

THE TRANSFIGURATION by Brent Kostyniuk

As a writer, some of the most interesting columns to do are the ones which respond to questions from readers. This is one of them.

Marie approached me regarding confusion about the Transfiguration. Was Christ's divinity truly revealed? The question is a timely one. Now, as we prepare for the Nativity, the celebration of Christ entering the world in human form, it is worthwhile to re-examine that moment when He first revealed his divine nature.

Celebrated on August 6, The Holy Transfiguration of Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ is documented in all three synoptic Gospels. Accompanied by Peter, John and James, Jesus went up a mountain to pray. Then, as we read in Luke 9, "...the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, appeared in glorious splendor, talking with Jesus." Luke records that the apostles were very sleepy, but awoke and "saw his glory and the two men standing with him. As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to him, 'Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.'" A cloud then appeared and enveloped them. At that moment a voice came from the cloud, saying, "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to him."

The Transfiguration was clearly intended to reveal the divinity of Christ to Peter, James, and John so they would understand who it was that would be crucified for them and that his Passion was voluntary. Transfiguration comes forty days before the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. The two feasts are thus connected to remind us of Christ's voluntary suffering. Eastern theology also tells us that the Transfiguration shows the possibility of our own *theosis*, or transformative process whose goal is likeness to or union with God. We accomplish this through the effects of *katharsis*, the purification of mind and body. Moreover, we are taught that *theosis* is the purpose of human life.

Interestingly, the Transfiguration was witnessed by three disciples and three heavenly witnesses, Moses, Elijah, and the voice of God from heaven. This was in keeping with the Old Testament law of three witnesses required to attest to any fact. "A single witness shall not suffice against a person for any crime or for any wrong in connection with any offense that he has committed. Only on the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses shall a charge be established" ([Deuteronomy 19:15](#)). Thus, Jesus' divinity was authenticated both in earth and in heaven.

The Greek word for transfigured is *metamorpho*. It is a verb that means to change into another form, also to change the outside to match the inward reality. Until the Transfiguration, Jesus' divine nature had been "veiled" ([Hebrews 10:20](#)) in human. At the Transfiguration, Peter, James, and John were shown a unique display of Jesus' divine character and a glimpse of the glory, which Jesus had before all time.

How was this possible? How could human eyes gaze upon God? What form did Jesus take to reveal His divinity? One explanation came from Gregory Palamas (1296–1359) a monk who lived at Mount Athos in Greece, later becoming Archbishop of Thessaloniki. While some theologians believed the light shining from Jesus was created light, Gregory had a different explanation which explained how the apostles were able to actually see God. Gregory maintained Peter, James, and John were given the grace to perceive the uncreated light of God. This theology is in keeping with a further argument of Gregory's that although we cannot know God in His *essence*, we can know Him in his *energies*, as He reveals Himself. Moreover, Gregory held that the prophets in fact had greater knowledge of God, because they had actually seen or heard God himself. Moses and the burning bush is a case in point.

In the Divine Liturgy, shortly before the consecration, the priest prays, "...for you are God—ineffable, inconceivable, invisible, incomprehensible, always existing and ever the same." Yet for the three apostles and, according to Gregory Palamas, the unknowable was made known. In keeping with Eastern theology he maintained it remains impossible to know God in his essence—God in himself. However it is possible to know God in his energies (to know what God does, and who he is in relation to the creation and to man), as God reveals himself to humanity.

At the Transfiguration, the three apostles experienced the uncreated light of God as Jesus revealed his true divine nature. It was an experience so powerful Peter wanted to set up camp and never leave the spot. The theology of *theosis* calls us all to transform ourselves and seek to be god-like. Ultimately, according Gregory Palamas, it is possible to see that same uncreated light of God with the help of repentance, spiritual discipline and contemplative prayer, and according to God's will.



Церква Успення Пресвятої Богородиці	Ukrainian Catholic Parish of the Dormition of the Blessed Mother of God
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District Parishes:

Bodnari, Borschiw, Hawruliuke, Laniwci, Prud’homme, Smuts and Vonda

120 – 105th Street West Saskatoon, SK S7N 1N2
Parish Office: 652-4837 Fax: 374-4235 E-Mail: admin.ducc@sasktel.net
www.dormitionsaskatoon.ca

Parish Priest: Fr. André Lalach (alalach@sasktel.net or 306-280-2941)
Sunday Divine Liturgy: 9:30 am (Rosary at 9:00am) Weekday & Feast Days: As per Schedule
Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sundays @ 9:10am or by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage: Please make arrangements at least 8 months in advance with Fr. Andre. All couples are required to attend a marriage preparation program and are expected to be active members of the parish community before and after the wedding.

Sacrament of Baptism: Families of the baptismal candidate are to be active members of the parish community for a minimum of 3 months prior to the baptism taking place. Please phone the parish office to make an appointment to meet with Fr. Andre for baptismal preparation.

Holy Communion for Sick & Shut-Ins: If you are aware of someone who is ill or shut-in and unable to attend church and would like to receive Communion at home, please call the parish office.

Hall Usage: Call Gord Worona @ 306-979-1966 or gworona@sasktel.net.

Слава Ісусу Христу! Слава на віки!
Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL PARISHIONERS, GUESTS & VISITORS!

