

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church of America

A Parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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August 8, 2021

Announcement of the Transfiguration

- 9:10 am - Hours
- 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Rom. 15:1-7
Gospel: Matt. 9:27-35
- **Coffee Hour** – Church Hall. Everyone is invited for a fellowship followed the service.

Schedule of Services

Saturday, August 14

- 5:00 pm – Great Vespers with Litya
Followed by General Confession

Sunday, August 15

Domination of the Most Holy

Theophany

- 9:10 am - Hours
- 9:30 am – Divine Liturgy and blessing of flowers and herbs.

♦ We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for coffee hour after the service. Please note that reception of the Holy Eucharist is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.

WEEKLY BIBLE MESSAG

The Transfiguration of our Lord, God & Savior Jesus Christ

On August 6 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate the divine Transfiguration of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ. This glorious event is recorded in the Gospels of Mark (9:2-13), Luke (9:28-36 in Orthros) and Matthew (17:1-9 in Liturgy). In the third year of His preaching, the Lord Jesus often spoke to His disciples of His approaching passion and His glorious Resurrection. So that His impending passion would not totally weaken His disciples, the All-wise Savior wanted to show them His divine glory before His passion on the Holy Cross. (This is why we sing the Katavasias of the Holy Cross on this day.) For that reason, He took Peter, James and John with Him and went out at night to Mount Tabor. The Lord took only three disciples on Tabor because the Lord did not want to leave the unworthy Judas alone at the foot of the mountain so that the betrayer would not, by that, justify his betrayal. Our Lord was transfigured on a mountain, and not in a valley 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. Moses and Elijah appeared in order to destroy the erroneous thought of the Jews that the Christ is one of the prophets; 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 Mount 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 would serve the disciples in the days of the Lord's passion, in strengthening of an unwavering faith in Him and His final victory.



Parable: Building Your House :

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house-building business to live a more leisurely life with his wife and enjoy his extended family. He would miss the paycheck each week. But he wanted to retire. They could get by.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go & asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said yes but over time it was easy to see that his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end a dedicated career.

When the carpenter finished his work, his employer came to inspect the house. Then he handed the front-door key to the carpenter and said, "This is your house... my gift to you."

The carpenter was shocked! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently.

So it is with us. We build our lives, a day at a time, often putting less than our best into the building. Then, with a shock, we realize we have to live in the house we have built. If we could do it over, we would do it much differently.

But, you cannot go back. You are the carpenter and every day you hammer a nail, place a board or erect a wall. Someone once said, "Life is a do-it-yourself project."

Your attitude and the choices you make today helps build the house you will live in tomorrow. Therefore, build wisely!

Birthday Greeting

Happy Birthday go out this week to **Cathy Lazorchac** – August 10; **Gregory Kary** - August 12 and **Patricia Galey** August 14. May God continue to enrich their life with the fullness of joy and happiness for many years – Mnogaya Lyeta!

2021 DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

Very Reverend, Reverend and Dear Fathers; Delegates to the 2021 Diocesan Assembly; Parish Council Members and Faithful Parishioners of our Diocesan Family:

Christ is in our midst! The Diocesan Council, at its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, July 27, 2021, with His Eminence, Archbishop MICHAEL presiding, received reports and entertained discussion regarding the logistical requirements for accommodating the delegates to the 2021 Diocesan Assembly in compliance with ongoing public health concerns. Given the continuing fluidity of the situation with the coronavirus pandemic, and out of concern for the delegates and the Diocese, the unanimous decision was taken by the Diocesan Council to hold the 2021 Diocesan Assembly via video conference, instead of in person at Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Endicott, New York as was previously planned. This decision by the Diocesan Council was blessed and approved by Archbishop Michael.

The date and time of the Diocesan Assembly remains Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 11:00 AM. This decision was taken with the understanding that the Diocesan Council is charged with the arrangements for the Diocesan Assembly (By-Laws of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey, Article IV, Section 6.n.). This present announcement of change in venue, with the date and time unchanged from their original establishment at the 2020 Diocesan Assembly, is issued in keeping with the "ninety days" advance notice required by the Diocesan By-Laws (Article III, Section 1). This decision was also confirmed by Archbishop Michael (Article I, Paragraph 4; and Article II, Section 1). Additional information, including the instructions for accessing the video conference for the 2021 Diocesan Assembly, will be sent to the parishes at a time nearer to November 3. This year, as in 2020, there will not be a second day of clergy and lay symposia following the Assembly. In the next several days, the Diocese will be announcing educational events for Parish Council leaders, lay persons, altar servers, and Diocesan clergy, to be held on separate occasions during Fall, 2021. His Eminence expresses his gratitude to the clergy and lay delegates, and to all the clergy and faithful of the Diocese, for their understanding in the matter of this decision. Parish priests are asked to promptly share this announcement with their Lay Delegates to the Assembly, their Parish Council members, and their parishioners.

With love in Christ,
Mitred Archbishop Joseph Lickwar
Chancellor of the Diocese.

