ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW ROME

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**Let’s pray for peace in Ukraine Молімось за мир в Україні**

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**Sun. 20 Aug. (07 Aug.) 11th Sunday after PENTECOST. TONE 2. AFTERFEAST of TRANSFIGURATION. Martyr DOMETIUS of Persia & two disciples (363). Martyrs MARINUS & ASTERIUS in Palestine (260). Ven. HOR of Thebaid (390). Virgin POTAMIA of Alexandria. Ven. PIMEN of the Kyiv Caves, PIMEN the Faster, Ven. MERCURIUS, Bishop of Smolensk.**

**Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9: 2-12 Gospel: Matthew 18: 23-35**

**UOL meeting during the Coffee hour**

**Concerts for Ukraine dedicated to Independence Day (Miller Symphony Hall)**

**Liturgical Meneion & Scripture Readings (Dormition Fast)**

**Mon. 21 Aug.** Ven. Gregory, iconographer of the Kyiv Caves (XII)

**2 Cor. 5:10-15 Mk.1:9-15**

**Tue. 22 Aug.** Apostle Matthew (63). Martyr Anthony of Alexandria (4th c.).

**2 Cor. 5:15-21 Mk.1:16-22**

**06:30 PM MOLEBEN FOR UKRAINE (Holy Protection, Allentown)**

**Wed. 23 Aug.** Martyrs Archdeacon Laurence and Pope Sixtus and others with them (258).

**2 Cor. 6:11-16 Mk. 1:23-28**

**Thu. 24 Aug.** St. Theodore of the Kyiv Caves, prince of Ostrog (1483).

**2 Cor. 7:1-10 Mk. 1:29-35**

**10:00 AM Ukraine's Independence Day Celebration at Bethlehem City Plaza.**

**Fri. 25 Aug.** Hieromartyr Alexander, bishop of Comana (3rd c.).

**2 Cor. 7:10-16 Mk. 2:18-22**

**Sat. 26 Aug.** St. Maximus the Confessor (662).

**1 Cor. 1:26-29 Mt. 20:29-34**

**05:00 PM Great Vespers.**

**Sun. 27 Aug. 09:00 AM DIVINE LITURGY. Blessing of Herbs and Flowers**

**PROPERS FOR THE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

**Tropar of the Resurrection, Tone 2:** When You descended to death, Life Immortal, You slayed Hell with the splendor of Your Divinity. And when from the depths, You raised the dead, all the Powers of Heaven cried out: Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You.

**Tropar Transfiguration, T. 7:** You were transfigured on the mountain, Christ God, revealing Your Glory to Your disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Your Everlasting Light shine on us sinners. Through the prayers of the Birth-Giver of God, Giver of Light, glory to You.

**Tropar of the Dormition of the Mother of God, Tone 1:** In giving birth, you preserved your virginity. In falling asleep you did not forsake the world, Birth-Giver of God. You were translated to life, Mother of Life, and through your prayers you deliver our souls from death.

**Kondak of the Resurrection, Tone 2:** Hell became fearful, Almighty Savior, seeing the miracle of Your Resurrection from the tomb. The dead arose and all creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with You and the world, my Savior, praises You forever.

**Glory…** **Kondak of the Feast, Tone 7:** When You were transfigured on the mountain, Christ God, Your disciples saw as much of Your Glory as they could bear. So that when they looked upon You being crucified, they would understand that You suffered freely and proclaim to the world that You are indeed the radiance of the Father’s glory.

**Now and ever… Kondak of the Dormition, Tone 2:** Neither the tomb nor death had power over the Birth-Giver of God, she is ever watchful in her prayers, and in her intercession lies unfailing hope, for as the Mother of Life, she has been translated to Life, by the One Who dwelt within her ever-virginal womb.

**Prokimen of the Resurrection, Tone 2:** The Lord is my strength and my song. He has become my salvation.

**Verse:** The Lord has chastened me sorely, but He has not given me over to death.

**Prokimen of the Feast, Tone 6:** Lord, how many are Your works. In wisdom You have made them all.

**Epistle: St. Paul 1st Corinthians 9: 2-12**

**Alleluia Verses, Tone 2.** May the Lord answer you in the day of trouble. May the Name of the God of Jacob protect you.

