

Saint Nikolai Orthodox Church

9837 State Street, Louisville, Ohio 44641

Sunday August 6th, 2017

The Feast of the Holy Transfiguration

His Eminence, Archbishop ALEXANDER
Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese

Rev. Mikel Hill, Acting Rector
fr.mikel.hill@gmail.com or 570-470-0447
Protodeacon James Gresh, Attached

Saturday Vespers - 5:00 PM

Sunday Divine Liturgy - 9:30 AM

Liturgies on Feast Days - 9:30 AM

(Proceeded by 3rd and 6th Hours - 9:00 AM)

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Instead of the Typical Antiphons, we sing the Festal Antiphons, followed by a refrain:

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. **Refrain.** Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us! **Refrain** You are clothed with honor and majesty, Who cover Yourself with light as with a garment. **Refrain:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Refrain.**

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.

Refrain. The Mount Zion which He loved, He built as His sanctuary with mighty strength. **Refrain.** O Son of God, transfigured on the mountain, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!

Welcome!

The entire parish family of St. Nikolai Orthodox Church welcomes you today! Please take a moment to introduce yourself to the clergy and the people of our parish. We hope that you can stay for coffee hour after the service.

Please note that we invite all Baptized members of the Orthodox Church to receive Holy Communion, provided that they have refrained from food and drink since midnight, and prepared themselves through prayer and recent confession.

If you are joining us today but have not been baptized in the Orthodox Church we welcome you but kindly ask you to refrain from approaching for Holy Communion. Please feel free to approach to kiss the cross at the end of the service and to take a piece of blessed bread as a token of our love. We pray that soon all people would find their true home in the Orthodox Church so that we might, together, share in Holy Communion of Christ's undivided Body.

The Third Antiphon

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. *Troparion.* As the mountains are round about it, so the Lord is round about His people, from this time and forevermore. *Troparion* O Lord, who shall sojourn in Your tabernacle? Who shall dwell on Your holy mountain? *Troparion* Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? *Troparion.*

The Entrance Verse

Send out Your light and Your truth; they have led me and brought me to Your holy mountain.

Troparion for the Feast of the Transfiguration - Tone 7

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!

Glory . . . Now and Ever . . .

Kontakion for the Feast of the Transfiguration - Tone 7

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.

The Prokeimenon in the Fourth Tone

O Lord, how manifold are Your works; in wisdom have You made them all!
v: Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, You are very great!

The Epistle of the Holy Apostle Peter (II 1:10-19)

Therefore, 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 hearts;

The Alleluia in the Eighth Tone

*v: The heavens are Yours; the earth also is Yours.
v: Blessed are the people who know the festal shout!*

The Holy Gospel According to Saint 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."

Instead of "It is Truly Right" we sing the 9th Irmos of the Canon from Matins

Magnify, O my soul, the Lord Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor!

Your childbearing was without corruption; God came forth from your body clothed in flesh, and appeared on earth and dwelt among men. Therefore we all magnify you, O Theotokos.

The Communion Hymn for Holy Transfiguration

O Lord, we will walk in the light of Your countenance, and will exult in Your name forever. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

St. Nikolai's reflection for today:

