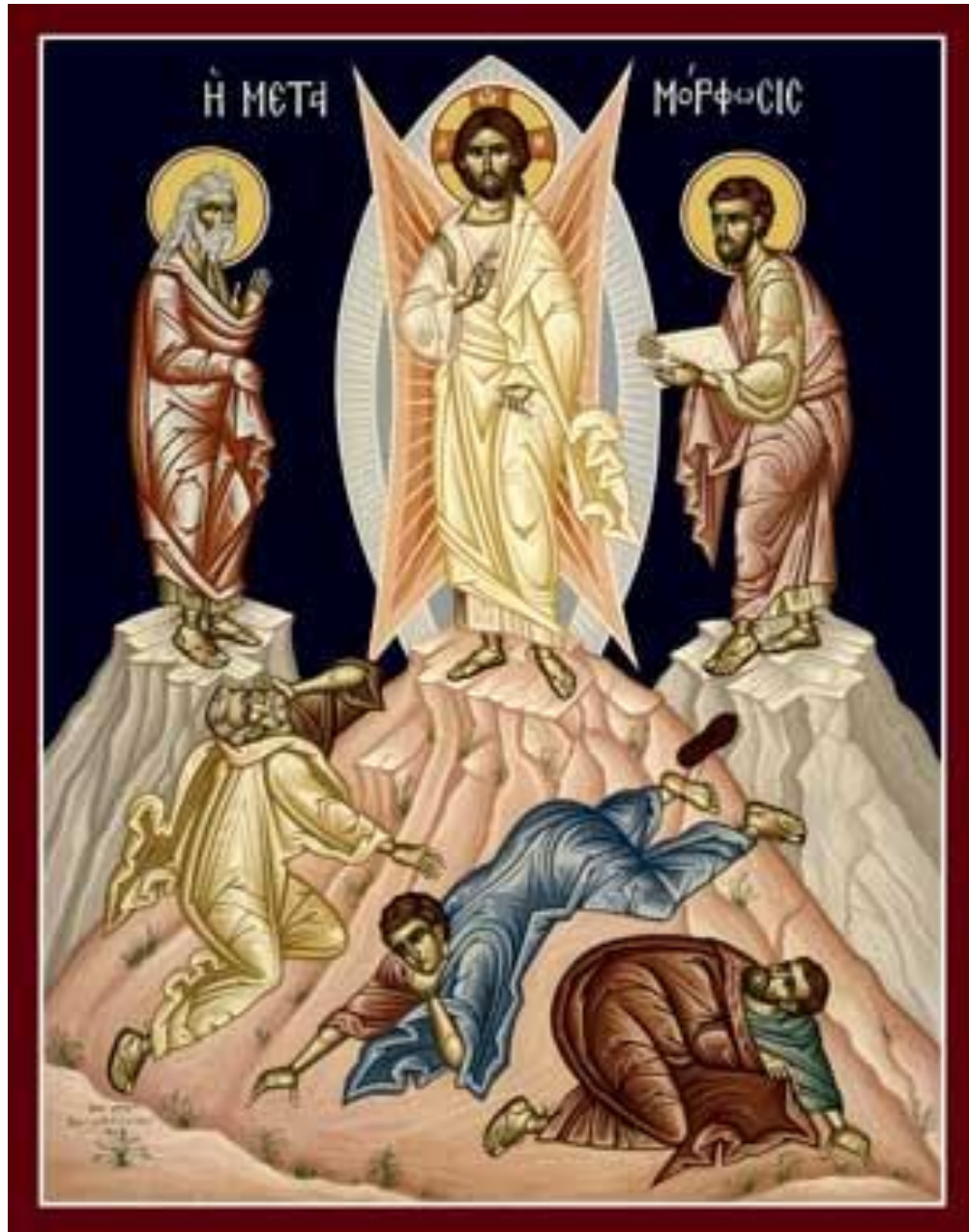
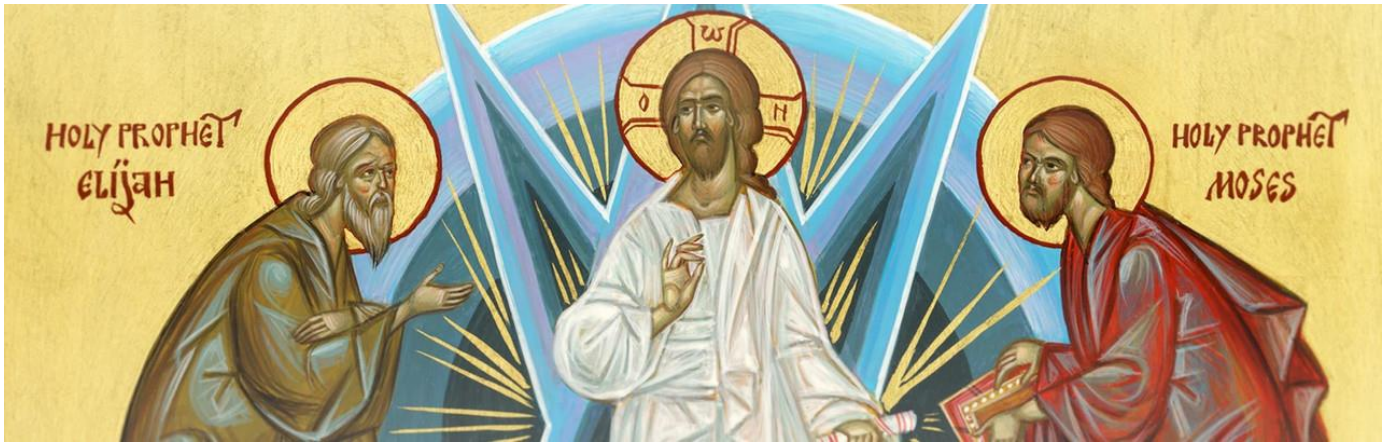


