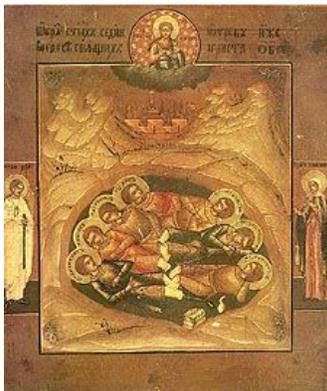




NEWSLETTER & DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

11th Week after Pentecost

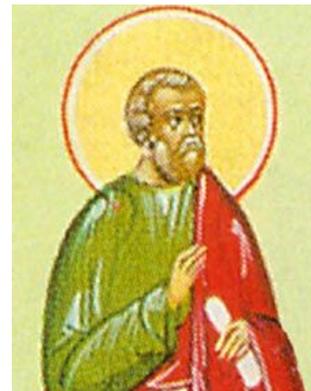
Monday, August 17 — Sunday, August 23, 2020



Holy Seven Youths (the "Seven Sleepers") of Ephesus



The Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ



Apostle Matthias of the Seventy

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~ A NOTE FROM FATHER JOHN ~

"Greetings in Christ! This week we celebrate the all Holy Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This was a special moment in time when our Lord allowed for the fullness of His glory, in the substance of His flesh, to be demonstrated to three special Apostles--Peter, James, and John. His very body was transfigured before their eyes, much in the way a sunshade could be pulled aside to display the fullness of the sun's brightness. It was a temporary manifestation of the Light of Christ, given to them in order to strengthen them for the events about to follow. For our Lord was to be taken away and crucified in the flesh before their eyes. The sight of His glory would ever be imprinted in their minds and hearts, to share with others only after the resurrection. Please be sure to tune in to the Transfiguration Vigil, which will be live-streamed on Facebook at 6pm on Tuesday night (August 18). Then we will have the Divine Liturgy outdoors in the back parking lot to celebrate the feast on Wednesday morning at 8am. Everyone is encouraged to come and join us for the Liturgy!

"This week, we are also now in the Dormition Fast, which means that we are praying and fasting more fervently as we approach the 'falling asleep' of the Mother of God. She was indeed fully human, as are we, and her passing was after the natural order of things. I will tell you more about this miraculous story in next week's devotional. In the meantime, be sure to fast and pray, seriously and wholeheartedly, for all in need everywhere."

~ “TWITTER SUMMARY” ~

The main points from Sunday's sermon, in 280 characters or less!

The West has a tendency to put labels on everything and to pick favorites. Yet, barely anyone chooses Mary the Mother of God as their favorite Saint. As we

celebrate the Dormition, let us truly reflect on the notion that she is more honorable than the Cherubim and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim.

~ THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY ~

Scripture and liturgical readings to enrich your prayer life every day of the week

<p style="text-align: center;">~ MONDAY~ (8/17)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 2 Corinthians 2:3-15 Matthew 23:13-22</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: <i>Holy Seven Youths of Ephesus, Troparion, in Tone IV — In their sufferings, O Lord,/ Thy martyrs received imperishable crowns from Thee, our God;/ for, possessed of Thy might,/ they set at nought the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons.// Through their supplications save Thou our souls.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Holy Seven Youths (the "Seven Sleepers") of Ephesus: Maximilian, Jamblicus, Martinian, John, Dionysius, Exacustodian (Constantine) and Antoninus (250 & 5th c.).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~ TUESDAY~ (8/18)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 2 Corinthians 2:14-3:3 Matthew 23:23-28</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: <i>Forefeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, Troparion, in Tone IV — Let us go forth to meet the transfiguration of Christ,/ splendidly celebrating the forefeast thereof, O ye faithful;/ and let us cry aloud:/ The day of divine gladness hath arrived!// The Master ascendeth Mount Tabor to shine forth the beauty of His divinity!</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Forefeast of the Transfiguration of our Lord.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ WEDNESDAY~ (8/19)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 2 Peter 1:10-19 Matthew 17:1-9</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: <i>The Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, Troparion, in Tone VII — Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God,/ Who didst show Thy glory unto Thy disciples as far as they could bear it,/ May Thine ever-existing light shine forth also upon us sinners/ through</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~ THURSDAY~ (8/20)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:1-6 Matthew 24:13-28</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: <i>Martyr Dometius of Persia, Troparion of the martyr, in Tone IV — Having struggled in fasting upon the mountain,/ thou didst destroy the noetic hordes of the enemy/ with the weaponry of the Cross, O most blessed one./ And thou didst likewise manfully array thyself for battle,/ slaying Copronymus with the sword</i></p>