Lord, save the king and hear us, on the day we call out to You.

The Heavens are Yours, the earth is Yours also.

**Gospel: Matthew 18: 23-35**

**Instead of “It is right in truth…”** Magnify, my soul, the Lord Who was transfigured on Mount Tabor. **Irmos, Tone 4:** Your birth-giving was undefiled. God came forth from your womb and He appeared on earth in the flesh, making His dwelling among mortals. Therefore, Birth-Giver of God, we all magnify you.

**Communion Hymn:** Praise Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the Highest. Lord, we will walk in the light of Your Countenance and exult in Your Name forever. **Alleluia (3X)**

**- Concerts for Ukraine dedicated to Independence Day. TODAY, Sunday, August 20, 2023, 03:00 PM. Miller Symphony Hall and the Allentown Band. All net proceeds will go to Ukrainian Aid. Look for the tickets online.**

**- Ukraine's Independence Day. Branch 91 of the UNWLA is organizing a flag-raising ceremony and short program in commemoration. The event will be held on Aug. 24th at 10:00 a.m. at Bethlehem City Plaza (Payrow Plaza).**

**- Holy Assumption Parish Feast Day and Baptism. August 28, 09:00 AM Divine Liturgy, 11:00 AM Baptism of David and reception. Let’s greet His Eminence Archbishop Daniel with our Parish family. Please RSVP to Fr. Oleg or Pani Olha.**

**- Parish Board meeting – August 30, 06:30 PM.**

**- Parish picnic Wayne Grube Park for Saturday, Sept. 30, 2023.**

**- REGISTER – We will have 2 Christmas pysanky workshops on November 4, 2023. Participants will write 2 Christmas-themed eggs that will have a gloss coating, holder and ribbon. $35 per person. The workshops are nearly half filled already! If you want to attend this unique hands-on workshop, contact Jessie Hnatow at jessie.hnatow@gmail.com or text her at 610-428-8389.**

**- Pan-Orthodox Virtual Bible Study via Zoom every Wednesday at 12 PM. Meeting ID: 576 301 6482. Passcode: 238492.**

**- Bible Study via Zoom every Wednesday at 7 PM with a professor of Saint Sophia Seminary Fr. Demetrios. Ask Fr. Oleg for the link.**

**- For Food Bank**: baby foods, canned potatoes, and meats, tuna, pasta, sauces, mac. & cheese.

**BIRTHDAYS:**

**20 Aug…Stanley Scioscia, Mary Ann Jaeger, Michael Baird**

**21 Aug…Andriy Semenovych 22 Aug…Helen Crayosky**

**23 Aug…Jasmine Pavlinsky 25 Aug…Andrew Sawarynski**

**МНОГАЯ ЛІТА! MANY YEARS!**

**NECROLOGY: Ukrainian civilians and soldiers, killed in the Russian invasion.**

**20 Aug…Wallace Vasilowsky ’85 21 Aug…Philip Kowalchuk ’54, Wasyl Sheska ‘54 22 Aug…John Ziatyk ’79 23 Aug…Palahia Maslanyk ’74, Helen Schur ‘01 25 Aug…Stephen Nazar ’26 26 Aug…John Marakovits ’57**

**ВІЧНА ПАМ’ЯТЬ! MEMORY ETERNAL!**

**PRAYER FOR THE HEALTH & SALVATION OF THE AFFLICTED:** Ukrainian soldiers and civilians, wounded during the Russian aggression, Helen Crayosky, Barbara Grason, Paul Kochenash, Rosemarie Pypiuk, priest Gerald Ozlanski, priest Vasyl Dovgan, Matthew Vitushinsky, Nadine Savitz, William Savitz, Nicholas Alexander, Vladimir Krasnopera, Tom Petro Jr., William Leszczuk, Mary Berger, Jessica Meashock, James Osmun, Zachary Y. Siyufy, Ruslana Reznik, Lubov Slonova, Raisa Melnychuk, Vasyl Beizyn, Elena Iaroshenko, Volodymyr Hranat(wounded soldier), Ihor Broda, Matthew Barber, Debi Hutnick, Eric Hewko, Pamela Williams, Phil O’Brien, child Charlie, Juliana, Shirl Merolli, Kirk Swauger, Stephanie Donnelly, Danny Berro, child Alexandria, Elizabeth Pastushenko, Philippe Chasseuil, Aaliyah Osmun, Brendan Phillips, Adam Hewko, Andrew Thaxton, Susan Ferretti, Judy Albright, Daniel Kochenash, Christopher Mack, Joann Hoodmaker, Norman Betrous, Robert Zarayko Jr.