**St Ignatios of Antioch
Melkite Greek Catholic Church
1003 Merry Street
Augusta, Georgia 30904
706 364-6219**



**10th Sunday after Pentecost
Feast of the Transfiguration
6 August 2023**

August 6 – Feast of the Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ



In Your Light We See Light

“I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD ” (John 8:12). These familiar words of the Lord Jesus reflect one of the most popular images in the Scriptures, but what do they mean? How is Jesus the light of the world?

The rest of this verse (pardon the expression) ‘sheds light’ on what is meant here. “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.” Here and in a number of other places Jesus is portrayed as a beacon: one who guides along the right path, who illumines the way for us. He is the “Giver of light,” the One bringing light to our hearts. To say He is light in this way is to talk about what He does.

But there is another way to see Christ as light. He is light, not only because of what He does for us but because of what He is. “God is light and in Him is no darkness at all” (1 Jn 1:5). God is not described here as light illumining our minds and hearts, but as He is in Himself: Light in His innermost being.

Based on the Gospel message, the Church proclaims the Lord Jesus as “Light from Light” (Nicene Creed), the “Joyful Light of the holy glory of the Immortal Father, the Heavenly, the Holy, the Blessed: Jesus Christ” (third century vespers hymn). As God is Light in Himself, so too the incarnate Christ is the Light of the Father. “I and the Father are one” (Jn 10:30).

As far back as the third century the Fathers used our experience of the sun to illustrate this mystery. Like others before him, St. Cyril, the teacher of the Slavs, reflected, “Do you see in the heavens the brilliant sphere of the sun and how from it light is begotten and warmth proceeds? God the Father is like the sphere of the sun, without beginning or end. From Him is eternally begotten God the Son, like light from the sun; just as there comes warmth together with light from the sun, the Holy Spirit proceeds. Each one is distinguished separately: the sphere of the sun and the light and the warmth — these are not three suns, but one sun in the heavens. So also, in the Holy Trinity: there are three Persons, but God is one and indivisible.”

The Light of Mt. Tabor

Christ was concretely manifested as light at His transfiguration: “His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light” (Mt 17:2) – “white and glistening” (Lk 9:29), “such as no launderer on earth can whiten them” (Mk 9:3). For a moment the disciples glimpsed what had been hidden since the Incarnation: the Word of God, radiant with divine glory, in the person of Jesus.

In icons of the Transfiguration, this radiance is depicted by a geometric figure behind the representation of the Lord called a mandorla. While depictions of Christ during His earthly ministry show His head surrounded by a cross and a halo, icons representing Him in moments beyond time and space (the Transfiguration, the Resurrection, the Dormition) envelop His whole body in this light of glory.

This same figure is found in icons of the conversion of St. Paul. Christ, the “Radiant Light” was manifested to Saul of Tarsus (St. Paul) on the road to Damascus as “a light from the sky brighter than the sun” (Acts 26:13). While this Light briefly blinded Saul by its brilliance, it enabled him to see ever more clearly “the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed” (Col 1:26).

In the Church the light experienced by Saul has been identified with the light that shone on Tabor, the Radiant Light of the Father, Jesus Christ. As we sing on the feast of Saints Peter and Paul, “Christ who had been radiant in light on the mountain, blinded your bodily eyes; but He allowed your soul to see the Trinity ” (from the Canon, Ode 1).

