

ARCHPRIEST MARTIN SWANSON, PASTOR
PRIEST SERGII ALEKSEEV, ASSOCIATE PASTOR
ARCHPRIEST RADOMIR CHKAUTOVICH, ATTACHED

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF CHICAGO AND MID-AMERICA
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA

August 2019

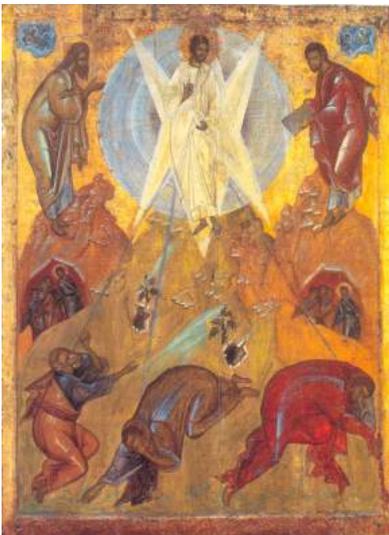
The Transfiguration of Christ

Excerpt from The Feasts of the Lord

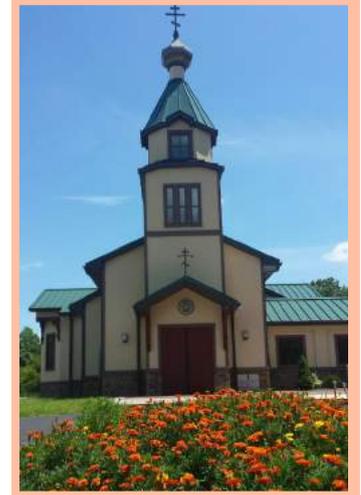
The transfiguration of Christ on Mt. Tabor took place forty days before His passion and crucifixion. So, canonically Christ's Transfiguration should be celebrated in the month of March, corresponding to the time of the year when Easter is celebrated. But since this time coincides with the period of Lent and could not be celebrated festively, the feast was transferred to the sixth of August. This date is not chosen at random, as it is forty days before the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, which is similar to Good Friday.

The word 'transfiguration' means change of forms. In other words, at a certain moment Christ revealed what He had been concealing. He manifested the glory of the divinity with which His human nature was united from the moment of His conception in the womb of the Theotokos. Through His great love for mankind Christ concealed what He always had, in order that the Disciples should not "be burned" by reason of their unfitness, because they had not yet been prepared.

Essentially, when we speak of the Transfiguration we mean that Christ manifested the glory of His divinity, which He kept unseen in the visible body, because men were not able to face it.



St. John Chrysostom says that Christ did not show His whole divinity, but a small energy of it. And He did this, on the one hand, to give information about what the divine glory of the Kingdom is like, and on the other hand, out of love for mankind, lest they even lose their life on seeing the full glory of the Godhead. Therefore the mystery of the Transfiguration is both a revelation of the Kingdom and an expression of God's love and His philanthropy.



Special Services & Events

- Wed. July 31, 6 P.M. Vigil for Ven. Seraphim of Sarov
- Thurs. Aug. 1, 8 A.M. Divine Liturgy for Ven. Seraphim of Sarov
- Tues. Aug. 6, 6 P.M. Moleben for St. Ann
- Thurs. Aug. 8, 6 P.M. Vigil for Great Martyr Panteleimon
- Fri. Aug. 9, 8 A.M. Divine Liturgy for Great Martyr Panteleimon
- Sun. Aug. 11, 3:00-5:00 P.M. FOCUS DINNER AT ST MICHEAL'S CHURCH
- Tues. Aug. 13 6 P.M. Vigil for the Feast of the Procession of the Cross
- Wed. Aug. 14, 8 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the Procession of the Cross
- Sun. Aug. 18 6 P.M. Vigil for the Feast of Transfiguration of the Lord
- Mon. Aug. 19 8 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Transfiguration of the Lord
- Fri. Aug. 23, 6:00 P.M. Akathist to the Theotokos
- Tues. Aug. 27 6 P.M. Vigil for the feast of Dormition
- Wed. Aug. 28 8 A.M. Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Dormition

Weekly Services:

Saturday - Vigil 5:00 p.m.

