



# FROM THE AMBIVON

## ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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#### **August 9th, 2024 7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 6. Afterfeast of the Transfiguration.**

Holy Martyr and Archdeacon Euplus (Euplius) of Catania (304). Martyrs Basil and Theodore of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—1098). St. Theodosius (Prince Theodore of Ostrog) of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves—1438). Virgin Martyr Susanna and those with her: Martyrs Gaius, Pope of Rome, Presbyter Gabinus, his brother and the father of Susanna, Maximus, Claudius, and his wife Praepedigna and their sons Alexander and Cutias (295-296). St. Néphon, Patriarch of Constantinople (Mt. Athos—1515).

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#### **Birthdays & Anniversaries for August**

**Birthdays:** Savina Shepherd (8/5); Fr Michael Shepherd (8/18); Mikayla Brown (8/9); Justin Kane (8/21)

**Nameday:**

**Baptism:**

**Anniversary:** Eli & Paula Stavisky (8/4);

**Travelers:**

**Prospora Schedule: PLEASE HELP! We have now signed up for prospora and we need families to start baking prospora at home. Please sign up. *The Church has a prospora kit if you would like to borrow it.* Thank you all for your offering “for the people by the people.”**

Aug 18

Aug 25

**Counting: HELP! Please sign up to help us count weekly donations! Thank you Tammy for helping count today.**

Aug 18

Aug 25

**Visitors: PLEASE JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS for an Agape Meal. Thank you to everyone who donated. Please donate what you would spend for lunch at the agape meal to replenish our supplies.**

**PLEASE SING ALONG! Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies throughout the services is encouraged!**

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DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive themselves by prayer, fasting, and a recent (monthly) confession. If you have questions please ask Fr Michael! Visitors, if you did not introduce yourself to Fr Michael at Vespers, please refrain from Holy Communion.*



## Service Schedule

Wed, Aug 14th: 5:00 PM - Great Vespers w/Litya

Thurs, Aug 15th: @ 8:40 AM - Hours & Divine Liturgy

**The Dormition (“Falling Asleep”) of our Most Holy Lady, Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary**

SAT, Aug 17th: @ 5:00 PM - Great Vespers

SUN, Aug 18th: @ 9:10 AM - Hours and Divine Liturgy

**8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST — Tone 7. Afterfeast of the Dormition.**



## *Words of Wisdom*

### *From the Saints & Teachers*

## Today's Readings

**Epistle:** (116) Romans 15:1-7

**Gospel:** (33) Matthew 9:27-35

### **EPISTLE**

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 6th Tone, a Psalm of David: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Choir: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Reader: To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me.

Choir: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

Reader: In the 4th Tone: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works, in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Choir: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works, in wisdom hast Thou made them all.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Romans.

Deacon: Let us attend!

[(116) Romans 15:1-7] Brethren: We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; \* let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. \* For Christ did not please Himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell on Me." \* For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. \* May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, \* that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. \* Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Priest: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

### **ALLELUIA**

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Alleluia in the 6th Tone: He that dwells in the aid of the Most High shall abide under the protection of the God of heaven.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: He shall say to the Lord: Thou art my protector and my refuge, my God. In Him will I trust!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: In the 8th Tone: The heavens are Thine; the earth also is Thine.

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

## GOSPEL

[(33) Matthew 9:27-35] At that time, as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed Him, crying aloud, "Have mercy on us, Son of David." \* When He entered the house, the blind men came to Him; and Jesus said to them, "Do ye believe that I am able to do this?" They said to Him, "Yes, Lord." \* Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you." \* And their eyes were opened. And Jesus sternly charged them, "See that no one knows it." \* But they went away and spread His fame through all that district. \* As they were going away, behold, a dumb demoniac was brought to Him. \* And when the demon had been cast out, the dumb man spoke; and the crowds marveled, saying, "Never was anything like this seen in Israel." \* But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the prince of demons." \* And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every infirmity.

## 15:1-13 LOVING EACH OTHER

Overview: Christ suffered reproach and did not seek his own advantage. This is the pattern of the Christian life: pleasing God first and others accordingly, not fearing to be weak to win the weak. The Scriptures were written to be understood and followed, and so to give us hope and patience. Christians are called to live in harmony, which is achieved by mutual self-sacrifice in imitation of Christ. When Gentiles see the unity of the church, they will be persuaded of the truth of the gospel and believe. Christians look to the future in hope and confidence.