**In the movie Dead Poets Society**, Robin Williams plays John Keating, an English teacher who returns to his very strict and regimented New England prep school to teach poetry to young men coming of age in 1959. Keating is a passionate eccentric who exhorts his young charges to "seize the day." Keating approaches teaching not as just dispensing facts but helping students discover a ruling passion around which they can organize their lives. Keating manages to uncork the creativity in each of his students. Their lives are transformed by Keating's influence. There's Todd, the painfully shy student who emerges from his older brother's shadow to find his own poetic voice.

Another of Keating's charges finds the courage to challenge the captain of the football team for the love of a beautiful and bright coed. The movie's key figure, Neil, a model student, discovers a love and talent for acting that run headlong into his father's dictatorial career directives. How the students use their new-found ability to think for themselves has decidedly mixed results. But there is a magic in the relationship between Keating and the impressionable young members of the Dead Poets Society through which their sense of self-determination and creativity blossom.

**Connection**: The members of the Dead Poets Society experience a kind of transfiguration. They discover within themselves the ability to do great things. We too, possess the same Spirit of God within us that Jesus reveals to the three disciples with him on the mountain. By dying to ourselves, we can be "transfigured" in courage and commitment to do the work of the Gospel.

**Jesus appeared to His disciples in a glorified Body** - thus providing for their physical senses evidence of the Divine Light and revealing the ultimate truth that Christ is indeed God. Spiritually, we also can individually experience such a transfiguration - of the soul.

In Webster's dictionary, "transfiguration" is defined as "an exalting, glorifying, or spiritual change." As Orthodox Christians committed to Christ, we should experience such a "transfiguration" or "spiritual change." There are several ways that this can be experienced through the Church.

Communicate With God! The first is through prayer; Christ experienced His Transfiguration, while He was deep in prayer. We must achieve daily communication with God through the means of prayer.

We can pray to God in Church, in our private prayers, or through the simple but beautiful words given us by the monastic communities - the Jesus Prayer:

"Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy upon me, a sinner!"

By having the Name of Christ of our lips, and in our mind, heart and soul, we can feel the Presence of Christ in everything we do and have total communication with God. The Jesus Prayer is unique to the Orthodox Church and should be utilized to its utmost by being said even during our daily activities. It is not some prayer to be recited only at certain times of the day, or in moments of special particular need, but is one to be used in times of discouragement, temptation or the need for closeness to God.

The second means given us to guide us toward spiritual change is obedience to Christ. God's voice echoed from Heaven to Jesus' followers, "This is My beloved Son; listen to Him!" (Mark 9:7). We listen to Our Lord by observing especially the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes and following the other examples given us by Christ. "Listen to Him!" If we sincerely listen closely to the words of Jesus, then our actions should reflect what He tells us.

Unite With Him In Sacraments!

The third means to transfiguration of the soul are the Sacraments, made available to us by the Church - most especially Holy Confession and Holy Communion. What better way to achieve spiritual change than by the changing process which develops in confession when we repent of our sings, ask God's forgiveness and resolve to better our efforts! Holy Communion nourishes that spiritual change which has taken place and totally unites us with Christ Himself. If we hope to live with Christ in eternity, we must begin by living with Him in this life through Holy Communion. By applying these means given us by the Holy Orthodox Church, we will be led to the transfiguration of our soul.

On Transfiguration, in many Orthodox Churches, the first fruits of the season are brought to the church to be blessed. With a spiritual change of our souls making us better Christians, we can "bear fruit" in our own lives too. Indeed, spiritual change is only genuine if it does bear fruit - the fruits of virtue and good deeds. In this way, we can best live up to the commitment of being a follower of Christ and a lover of God! (By Father David L. Moriak)

**It is good that we are here! (Mark 9:5)** Sometimes we need something spectacular to free us from weariness or discouragement. Perhaps this was where Peter, James, and John felt like that. We can well imagine how upsetting Jesus' words about his coming death must have been to them (Mark 8:31). Surely they needed a boost! But then these disciples saw Jesus transfigured in all of his divine glory.

Jesus is alive is with us! Day after day, he wants to unveil a little more of his glory to us, until that final day when we will see him face to face that final day when we too will be transfigured and shining like a million diamonds. So let God reveal Jesus to you today so that you can find strength for the journey before you. Jesus is God's beloved Son! May we all listen to him with hearts wide open!

“Jesus, you are the star that lights my path. Open my eyes to your glory. Strengthen my faith and keep me close to your side. I want to be a light of hope and consolation to others."

**ORTHODOXY AROUND THE WORLD**

Metropolitan Daniel of Tokyo & Japan fell asleep in the Lord Aug. 10th at the age of 85. He had served as Primate of Japan for 23 years.

Divine Liturgy was served for 200 Orthodox participants at the World Scout Jamboree in Saemangeum, Korea who came from 20 countries.

Patriarch Theophilos III of Jerusalem celebrated the Feast of St. Elijah the Prophet at the Arab speaking parish in Maaloule near Nazareth.

Metropolitan Isaac of Central Europe celebrated Liturgy on the Feast of Our Lady of Pochaiyev in the Ukrainian parish, Cologne, Germany.

29 people were baptized at St. Nektarios Church in London, England as part of the Archdiocese of Britain’s evangelism program, “Discover Orthodoxy Adult Catechism,” established by Archbishop Nikitas.

Metropolitan Sava of Warsaw led pilgrims at St. Catherine’s Convent in Zaleszany, Poland to commemorate the Zalesznska Icon of the Virgin Mary and martyrs of Podasiye who suffered for Christ in 1946.

Orthodox pilgrims from England traveled to the Holy Spring of St. Seriol, a 6th C. Welsh pre-schism saint at the Penmon Abbey on the Isle of Anglesey, Wales for celebration of the Liturgy.

Thousands of Ukrainian pilgrims attended the Akafist of the Wonder-working Icon of the Mother of God (1675) in the Transfiguration Cathedral, the largest church of the Pochaiyev Monastery.

Additions in Ukrainian

**Недільне Євангеліє. Матфея 18:23-35.** 23 Тому Царство Небесне подібне до царя, який захотів порахуватися з рабами своїми; 24 коли він почав рахуватися, привели до нього одного боржника, який винен був йому десять тисяч талантів; 25 а оскільки він не мав чим заплатити, то господар звелів продати його, і жінку його, і дітей, і все, що він мав, і віддати. 26 Тоді раб той упав і, кланяючись йому, говорив: господарю, потерпи мені, і все тобі віддам. 27 Господар змилосердився над рабом тим, простив його і борг відпустив йому. 28 Раб же той, вийшовши, зустрів одного з товаришів своїх, який був винен йому сто динаріїв\*\*, і, схопивши його, душив і казав: віддай мені, що винен. 29 Тоді товариш його впав до ніг його, благав його і говорив: потерпи мені, і все віддам тобі. 30 Але той не захотів, а повів і посадив його у в’язницю, доки не віддасть боргу. 31 Товариші його, побачивши таке, дуже засмутилися і, прийшовши, розповіли своєму господареві все, що сталося. 32 Тоді господар покликав його і каже: рабе лукавий! Весь той борг я простив тобі, бо ти ублагав мене. 33 Чи не належало й тобі помилувати товариша твого, як і я помилував тебе? 34 І, розгнівавшись, господар віддав його мучителям, доки не віддасть йому всього боргу. 35 Так і Отець Мій Небесний учинить з вами, якщо кожен з вас не простить від серця свого братові своєму провини його.