

✠ ✠ OUR LORD'S TRANSFIGURATION ✠ ✠

Although not specifically mentioned in any of the 3 Gospels that describe this event, MT. TABOR has long been revered as the site of our Lord's Transfiguration. The first church was built upon it in the 4th century and today, both the Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches have a presence there. Located in the region of Lower Galilee, the mountain rises to an elevation of nearly 2,000 feet. Although this is not considered to be terribly high, its size dominates the level landscape around the Jezreel Valley, which it overlooks. The view from the top of Mt. Tabor is breathtaking, but reaching it is a grueling task - even today. Tour buses are permitted to only go so far; then pilgrims proceed by foot, or catch a ride with local drivers. With its winding trails and rugged terrain, one can only imagine how difficult it was for our Lord - accompanied by Peter, James and John - to make that challenging climb.

What occurred on Mt. Tabor is shrouded in mystery. While praying there, Jesus was suddenly joined by Moses and Elijah. The symbolism here should be quite clear to us: our Lord was the fulfillment of the Law - represented by Moses and the words of the Prophets - represented by Elijah. The Apostles present were privileged to catch a glimpse of Christ's glory, as "... *His Face shone as the sun and His garments became white as snow.*" (Matt 17:2) Adding to the drama of the Transfiguration was the Voice of the Father, Who proclaimed: "*This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.*" (Matt 17:5) This heavenly happening was all too brief; in an instant it was over, and Christ would come down from the mountain and embark upon an even more grueling walk to Golgotha.

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ST.DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

NORTH WILDWOOD, NEW JERSEY

August 6, 2023

Transfiguration of Jesus Christ

WELCOME ALL VISITORS:

On behalf of the Parish Council, Fr. Michael, and the entire family of St. Demetrios, we would like to welcome our Visitors for joining us today in our sacred worship service. If you need any assistance please notify any of the Parish Council members. God Bless our Visitors and may your stay here be pleasant and memorable. Please don't hesitate to come again.

SPONSORING COFFEE HOUR:

During the summer, The Ladies Philoptochos Society will not be sponsoring any coffee hours. If anyone is interested in sponsoring the coffee hour please contact the Church office -Monday-Wednesday-Friday (609)-522-0152 or contact Parish Council President Nick Konides (609)425-0179.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS:

All our local and seasonal members and visitors are invited to register and enroll in our parish for the 2023 membership and join in weekly worship and to support of our parish "Stewardship Program" and ministries. The annual minimum enrollment offering is \$750 per family, and \$500 for single people. Please complete the parish membership registry forms that are available in the Narthex. Families that are in arrears are invited to reinstate their membership and participation in our parish life and ministries.

ATTENTION ALL PARISHONERS and VISITORS:

During the first 15 days of August we celebrate the prayer service of our Mother of God (Theotokos). Please pay attention to the schedule of services during the first 15 days of August. Also if you would like to have the names of your loved ones to be commemorated during the Paraklesis Services for Fr. Michael to read, the Prayer of Living sheet is available in the Narthex.



The NNJYAL is having a Panigiri!

Join fellow Greek Orthodox young adults ages 18-35 for a Panigiri on Saturday August 19th at Whitechapel Projects in Long Branch, NJ. Each ticket includes a dinner buffet, cash bar and music by DJ Kon. Early bird tickets are only available until July 21st. Afterwards, the ticket price will increase so make sure you grab them before then! To purchase a ticket, please visit:

<https://nnjyalpanigiri.eventbrite.com>

LITURGICAL PROGRAM FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST:

Friday, August 4th---Paraklesis Service -6:00 pm

Sunday August 6th---Transfiguration of our Lord---Orthos 8:30 am ----Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Friday, August 11th---Paraklesis Service -6:00 pm

Sunday, August 13th---10th Sunday of Matthew----Orthos 8:30 am ---Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Monday, August 14th---Great Vespers Service for the Dormition of the Virgin Mary---Vespers 6:00 pm

Tuesday, August 15th---Dormition of the Mother of God (Theotokos) ---Orthos 8:30 am ---Divine Liturgy 9:30 am

