/ Swartz Center for Spiritual Life,
1 O'Reilly Circle, Dunmore, PA 18509

St.Vladimir Ukrainian Catholic Church in Scranton Represents

CHARITY CONCERT BY LIUDMYLA CHYCHUK

Liudmyla Chychuk is a Ukrainian concert pianist, renowned educator and founder of «Power of Art» project that introduces Ukrainian music, literature, art, and folk traditions to audiences in Ukraine and around the world. She has been teaching at Mykola Lysenko Kyiv State Music Lyceum for twenty years. As a concert pianist, she regularly performs classical, jazz, and folk music throughout Ukraine and abroad. Since the Crimea annexation in 2014, Liudmyla has brought the power of music to help Ukrainian affected by russian invasion. She gave numerous charitable concerts helping the war victims and supporting defenders on the frontline.

The concert program:

Myroslav Skoryk (1938-2020)
«Partita № 5»

Oleksandr Saratsky (1961)
Jazz arrangement
of «Ukrainian folk songs»

Myroslav Skoryk (1938-2020)
«A melody»

Le Van Khoa (1933)
Four pieces from piano album composed
in various pentatonic scales

«The dragonfly», «Evening breeze»,
«A night in Vietnam», «Beautiful
bamboo»

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451 Fax: 570-489-6918



Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com

E-Mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

It is good for us to be here

Upon Mount Tabor, Jesus revealed to his disciples a heavenly mystery. While living among them he had spoke of the kingdom and of his second coming in glory, but to banish from their hearts any possible doubt concerning the kingdom and to confirm their faith in what lay in the future by its prefiguration in the present, he gave them on Mount Tabor a wonderful vision of his glory, a foreshadowing of the kingdom of heaven.

These are the divine wonders we celebrate today; this is the saving revelation given us upon the mountain; this is the festival of Christ that has drawn us here. Let us listen, then, to the sacred voice of God so compellingly calling us from high, from the

summit of the mountain, so that with the Lord's chosen disciples we may penetrate the deep meaning of these holy mysteries, so far beyond our capacity to express. Jesus goes before us to show us the way, both up the mountain and into heaven, and – I speak boldly – it is for us now to follow him with all speed, yearning for the heavenly vision that will give us a share in his radiance, renew our spiritual nature and transform us into his own likeness, making us for ever sharers in his Godhead and raising us to heights as yet undreamed of.

Sermon of St. Anastasius of Sinai

For books on Eastern Christianity, visit www.ecpubs.com
To view over 300 videos, visit www.oltv.tv