

## SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN PARISH HERALD

### TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

## this issue

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Prosfora - Holy Bread  
Prepared Weekly By  
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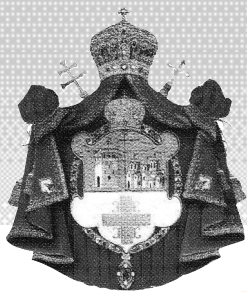
The Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated each year on August 6/19th. The feast commemorates the transfiguration or metamorphosis of Christ on Mount Tabor, when our Lord appeared in His divine glory before the Apostles Peter, James, and John. The event of the Transfiguration is recorded in three of the four Gospels: Matthew 17:1-9, Mark 9:2-8, and Luke 9:28-36. Jesus took the Apostles Peter, James, and John with Him up upon a mountain, and while they were on the mountain Jesus was transfigured. His face shone like the sun, and His garments became glistening white. Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ, talking to Him. Peter declared how good it was for them to be there and expressed the desire to build three booths for Moses, Elijah, and Christ. This reference to the booths could imply that this occurred during the time of the Feast of Tabernacles when the Jews would be camping out in the fields for the grape harvest; for this Feast had acquired other associations in the course of its history, including the memory of the wanderings in the wilderness recorded in the Old Testament book of Exodus. While Peter was speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them. A voice came from the cloud saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to Him." When the disciples heard this they fell on their faces filled with awe. Jesus came to them and told them to not be afraid. When the three looked up they saw only Jesus. As Jesus and His disciples came down the mountain, He told them not to speak of what they had seen until He had risen from the dead. In the icon of the Feast of the Transfiguration, Christ is the central figure appearing in a dominant position within a circular mandorla. He is clearly at the visual and theological center of the icon. His right hand is raised in blessing, and his left hand contains a scroll. The mandorla with its brilliant colors of white, gold, and blue represent the divine glory and light. The halo around the head of Christ is inscribed with the Greek words, "The One Who is".

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Elijah and Moses stand at the top of separate mountain peaks to the left and right of Christ. They are bowing toward Christ with their right hands raised in a gesture of intercession towards Him. Saint John Chrysostom explains the presence of these two fathers of the faith from the Old Testament in three ways. He states that they represent the Law and the Prophets (Moses received the Law from God, and Elijah was a great prophet); they both experienced visions of God (Moses on Mount Sinai and Elijah on Mount Carmel); and they represent the living and the dead (Elijah, the living, because he was taken up into heaven by a chariot of fire, and Moses, the dead, because he did experience death).

Below Christ are the three Apostles, who by their posture in the icon show their response to the transfiguration of Christ. James has fallen over backwards with his hands over his eyes. John in the center has fallen prostrate. Peter is kneeling and raises his right hand toward Christ in a gesture expressing his desire to build the three booths. The garments of the Apostles are in a state of disarray as to indicate the dramatic impact the vision has had on them. The icon of the feast directs our attention toward the event of the Transfiguration and specifically to the glory of God as revealed in Christ. This event came at a critical point in the ministry of our Lord, just as He was setting out on His journey to Jerusalem. He would soon experience the humiliation, suffering, and death of the Cross. However, the glorious light of the Resurrection was revealed to strengthen His disciples for the trials that they would soon experience.

The feast also points to the great and glorious Second Coming of our Lord and the fulfillment of the Kingdom of God when all of



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creation will be transfigured and filled with light.

So brothers and sisters let us also be forever reminded of the need to have and carry that light which the Lord has illumined us with and bear in mind that we too are called to saints and to witness for our faith in both words and deeds.

Your fervent intercessor before the Lord,  
Fr Serge



CHRIST THE HEALER

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. (James 5:13-16) NRSV We at Saints Constantine & Helen humbly ask that you share your physical, emotional, and spiritual burdens with us. Each and every Divine Liturgy we pray for those who have such difficulties. Please feel to submit the names of your loved ones for our prayer list and if desired, for hospital visits. Yours in Christ,  
Fr. Serge

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CHRIST THE HEALER

### CALENDAR OF CHURCH SERVICES AND EVENTS AT STS CONSTANTINE & HELEN AUGUST 2017

Sunday, August 6th, 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 13th, 10th Sunday after Pentecost

Monday, August 14th, Beginning of Dormition Fast– Procession of the Precious Wood of the Life-giving Cross of the Lord

Saturday, August 19th, The Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ –Blessing of Fruit

Sunday, August 20th, 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, August 27th, 12th Sunday after Pentecost

All Divine Liturgies begin at 10:00am

Also a reminder to people. If you have any loved ones sick, in hospital etc., to give Fr. Serge a call.