Sunday - Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Parish News

Choir Voices Needed

All parishioners are welcome to join the choir, all voices are needed. Choir practice is held every Wednesday evening in the church at 6:30. All members of the choir should attend as many practices as possible in order to prepare for the services of the coming week. The choir is an important ministry of the church and if you can sing, you serve God by joining the choir. WE NEED YOU!

Weekly Tours of St. Basil's

Tours of St. Basil's church are conducted by one of the parish clergy every Wednesday between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m., and are designed to acquaint the community with the church, its architecture, traditional design, iconography, and history. No appointments are necessary and the tours will accommodate both individuals and groups. Advance notice would be appreciated for groups over 5. For additional information or to schedule a group tour contact Fr. Martin at 314-835-1569.

Parish Prayer List

Nadya Danett - Health
Archimandrite Seraphim - Recovery
Reader Symeon Campbell - Recovery
Anastasia & Douglas Prebble - Health
Yelena Belyaev - Health

Keep our parishioners, and those who ask us to pray for them in your prayers this month. Contact Fr. Martin to have yourself or your loved ones added to the parish prayer list. Let one of the Fathers know if you, a member of your family, or a friend is ill or hospitalized so that appropriate prayers and visits can be arranged. Please note: Hospitals do not notify clergy of patients, even if you list yourself as a parish member.

"Ask Your Priest" Column

This new column will answer questions submitted by you [the parishioners] concerning Orthodoxy. Questions will be submitted to priests anonymously. Submit your questions to StBasilSTLNewsletter@gmail.com

Gardening Help

Parishioner, John Malcom, welcomes any who are willing to help gardening on the church grounds.

John Malcom will be working at the parish Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9am to noon weather permitting. Tools, gloves, and water will be provided for all who come to help.

Use eSCRIP and Amazon Smile Rebates

It costs \$0 and benefits the parish. Get cards at the candle counter. Sign up for the Amazon rebate program to have a portion of your Amazon purchase donated by Amazon to the parish. Please find sign up instructions next to the stair case in the hall.

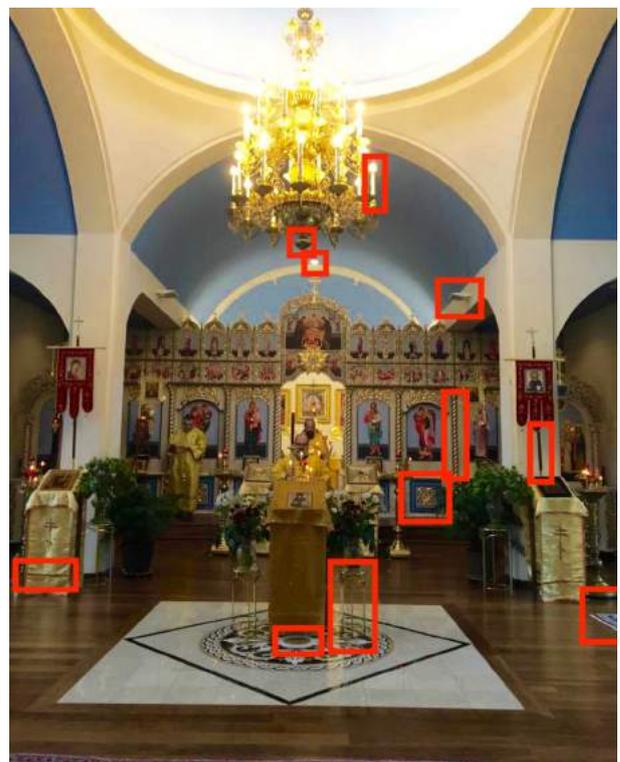
SERVERS WANTED!

Boys may begin to serve in the altar at St. Basil's from the time they begin to go to Confession (usually about 9 years old). We encourage all of our boys to serve in the altar! For more information please contact Michael Orlando.

St. Basil's Parish Facebook Page:

Check out <https://www.facebook.com/SaintBasiltheGreatSTLMO/> for daily edification and interesting updates. Like our Facebook Fanpage! "Like" us to have us appear in your Facebook Newsfeed.

July Spot the Difference Answers



Lord I have Cried Stichera from the Feast of the Dormition of The Theotokos

Excerpt from the Festal Menaion

O marvelous wonder! The source of life is laid in the tomb, and the tomb itself becomes a ladder to heaven. Make glad, O Gethsemane, thou sacred abode of the mother of God. Come, oh ye faithful, and with Gabriel to lead us let us cry: "Hail, thou who art full of grace: the Lord is with thee, granting the world through thee great mercy".

