

**August 2, 2009 – 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. Tone 7.** Translation of the Relics of the Protomartyr and Archdeacon Stephen from Jerusalem to Constantinople (ca. 428), and the finding of the Relics of the Righteous Nicodemus, Gamaliel, and Abibas. Blessed Basil of Moscow, Fool-for-Christ (1552). Blessed Basil of Kubensk (15<sup>th</sup> c.). Hieromartyr Stephen, Pope of Rome, and those with him (257). **Epistle:** 1 Cor. 1:10-18. **Gospel:** Matt. 14:14-22.

**Next Sunday, August 2, 2009 – 9<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost – Tone 8. Epistle:** 1 Cor. 3:9-17. **Gospel:** Matt. 14:22-34.

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**THIS WEEK AT ST. JOHN'S (August 2, 2009)**

**TODAY**

**11:15 AM Fellowship in the Church Hall**

**WEDNESDAY**

**6:00 PM Vigil of Transfiguration**

**THURSDAY**

**9:30 AM Divine Liturgy:** Feast of the Transfiguration (blessing of fruits)

**11:00 AM Reading Group** (at Borders Café)

**SATURDAY**

**6:00 PM Great Vespers**

**SUNDAY (Aug. 9)**

**9:30 AM Divine Liturgy:** 9th Sunday after Pentecost

**11:15 AM Bible Class** (in Hall)

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*Please remember in your prayers:* the child **Taylor**; **Vera Campbell & Bette Frenchko** (at Mahoning Valley Hospital; on the 9<sup>th</sup> floor of Trumbull Memorial); **Gary Thompson, Gregory Saxon, and Paul Kappanadze.**

*Offerings:* 07-26-09: \$n/a; *Attendance:* 07-26-09: n/a; *Candle Commemorations:* 08-02-09: *Theotokos:* - ----. *Altar:* health of Frank Sedall. *Christ:* health of James Rimar.

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*“For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.” (1 Corinthians 1:18)*

**COMING EVENTS SCHEDULE**

**Aug. 15 Feast of the Dormition (Falling-asleep) of the Mother of God** (blessing of flowers and herbs)

**Aug. 29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist**



## SPIRITUAL FORMATION:

- 1) **SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS AFTER LITURGY:** adults are studying the history, meaning, and practice of the Divine Liturgy.
- 2) **PATH TO SALVATION CLASS ON TUESDAYS:** class resumes with a new study after Labor Day..

Charitable Giving – August 2009: envelope or baskets after Liturgy  
This month's charity: St. Vladimir's Camp and Retreat Center

**Our Food Pantry needs restocking!** Canned goods, dry goods, and non-perishable food items are greatly needed. Thank you for all your donations!!! Particularly needed at this time are dry mixes (e.g., Bisquick) and canned fruit.



**Classic Literature Reading Group – Wed., 11:00 AM,**  
**at Borders Café (on Hwy. 46 by the Eastwood Mall complex)**  
*Everyone is welcome to join in at any time!*  
**We are currently reading 1984, by George Orwell.**

### **TWO SPIRITUAL ACTIVITIES COMING IN SEPTEMBER:**

- 1) **(Bi)Weekly Teen Group** – either Sunday or Wednesday evenings;
- 2) **Men's Bible Breakfast** – one Saturday morning each month, probably the second Saturday of the month.

***Please speak with Fr. Jonathan if you are interested in helping with either.***

Thank you to Fr. Peter Pawlack who served during Fr. Jonathan's vacation. We thank God for Fr. Peter's continued service in God's Church and the privilege of having him available to us here at St. John's. God grant him many years!



**Going on vacation this summer? Ask Fr. Jonathan to locate a Church near your destination, or find one at [www.oca.org](http://www.oca.org).**

### ***Holy Trinity Orthodox Christian Academy and Preschool:***

1. ***Enrolling for the 2009-2010 school year.*** The school will offer programs for Preschool (ages 3-4) and classes Kindergarten through Grade 4. Call Holy Trinity for more information at 330-399-7642.
2. ***Annual 300 Club-Dinner Raffle – Aug. 22, at St. Nicholas Orthodox Church*** (on North Rd.). Tickets are \$25.00; Grand Prize - \$1,000; see Marge Petty or Betty Ann Perschka for tickets or more information.