Brethren, be more zealous to confirm your call and election, for if you do this you will never fall; so there will be richly provided for you an entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore I intend always to remind you of these things, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to arouse you by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. And I will see to it that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things. For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For when he received honor and glory from God the Father and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," we heard this voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. And we have the prophetic word made more sure. You will do well to pay attention to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. [RSV]

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παραλαμβάνει ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὸν Πέτρον καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ Ἰωάννην τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀναφέρει αὐτοὺς εἰς ὄρος ὑψηλὸν κατ' ἰδίαν· καὶ μετεμορφώθη ἔμπροσθεν αὐτῶν, καὶ ἔλαμψε τὸ πρόσωπον αὐτοῦ ὡς ὁ ἥλιος, τὰ δὲ ἱμάτια αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο λευκὰ ὡς τὸ φῶς. καὶ ἰδοὺ ὥφθησαν αὐτοῖς Μωσῆς καὶ Ἡλίας μετ' αὐτοῦ συλλαλοῦντες. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Πέτρος εἶπε τῷ Ἰησοῦ· Κύριε, καλὸν ἐστὶν ἡμᾶς ὧδε εἶναι· εἰ θέλεις, ποιήσωμεν ὧδε τρεῖς σκηνάς, σοὶ μίαν καὶ Μωσεῖ μίαν καὶ μίαν Ἡλίᾳ. ἔτι αὐτοῦ λαλοῦντος ἰδοὺ νεφέλη φωτεινὴ ἐπεσκίασεν αὐτούς, καὶ ἰδοὺ φωνὴ ἐκ τῆς νεφέλης λέγουσα· οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱός μου ὁ ἀγαπητός, ἐν ᾧ εὐδόκησα· αὐτοῦ ἀκούετε· καὶ ἀκούσαντες οἱ μαθηταὶ ἔπεσον ἐπὶ πρόσωπον αὐτῶν καὶ ἐφοβήθησαν σφόδρα. καὶ προσελθὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἤψατο αὐτῶν καὶ εἶπεν· ἐγέρθητε καὶ μὴ φοβεῖσθε. ἐπάραντες δὲ τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτῶν οὐδένα εἶδον εἰ μὴ τὸν Ἰησοῦν μόνον. καὶ καταβαίνοντων αὐτῶν ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄρους ἐνετείλατο αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων· μηδενὶ εἴπητε τὸ ὄραμα ἕως οὗ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀναστῇ.

At that time, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain apart. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his garments became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is well that we are here; if you wish, I will make three booths here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah." He was still speaking, when lo, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces, and were filled with awe. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Rise, and have no fear." And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of man is raised from the dead." [RSV]

Ἀπολυτίκιον. Ὡχος βαρύς.

Μετεμορφώθης ἐν τῷ ὄρει Χριστέ ὁ
Θεός, δείξας τοῖς Μαθηταῖς σου τὴν δόξαν
σου, καθὼς ἠδύναντο. Λάμπσον καὶ ἡμῖν τοῖς
ἁμαρτωλοῖς, τὸ φῶς σου τὸ αἰδίον, πρεσβείαις
τῆς Θεοτόκου, φωτοδότα δόξα σοι.

Apolytikion. Grave Mode.

You were transfigured upon the mountain,
O Christ our God, showing to Your disciples
Your glory as much as they could bear. Do
also in us, sinners though we may be, shine
Your everlasting light, by the intercessions of
the Theotokos, O Giver of light. Glory to You.

Κοντάκιον.

Ὡχος βαρύς.

Ἐπὶ τοῦ ὄρους μετεμορφώθης, καὶ ὡς
ἐχώρουν οἱ Μαθηταί σου τὴν δόξαν σου,
Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἐθεάσαντο, ἵνα ὅταν σε ἴδωσι
σταυρούμενον, τὸ μὲν πάθος νοήσωσιν
ἐκούσιον, τῷ δὲ κόσμῳ κηρύξωσιν, ὅτι σὺ
ὑπάρχεις ἀληθῶς, τοῦ Πατρὸς τὸ ἀπαύγασμα.

Kontakion.

Grave Mode.