Bray, G., ed. (1998). [Romans \(Revised\)](#) (pp. 339-340). InterVarsity Press.

## 9:31 They Spread His Fame

**They Revealed What Jesus Had Done. St John Chrysostom:** The blind men did not follow his instruction but immediately became preachers and evangelists. Though asked to hide what had been done, they revealed it. Remember that elsewhere he had said to a different hearer, "Return to your home and declare how much God has done for you." This does not run contrary to what he says here but complementary to it. For it teaches us that we should say nothing about ourselves. In fact, it even teaches that we should prevent those who want to praise us from doing so. But it also teaches that if the glory would be offered up to God, not only should we not prevent this but we should even command that it be done. **The Gospel of Matthew, Homily 32.1.**

Simonetti, M., ed. (2001). [Matthew 1-13](#) (pp. 187-188). InterVarsity Press.



## Treasury

*"... but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.*

*+ Jesus Christ +++*

## How Much is my tithe

Weekly	2%	4%	5%	10%
<b>\$200</b>	\$4	\$8	\$10	\$20
<b>\$500</b>	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50
<b>\$750</b>	\$15	\$30	\$37	\$75
<b>\$1000</b>	\$20	\$40	\$50	\$100

**WEEKLY GIVING UPDATE:** We thank you for your continued giving in gratitude for all that our loving God does for each of us, for His Holy Church, and all the blessings we receive through her.

**August Income:** \$5,801.00

**August Expense:** \$3,922.19

**Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open:** \$3,740.85

**Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open:** \$14,963.58

\$1500 \$30 \$60 \$75 \$150



## **Announcements - Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events**

**Silent Prayers and Confession:** Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:30PM or after vespers. Or you can make an appt for confession.

**Church Work Day:** Every Day is Church Maintenance day! I will begin a list of items that we will need to work on. If you are free and would like to work at the church let me know. Just check the list and when you finish the task, initial off that it has been done.

**Sunday Parking:** With the increase in parish attendance on Sundays we are asking that the parking row across the street be reserved for elderly, those with difficulty walking, handicap, and parish visitors. If you do not fall into one of those categories, please use the parking lot kitty-corner to us with the stairs so we can keep plenty of parking free for those who need to be closer. Thanks so much!

**Parish Council Meeting:** 7 September 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM - All are invited.

**Choir practice: Saturday's @ 4pm prior to vespers. If you would like to sing in the choir please make every effort to be at the practice.**

**Bulletin Boards:** Community and Administration Boards. Please, you can post on the community board as long as the post/event does not contradict our faith.

**PROSPHORA BAKING:** I would like to hold another prosphora baking class this week for all who would like to learn the valuable and God pleasing ministry. Remember the offering of bread is "for the people and by the people."

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL August 25th:** We are in the midst of planning an Ice Cream Social! This is to be like a town council to chit chat about life, the church, where the church is headed in regards to ministries etc.....but to have a lot of ice cream!

**WISH LIST!** Thank you for the purchase of Incense and a pitcher. Please consider purchasing from our wish list as this will reduce our cost of expenses and will allow us to increase and focus our giving in other vital areas needed.

<https://www.myregistry.com/giftlist/stmichaelsorthodoxchurchholdforgewishlist>

**St. Michael's Greeters Ministry** "*I was a stranger, and you welcomed me.*" Matthew 25:35 Our objective is to welcome visitors to the Parish, help them "feel at home" during the worship service, provide them with information about Orthodoxy and the Parish, invite them to Parish activities, introduce them to people of like interests, invite them back, follow-up to thank them for visiting us, and identifying whether we can help them in the future. Most people leave a church once they enter because no one greeted them. Please sign up to greet people.

**2nd Annual Veteran's Day Pasta Dinner NOV 9th!** Please see Tamara Wytovich to help volunteer. It was a huge success last year and we want to go BIGGER! A portion of the proceeds will go to an organization that assists veterans. This year we have selected Camp Freedom in Carbondale. Check it out <https://campfreedompa.org/>

*“anger is provoked by our interpretation of someone else’s behavior as unpleasant rather than by the behavior in itself.”*

*Bishop Alexis (Trader)*

*Ancient Christian Wisdom and Aaron Beck’s Cognitive Therapy: A Meeting of Minds p.54*

