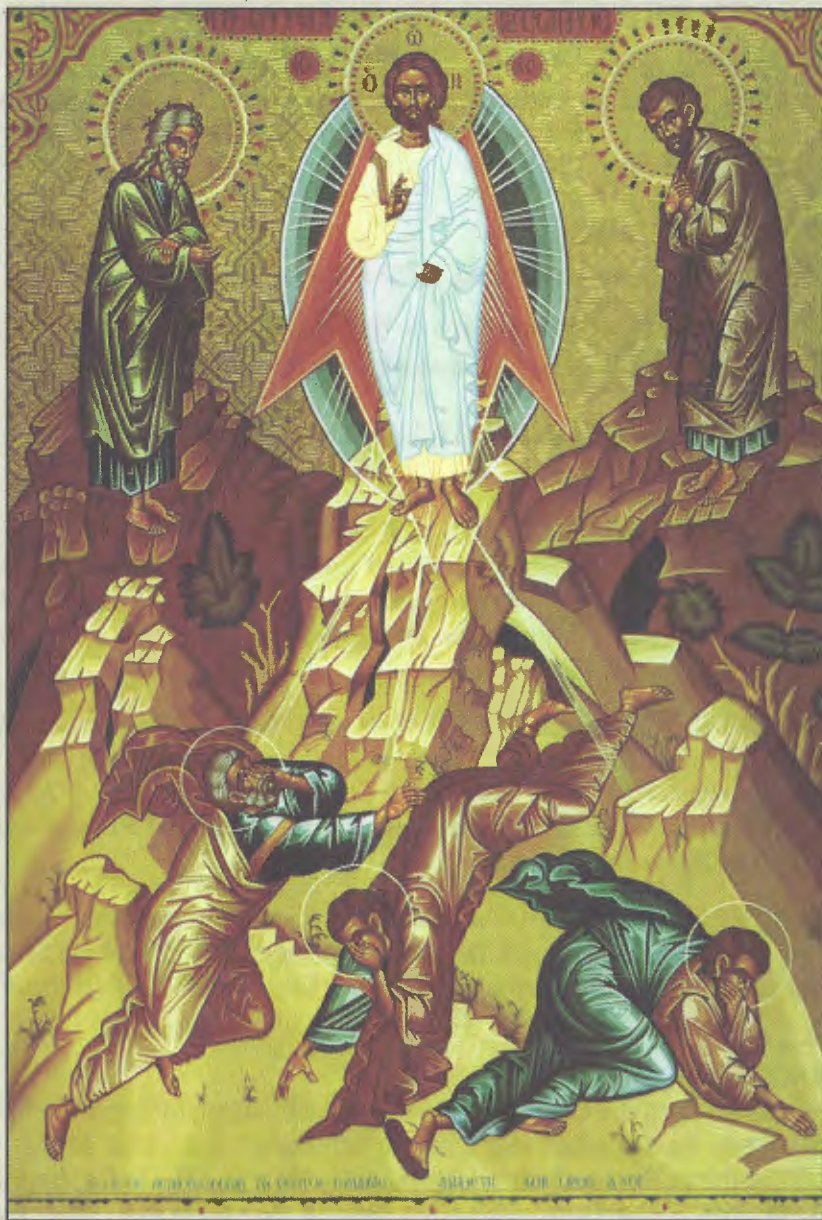


HOLY TRANSFIGURATION



Icon of the Holy Transfiguration -- August 6th

06 AUGUST 2017

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

*TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD 8/6/17**

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) * Robert Kowalski (req. by Don & Pauline Kowalski)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) * Ann Exley (req. by Paula & Larry Reinhart)

11:00 AM (E) Blessings for Robert & Lillian (Betza) Plonski – 40th Wedding Anniversary
(req. by children David, Emily, Nicholas & grandchildren Asher & Cora)

*Blessing of Fruit after all Liturgies

10TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 8/13/17

Saturday: 5:30 PM (E) * Diane Foltz (req. by Don & Pauline Kowalski)

Sunday: 8:30 AM (G) * Frank Joseph Slovich (req. by Art & Rose Ann Provost)

11:00 AM (E) Health of Anna Lupichuk (req. by Elizabeth Andrijew)

2017 ERIE COUNTY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC FAMILY DAY –TODAY, Aug. 6

The Byzantine Catholic parishes of Erie County will hold their annual picnic @ Waldameer Park @ Coaster #1 shelter. The best place to park is the West 6th and 8th Street parking lot (Rainbow Gardens entrance). Everyone is meeting at the shelter following the 11:00 AM Divine Liturgy.

