***ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH***

***ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW ROME***

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**Sun. 15 Aug. EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST. Tone 7. Translation of the Relics of Protomartyr STEPHEN. Translation of the Relics of the Righteous NICODEMUS, GAMALIEL & ABBUS. Hieromartyr STEPHEN of Rome.**

**Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Gospel: Matthew 14: 14-22**

***Liturgical Meneion & Scripture Readings***

**(Dormition Fast)**

**Mon. 16 Aug.** Venn. Isaac, Dalmatus, and Faustus (5th c.). Ven. Anthony the Roman.

**1 Cor. 11:31–12:6 Mt. 18:1-11**

**Tue. 17 Aug.** Holy Seven Youths of Ephesus. Martyr Eudocia (362). Martyr Eleutherius.

**1 Cor. 12:12-26 Mt. 18:18-22 – 19:1-2, 13-15**

**Wed. 18 Aug.** Hieromartyrs Fabian (250) and Antherus (Antheros) (257), popes of Rome.

**1 Cor. 13:4 – 14:5 Mt. 20:1-16**

5:00 PM   Great Vespers with Litiya

**Thu. 19 Aug. THE HOLY TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST.**

**2 Pet. 1:10-19 Mt. 17:1-9**

***9:00 AM Divine Liturgy. Blessing of fruits and honey.***

**Fri. 20 Aug.** Martyr Dometius of Persia (363) and two disciples.

**1 Cor. 14:26-40 Mt. 21:12-14, 17-20**

**Sat. 21 Aug.** St. Emilian the Confessor, bishop of Cyzicus (820).

**Rom. 14:6-9 Mt. 15:32-39**

***5:00 PM Great Vespers.***

**Sun. 22 Aug. *9:00 AM Divine Liturgy. Coffee Hour***

**Christ’s Transfiguration** in our human body, before human eye-witnesses, fills us with fear. Because in Him, it can be ours. We are called to be “imitators of God, as beloved children” (Eph 5:1), and on the mountain He shows us our great potential for transfiguration, in His light. But our reaction is fear, because His kind of light is not in the realm of what we understand, taking us out of our “comfort-zone.” So God’s voice, telling us to “listen to Him,” makes us want to fall on our faces and hug the ground, to which we are accustomed.

Today, when we celebrate our Lord’s Transfiguration, let me hear His reassuring voice, saying, “Rise, and have no fear.” He does lead me to strange and uncomfortable places, where ancient prophets speak and crowds of haters cry “Crucify him!” But then I lift up my eyes, as the disciples did on the mountain, and see “no one but Jesus only.” *(By Sr. Vassa)*

**Blessing of fruits.** Our forefathers, according to tradition, always waited for the Holy Day and would bring their first fruits to God's House (the Church) and give thanks for the harvest and ask God to bless their crops. To us, there is also a symbolic meaning in the bless­ing of fruits. As the seed of the fruit was planted and grew into trees and vines bearing fruits through many years of rain and sunshine under the protection of God and then brought forth fruit beautiful to look at and very good for taste and nourishment. In the same way, the seed of faith and belief in God is planted in our souls and is nourished through obedience to the commandments of God and grows into a great Christian tree bearing good fruit (our good deeds).

In a symbolic sense also, the ripening of the fruit on the tree is somewhat of a mirror of the miracle of the Transfiguration. In Spring we see the empty branches burst forth with new green leaves around the Feast of Pentecost. Soon the tree is covered with beautiful flowers. In time, nature transforms these flowers into little buds of fruit and as the weeks pass, the buds are transfigured into beautiful and fully ripened fruit.

**Transfiguration reflection**. Why did our Lord not manifest His Divine Glory on Tabor only before three disciples? First, because He Himself gave the Law through the mouth of Moses: "At the mouth of two witnesses or three witnesses, shall the matter be established" (Deuteronomy 19:15). Therefore, three witnesses are sufficient. These three witnesses represent three main virtues: Peter Faith, for he was the first to confess his faith in Christ as the Son of God; James Hope, for, with faith in the promise of Christ, he was the first who laid down his life for the Lord, being the first to be slain by the Jews; John Love, for he reclined on the bosom of the Lord and remained beneath the Cross of the Lord until the end. God is not called the God of many but rather the God of the chosen. "I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob" (Exodus 3:6). God often valued a faithful man more than an entire nation. Thus, on many occasions, He wanted to destroy the entire Jewish nation, but because of the prayers of righteous Moses, spared that nation to live.