Glorious are thy wonders, O pure Lady. Thou wast made the Throne of the Most High, and today thou art translated from earth to heaven. Thy glory is full of majesty, shining with grace in divine brightness. Oh ye virgins, ascend on high with the Mother of the King. Hail, thou who art full of grace: the Lord is with thee, granting the world through thee great mercy

The dominions and the thrones, the rulers, the principalities, and the powers, the cherubim and the fearful seraphim glorify thy Dormition: and those who dwell on earth rejoice, adorned by thy divine glory. Kings fall down and sing with the archangels and the angels: "Hail, thou who art full of grace: the Lord is with thee, granting the world through thee great mercy".

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and unto the ages of ages.

By the royal command of God, the divinely inspired apostles were caught up from over all the world into the clouds on high. Reaching thine immaculate body, the source of Life, they saluted it with might honour. The highest powers of heaven stood by with their own Master. Seized with dread, they accompanied thine inviolate body that had held God, and they went on high before thee, crying, unseen, to the hierarchies above: "Lo, the Queen of all, the Maid of God, is nigh." Open wide the gates and receive above the world the Mother of the everlasting Light. For through her the salvation of all mankind has come. We have not the strength to look upon her, and are unable to render honours worthy of her. For her excellence is past all understanding. Therefore, O most pure Theotokos, who livest for

ever with thy Son, the King who brings life, pray without ceasing that thy newborn people be guarded on every side and saved from all adverse assault: for we are under thy Protection. And we bless thee in beauty and light unto all ages.

Help St. Basil's sponsored FOCUS Sunday Supper

FOCUS is an Orthodox Christian program that dedicates itself to the local needs of impoverished families, homeless persons and those re-entering society after incarceration. FOCUS provides food, clothing, household items, and shelter for men, women and children. It also offers classes and resources to help with job searching as well. St. Basil's has been given the opportunity to serve our community through this program by preparing and serving supper at St. Michael's Church on Sunday August 11th from 3:30 pm to 6 pm. Parishioner Laura Kasak is leading the effort but is going to need many helping hands in the process. The effort will take about 5 people to prepare the meal (Laura has chosen the menu) and at least 16 to serve it on site. If we do not answer this call to serve, the meal will be canceled and the homeless and poor who depend on this supper will have to seek it elsewhere. Let us answer Christ's call to serve and express Christ's love to our neighbors by helping with this selfless act. Any that are interested should contact Laura Kasak immediately by email at lbkasak@gmail.com

St. Basil's Parish Festival

St. Basil's is happy to announce that we will be celebrating our parish festival on September 29th. Many parishioners have expressed an interest in hosting a festival on our Church grounds so that friends, families, and visitors can come and experience our parish and enjoy the many cultures we celebrate. Plans for the festival include food, music, dances, singing, and games for children. We encourage anyone who has a special talent or who would like to showcase an entertaining skill to contact festival coordinator, Matushka Svetlana, so that a spot can be reserved

for your performance during our talent show. Festival goers can purchase from a hearty and tasty menu of pilaf, meat dumplings, shish kebabs, pies, and kvas. Donations for purchasing the food ingredients are welcome, as well as any other help you can offer both in preparation for the festival and on the day of the festival. Seating for the festival will be picnic style, so please plan to bring any picnic chairs or blankets to make yourself comfortable throughout the event. To be involved in any way or for general questions, please contact Matushka Svetlana.

Starets St. Seraphim of Sarov

Excerpt from The Orthodox Church by Timothy Ware

Seraphim was extraordinarily severe to himself, but he was gentle to others, without ever being sentimental or indulgent. Asceticism did not make him gloomy, and if ever a saint's life was illuminated by joy, it was Seraphim's. The vision of the Divine Light of Tabor took in his case a visible form, outwardly transforming his body. One of Seraphim's spiritual children, Nicolas Motovilov, described what happened one winter day as the two of them were talking together in the forest. Seraphim had spoken of the need to acquire the Holy Spirit, and Motovilov asked how someone could be sure of "being in the Spirit of God":

Then Father Seraphim took me very firmly by the shoulders and said: "My son, we are both at this moment in the Spirit of God. Why don't you look at me?"