## **Parish Prayer List**

### **NEWLY DEPARTED:**

**DEPARTED:** *Matushka Karen Mahaffey (8/8); Barbara Pecuch (8/9); Patricia Chesniak (8/15);*

### **Please remember in your prayers LIVING**

*Ill-afflicted Archpriests Michael Evans, John Nightingale, & Theodore Orzolek*

**All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends:** *David Lezinsky, Christine Sevensky, Mike Jadick, Margaret Pregmon, Daniel Jones, Michael Sokol; Michael Krenitsky; Bernie Elko; The children of God Abigail and Nathan.*

**Servants of God** *Mark Bezhuly, David Barsigian, Patricia Jones, Anne Buday, Mary Krevko, Gregory Krevko, Emily Krenitsky, Gregory Krenitsky, Barbara Sevensky, Beverly Elko, Sandra Condon, Marie Pasternak, Nicole Earl, Anna Tyrpak, Sandy & Danny Pregmon, Walter Pritchyk, Michael & Euphemia Keklak, Justin & Elisabeth Kane, Maria & Vitaliy Rakovsky, Ekaterina & Anna, Joe & Kelly Cigna, George, Natasha, Rosa, & Lucia Coyoy, Paul & MaryAnn Newmeyer, Mat. Emilia, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina Shepherd, Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas Hart, Eli & Paula Stavisky, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Sharissa & Debra, Nadia Macheska, Paulette Ezbiansky, Jason Vo & Maura Elko, Santo Joseph Cerminaro, Mikayla Brown*

**Seekers -** *Christopher, Eugene, Mike, Brayden, Barbara, Amanda, Tommy*

**Catechumens -** *JoAnne Snopek & Paul Dunay*

# The Significance of the Transfiguration

Forty days before He was delivered to an ignominious death for our sins, our Lord revealed to three of His disciples the glory of His Divinity.

"And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart; and was transfigured before them: and His face did shine as the sun, and His raiment was white as the light" (Mat. 17:1-2). This was the event to which our Lord was referring when He said, "There be some standing here which shall not taste of death till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom" (Mat. 16:28). By this means the faith of the disciples was strengthened and prepared for the trial of our Lord's approaching passion and death; and they were able to see in it not mere human suffering, but the entirely voluntary passion of the Son of God.

The disciples saw also Moses and Elijah talking with our Lord, and thereby they understood that He was not Himself Elijah or another of the prophets, as some thought, but someone much greater: He Who could call upon the Law and the Prophets to be His witnesses, since He was the fulfillment of both.

The three parables of the feast concern the appearance of God to Moses and Elijah on Mount Sinai, and it is indeed appropriate that the greatest God-seers of the Old Testament should be present at the glorification of the Lord in His New Testament, seeing for the first time His humanity, even as the disciples were seeing for the first time His Divinity.

The Transfiguration, counted by the Church as one of the "Twelve Great Feasts," had an important place in the Church calendar already in the fourth century, as the homilies and sermons of such great Fathers as Saint John Chrysostom, Saint Ephraim the Syrian, and Saint Cyril of Alexandria attest; its origins go back to the first Christian centuries. In the fourth century also, Saint Helena erected a church on Mount Tabor, the traditional site of the Transfiguration, dedicated to the Feast. Although the event celebrated in the Feast occurred in the month of February, forty days before the Crucifixion, the Feast was early transferred to August because its full glory and joy could not be fittingly celebrated amid the sorrow and repentance of Great Lent. The sixth day of August was chosen as being forty days before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross (September 14th, old style), when Christ's Passion is again remembered.

Orthodox theology sees in the Transfiguration a prefiguration of our Lord's Resurrection and His Second Coming, and more than this – since every event of the Church calendar has an application to the individual spiritual life – of the transformed state in which Christians shall appear at the end of the world, and in some measure even before then. In the foreshadowing of future glory which is celebrated in this Feast, the Holy Church comforts her children by showing them that after the temporary sorrows and deprivations with which this earthly life is filled, the glory of eternal blessedness will shine forth; and in it even the body of the righteous will participate.

It is a pious Orthodox custom to offer fruits to be blessed at this feast; and this offering of thanksgiving to God contains a spiritual sign, too. Just as fruits ripen and are transformed under the action of the summer sun, so is man called to a spiritual transfiguration through the light of God's word by means of the Sacraments. Some saints, (for example – Saint Seraphim of Sarov), under the action of this life-giving grace, have shone bodily before men even in life with this same uncreated Light of God's glory; and that is another sign to us of the heights to which we, as Christians, are called and the state that awaits us – to be transformed in the image of Him Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor.

Hieromonk Seraphim (Rose) of Platina (+1982)