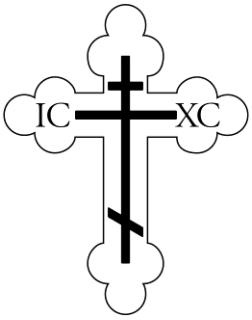
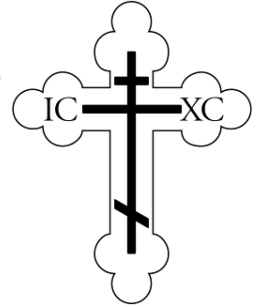


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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Merrillville, IN 46410
(219)947-4748
www.ptvm.com

Rev. Dr. Jacob Van Sickle
(219)384-6826 • frjacobvansickle@gmail.com

Great Vespers: 6pm Saturdays

Divine Liturgy: 10am Sundays

Confession is available before or
after Vespers or by appointment

Welcome visitors!
Please join us in the
parish hall after Divine
Liturgy for coffee hour.

August 6, 2023

The Transfiguration of our Lord on Mount Tabor

The Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on August 6. The feast commemorates the transfiguration, or metamorphosis, of Christ on Mount Tabor, when our Lord appeared in His divine glory before the Apostles Peter, James, and John.

The event of the Transfiguration is recorded in three of the four Gospels: Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36. Jesus took the Apostles Peter, James, and John with Him up upon a mountain, and while they were on the mountain Jesus was transfigured. His face shone like the sun, and His garments became glistening white.

Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ, talking to Him. Peter declared how good it was for them to be there and expressed the

desire to build three booths for Moses, Elijah, and Christ. While Peter was speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him."

HYMNS OF THE DAY

The First Antiphon

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!
Sing of His name, give glory to His praise!

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior save us!

The voice of Your thunder was in the whirlwind;
Your lightning lighted up the world; the earth trembled and shook.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,
who cover Yourself with light as with a garment.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Second Antiphon

Mount Zion in the far north
is the city of the Great King!

Refrain: O Son of God, transfigured on the mountain,
save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

And He brought them to the mountain of His sanctuary,
this mountain which His right hand had won! (*Ref.*)

The Mount Zion which He loved,
He built as His sanctuary with mighty strength! (*Ref.*)

Glory... now and ever...

Then "Only Begotten Son..." as usual.

The Third Antiphon

Cantor: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains are round about it, so the Lord is round about His people, from this time and forevermore!

Choir: Tone 7 –Troparion of Transfiguration

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God,
revealing Your glory to Your Disciples as far as they could bear it.
Let Your everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners,
through the prayers of the Theotokos!//
O Giver of Light, glory to You!

Cantor: O Lord, who shall sojourn in Your tabernacle? Who shall dwell on Your holy mountain? Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place?

The choir repeats the Festal Troparion, then the Entrance:

Deacon: Send out Your light and Your truth; they have led me and brought me to Your holy mountain!

The choir repeats the Festal Troparion again, then:

Tone 7 – Kontakion of Transfiguration

On the mountain You were transfigured, O Christ God,
and Your Disciples beheld Your glory as far as they could see it;
so that when they would behold You crucified,
they would understand that Your suffering was voluntary,
and would proclaim to the world//
that You are truly the Radiance of the Father.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 4 – Prokeimenon of Transfiguration (Psalm 103)

O Lord, how manifold are Your works;
in wisdom have You made them all!

Epistle: 2 Peter 1.10-19

Brethren: Be even more diligent to make your call and election sure, for if you do these things you will never stumble; for so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For this reason, I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. Moreover, I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so, we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your heart.

Gospel: Matthew 17.1-9

Now, after six days, Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves, and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.

Then Peter answered and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, let us make here three tabernacles: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.

But Jesus came and touched them and said, “Arise, and do not be afraid.” When they had lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only.

Now as they came down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, “Tell the vision to no one until the Son of Man is risen from the dead.”

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Mat. Delores Donlick	Jeanne Denesuk
William Harbison Jr.	Ev.Mem. Elizabeth Marchuk ('58)

Health & Salv.	Pr. Patrick	Jovan
Archpr. Peter	Mat. Anne	Rollie
Mat. Cynthia	Mat. Catherine	Nadia
Archpr. John	Kevin	Joseph
Pr. Gregory	Jon	Linda
Mat. Beverly	Tanya	Claudia

Paul	Gerald	Nathan
Carol	Christine	Cindy
Snezana	Olga	Nathaniel
Ryan	Janie	Tamara
Nathan	Sharon	Dennis
Kara	Tanya	Maria
Djuro	Renee	Elizabeth
Paula	Ashton	Jonah
Christopher	Michael	Jamie
Karen	Chris	Kyleigh
Alexandra	Nina	Lauren
Jonathan	Carissa	Kyle
Christine	Duane	Susan
Zoey	Elizabeth	Mark
Dominic	Olga	Christopher
Declan	Klaudia	Betty
Hudson	Tom	William
Ronald	Diane	Jack
Mary Ann	Brandi	Grace
Dara	Joyce	Janet
Jaroslava	Galina	Sarah
Andrew	Thomas	Angela
Andrew	Diane	Lauren
Vadim	Michael	Jack
Hanna	Linda	N.Ill. Delilah
Viktor	Stephanie	

*If you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

Special Petition at the Augmented Litany:

We pray, O Lord our God, for all those who suffer from acts of war, especially the victims in Ukraine. We pray for Your peace and Your mercy in the midst of the great suffering of Your people. Vouchsafe to accept the prayers of the Church, so that by Your goodness, peace may return to all peoples; O Lord, hear us and have mercy.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sodality appreciated all of the help that came to pepper canning on Thursday. Thank you, and great team work! Thank you also to those who placed orders. Pickled peppers are prepared for pick-up presently in the hall.