The “Uncreated Light” of God

In the Gospels we find two seemingly contradictory understandings of our ability to know God. On the one hand we are told, “No one has seen God at any time” (Jn 1:18). On the other hand we hear, “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Mt 5:8). In the fourth century, St. Gregory of Nyssa showed how both statements are true. He taught that the essence of God was unknowable. Like the sun in the imagery cited above, God in His deepest being is unapproachable. The energies of God – His “Light” and “Warmth” – have been made known to us and we can truly know God in His energies. In the fourteenth century, St Gregory Palamas applied this teaching to the Transfiguration. He explained that when the Apostles witnessed the Transfiguration of the Lord on Mount Tabor, that they were seeing the actual uncreated light of God.

Reflecting the Divine Light

We too, Palamas insisted, can experience God’s divine energies even though we can never know His essence: “for those who love each other all nature is filled with the light which seems to radiate from the other.” Many saints who have loved deeply have reflected this light. Perhaps the first was the Protomartyr St. Stephen who witnessed to Christ before the council of Jewish elders in Jerusalem. “And looking steadfastly on Stephen, they saw his face as it had been the face of an angel” (Acts 6:15).

St Simeon the New Theologian, writing in the eleventh century, described his own experience in similar words: “He gives Himself totally to me, unworthy as I am, and I am filled with His love and beauty. I am sated with pleasure and divine tenderness. I share in the Light. I

participate also in the glory. My face shines like that of my beloved and all my members become bearers of Light.”

The most compelling witness to such an experience comes from Nicholas Motovilov. In 1831 he wrote of seeing St Seraphim of Sarov transfigured with the divine light. They had been discussing how a person can acquire the grace of the Holy Spirit but Motovilov was puzzled: “I do not understand how I can be certain that I am in the Spirit of God.” Finally, as he described it, “Father Seraphim took me very firmly by the shoulders and said: ‘We are both in the Spirit of God now, my son. Why don’t you look at me?’ “I replied: ‘I cannot look, Father, because your eyes are flashing like lightning. Your face has become brighter than the sun, and my eyes ache with pain.’

“Father Seraphim said: ‘Don’t be alarmed, your Godliness! Now you yourself have become as bright as I am. You are now in the fullness of the Spirit of God yourself; otherwise you would not be able to see me as I am.’

“Then, bending his head towards me, he whispered softly in my ear: ‘Thank the Lord God for His unutterable mercy to us! You saw that I did not even cross myself; and only in my heart I prayed mentally to the Lord God and said within myself: ‘Lord, grant him to see clearly with his bodily eyes that descent of Your Spirit which You grant to Your servants when You are pleased to appear in the light of Your magnificent glory.’ And you see, my son, the Lord instantly fulfilled the humble prayer of poor Seraphim. How then shall we not thank Him for this unspeakable gift to us both?’”

For a moment the apostles on Tabor saw the light of God which is Christ’s by nature. Likewise for a moment Nicholas Motovilov saw the light of God indwelling by grace in the person who is in Christ.

Sunday Collections

Attendance	Date	Collection
24	11 June 2023	715.00
39	18 June 2023	1,502.00
50	25 June 2023	5,002.00
31	2 July 2023	\$429.00
38	9 July 2023	1,547.00
34	16 July 2023	1,365.00
44	23 July 2023	540.00
22	30 July 2023	0.00

Divine Liturgy Intentions:

For the Living:

Bishop Francois, Fr. John Azar, Fr. James Graham, David Mangelsdorf, Brian Frank, Maria Barklage, Nookid Graham, Ali de la Vega, Dn. Kent & Diana Plowman, A Special Parish Intention, Mandie, Nick Baiad, Charlie & Kathleen Barnette, Richie Damici, Medical Personnel and First Responders

For the Dead:

Announcements

We are live-streaming on our Facebook page at the following days & times:

Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 8:00AM, The Third Hour

Friday – 6:00 PM Weekday Vespers

Saturday – 6:00PM Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00AM Orthros & 10:00AM Divine Liturgy

WE'VE BEGUN PRAYING the 3rd Hour on Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8am. This is a short prayer service from our version of the Liturgy of the Hours. It lasts less than 20 minutes or so. Come join us!