"I cannot look, Father," I replied, "because your eyes are flashing like lightning. Your face has become brighter than the sun, and it hurts my eyes to look at you."

"Don't be afraid," he said. "At this very moment you yourself have become as bright as I am. You yourself are now in the fullness of the Spirit of God; otherwise you would not be able to see me as you do."

Then bending his head towards me, he whispered softly in my ear: "Thank the Lord God for His infinite goodness towards us... But why, my son, do you not look me in the eyes? Just look, and don't be afraid; the Lord is with us."

After these words I glanced at his face, and

there came over me an even greater reverent awe. Imagine in the centre of the sun, in the dazzling light of its midday rays, the face of a man talking to you. You see the movement of his lips and the changing expression of his eyes, you hear his voice, you feel someone holding your shoulders; yet you do not see his hands, you do not even see yourself or his body, but only a blinding light spreading far around for several yards and lighting up with its brilliance the snow-blanket which covers the forest glade and the snow-flakes which continue to fall unceasingly...

What do you feel?" Father Seraphim asked me.

"An immeasurable well-being," I said.

"But what sort of well-being? How exactly do you feel well?"

"I feel such a calm," I answered, "such peace in my soul that no words can express it."

"This," said Father Seraphim, "is the peace of which the Lord said to His disciples: My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you [John xiv, 27], the peace which passes all understanding [Philippians iv, 7]... What else do you feel?"

"Infinite joy in all my heart."

And father Seraphim continues: "When the Spirit of God comes down to someone and overshadows him with the fullness of His presence, then that person's soul overflows with unspeakable joy, for the Holy Spirit fills with joy whatever He touches..."

So the conversation continues. The whole passage is of extraordinary importance of understanding the Orthodox doctrine of deification and union with God. It shows how the Orthodox idea of sanctification includes the body: it is not Seraphim's (or Motovilov's) soul only, but the whole body which is transfigured by the grace of God. We may note that neither Seraphim nor Motovilov is in a state of ecstasy; both can talk in a coherent way and are still conscious of the outside world, but both are filled with the Holy Spirit and surrounded by the light of the age to come.

Ask Your Priest

Why do certain feasts have extended fasts ahead of them and others do not? How is

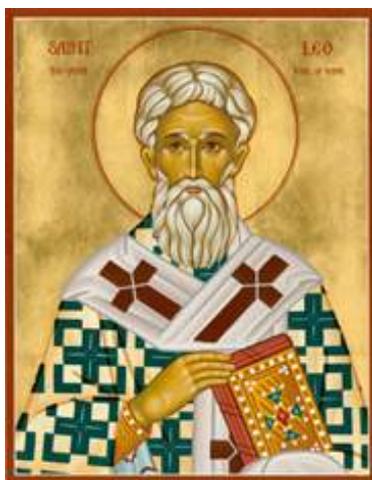
this determined?

Two most important feasts of the Lord, namely Pascha and Nativity, have long periods of fasting before them, as well as the most important feast of the Mother of God has a period of fasting preceding it. Since these three feasts stand out among other celebrations, they have long periods of preparation through fasting before them. The fast before the feast of the Holy Glorious Pre-eminent Apostles Peter and Paul is of a different nature. This will be discussed in what follows below.

Our fasting discipline and the fasting periods did not come into being only because someone decided so. Fasting came about naturally, just as a flower blossoms, and cannot do otherwise if it is healthy. Therefore, the question "how is this (i.e. fasting period) determined" is incorrect. We can answer regarding fasting with the words of the holy apostles that "it seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us" (Acts 15:28).

Fasting was a practice of the Old Testament Church - of the people united by the expectation of the coming of Christ. Our Lord Himself fasted and His disciples were supposed to fast but did not because of the joy of being with their Divine Teacher. And yet they knew that "the days will come when the Bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast" (Matthew 9:15).

Following the example of the holy apostles we fast after the completion of the celebration of Pentecost, for they fasted before beginning their labors of preaching the Gospel of Christ. Holy Hierarch Leo the Great (†461) writes about the Apostles Fast as about a well-established Christian tradition: "After the long festivities of Pentecost, fasting is necessary to cleans our thoughts, so that we could become worthy of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. After the feast there



traditionally comes the nationwide fast. For we do not doubt that after the apostles were filled with the promised from on-high power and the Spirit of truth entered their hearts, then, among other mysteries of the divine teaching from the Comforter, they were instructed with the teaching concerning abstinence, so that their hearts, being cleansed by fasting, may become worthy to receive the gifts of grace".

