

Discourse on the Transfiguration, by Saint Gregory Palamas, Archbishop of Thessalonica

Therefore, and precisely because of this, God manifests Himself upon the Mount, on the one hand coming down from His heights, and on the other, raising us up from the depths of abasement, since the Transcendent One takes on mortal nature. Certainly, such a manifest appearance by far transcends the utmost limits of the mind's grasp, as effectualized by the power of the Divine Spirit.

Thus, the Light of the Transfiguration of the Lord is not something that comes to be and then vanishes, nor is it subject to the sensory faculties, although it was contemplated by corporeal eyes for a short while upon an inconsequential mountaintop. But the initiates of the Mystery, (the disciples) of the Lord at this time passed beyond mere flesh into spirit through a transformation of their senses, effectualized within them by the Spirit, and in such a way that they beheld what, and to what extent, the Divine Spirit had wrought blessedness in them to behold the Ineffable Light.

Those not grasping this point have conjectured that the chosen from among the Apostles beheld the Light of the Transfiguration of the Lord by a sensual and creaturely faculty, and through this they attempt to reduce to a creaturely level (i.e., as something "created") not only this Light, the Kingdom and the Glory of God, but also the Power of the Divine Spirit, through Whom it is meet for Divine Mysteries to be revealed. In all likelihood, such persons have not heeded the words of the Apostle Paul: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man, what things God has prepared for those who love Him. But to us God has revealed them through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God" (1 Cor.2:9-10).

So, with the onset of the Eighth Day, the Lord, taking Peter, James and John, went up on the Mount to pray. He always prayed alone, withdrawing from everyone, even from the Apostles themselves, as for example when with five loaves and two fish He fed the five thousand men, besides women and children (Mt.14:19-23). Or, taking with Him those who excelled others, as at the approach of His Saving Passion, when He said to the other disciples: "Sit here while I go over there and pray" (Mt.26:36). Then He took with Him Peter, James and John. But in our instance right here and now, having taken only these same three, the Lord led them up onto a high mountain by themselves and was transfigured before them, that is to say, before their very eyes.

Text excerpt & icon from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2023/08/06/102215-the-holy-transfiguration-of-our-lord-god-and-savior-jesus-christ>



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



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August 6, 2023

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Festal Orthros Gospel: St. Luke 9:28-36
Epistle: 2 Peter 1:10-19
Liturgy Gospel: St. Matthew 17:1-9

TROPARION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION - Tone 7 - When, O Christ our God, Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, Thou didst reveal Thy glory to Thy Disciples in proportion as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light also enlighten us sinners, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. O Thou Bestower of light, glory to Thee!

KONTAKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION - Tone 7 - Thou wast transfigured on the mount, and Thy Disciples, in so far as they were able, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; so that, when they should see Thee crucified, they would remember that all Thy suffering was voluntary, and could declare to all the world that Thou art truly the effulgent Splendor of the Father.

TODAY: ORTHROS 8:30 a.m.
Baptismal LITURGY 9:45 a.m. (Jekel)
w/ blessing of fruit and garden produce
Coffee Hour
Paraklesis 1:30 p.m.

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Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. Please contact them directly or call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

	This Week:	Next Week (August 13):
COFFEE HOUR	Mu-S - Bagels/Donuts; Fish	T-Z - Baked Potato Bar
PROSPHORA BREAD:	Gabriela P.	Kristi M. & Rachel C.
ALTAR CANDLES:	Gambles – Xenia's birthday	Gohls – Phoebe's birthday
USHERS:	Steve K. & Tom A.	Dan M. & Radu C.
CLEANING TEAM:	Moodys; Natalia M; Jocey J	Moore; Kim B.; Frank/Monica
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Sh Hannah; Sze Tatiana; Christian B; Zach W; Zach F.	Myriam; Conon; Daniel; Andrew

Mark Your Calendar:

Dormition
August 15

Beheading of John the Baptist
August 29

Ecclesiastical New Year
September 1

Nativity of the Theotokos
September 8

Elevation of the Cross
September 14

International Food Festival
September 15-16

*Festival Packets and Flyers, and
Sign-up sheets, are in the Narthex!
Help spread the word, get
sponsors, & sign up to help!*



**AUGUST OUTREACH
COLLECTION:**
Paper Products

CHALLENGE FOR 2023:
**"You are the Salt
of the Earth"**

Pray For:

Living	Departed
N.I. Timothy	+John
Met. Onuphry and faithful of Ukraine	+John
Pr. Andrew, family, & parishioners	(August Parish Diptychs)
Kh. Joyce	+Mary
Mary	+Augustine
Timothy	+Iwan
Xenia	+Victor
George	+Fr. Michael
Ephrem	+Myron
Nicole	+Fr. Boniface
Raymond	
Patrick	
Doris	
John	
John	
James	
James	
Helen	
Wadieh	
Mary	<u>Catechumens</u>
Mary	Lucretia
Mary	Ryan
Sophia	Alina & Elsa
Victoria	Kate
Alexandra	Nicholas,
Steve	Rachel, Luka,
Xenia	& Leo
Jesse, Nathan, Hannah, Elizabeth, & all Missionaries	Michael
New & Expectant Mothers & their children	Evan
For the people of our land, and their repentance, healing & unity	Tiffany
The 12 Baskets Full team asks for prayers for our homeless Philly friends – George, Bill, Jim, Jalil, Mark, Joel, Eric	Caden
	Keith, Maggie, & Eli
	Andrew
	Daniel
	Kassandra
	Michael

Giving Opportunities at St. Philip
Please consider making a special offering to the **Camp Scholarship Fund, Pastoral Discretionary Fund, and St. Justin Academy.**
Thank you and may God bless your generosity!

This Week:

Dormition Fast - August 1-14 ***Daily Paraklesis***

- Mon, August 7:** *Memory Eternal! +Fr. Boniface (8/7/16)*
Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, August 8:** Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1 p.m.
Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.
- Wed, August 9:** Holy Unction (fast in prep) 5 p.m.
Fasting Refreshments 6 p.m.
Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs, August 10:** Twelve Baskets Full serving night 6 p.m.
Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.
- Fri, August 11:** Paraklesis 6:30 p.m.
- Sat, August 12:** **Great VESPERS 6:30 p.m.**
Confession 7:30 p.m.
- Sun, August 13:** *Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission 9am*
ORTHROS 8:45 a.m.
Divine LITURGY 10 a.m.
Memorial for Fr. Boniface
Coffee Hour
Paraklesis 1:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Vespers for July 29: 30 Divine Services July 30: 161
OFFERINGS 7/30: Candles, \$145. Collections, \$381.93. Youth, \$1.
Book Shelf Ministry, \$50. Mission Chapel, \$100. Needy Fund, \$500. 12
Baskets Full, \$50. Stewardship, \$2,645. Total received: \$3,872.93.
THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch (Acts II:26)