In the third year of His preaching, the Lord Jesus often spoke to His disciples of His approaching passion but at the same time of His glory following His suffering on the Cross. So that His impending passion would not totally weaken His disciples and that no one would fall away from Him, He, the All-wise, wanted to partially show them His divine glory before His passion. For that reason, He took Peter, James and John with Him and, with them, went out at night to Mt. Tabor and there was transfigured before them: "And His face shone as the sun and His garments became white as snow" (St. Matthew 17:2). There appeared along side Him, Moses and Elijah, the great Old Testament prophets. And, seeing this, His disciples were amazed. Peter said: "Lord, it is good for us to be here: if You will, let us make here three tabernacles; one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah" (St. Matthew 17:4). While Peter still spoke, Moses and Elijah departed and a bright cloud overshadowed the Lord and His disciples and there came a voice from the cloud saying: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear Him" (St. Matthew 17:5). Hearing the voice, the disciples fell to the ground on their faces as though dead and remained that way, lying in fear, until the Lord came near to them and said: "Arise and be not afraid" (St. Matthew 17:7). Why did the Lord take only three disciples on Tabor and not all? Because Judas was not worthy to behold the divine glory of the Teacher, Whom he will betray and the Lord did not want to leave him [Judas] alone at the foot of the mountain so that the betrayer would not, by that, justify his betrayal. Why was our Lord transfigured on a mountain and not in a valley? So as to teach us two virtues: love of labor and godly-thoughts. For, climbing to the heights required labor and height represents the heights of our thoughts, i.e., godly-thoughts. Why was our Lord transfigured at night? Because, the night rather than the day is more suitable for prayer and godly-thoughts and because the night, by its darkness, conceals all the beauty of the earth and reveals the beauty of the starry heavens. Why did Moses and Elijah appear? In order to destroy the error of the Jews, as though Christ is one of the prophets; Elijah or Jeremiah or some other that is why He appears as a King above the prophets and that is why Moses and Elijah appear as His servants. Until then, our Lord manifested His divine power many times to the disciples but, on Mt. Tabor, He manifested His divine nature. This vision of His Divinity and the hearing of the heavenly witness about Him as the Son of God, should serve the disciples in the days of the Lord's passion, in strengthening of an unwavering faith in Him and His final victory.



St. Gregory Palamas:

Excerpt: Homily on the Transfiguration
Do you not know that Moses was transfigured when he went up the mountain, and there beheld the Glory of God? But he (Moses) did not effect this, but rather he underwent a transfiguration. However, our Lord Jesus Christ possessed that Light Himself. In this regard, actually, He did not need prayer for His flesh to radiate with the Divine Light; it was but to show from whence that Light descends upon the saints of God, and how to contemplate it. For it is written that even the saints “will shine forth like the sun” (Mt 13:43), which is to say, entirely permeated by Divine Light as they gaze upon Christ, divinely and inexpressibly shining forth His Radiance, issuing from His Divine Nature. On Mount Tabor it was manifest also in His Flesh, by reason of the Hypostatic Union (i.e., the union of the two perfect natures, divine and human, within the divine Person [Hypostasis] of Christ, the Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity).

Make Disciples of All Nations

In preparation for a renewed effort to bring the truth of the Orthodox Faith to our surroundings communities, Fr. Mikel will be giving a series of brief talks in the month of August, immediately following the Divine Liturgy to provide tips for sharing our faith.

Good Stewards

Our Parish Council is preparing several ways to communicate our financial health and opportunities to be good stewards of our time, talent and treasures. In August, Fr. Mikel will be offering a brief discussion related to this effort. Stay tuned!

Special Announcements:

Weekday Services start August 9th & 10th
Akathist-Wednesday nights at 6pm
Liturgy-Thursday mornings at 9:30am
Vigil and Liturgy for the Feast of Dormition
August 14th & 15th

Fall Kick-Off Event – Sept. 3rd

This will take place after Liturgy at an area park. Details to follow but mark your calendars now.

Upcoming Gatherings:

We are hoping to resume monthly gatherings for the men and women of our community starting in September. If you have any ideas about the possibility of a Ladies Tea or Men’s Breakfast, please feel free to speak to Fr. Mikel or Mat. Rachel.

Birthdays

August 2-Greg Rajsich
August 6-Katya Hill

Today we are especially praying for the Health and Salvation of:

Arika, Renee, Ashley, and Chloe.
Valentina
Josh W.
The Minnick Family
The Fromholtz Family
Kathy Jo, Michael
Kelli
Liz and Carla
Kim, Dale, Helen, Larissa, and Niki
Larissa
Steve and Sandy
Anthony
Joan
Slavco
Anthony
Thomas
Mat. Rebecca
Thomas
Marsha

For The Departed Soul of:

+Andy Dordea
+Pdn. Gregory
+Daniel