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES AROUND TOWN – Most Holy Trinity parish will be hosting a Men's Holy Hour every Friday morning from 6-7am. There will also be a coffee hour and reflection time afterwards – Men from all parishes are invited to attend for whatever portion of the time they are available. For the Ladies – St. Joseph's will be hosting a Women's Holy Hour on the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

CALLING ALL SINGLE CATHOLICS! August 25th-27th, 2023 - Join 400+ singles coming from all parts of the US (and beyond!) at the 22nd National Conference for Single Catholics at St. John's Resort, in Plymouth, MI *OR participate virtually and engage with others via the online socials and small group discussions.* This is your chance to connect with like-minded singles (of all ages). The weekend includes talks by dynamic speakers, music, social events, Mass, adoration, fellowship and more. (If joining us in-person, use the promo code **(PARISH23)** when you register to get \$50 off! *Discount for the first 50 sign ups nationwide to use this code.*) Visit NationalCatholicSingles.com for more information and to register. (Can't find your question answered on the website? Call 512-766-5798.)



AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS, Troop 1917, is starting its 12th year! Our Christ-centered, very active troop based at St. Teresa of Avila, 4921 Columbia Road, Grovetown, has opening for every level, ages 5 – 18.

AHG'S mission statement is "Building women of integrity through service to God, family, community, and country". And our motto is "Faith, Service, Fun" and the girls grow closer to Christ through religious awards programs and devotionals. Service is integral to AHG, and our troop provides more than six community service opportunities each year. Girls love AHG because they make great friends and participate in exciting and challenging activities including camping and other outdoor adventures.

If you and your daughter(s) would like to see what we're all about, please email our registrar, Noelia, at jfniperez@gmail.com, for more information. We are holding our kickoff party on August 24th and Parents University on August 31st, so email her soon to check out our amazing troop!

THE DIOCESE OF SAVANNAH is sponsoring a Eucharistic Revival day August 26th hosted at Saint Teresa of Avila and led by Eucharistic Preachers Father Malachy Napier and Father Mathias Thelen. Fr. Malachy is a Conventional Franciscan of the Renewal (CFR), who grew up as a parishioner at Saint Joseph. Fr. Mathias is the co-founder of Encounter Ministries. Bishop Parkes will celebrate Mass at 4:30 PM. The day will be a powerful time to encounter Jesus in the Eucharist. It will include perpetual adoration, family adoration, a youth track, paid childcare, confession, and a Eucharistic Procession and Healing Service. Register via the Saint Teresa of Avila website or parish office.

Upcoming Calendar

Aug 14 – Monday, Vespers, Feast of the Dormition – 7pm

Aug 15 – Tuesday, Divine Liturgy, Dormition – 7pm

Feast of the Nativity of Mary – Sept. 8th

Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Sept. 14

Little Entrance



Ta - bor and Her - mon re - jice at Your Name.



O Son of God, who were trans - fi - gured on Mount



Ta - bor, save us who sing to You: Al-le - lu -



- ia.

Resurrectional Troparion

(Tone 1)



You de-scen-ded from on high, O Com-pas - sion - ate



One; and con-sen - ted to bu - ri - al for three days



that You might free us from suf - fer - ing.



O Lord, our life and our re-sur - rec-tion, glo - ry



to You.

Troparion of Transfiguration

(Tone 7) 3x



You were trans - fig - ured on the Moun - tain, O Christ



God, show - ing Your Dis - ci - ples as much of Your glo -



- ry as they could hold. Let Your e - ter - nal light shine



al - so up - on us sin - ners, through the prayers



of the Mo - ther of God, O Gi - ver of Light, glo - ry to



You.

Kondakion of the Transfiguration

(Tone 7)



On the Moun - tain You were trans - fig - ured, O



Christ our God, and Your Dis - ci - ples saw as much



of Your glo - ry as they could hold, so that when



they should see You cru - ci - fied, they would know



that You suf - fer wil - ling - ly, and would pro - claim



to the world that You are ve - ri - ly the Splen - dor of



the Fa - ther.

Hirmos

(Tone 4)

Music notation for Hirmos (Tone 4) in G-clef, one sharp (F#). The melody consists of five lines of music. The lyrics are: "You gave birth with - out stain, for it was God in-car-nate in the flesh who came forth from your womb. He was seen on earth and con - versed with men. Where-fore, O Mo-ther of God, we all ex-alt you." The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes) and rests, with lyrics placed below the notes.

You gave birth with - out stain, for it was
God in-car-nate in the flesh who came forth from your
womb. He was seen on earth and con - versed with men.
Where-fore, O Mo-ther of God, we all ex-alt
you.

Kinonikon

(Tone 8)

Music notation for Kinonikon (Tone 8) in G-clef, two sharps (F# and C#). The melody consists of three lines of music. The lyrics are: "We shall walk for-e - ver in the light of the glo - ry, the glo - ry of Your coun-te-nance, O Lord. Al-le-lu - i - a." The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes) and rests, with lyrics placed below the notes.