2017 ARCHDIOCESEAL ALTAR SERVER FAITH AND FUN DAY – Thurs. Aug. 24

Registration will be at Holy Ghost Church in McKees Rocks at 9:15 AM. The day will include the Divine Liturgy celebrated at Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks, PA, lunch at Holy Ghost Hall, visit to the Carnegie Science Center, followed by a 4:05 PM Pirates baseball game at PNC Park. See Fr. John if you are interested.

THE OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION will sponsor a catechist workshop at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary, 3605 Perrysville Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15214 on Saturday, August 19, from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The theme will be *“The Curriculum: A Deposit of Faith.”* For more information or to register, call 412-322-8773.

UNIONTOWN PILGRIMAGE

The Sisters of St. Basil the Great invite you to the 83rd Annual Pilgrimage in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Saturday and Sunday, September 2 & 3 at Mount St. Macrina, Uniontown, PA. The theme for this year’s pilgrimage is *“Mary: Life-Giving Spring.”* In 1934, Pope Pius XI gave an icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help to the Sisters of S. Basil and asked them to spread devotion to the Mother of God under this title. More information is available at www.sistersofstbasil.org.

JESUS PRAYER – Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner

A PLEDGE AND PROMISE OF GLORY

The Transfiguration looks forward to the Second Coming of Christ, when the Lord Jesus will appear once more in the same glory with which He appeared on Mount Tabor. With Him also at that time will appear the bodies of the saints, raised from their graves. They, too, will shine with the divine light that shone from our Lord on the Mountain. Thus the glory of Tabor becomes a pledge and a promise of the glory of Paradise.

A profoundly important verse in II Corinthians 4:6 speaks of a process of transfiguration that is taking place within us: "God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." Elsewhere St. Paul writes that "We with our unveiled faces reflecting like mirrors the brightness of the Lord, all grow brighter and brighter as we are turned into the image we reflect; this is the work of the Lord, Who is spirit" (II Cor. 3:18). This transfiguration is taking place now through prayer and the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Thus, the Transfiguration of Christ on Mount Tabor is extended in the life of the members of His body, in us, foreshadowing the future resurrection of the dead when we shall partake of his glory.

Light of Glory

The transfiguration of Jesus occurred soon after his prediction of his suffering and death. The disciples were naturally dismayed. The hymns for the feast present the transfiguration first of all as an anticipation of the resurrection, which was meant to encourage the disciples. But the light that shone from Jesus on Mount Tabor did not last, because Jesus could enter into the glory of the Father only by way of the cross. In the Gospel according to John the crucifixion of Jesus is at the same time his glorification; and after his death the light of his glory will shine permanently as the light of the resurrection.

Yet, the resurrection itself is only a foretaste of the final glory, when Christ comes to establish the kingdom of God in power. So the light of Tabor is an anticipation too of the Parousia, the final coming of the Lord in glory. Meanwhile, the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in the Church and in the world spreads the new life of the resurrection, which will come to full fruition in God's kingdom.

BLESSING OF FRUIT

The custom of blessing fruit on the feast of the Transfiguration is related to the cycle of the growing season. In the spring, the trees and plants are in the full bloom. By the grace of God, nature transforms the flower blossoms into fruit for us to eat. For as Christ was transformed on this day, we honor God's works and bring the fruit of the season to church to be blessed. The fruit is blessed that we may enjoy the rest of the season and thank God for His generosity.

Nudged by the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit annoys us, because he moves us, he makes us travel, he pushes the Church forward. And we are like Peter at the Transfiguration: "Oh, how wonderful it is for us to be here, all together!" as long as it does not inconvenience us.

We would like the Holy Spirit to doze off. We want to subdue the Holy Spirit. And that just won't work. For he is God, and he is that wind that comes and goes, and you do not know from where. He is the strength of God; it is he who gives us consolation and strength to continue forward. To go forward! And this is bothersome. Convenience is nicer. —Pope Francis

..Saints Peter and Paul Byzantine Catholic Church

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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 spoken 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.

It was as if he said to them: "As time goes by you may be in danger of losing your faith. To save you from this I tell you now that some standing here listening to me will not taste death until they have seen the Son of Man coming in the glory of His Father." Moreover, in order to assure us that Christ could

command such power when He wished, the evangelist continues: Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter, James and John, and led them up a high mountain where they were alone. There, before their eyes, He was transfigured. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as light. Then the disciples saw Moses and Elijah appear, and they were talking to Jesus.

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.

St. Anastasius of Sinai, Bishop

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