<p><i>the prayers of the Theotokos.// O Bestower of light, glory be to Thee!</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: The Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ (Second "Feast of the Saviour" in August).</p>	<p><i>of faith.// And for both thou hast been crowned by God,// O ever-memorable venerable martyr Dometius.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Martyr Dometius of Persia (363) and two disciples.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ FRIDAY ~ (8/21)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 2 Corinthians 4:13-18 Matthew 24:27-33, 42-51</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: <i>Kontakion of the Saint Emilian, in Tone III</i> — <i>Chanting, the Church, for which thou didst suffer, O Emilian,/ doth glorify thee who didst show thyself/ to be a mighty champion of the Trinity./ Wherefore, we honor thy memory.// Deliver thy servants from the invasion of the heathen.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: St. Emilian the Confessor, bishop of Cyzicus (820).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">~ SATURDAY ~ (8/22)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Matthew 19:3-12</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion: <i>Apostle Matthias, Troparion of the apostle, in Tone III</i> — <i>O holy Apostle Matthias,/ entreat the merciful God,// that He grant to our souls remission of transgressions.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Apostle Matthias (63).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">~ SUNDAY ~ (8/23)</p> <p>Holy Scripture: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12 Matthew 18:23-35</p> <p>Excerpt from the Menaion : <i>Holy Martyrs Archdeacon Laurence, Troparion, in Tone IV</i> — <i>In his suffering, O Lord,/ Thy martyr Laurence received an imperishable crown from Thee our God;/ for, possessed of Thy might,/ he set at nought the tormentors and crushed the feeble audacity of the demons.// By his supplications save Thou our souls.</i></p> <p>Commemoration of the Day: Holy Martyrs Archdeacon Laurence and Pope Sixtus, Felicissimus and Agapitus, deacons, and others with them (258).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>“Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, * their words unto the ends of the world.”</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">[Prokeimenon of Pentecost, Tone 8, Liturgy]</p> <p>To read more: https://www.holytrinityorthodox.com/calendar/</p>

~ PONDER THIS ~

A few thoughts to ponder in light of this week's lessons and sermons.

<https://pravoslavie.ru//48309.html>

**THE DORMITION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY THEOTOKOS
AND EVER VIRGIN MARY**

After the Lord's Ascension, the Mother of God remained under the care of the Apostle John the Theologian, and when he was absent, she lived in the house of his parents, near the Mount of Olives. For all the Apostles and all the faithful, she was a consolation and edification. Talking with them, the Mother of God told them of the wondrous events of the Annunciation, the conception without seed, and her birth of Christ without corruption, His childhood and earthly life. Like the Apostles, she instructed and strengthened others in the Christian Faith by her very presence, words, and prayers. The Apostles' reverence for the Most Holy Virgin was extraordinary. Upon receiving the Holy Spirit on the remarkable day of Pentecost, they remained in Jerusalem for about ten years, serving for the salvation of the Jews and wishing to see and hear her divine words as often as possible. Many of the newly-enlightened in the faith even came from distant lands to Jerusalem in order to see and hear the Most Pure Theotokos.

During the persecutions brought by Herod against the young Christian Church (Acts. 12:1-3), the Most Holy Virgin Mary, together with the Apostle John the Theologian, departed in the year 42 for Ephesus, where the lot fell to the Apostle John to preach the Gospel. She was also in Cyprus at the home of St. Lazarus the Four Days Dead, who was acting Bishop there, and on the Holy Mountain of Athos, concerning which, according to St. Stephen the Hagiorite, the Mother of God said prophetically, "This place shall be the portion given me by my Son and God. I will be the Protectress of this place, and an Intercessor for it before God."

(... TO CONTINUE READING, CLICK ON THE LINK ABOVE)

~LOOK IT UP~

Did you know that in the telling of Christ's Transfiguration on the Mount, Apostle Matthew says "Now after **six** days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; 2 and He was transfigured before them." Meanwhile, Apostle Luke says "Now it came to pass, about **eight** days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray." Why does one say **six** while the other says **eight**?

Suggested Sources:

<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/08/06/102215-the-holy-transfiguration-of-our-lord-god-and-savior-jesus-christ>

~ PRAYER CORNER ~

- Father John and Matushka Deborah.
 - Please keep in prayer our older parishioners who, if they contract the COVID-19 virus, will be in greater risk of serious health complications.
 - Please keep in prayer our heroic parishioners who work in the health care profession and are on the front lines of our society's fight against the Novel Corona Virus and COVID-19 disease.
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To submit **commemorations for the next Divine Liturgy**, to make an appointment with Fr. John to give **confession by telephone**, to alert us to any pastoral needs, to submit an item for the **Prayer Corner**, or just to chat, please contact Fr. John or Mat. Deborah using the following contact information:

Archpriest John Tomasi * (310) 749-0524 * frjohn_tomasi@yahoo.com
Matushka Deborah Tomasi * (310) 849-9451 * deborahatomasi@yahoo.com

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!