We shall walk for-e - ver in the light
of the glo - ry, the glo - ry of Your coun-te-
- nance, O Lord. Al-le-lu - i - a.

Prokimenon

Reader: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

All: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

Reader: Exult, you just, in the Lord; praise from the upright is fitting.

All: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us, for we have hoped in you.

Reader: May your kindness, O Lord, be upon us,

All: For we have hoped in you.

Readings for the Week:

Monday:	Philippians 2:5-11	Luke 10:38-42; 11:27-28
Tuesday:	2 nd Cor 2:14-3:3	Matt 23: 23-28
Wednesday:	2 nd Cor 3:4-11	Matt 23: 29-39
Thursday:	2 nd Cor 4:1-12	Matt 24: 13-28
Friday:	2 nd Cor 4:13-18	Matt 24:27-33; 42-51
Saturday:	1 st Cor 1:3-9	Matt 19:3-12

Saints of the Week:

Aug. 6: Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord
Aug. 7: 2nd Day of the Transfiguration, Holy Martyr Dometios
Aug. 8: 3rd Day of the Transfiguration; Holy Confessor, Emilian, Bishop of Cyzica
Aug. 9: 4th Day of the Transfiguration; Holy Apostle Matthias
Aug. 10: 5th Day of the Transfiguration; Holy Martyr, the Archdeacon Lawrence
Aug. 11: 6th Day of the Transfiguration; Holy Martyr Euplos the Deacon
Aug. 12: 7th Day of the Transfiguration; Holy Martyrs Photios and Anicetos
Aug. 13: Leave-taking of the Transfiguration, Holy Maximos the Confessor

Word Search

A	X	N	L	Z	Z	C	X	W	O	H	X	D	C	J	V	R	P
Y	U	T	N	A	I	D	A	R	K	W	J	P	E	M	O	A	P
S	E	T	I	H	W	O	M	Q	D	P	V	R	O	B	A	T	Z
E	L	I	J	A	H	E	S	Y	N	O	U	S	M	E	R	X	Y
S	U	J	D	F	R	A	C	N	O	S	D	E	V	O	L	E	B
S	I	K	V	L	M	I	Z	V	A	D	Q	N	T	K	Q	R	K
E	Z	V	D	X	O	N	S	L	S	N	F	E	N	J	E	K	Y
H	D	X	E	C	S	Z	E	E	L	U	N	Z	P	T	E	Z	P
T	Q	S	S	H	E	M	Q	N	L	T	F	A	C	E	C	F	T
O	J	I	A	G	S	I	F	F	S	E	M	A	J	Y	N	A	V
L	J	D	E	R	U	G	I	F	S	N	A	R	T	O	E	O	D
C	A	Y	L	C	V	L	H	N	I	V	T	G	E	P	L	J	K
I	K	A	P	N	L	G	H	A	H	I	H	L	B	E	I	B	M
P	W	R	L	Y	I	O	T	G	J	S	G	O	X	T	S	N	H
M	I	P	L	N	J	N	Y	A	E	I	I	R	P	E	A	B	N
A	E	S	E	W	U	S	J	I	E	O	L	Y	H	R	I	I	W
O	X	T	W	O	D	O	U	K	X	N	H	H	T	A	E	D	S
W	S	G	M	A	U	T	W	Q	X	X	Q	I	B	G	J	P	E

Arise
Beloved Son
Clothes
Death
Elijah
Face
Fulfill
Glory
James

Jerusalem
John
Light
Moses
Mountain
Peter
Pray
Radiant
Silence

Sun
Tabor
Tents
Transfigured
Vision
Well Pleased
White

Parish Information:

Rt. Rev. Michael Skrocki, JCD
Pastor

abounamike@aol.com

Knights of Columbus
JFK Council

1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm
Most Holy Trinity

4th Degree Assembly
2nd Wednesday of the month, 7pm
St. Ignatios

Publicans Prayer Group
Postponed until Further Notice

New Parishioners:
Please register with Fr. Michael.

Mystery of Holy Confession
Please contact Fr. Michael to set up a convenient time.

Mystery of Christian Initiation
Expectant parents should notify Fr. Michael prior to the birth of the child. Adult converts should contact Fr. Michael so arrangements may be made for any necessary instruction and sacraments.

Mystery of Holy Crowning
Those planning to marry should notify the Fr. Michael
at least six months prior to the desired Wedding date.

Mystery of Holy Anointing
Please notify Fr. Michael when you or a family member is in need of anointing.

To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers of the Eparchy of Newton, please call the **Victim Assistance Coordinator** at 1-800-479-5910.