Last week's collection for **Prison Ministry Awareness Sunday** raised \$236 for Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. Anyone who would like to support their work going forward, visit www.theOCPM.org

There is **no Bible Study tomorrow**. It will return after the Dormition.

Due to a scheduling error at the chancery, **Archbishop Daniel's visit with us has been postponed one week to October 7 & 8**. For this reason, we will hold our 112th anniversary celebration on that weekend, rather than on the feast of Protection as planned. More details about the celebration are forthcoming.

The Diocese of the Midwest has released its own communications app called **Our Diocese**. It is safe, free of ads or other outside influence, and available at no cost. If you are interested in joining, ask Fr Jacob to send you an invite. More info at our.domoca.org

Mark your calendars:

Aug 8: **Great Vespers for St. Herman of Alaska @ 6pm**

Aug 9: **Divine Liturgy for St. Herman of Alaska @ 10am**
Canon of Supplication to the Virgin Mary @ 6pm

Aug 10: **Faith Enrichment @ 10am**
Parish Pool Party at Hobart Pool (825 W 10th St.) 6 – 9pm

Aug 14: **Vespers with Lamentations for the Theotokos @ 6pm**

Aug 15: **Divine Liturgy for the Dormition of the Theotokos @ 10am**

Aug 16: **Feast Day Divine Liturgy** at Christ the Savior Orthodox Church in Chicago @ 9:30am

Aug 25-26: **Ladies' Sodality Rummage Sale**

Last week's gifts to the Lord: \$1,951

MESSAGE ON THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

From His Eminence, our Archbishop Daniel

Dearly beloved in Christ,

This Sunday, August 6, the Church celebrates the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord. The Gospel passage proclaimed at the

Divine Liturgy of the Feast tells the story of what we commemorate on this day. The Apostles Peter, James, and John were with the Lord and He “led them up a on a high mountain by themselves” (St Matthew 17:1). As the Lord prayed, His face changed in appearance: it “shone like the sun,” and “His clothes became as white as the light” (v. 2). Then appeared Moses, the great Giver of the Law, and with him Elijah, the greatest of the prophets. The two of them stood on either side of Jesus, and they began to speak with Him, and He with them. We can only begin to imagine how overwhelmed the Apostles must have been to see all of this! In that moment and in their very presence, their Lord and Master, the One with whom they walked and talked and lived their daily lives, was transfigured as He revealed His glory. And as if that were not enough, they witnessed Jesus speaking with the two great heroes and spiritual pillars of God’s chosen people. Overcome by this sight, Peter spoke up and said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, let us build three tabernacles: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah” (v. 4). The Gospel account further tells us that Peter had not yet finished speaking when a Bright Cloud covered them all, and a Voice “from the Excellent Glory” (2 Peter 1:17) testified to Christ.

There are many lessons to be taken from this high point in the Lord’s earthly ministry. The Apostles’ ascent to the top of Mount Tabor invites us to reflect upon the importance of stepping away from our daily worries and worldly concerns so that we might contemplate the Lord Jesus. We remember that we too are invited to “ascend the mountain of the Lord” (Isaiah 2:3; Micah 4:2), and to share in the transforming glory of the Lord’s Presence (*cf.* 2 Corinthians 3:18). We are regularly reminded of this call to leave behind the distractions of daily life during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, as we sing the words: “Let us ... lay aside all earthly cares.” Only in this way can we come into the Presence of the Lord, unhindered and unburdened by the cares of this worldly existence.

Still, at the end of this spectacular experience on Mount Tabor, the Apostles came down from the heights they had ascended. Having experienced this singular moment at the very summit of a notably high mountain, they returned to the valley down below. They had to go back to their daily lives, despite Peter’s eagerness to set up three tents as a way to preserve the experience for a while longer. Yet Peter, James, and John had also been transformed and transfigured; their lives were forever changed as a result of that amazing moment. They had seen the Lord, literally, in a new light.

They understood and recognized Him more fully. Truly, He was the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. Truly, the glory of His divinity had been revealed, and these chosen Apostles took that experience with them as they descended from the mountain. They returned to their daily lives energized by their faith in the One Whom God had sent, and they were prepared for the life of the world to also be transformed.

This happens with us as well: we too have our own experiences “at the mountaintop.” Our experience of Christ takes many forms, but it can most easily be identified in the Mysteries of the Church, and most particularly in the Holy Mystery of the Eucharist. In the moment in which we receive the Holy Gifts, we experience Christ directly, physically, and spiritually. He comes to us and into our souls and bodies us so that we might be transformed and transfigured with Him, as were the Apostles Peter, James, and John. But then, having had this direct experience of the Transfigured and Transfiguring Christ, we return to the valley of our lives, to our daily concerns and activities. We return to our daily lives and regular routines in order to fulfill our call to be Christ’s transforming presence in the midst of a wounded and hurting world.

In the revelatory moment of the Transfiguration, the Voice of the heavenly Father is heard saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” (St Matthew 17:5). Beloved, let us hear the Lord in the many ways in which He speaks to us! Let us hear His voice calling us to unite ourselves to Him in order to be transfigured with Him. And during this Dormition Fast, as we prepare for the celebration of the Falling Asleep of the Most Holy Theotokos, let us turn to her, the one who most fully heard the word of the Lord and kept it (*cf.* St Luke 11:28), asking Her to teach us to listen to the voice of the Lord, so that we too may experience the ultimate transfiguration that awaits us in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Wishing you and yours a blessed and joyous Feast, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

+DANIEL

Archbishop of Chicago and the Midwest

Glory to God for all things!