Holy Hierarch Symeon of Thessalonika (†1429) writes that "[the] Dormition Fast is established in honor of the Mother of the Word of God. When she was forewarned about the time of her departure, she began fasting for us, although being sinless she had no need to fast. Therefore, we also should fast and honor her, imitating her life, thus urging her to pray for us. Some, however, say that this fast was established in honor of two feasts, that is of Transfiguration and Dormition. And I also find it necessary to remember these two feasts, as the first bestows upon us sanctification, while the second - propitiation and intercession for us".

During the Nativity Fast we prepare to receive a great gift of God's revelation of Himself to His creation. Nativity Fast comes to us from the first centuries of Christianity. However, the Early Church did not know a separate feast of Nativity, for the coming of the Son of God into the world was celebrated together with the feast of the Baptism of the Lord under the joint name of Theophany, and was celebrated (well into the 4th century) on the day of Theophany (Jan. 19).

Early Christians were preparing for the feast of Theophany/Nativity in the same manner they were preparing to celebrate Pascha. Hence the fast before the Nativity of Christ mirrors the forty-day preparation for the Holy Week and Pascha. Already cited by us St Symeon writes: "The Forty-day Nativity Fast depicts Moses' fasting, who, having fasted for forty days and forty nights, received written



words of God on stone tablets. So also we, fasting for forty days, behold and receive the Living Word from the Virgin, written not on the stones, but incarnate and born, and we commune of His Divine Body”.



Every Christian is looking forward to the Great Lent: some with joy, others with trepidation, yet most of us with both, for we know that we cannot reach Pascha without going through the prayer and struggles of the Great Lent and the Holy Week. Our Lord’s forty-day fasting in the wilderness is the type for our

fasting during Lent, so as the journey of the people of God from Egypt to the Promise Land is the type of the same. Venerable Isaac the Syrian (†7th century) writes: “Fast is a weapon prepared by God. If the Law-giver fasted, how can anyone among those who must abide by His law refrain from fasting? Before fasting, mankind knew no victory and the devil never felt defeat. Our Lord was the leader and was first to gain this victory. As soon as the devil can see this weapon in our hands, this enemy and tormentor is overcome with fear, remembering his defeat from the Saviour in the desert, and his power is crushed”.

Baptism in June

On June 30th, the infant, Jonathan Hentschel, was baptized and brought into the Orthodox Church surrounded by friends and family. First born son to Samuel and Susanna Hentschel, he took St. John the Baptist as his patron. Friends and family were especially pleased that little John received his first Communion and on the feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist. Godparents, Aaron and Julianna and their children, Ian and Naomi, are seen pictured with the Hentschel family and Father Sergii on this blessed day. May God grant John many years!



Match the Ecumenical Council

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| ___ First Ecumenical Council | A. Described that Christ has two energies and two wills, thus condemning Monothelitism |
| ___ Second Ecumenical Council | B. Validated the use of icons in the Church for veneration |
| ___ Third Ecumenical Council | C. Confirmed the title “Theotokos” as orthodox and condemned Nestorianism |
| ___ Fourth Ecumenical Council | D. Articulated that Christ has two natures and condemned Monophysitism |
| ___ Fifth Ecumenical Council | E. Finalized the Nicene Creed |
| ___ Sixth Ecumenical Council | F. Confirmed that Christ is of one essence with the Father and condemned Arianism |
| ___ Seventh Ecumenical Council | G. Further condemned Nestorianism and elements of Origen’s teachings |

SAINT BASIL THE GREAT ORTHODOX CHURCH

205 Highland Avenue, Des Peres (I-270 and Dougherty Ferry Rd.)



RUSSIAN FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

12.00 TILL 4:00 P.M.

ENTERTAINMENT FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Music, Dances, Singing, Games for Children

**ON THE MENU: Pilaf, Meat Dumplings, Shish Kebabs,
Pies, Kvas**

Bring along picnic chairs and enjoy the festival with us!