Aug 6, 2017

Transfiguration of our Lord

Upcoming Liturgies & Events in our Pastoral District

Date	Time	Location	Event
Sun, 6 Aug Transfiguration of our Lord	9:30AM	Dormition-Church	Divine Liturgy: For Our Parishioners & Blessing of Fruit
	11:30AM	Laniwci-Church	Divine Liturgy: For the Needs of the Eparchy
Tues, 8 Aug	9:00AM	Dormition-Church	Divine Liturgy: 25 th Anniversary Blessings – Sr. Bonnie
Thurs, 10 Aug	9:00AM	Dormition-Church	Divine Liturgy: 15 th Anniversary Blessings – Fr. André & Luba
Sat, 12 Aug	9:00AM	Dormition-Church	Divine Liturgy: +Archdeacon Ray (Vicko Family)
Sun, 13 Aug 10 th Sunday after Pentecost	9:30AM	Dormition-Church	Divine Liturgy: For Our Parishioners
	11:30AM	Vonda-Church	Divine Liturgy: For the Needs of the Eparchy

Liturgical Ministry Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Welcomers</u>	<u>Epistle Reader</u>	<u>Children’s Liturgy Leaders</u>
6 Aug	9:30AM	Alonso-Stefanyshyn Family	Rose Worona	Summer Break
13 Aug	9:30AM	Jennifer Clerke & Mary Shewaga	Mary Shewaga	Summer Break
20 Aug	9:30AM	Amy & David Rybinski	Patti Fisher	Summer Break

<u>Date</u>	<u>Rosary</u>	<u>Sunday Collection Counters</u>	<u>Church Cleaners</u>
6 Aug	Mitchell Smith	Don Gabruch & Natasha Lalach	July 30-Aug 12 Shawn & Allie Hyshka
13 Aug	Judith Kurulok	Kimball Lischynski & Judith Kurulok	Aug 13-26 Patti Fisher & Gord Worona
20 Aug	Rose Worona	Norma Zinkowski & Tim Lalach	

Regular Giving by Pre-Authorized Debit – Making monthly contributions by preauthorized debit is a valuable way to help our parish reduce administration and allows us to plan for the future. Giving monthly by direct debit is a confidential agreement between you and Dormition Parish. Simply complete the pre-authorized debit form (available at the entrance of the church) and drop it in the collection basket. A year-end donation receipt will be issued for all pre-authorized and other donations you make during the tax year. Many thanks for your continued generosity and support!

The Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon **Covenant of Care Abuse and Misconduct Protocol** is designed to ensure that all allegations of physical and sexual abuse and other misconduct are handled responsibly, transparently and with all due care and attention. If you have a concern please contact Fr. Andre, Parish Coordinator of Care **Jon Abrametz** at (306-652-8833 ext.1) or Deb Larmour, Eparchial Coordinator of Care at (306)-653-0138 ext. 228.



SAVE THE DATE: Sunday, August 27th - Dormition Parish Feast Day Celebration: Divine Liturgy @ 9:30AM followed by water blessing and a pot-luck lunch! Bring your favourite dish and your friends!

PARISH NEWS

1. PLEASE PRAY FOR: Orest Chernesky, Alex & Phyllis Skakun, Anne Iwanicha, Hailey Woytowich, Ethan Smolinski, Steph Cooley, Jules Chrusch, Walter Moshinski, Mike Okrainetz, John Kurysh, Rose Chrusch, Bernie Storzuk.

2. **Fr. Andre** is away on vacation with his family from July 26th -August 23rd. In the event of a Pastoral Emergency (anointing, personal crisis, death, funeral arrangements, etc.), please contact **Fr. Gregory Hrynkiw** at 306-241-0141.

3. After Divine Liturgy today - the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord – Fr. Gregory will bless grapes as well as other fruits and vegetables as a beautiful sign of the final transfiguration of all things in Christ. It signifies the ultimate flowering and fruitfulness of all creation in the paradise of God’s unending Kingdom of Life where all will be transformed by the glory of the Lord.

4. Applications are now being accepted for the **Ninth Eparchial Lay Formation**. The program starts September 8 & 9, 2017. Apply by August 30, 2017. There is a program change: it is a Friday night\ and all day Saturday event only for two years, 1 weekend a month. Come learn more about the richness of our Eastern Church by studying our Liturgy, Theology, Spirituality and Traditions. Contact UCREC at: (306) 652-1718 or rel.ed@sasktel.net or your Pastor.

5. YOUNG PEOPLE, THE FAITH AND VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT - Survey for youth. Our Pope wants your input... The goal of this questionnaire – aimed at young people throughout the world from 16 to 29 years of age – is to provide you with the opportunity to communicate, express and recount who you are and what you want to say about yourself. To take the survey, go to: <https://survey-synod2018.glauco.it/limesurvey/index.php/147718>.

COMMUNITY NEWS

1. The Shrine of the Venerable Nun Martyrs Olympia and Laurentia (215 Avenue M South) celebrates a **Weekly Moleben Service** every Sunday evening at 7:00 p.m., followed by fellowship.

2. **Musée Ukraina Museum - Summer Hours** - We are open extended hours during the summer. Please visit the museum during our hours of operation: Sundays from 11:30 AM - 4:30 PM and Thursdays, starting June 15 through to August 31, from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM @ 222 Avenue M South - Sr. Theodosia Lane, Saskatoon.

3. **BIRTHDAY PARTY at ST. JOSEPH'S HOME:** Sunday, August 27, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. (33 Valens Drive, Saskatoon). Celebrating the birthdays of the residents for the month of August. Sponsored by Ss. Peter & Paul Seniors' Organization). Come join the Sisters of St. Joseph, the celebrants, their families, residents and sponsoring group for an afternoon birthday party celebration, with a snack and entertainment.

4. The **11th Annual Ukrainian Golf Tournament** - the Dave Mysak Kovbasa Klassic - is scheduled for Thursday, September 7 at Moon Lake Golf & Country Club. We are once again partnering with NASHI to bring you this fun and entertaining Texas Scramble style golf tournament. \$150 per golfer, which includes green fees, power cart and steak dinner Register as an individual, pair or a team. To register call Savelia at 306.653.4646 (you can use Visa or M/C) or Ron at 306.229.2843.