

August 6, 2023  
Transfiguration of our Lord



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!*  
*Слава Иисусу Христу! Слава на вики!*

Propers for this Sunday: pp. 346 - 350

Divine Services for the Week:

- SUN., AUG. 6  
8:30 A.M.      **TRANSFIGURATION of our LORD HOLY DAY**  
**DIVINE LITURGY, *Blessing of Fruit***  
+ John A. Dulick, Jr., offered by sisters Dorothy Hagan & Anne Gural
- SUN., AUG. 13  
8:30 A.M.      **ELEVENTH SUNDAY after PENTECOST**  
**DIVINE LITURGY**  
+ Margaret Klacik, offered by JoAnn & Francis Hersh
- MON., AUG. 14  
6:00 P.M.      **DORMITION of the THEOTOKOS, *Anticipated***  
**VESPERAL DIVINE LITURGY, *Blessing of flowers and herbs***

*(At St. Mary: Tuesday, August 15, 6:00 PM, Divine Liturgy for Dormition Holy Day)*

**It is Good For us to be Here** - Therefore, since each of us possesses God in his heart and is being transformed into his divine image, we also should cry out with joy: *It is good for us to be here* – here where all things shine with divine radiance, where there is joy and gladness and exultation; where there is nothing in our hearts but peace, serenity and stillness; where God is seen. For here, in our hearts, Christ takes up his abode together with the Father, saying as he enters: *Today salvation has come to this house*. With Christ, our hearts receive all the wealth of his eternal blessings, and there where they are stored up for us in him, we see reflected as in a mirror both the first fruits and the whole of the world to come.

Happy Birthday Greetings:

None for the week

Wedding Anniversaries:

None for the week

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, Marian Yurosky

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

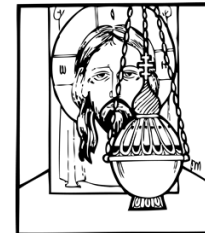
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Way, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

Epistle Readers – August 6: Joanne Futato – August 13: Prudy Peya

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holder s – August 6: Rich Mudron – August 13: F. Hersh



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP  
August 6 - 12, 2023

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

For our parishioners  
Living and deceased

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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St. George Annual Parishes Picnic, Sunday, August 20

We will begin the day with a combined parishes Sunday Divine Liturgy which will be at **10:00 A.M.** with the picnic following. Sign-up sheets are now in the Center. Please let us know if you are planning on attending and how many of your family and friends are coming. There will be many activities including bingo and a bonfire (*Bring your lawn chairs!*). **We will be having the very popular basket raffle and will again take donations of already made gift baskets. Please see Anne Gural about the basket raffle.** *Let us come together as church families for our wonderful annual picnic.*



A Note from Fr. Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Today we celebrate the wonderful Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. This is a feast that is often overlooked by contemporary Christians. It's not simple to explain like Christmas ("Christ is born!") or Pascha ("Christ is risen!"). The Transfiguration is when Christ's appearance *changed*. The Greek word for "transfiguration" is literally "metamorphosis," a transformation. This refers to these words from Scripture: **"He was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them."** (Mark 9.2-3).

This feast celebrates a mystery that is so multifaceted it is hard to do it justice. In it we see the meeting of the divine and the earthly in Jesus Christ himself. The disciples saw for themselves that he was both God and Man. We see Jesus speaking with Moses and Elijah. Moses led the people out of bondage into freedom in the Exodus. Elijah called the people to faithfulness, away from idolatry and disobedience. Both of these men prefigured Christ and pointed to Christ. In the Transfiguration, they meet with the One who is the fulfillment of all they said and did: Christ, who leads us out of spiritual bondage into the freedom of faith, hope, and love.

Also at the Transfiguration, we hear the words of God the Father spoken over Jesus, just as they were at Christ's Baptism (Theophany): **"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased"** (Matt. 3.17; 17.5). But something else is added at the Transfiguration: **"Listen to him!"** The voice of the Father here confirms what the apostles are seeing - that Jesus is indeed the *divine* Son of God; that he has power and authority; and that their lives should be lived in conformity with his words.

We, too, are given the words of Jesus. When the Father says **"listen to him"** it is a directive to all of us who are Jesus' disciples. Do we listen to Christ - *really listen*? Do we hear the words of Scripture as directed *toward us*? Do we seek to live our lives in conformity with his Law of Love?

And more importantly, do we listen to him and embrace his words as he reconciles us and invites us into a relationship with him? For his words to us are salvation itself: **"Come unto me, all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest"** (Matt. 11.28). **"Do not be anxious saying, 'what shall we eat' or 'what shall we drink,' or 'what shall we wear'...for your heavenly Father knows that you need them all"** (Matt. 6.31-32). **"If you, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"** (Matt. 7.11). **"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."** (John 3.17)

If these words of Jesus have truly been spoken by the one who is God's only-begotten, beloved Son, then we should indeed **listen to him!** Because his words to us are eternal life. Let us run to him - let us celebrate with great joy his Transfiguration, saying, **"You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed and have come to know that you are the Holy One of God!"** (John 6.68-69)

In Christ,  
Fr. Geoff

P	E	R	T	E	T	E	P	I	N
E	F	A	N	E	C	F	E	S	A
H	A	J	I	L	E	L	T	U	I
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J	L	M	M	O	E	M	O	S	S
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JESUS  
JOHN  
SUN  
TENTS

PETER  
MOUNTAIN  
MOSES  
CLOUD

JAMES  
FACE  
ELIJAH  
SHADOW

A black and white line drawing of Jesus in the center, with a large, jagged starburst above his head, indicating divine light or glory. He has long hair and a beard, and is wearing a simple robe. He is surrounded by three disciples: Peter on the left, James on the right, and John at the bottom. They are all looking up at Jesus with expressions of awe and wonder. The background is simple, with some clouds or smoke around Jesus.

