

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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SUNDAY: AUGUST 6, 2023
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Schedule of Divine Services

Sunday, August 6: Transfiguration of Our Lord - Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

8-8:45am Confessions, 8:23am Rosary, 8:45am 3rd Hour, 9:00am Divine Liturgy
For the Joe Bacasa on his 85th Birthday, by Gerald & Alexandria Bacasa

Please note Fr. Michael and his family will be out of town this week and will return Friday evening.

Monday, August 7: 7pm Daily Vespers (Readers' Service)

Friday, August 11: 7pm Akathist to the Theotokos

Sunday, August 13: Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

8-8:45am Confessions, 8:23am Rosary, 8:45am 3rd Hour, 9:00am Divine Liturgy
For Helen Rudiak, by Natalia Rudiak

Confessions are available before Divine Liturgy. All Divine Liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out the request form in the back of the church and leave it in the sacristy.

PARISH FLEA MARKET: Will be Saturday, August 26, 2023 –**Please bring your items to the church by next Sunday, August 13!** Please note we cannot accept clothes, books or holiday decorations. Kindly remember items should be gently used!

GROUNDS CLEAN-UP: **We will be doing grounds clean up this fall.** So, we can plan ahead, there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex with two sets of dates – please sign up for the dates you can help. We will select final date based on how many people can join us. Thank you!

AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY.....In curing the devil-possessed boy as recorded in the miracle account of today's gospel, Jesus emphasizes the absolute necessity of faith and trust in God. This can be nurtured only through PRAYER and FASTING. The Holy Apostle Paul instructs us to imitate the Christ of the gospels, for He must be our model. Jesus continues to call us to a vigorous and energetic faith through fervent prayer and with concerted fasting. Though the Dormition Fast is a lesser fast than our Lenten observance, let us not overlook this opportunity of grace.

THE DORMITION FAST... August 1 began the Dormition Fast, a brief penitential season in preparation for the Dormition (Assumption) of the Blessed Mother on August 15. The faithful are generally encouraged to fast and abstain from animal products, wine, and oil on Wednesdays and Fridays. Please ask your spiritual director what level of observance is best for you.

THE DORMITION FAST (Continued)... This major feast day commemorates the Most Holy Virgin Mary's happy death together with the direct transposition of her body and soul into the heavenly realms. The All Pure Virgin Mary exemplified holiness and strict conformity to the will of God, and these attributes can be activated in us through prayer, fasting and confession. Although this summer Lenten season readies us for the dormition event, it popularly is called the Savior's Fast because it begins on the day (8/1) on which we commemorate the Savior's majestic cross- the very instrument that saves us. Furthermore, three feasts of our Savior are observed in August: the Procession with the Venerable Cross (Aug 1), The Holy Transfiguration (Aug 6), and the Feast of the Icon of the Lord's Sacred Face (Aug 16).

We will commence this spiritual journey of two weeks by joining symbolically with the twelve illustrious apostles who have been summoned to the Holy City of Jerusalem from the various comers of the world of antiquity for the impending death of the Most Holy Mother of God. As we thus travel vicariously up to Jerusalem for the dormition event, the penitential character of this savioral fast period is reflected in the liturgical life of the Church. It is recommended to receive the Sacrament of Confession in preparation for this blessed Feast.

EPISTLE: 1 Peter: 1:10-19

Therefore, brothers, be all the more eager to make your call and election firm, for, in doing so, you will never stumble. For, in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you. Therefore, I will always remind you of these things, even though you already know them and are established in the truth you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this "tent,"^{*} to stir you up by a reminder, since I know that I will soon have to put it aside, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me. I shall also make every effort to enable you always to remember these things after my departure. We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming² of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father^{*} when that unique declaration came to him from the majestic glory, "This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We^{*} ourselves heard this voice come from heaven while we were with him on the holy mountain. Moreover, we possess the prophetic message that is altogether reliable. You will do well to be attentive to it, as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

GOSPEL: Matthew 17: 1-9

After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him. Then Peter said to Jesus in reply, "Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents^{*} here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud cast a shadow over them,² then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and do not be afraid." And when the disciples raised their eyes, they saw no one else but Jesus alone. As they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus charged them, "Do not tell the vision ² to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

THE GREAT FEAST OF THE AWESOME TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Today we observe solemnly The Feast of the Splendorous Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ. This most prominent and illustrious holy day commemorates the fact that forty days before our Lord would hang in ignominious crucifixion on the desolate tree of the salvific cross of Golgotha, He took three of His apostles, Peter—the oldest—and the two brothers James and John—the youngest—to the summit of Mount Tabor. As He was immersed in prayer to His Almighty Father, His human form changed completely, and Jesus permitted these mere mortals to observe Him as the divine Son of God. His face glowed with the effulgence of the sun, and His garments became as white as snow. The apostles were so overwhelmed by the splendor and magnificence of His divinity that they fell to the ground in order to shield their faces from the divine energy emitted by Jesus as the Second Person of the Trinity. Moses and Elijah also appeared as genuine representatives of God's chosen people of Israel, and these two prominent old-testament figures acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah, and they adored Him as the Son of God. This marvelous occurrence confirmed the divinity of Jesus, and it prefigures the eventual divinization of all humanity