*The **Dormition Fast** began yesterday, August 1, and continues until the Feast of the Dormition (Falling-asleep) of the Mother of God on August 15. This is the fourth fasting season of the Church year. If we are to abstain from certain foods, from various entertainments, and from worldly distractions, then let us fast and pray in the fervent love of Christ. Fasting must be a willing exercise of faith, to offer our lives as a pure sacrifice to God in Christ. This is truly well-pleasing to God and a great benefit for our lives in the Kingdom of God.*

#### **FLOWERBULBS FOR ST. VLADIMIR'S CAMP:**

You can help St. Vladimir's Camp (in Greene) and enjoy beautiful flowers at the same time by ordering Bulbs from *vanBourgondien*. See the colorful brochure and order form on the bulletin board. Ordering deadline is August 15.

**SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL PLANNING MEETING - Sunday, Aug. 16, following Bible Class/Coffee Hour. All persons interested in teaching and/or helping for the upcoming Fall, please attend this short gathering.**

**ALTAR SERVERS GATHERING** – all Altar Servers will meet with Fr. Jonathan on **Sunday, August 23**, following a brief snack after Liturgy. We're going to walk through some basic procedures of the Church services. If you can't attend this gathering, then we will have another one in September. All Servers, thank you for your service in the Parish!

### **The Feast of the Transfiguration (August 6)**

*What does "Transfiguration" mean?*

*Transfiguration* (Greek: *metamorphosis*) means to change form. "[Jesus] was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light" (Matthew 17:2). The transfiguration of Christ showed the disciples Who Jesus truly is, both Man, born of the Virgin, and God, begotten from eternity and co-equal in glory with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

*What is the meaning of the Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ?*

The meaning is revealed in these words of Christ prior to His Transfiguration: "There are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom" (Matt. 16:28). The Transfiguration is the revelation of the Kingdom of Christ, made available to Jesus' disciples. The Kingdom is shown to be communion in the life of the Holy Trinity, as the Son is transfigured, the Father spoke from heaven, and the Holy Spirit enveloped and overshadowed the disciples as a bright cloud, in which were also Moses and Elijah speaking with Christ.

*Why is the Transfiguration celebrated on August 6?*

We celebrate this Feast 40 days prior to the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14), because the Transfiguration occurred about 40 days prior to our Lord's Crucifixion. Thus the Church connects the revelation of Christ's Kingdom with the Crucifixion of Christ to emphasize our ultimate hope in the Resurrection of Christ. Our Lord Jesus revealed His glory to strengthen His disciples in the power of the Resurrection because of His word that not only would He be crucified, but that all who follow Christ must take up their own cross and be crucified to live in the Kingdom of God.

*Why do we bless fruits on the Feast of the Transfiguration?*

Fruits provide an image (i.e., icon) for the life in Christ, and so we bless them on this Feast Day. Specifically, fruits begin as seeds buried in the earth, which then sprout, grow, blossom, and mature into luscious foods. This process describes the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ which bears fruits of the Spirit in the lives of the faithful. As with all blessings in the Church, the blessing of fruit lifts our minds from earthly to heavenly realities for those who trust in Christ.

*What are the services for the Feast of the Transfiguration?*

Typically for the Feast, we serve a Vigil (or, simply Vespers) on the eve of the Feast (August 5). This service done in the evening is already the beginning of the next day (August 6), as in Orthodox time the day begins not at midnight, but at evening with the setting of the sun. The Vigil (or, Vespers) service contains hymns and prayers expressive of the Feast by which the theology of the Transfiguration is expounded and prayed.

The Divine Liturgy on the morning of the Feast contains antiphons, hymns, verses, and readings specific to the Transfiguration, and then the blessing of fruit before the Dismissal of the Liturgy.

If you cannot come to the Liturgy on the Feast (because of work, etc.), make every effort to attend the Vigil service the evening before. We use an abbreviated "Cathedral Vigil" at St. John's which consists of Great Vespers (like a Saturday evening), the Litya with the blessing of bread and wine, and parts of the Matins, or early morning, service. The Vigil lasts about one hour in length.

*Why is the Feast of the Transfiguration a fast day?*

The Feast of the Transfiguration always occurs during the Dormition Fast, the two-week period before the Feast of the Dormition (lit., falling-asleep) of the Mother of God. So the Transfiguration is a fast day, although fish is allowable. The true joy of the Feast consists not in fatty foods, but in the grace and glory of Christ revealed for us that we might share in them.