**Some priest received a letter** from a young mother in which she told what happened when she moved into a new subdivision: We tried everything we could think of to make this place something other than a real-estate development. We tried organized recreation, community picnics, and square dancing. We formed a women’s club and held bridge parties and started a garden club. We had a parents’ organization and evening discussion groups. We tried everything. But it was not until the church came that we changed from a subdivision into a community and became real neighbors to one another. Good religion works now - in practical daily living. It gives us a sense of personal partnership with God. Good religion keeps on growing, and it works now. *(by James W. Moore)*

**PROPERS FOR THE LITURGY ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

**Tropar of the Resurrection, Tone 7**

By Your Cross, You destroyed Death. To the Thief, You opened Paradise. For the Myrrh-bearers, You changed weeping into joy. Christ God You commanded Your disciples to proclaim that You are risen, granting the world great mercy.

**Tropar of the Dormition, Tone 1**

In giving birth, you preserved your virginity. In falling asleep, you did not forsake the world, Birth-Giver of God. You were translated to Life, Mother of Life and through your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

**Tropar to Protomartyr Stephen, Tone 4**

Your relics have risen from the depths of the earth, like a treasury for the immortal life of all of creation. The Church, rejoicing in grace that She receives from them, duteously honors you, Protomartyr Stephen. Preserve us from error and heresy by your intercession.

**Kondak of the Resurrection, Tone 7**

The dominion of death can no longer hold humanity captive, for Christ descended shattering and destroying its power. Hell is bound while the prophets rejoice with one voice. The Savior has come to those in faith, saying, “Enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection.”

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.**

**Kondak to Protomartyr Stephen, Tone 6**

You were the first to be sown on earth by the Heavenly Husbandman, O all-praised one. You were the first to shed your blood on earth for Christ, O blessed one. You were the first to receive the crown of victory from Him in heaven, Stephen, first of the suffering God-crowned martyrs.

**Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**Kondak of the Dormition of the Mother of God, Tone 2**

Neither the tomb nor death had power over the Birth-Giver of God; she is ever watchful in her prayers and in her intercession lies unfailing hope. For as the Mother of Life, she has been translated to life by the One Who dwelt within her ever-virginal womb.

**Prokimen of the Resurrection, Tone 7**

The Lord shall give strength to His people; the Lord shall bless His people with peace.

**Verse:** Bring to the Lord, you sons of God, bring young rams to the Lord.

**Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18**

**Alleluia Verses, Tone 7**

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to sing praises to Your Name, O Most High.

To declare Your mercy in the morning and Your truth by night.

**Gospels: Matthew 14: 14-22**

**Communion Hymn:** Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. Alleluia (3X).

**Congratulation of the winners of 2021 Essay Contest:** 1st place – Justin Ost, 2nd place – Danica Ost, 3rd place – Alexandra Ost. You can find their works in the hall’s board. Let’s encourage our youth to participate.

Memorial donations received **in memory of Catherine Kochenash:** Jim & Karen Osmun $50.00; The Kuchinos Family $100.00; Stephanie Polak & Kathleen Brown $100.00. Thank you very much!

**SR UOL meeting** will held on Sunday, August 22nd during coffee hour.  All members are requested to attend.

If you would like to **volunteer the** **preparation of coffee hours,** please put your name on the list. It will be great service to our parish family!

**SR UOL will be holding a picnic on Saturday, Sept. 25th** at Canal Street Park to kick off the parish’s 100th anniversary celebration. Mark your calendars.

**For the food banks**: We were assigned baby foods, but they also need cans of potatoes, tuna fish, canned meats, pasta, spaghetti sauce, mac & cheese.