Upon the mountain were You transfigured,
and Your disciples beheld Your glory as far
as they were able, O Christ our God; so that
when they would see You crucified they might
understand that Your Passion was deliberate,
and declare to the world that in truth You are
the Father's radiance. [SD]

Τὸ ἀπολυτίκιον τοῦ Ἁγίου Δημητρίου

Μέγαν εὗρατο ἐν τοῖς κινδύνοις, σε ὑπέρμαχον ἡ οἰκουμένη,
αθλοφόρε ταῖς ἐθνεσὶν τροποῦμενον. Ὡς οὖν Λυαίου καθέλκας τὴν
ἐπαρσιν, ἐν τῷ σταδίῳ θαρρύνας τὸν Νέστορα, οὕτως Ἁγιε,
Μεγαλομάρτυρ Δημήτριε, Χριστὸν τὸν Θεὸν ἐκέλευε,
δωρησασθαι ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Apolytikion/Dismissal Hymn

The world has found in you a great champion in time of peril, as you
emerged the victor in routing the barbarians. For as you brought to
naught the boasts of Lyaïos, imparting courage to Nestor in the
stadium, in like manner, holy one, great Martyr Demetrios, invoke
Christ God for us, that He may grant us His great mercy.

Ἀδελφοί, σπουδάσατε βεβαίαν ὑμῶν
τὴν κλῆσιν καὶ ἐκλογὴν ποιεῖσθαι· ταῦτα
γὰρ ποιῶντες οὐ μὴ πταιστέ ποτε· οὕτως
γὰρ πλουσίως ἐπιχορηγηθήσεται ὑμῖν ἡ
εἴσοδος εἰς τὴν αἰώνιον βασιλείαν τοῦ κυρίου
ἡμῶν καὶ σωτῆρος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Διὸ οὐκ
ἀμελήσω ἀεὶ ὑμᾶς ὑπομνησκὲν περὶ τούτων,
καίτερ εἰδότας, καὶ ἐστηριγμένους ἐν τῇ
παρούσῃ ἀληθείᾳ. Δίκαιον δὲ ἡγοῦμαι, ἐφ'
ὅσον εἰμι ἐν τούτῳ τῷ σκηνώματι, διεγείρειν
ὑμᾶς ἐν ὑπομνήσει· εἰδὼς ὅτι ταχινὴ ἐστὶν
ἡ ἀπόθεσις τοῦ σκηνώματός μου, καθὼς καὶ
ὁ κύριος ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς ἐδήλωσέν
μοι. Σπουδάσω δὲ καὶ ἐκάστοτε ἔχειν ὑμᾶς
μετὰ τὴν ἐμὴν ἐξοδὸν τὴν τούτων μνήμην
ποιεῖσθαι. Οὐ γὰρ σεσοφισμένοις μύθοις
ἐξακολουθήσαντες ἐγνωρίσαμεν ὑμῖν τὴν
τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ δύναμιν
καὶ παρουσίαν, ἀλλ' ἐπόπται γενηθέντες τῆς
ἐκείνου μεγαλειότητος. Λαβὼν γὰρ παρὰ θεοῦ
πατρός τιμὴν καὶ δόξαν, φωνῆς ἐνεχθείσης
αὐτῷ τοιαῦδε ὑπὸ τῆς μεγαλοπρεποῦς δόξης,
Οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱός μου ὁ ἀγαπητός, εἰς ὃν
ἐγὼ εὐδόκησα· καὶ ταύτην τὴν φωνὴν ἡμεῖς
ἠκούσαμεν ἐξ οὐρανοῦ ἐνεχθεῖσαν, σὺν
αὐτῷ ὄντες ἐν τῷ ὄρει τῷ ἁγίῳ. Καὶ ἔχομεν
βεβαίωτον τὸν προφητικὸν λόγον, ὃ καλῶς
ποιεῖτε προσέχοντες, ὥς λύχνῳ φαίνοντι ἐν
σὺν ἡμέρᾳ, ἕως οὗ ἡμέρα διαυγάσῃ, καὶ
φωσφόρος ἀνατείλῃ ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν.