**Sunday, August 11,2024**

**Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**& Seventh Sunday of Matthew**

After-feast of the Transfiguration of Christ

Martyr and Archdeacon Euplos of Catania in Sicily; Niphon, patriarch of Constantinople; New-martyrs Anastasios and Demetrios of Lesbos

**Tone 6 Eothinon 7**

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised, in the city of our God, in His holy mountain. Who settest fast the mountains by Thy strength, Who art girded about with power.

***Refrain****:* Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment. The mountains shall rejoice at the presence of the Lord, for He cometh; yea, He is come to judge the earth. (*Refrain*)

Glory… Both now… (*Refrain*)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

His foundations are in the holy mountains. The Lord loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

***Refrain****:* Save us, O Son of God, Who wast transfigured on Mount Tabor, who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God. (*Refrain*)

A man will say: Mother Sion; and: That man was born in her; and: The Most High Himself hath founded her. (*Refrain*)

Glory… Both now… O, only begotten Son and Word of God…

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Of Thy mercies, O Lord, will I sing forever. The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the congregation of saints. Blessed is the people that knoweth jubilation. O Lord, in the light of Thy countenance shall they walk, and in Thy Name shall they rejoice all the day long.

**RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE SIX**

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb. And the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**APOLYTIKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION IN TONE SEVEN**

When, O Christ our God, Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, Thou didst reveal Thy glory to Thy Disciples in proportion as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting light also enlighten us sinners, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. O Thou Bestower of light, glory to Thee.

**APOLYTIKION OF ST. NICHOLAS IN TONE FOUR**

Thy works of justice did show thee to thy congregation a canon of faith, the likeness of humility, a teacher of abstinence, O Father, Bishop Nicholas. Wherefore by humility thou didst achieve exaltation, and by meekness, riches. Intercede, therefore, with Christ to save our souls.

**KONTAKION OF THE TRANSFIGURATION IN TONE SEVEN**

Thou wast transfigured on the mount, and Thy Disciples, in so far as they were able, beheld Thy glory, O Christ our God; so that, when they should see Thee crucified, they would remember that all Thy suffering was voluntary, and could declare to all the world that Thou art truly the effulgent Splendor of the Father.

*O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.*

*Unto Thee, O Lord, will I cry, O my God!*

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Romans. (15:1-7)**

Brethren, we who are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each one of us please his neighbor for that which is good for his edification. For Christ also did not please Himself; but, as it is written: “The reproaches of those who reproached Thee fell on Me.” For whatever was written beforehand was written for our learning, that we might have hope, through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures. Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be of the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus, that with one accord and one mouth you may glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, receive one another, even as Christ has also received you, to the glory of God.

This week at St. Nicholas

Paraklesis Sunday and Tuesday 6:00pm

Parish Council Monday 6:00pm No catechism this week

Wednesday 6:00pm Evening Liturgy for the Dormition

**Men of God** retreat for our deanery

Saturday November 9, 9:00am-6:00pm at St. George, Fishers

We can either leave at 5:30am Saturday or travel over Friday night

The flood of temporal things draws us after itself, but in this flood there is, as it were, a full-grown tree: our Lord Jesus Christ. He took flesh, died, and ascended to heaven. It is as if He agreed to be in the flood of the temporal. Is this stream dragging you headlong? Hold on to Christ. He became temporal for you, so that you might become eternal, for He became temporal in such a way that He remained eternal. What difference is there between two men in a prison when one of the is a convict and the other a visitor! Sometimes a man comes to visit his friend, and it seems that both are in prison, but there is a great difference between them. One of them is held there because of guilt, while the other has come out of love for mankind. Thus it is with our mortality: guilt holds us here, but Christ had come out of mercy. He came freely into bondage, and not as a convict. ***St. Augustine***

Would it be difficult for God to constantly help everyone? No, but then man would not be really helped in this way. A spoiled child, whose parents constantly give him chocolates so he wants them always to be giving him, will become lazy, ill-disposed and unfortunate. Man, too, will never mature spiritually if he is constantly assisted by God without struggling himself. ***Elder Paisios of Mount Athos***

**St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church, 1807 N Federal**

**217-979-7301 or** [**vrevjames@gmail.com**](mailto:vrevjames@gmail.com) **or** [www.stnicholasurbana.org](http://www.stnicholasurbana.org/)

**Saturday Great Vespers, 5:00 pm**

**Divine Liturgy Sunday at 10:00 am preceded by Matins at 9:00 am**

**First Hour Prayers 6:00am most Tuesdays**

**Daily Vespers most Wednesdays 6:00pm**

**Father James Ellison**, **Deacon Makarios Kelley**

Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest, Rt. Rev Fr. Jeremy Davis

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese, **Metropolitan SABA**

**Sunday, August 11,2024**

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**& Seventh Sunday of Matthew**

After-feast of the Transfiguration of Christ

**The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. 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 you 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.

Unless we look at a person and see the beauty there is in this person, we can contribute nothing to him. One does not help a person by discerning what is wrong, what is ugly, what is distorted. Christ looked at everyone He met, at the prostitute, at the thief, and saw the beauty hidden there. Perhaps it was distorted, perhaps damaged, but it was beauty none the less, and what He did was to call out this beauty.

***Metropolitan Anthony Bloom***

Every divulgence of sin accompanied by sincere repentance makes the sinner closer, dearer and more precious to a spiritual father. This is commonly observed. The enemy only frightens one with thoughts contrary to this. ***Abbot Nikon Vorobiev***