**BIRTHDAYS:**

**15 Aug…Sandra Meashock**

**16 Aug…Gregory Misko**

**19 Aug…Jeremy Madea**

**20 Aug…Stanley Scioscia, Mary Ann Jaeger, Michael Baird**

**21 Aug…Andriy Semenovych**

**NECROLOGY:**

**15 Aug…Wasyl Lubianecki ’23**

**16 Aug…Evdokia Sivenky ’68, Maria Papaylo ’14, Olga Yureckho ’10**

**17 Aug…Havryil Antoniuk ‘31**

**19 Aug…Mykyta Zalizko ’36, Parania Bilyk ’71**

**20 Aug…Wallace Vasilowsky ’85**

**21 Aug…Philip Kowalchuk ’54, Wasyl Sheska ‘54**

**14 Aug…Mary Mazur ‘82**

**VICHNAYA PAMYAT! MEMORY ETERNAL!**

**PRAYER FOR THE HEALTH & SALVATION OF THE AFFLICTED:** Helen Crayosky, Nicholas Alexander, Paulette Mecherly, Steve Sivulich, child Alexandria, Elizabeth Pastushenko, Joan Molnar, Bill Ketterer, Brandon and Stacy Snyder, Aaliyah Osmun, Michael Mack, Ihor Broda, James Osmun, Matthew, Tom, William Savitz, Vladimir & Emma Krasnopera, Brendan Phillips, Jessie Hnatow, Jessica Meashock, Adam Hewko, Andrew Thaxton, Susan Ferretti, Judy Albright, Rob Hewko, Daniel Kochenash, Christopher Mack, Norman Betrous.

There is a funny story about a nine-year-old named Danny who came bursting out of Sunday school like a wild stallion. His eyes were darting in every direction as he tried to locate either mom or dad. Finally, after a quick search, he grabbed his Daddy by the leg and yelled, "Man, that story of Moses and all those people crossing the Red Sea was great!" His father looked down, smiled, and asked the boy to tell him about it. "Well, the Israelites got out of Egypt, but Pharaoh and his army chased after them. So the Jews ran as fast as they could until they got to the Red Sea. The Egyptian Army was getting' closer and closer. So Moses got on his walkie-talkie and told the Israeli Air Force to bomb the Egyptians. While that was happening, the Israeli Navy built a pontoon bridge so the people could cross over. They made it! By now old dad was shocked. "Is THAT the way they taught you the story?" Well, no, not exactly," Danny admitted, "but if I told you the way they told it to us, you'd never believe it, Dad."

With childlike innocence the little guy put his finger on the pulse of our sophisticated adult world where cool skepticism reigns supreme. It's more popular to operate in the black-and-white world of facts. . .and, of course, to leave no space for the miraculous. And so when we read the story of the feeding of the five thousand, we tend to focus our attention on the question, "Did it really happen?" There have been a number of attempts to "explain" the miracle. One attempt says that the people were so moved by Jesus' generosity and the generosity of the little boy that they brought forth the food they had hidden under their clothes and in their traveling pouches. This way everyone was satisfied. Another theory says that the story is not really talking about physical hunger but spiritual hunger. When the small amount of food was passed around everyone tore off a minuscule symbolic fragment. In this Jesus is said to have satisfied the thirst of the soul not the stomach. I think these questions say more about us than they do Jesus. If Jesus is the Messiah, and I believe he is, then there is no question but that he performed miracles, and on a regular bases. The point of the story is: 1. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Word of the Lord (2 Kings 4). 2. We are to serve at the Table of our Lord; 3. What we bring will be used by the Lord

**Consider What You Have and Use It.** In 1872, at the age of 16, Booker T. Washington decided he wanted to go to school. He walked 500 miles to Hampton Institute in Virginia, and presented himself to the head teacher. Washington later recalled, "Having been so long without proper food, a bath, and change of clothing, I did not make a very favorable impression upon her, and I could see at once that there were doubts in her mind about me." Finally she said to him, "The adjoining recitation room needs cleaning. Take the broom and do it." A lesser person might have been insulted by being assigned menial work. But Washington recognized immediately that this was his big chance. He swept that room three times and dusted it four times. He even cleaned the walls and the closets. Then he reported to the head teacher that the job was finished. She examined that room like a drill sergeant. When she could not find a particle of dirt, she said, "I guess you will do to enter this institution." As a 16 year old, Washington could not do many things. But he could clean a room. And he did it gloriously. Extraordinary living begins with using what we have. What gifts and graces do you have that you have not fully activated? (Bill Bouknight, July 2002)