## ***The Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ***

On August 6<sup>th</sup> we celebrate in our Holy Churches the glorious Transfiguration of our Lord Jesus Christ. This day is one of the 12 major feast days of our Holy Church. By His Transfiguration, the Savior has showed us how people become in the future life, in the Kingdom of Heaven, if they follow God's Law and how the entire earthly world would be transfigured. The Lord also reminds us that we can be transfigured even now if we lead a truly Christian life.

This important event in Christ's life on earth occurred not long before His Crucifixion. In order to sustain His disciples' faith when they would see Him suffering, the Lord first showed them His divine glory. Taking along three of His disciples – Peter, John and James, the Lord ascended a high mountain, called Mount Tabor, to pray. While Christ was praying, the disciples fell asleep from fatigue. When they awoke, they saw that Christ was transfigured: His face shone like the sun, while His garments had become radiant as light. Two prophets – Moses and Elijah – appeared to Him in their heavenly glory and spoke with Him about His forthcoming suffering and death. Seeing all this, the disciples' hearts were filled with extraordinary joy. When they saw that the prophets were about to withdraw from Christ, Peter, trying to hold them back, cried out: "Lord! It is good for us to be here; if You wish, we will make three tents here: one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah." Suddenly a bright cloud enveloped them and out of the cloud they heard the voice of God the Father: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased; listen to Him!" In great fear the disciples fell to the ground. Christ came and touched them and said: "Arise and do not be afraid." The disciples arose and saw Christ in His usual appearance.

*Come, let us ascend the mountain of the Lord, and go into the house of our God. Let us contemplate the glory of His Transfiguration, the glory of the only begotten Son of God the Father. From His light, let us receive light; and raised up by the Holy Spirit, let us sing the praises of the consubstantial Trinity forever.*

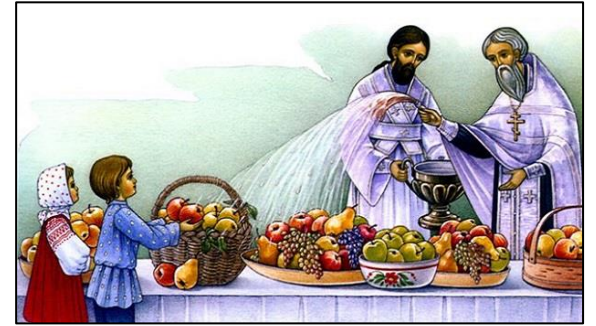
- Litija verse for the Feast



*"This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"*

## ***The Blessing of the Fruits***

The feast of the Holy Transfiguration is celebrated late in summer, at the time of the first fruits, which remind us of God's great goodness and His infinite bounty. To express our recognition and gratitude to God for His generosity we bring some of these first fruits to the church for blessing. The custom to bless the first fruits passed to us from the Old Testament, since the Jews at the very beginning of their exodus were ordered by Almighty God: "You must bring the best of the first fruits of your soil to the house of the Lord, your God." (Ex. 23:19) St. Gregory of Nazianz calls the practice to bless the fruits in church a "just and holy" custom.



The Christian practice to bless the fruits in church can be traced back to Apostolic times. The oldest prayer for the blessing of fruits is registered by the Apostolic Constitutions in the fourth century. But there is also an older Prayer of Thanksgiving for the new fruits in the work of St. Hippolytus, the Apostolic Tradition, composed about 220 A.D. St. Hippolytus mentions the following fruits usually blessed: grapes, figs, pomegranates, pears, mulberries, peaches, and almonds.

The sixth Ecumenical Council, celebrated in Constantinople (680-681), prescribed that the new "wheat and grapes" were to be blessed in church on the feast of the Holy Transfiguration (canon 28). For this reason, some older books of blessings, called Euchologion, forbid the faithful to eat new fruits of the season before they have been blessed in church.

In the land of our ancestors, in Subcarpathia, the fruits of the season were apples, plums, and pears. These usually were brought to the church and blessed. In the United States grapes are also added.

### **Teachings of Christ the Savior**

*"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."* (Matthew 7:7,8)

### **Truth to Live by**

*Honor the Lord with your wealth and with the first fruits of all your produce; then your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will be bursting with wine.*

*(Proverbs 3:9,10)*



**ST. GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

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Religious: Sr. Mary Virginia O' Carm

Holy Protection Convent, 1000 Clinton St. 724-378-0238



**Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik      Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff**

**Grounds Keepers: Rich Mudron, Rob Dzumba, Francis Hersh**

**Holy Mystery of Reconciliation** ..... Before and after Liturgies, or by appointment

**Holy Mysteries of Initiation** ..... Contact the pastor

**Holy Mystery of Anointing** ..... Contact the pastor prior to surgery or in the event of illness

**Holy Mystery of Marriage** ..... Contact the pastor six months prior to wedding

**Pirohi Sales** ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month

**St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club** ..... Everyone welcome to participate

**Opportunities for Stewardship** ... ..Church and grounds cleaning and maintenance: Every Saturday,

Pirohi making: 2<sup>nd</sup> week of each month.

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***“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”***