

**St. Mary's Orthodox Church
(Dormition of the Mother of God)**

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Sunday August 6, 2017

The **Transfiguration** of Christ (one of the Great Feasts of the Orthodox Church); Saint Theoctistus, Bishop of Chernigov; Saint Job the Gorge-dweller on the Mezen River (Solovki); New-Martyrs Dimitry, Archbishop of Gdov, and Priest Nicholas (Prozorov); Martyr-Priest Maxim Sandovich of Carpatho-Russia, by the Latins; Saint Hardulph, Hermit of Breedon. **Other events:** repose of Hieroschemamonk Nikon the Cave-dweller of Valaam and Righteous Priest Basil (Shoustin), disciple of Optina.

Services for the week of August 6

Tuesday, August 8: 7:00 pm Akathist to the Dormition of the Mother of God.

Saturday, August 12: 6:00 pm Great Vespers.

Parish News

WELCOME: to all of our guests today. We are so glad that you have come to enjoy our Orthodox worship. We invite you to come for coffee and sweets in our church hall and to enjoy fellowship with us. May God bless you!

OFFERINGS: July 30: \$630.22

PLEASE REMEMBER Janet Mikel and Martha Smith who have been receiving difficult treatments lately. Pray for their well-being and that of their families. May God bless them all!

BLESSES FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION: to all of our parishioners, family and friends. May the Transfigured Christ bless and guide our lives to our own metamorphosis from sin and the "old man" to His glory.

DORMITION FAST CONTINUES. The Holy Church calls on us to refrain from meat and dairy products for the duration of the fast. Our patronal feast will be celebrated on Tuesday the 15th of August. Please take the time during the next two weeks to prepare for the Great Feast with confession, fasting and prayer.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

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 alongside 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. Nikolai (Velimirovich)