

## Holy Trinity Herald



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We are so grateful for your feedback and suggestions, as well as requests for prayers.

### NEWS:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As per what became our annual tradition, Maria Christova's invited our church to serve an akathist to St. Seraphim of Sarov at the Chapel of the Venerable Seraphim of Sarov on **Saturday, August 3**.

**The prayer will begin at 11:00 am. Address: 3645 May Apple Court, Wake Forest, NC 27587.**

Everyone is invited to jointly pray to Rev. Seraphim of Sarov.

We remind you that our next Sisterhood meeting will take place on **August 4**. ALL parishioners are welcome to attend - we would be happy to hear your wishes and suggestions. Only members of the Sisterhood have the right to vote.

On **Sunday, August 25**, after the Divine Liturgy, a prayer service will be performed for the beginning of the new school year.

### RECTOR'S WORD OF WELCOME:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The summer season is coming to an end and a beautiful autumn season is ahead of us. For our parish, contrary to the word of the classic ("Autumn" by A.S. Pushkin), this season shouldn't be gloomy but should be another joyful step, full of blissful emotions, accomplishments, and the triumph of the spirit. The last month of summer generously

offers us warm sunny days as well as the number of church Holidays and anniversaries. In August, we experience the Dormition Fast, remember the beloved Reverend Seraphim of Sarov and the marvelous martyr Panteleimon. We wait for the Honey Savior and the Apple Savior - Transfiguration of the Lord. And we jointly pray before the start of the new school year and meet the joyful Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos.

I hope that such a variety of holidays and joint worship services gives our parish an opportunity to rejoice in communication, further strengthen our friendly parish family, and contribute to the evangelism of our faith.

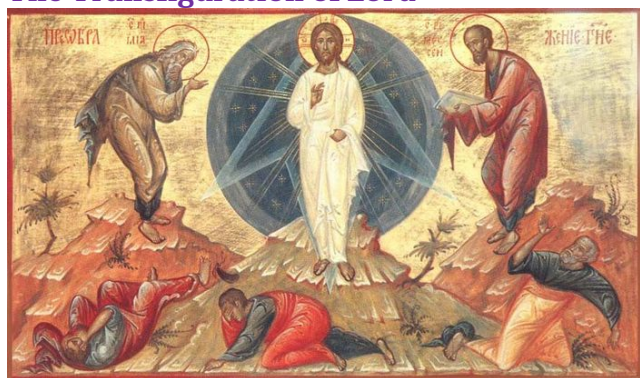
We have many plans and ideas that are only possible if our parish comes together to participate - "with one mouth and one heart."

For those of you who are just getting acquainted with our Church – welcome! We welcome you with an open heart, open doors, and the reigning Truth.

I wish you all peace, love, sincerity, strength and joy of the spirit. May the Lord bless us all!

## HOLIDAYS BY MONTH:

### The Transfiguration of Lord



The Transfiguration of the Lord ([Matt. XVII, 1-13](#), [Luke IX, 28-36](#), [Mark IX, 2-12](#)).

After talking about the cross and the glory of his kingdom, Jesus Christ, when he was in Galilee, took from his disciples three resurrection witnesses the daughter of Jairova, Peter and two brothers, James and John, and only with them went to the highest in that place mountain - Favor to pray there. Ascending to the top of the mountain, he stood at prayer; and his disciples sat down to rest and felt asleep from exhaustion. During this prayer, the miraculos transfiguration of Jesus Christ took place and, to His disciples, His glory was revealed to His disciples as the Only Begotten of the Father. the look on his face changed: it shone like the sun. His clothes were as white as snow, gleaming like light. And from the other world brought here the two greatest prophets, the lawgiver Moses, and Jealous God, Elijah. They appeared in glorified form; but they talked with Jesus Christ about the last days of His early life, which He must end in Jerusalem. The apostles awoke: and they saw the glory of Him and the two men who stood with him. Their hearts were filled with inexplicable delight: however, they watched and listened in deep silence. But when the prophets departed from Jesus Christ, Peter did not restrain the impulse of an enthusiastic soul, he exclaimed: *Mentor! Rabbi! Good Lord how good we are here! If you want, we will build three bowls here, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.*

When he said this, a bright cloud suddenly appeared and overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud: *This is My beloved Son, in whom all is my good pleasure: Listen to Him.* Hearing this voice, the disciples fell on their faces for fear. But Jesus Christ approached them and said: *Arise and do not be afraid.* When they got up, they saw no one near themselves, except Jesus Christ alone. When they descended from the mountain, Jesus Christ commanded them not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of God was raised from the dead.

### **Dormition Fast**

Dormition fasting - one of the four multi-day fasting, is devoted to preparing for the feast of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin. Dormition fast continues from 14th to 27th of August. With this fasting, the Church calls upon us to imitate the Mother of God, Who, before her relocation to heaven, constantly ceased in fasting and prayer.

On the first day of the Dormition fast, the feast "Procession of the Life-Giving Cross" falls. Also at the time of fasting is the Great Feast - Transfiguration of the Lord (August 19th).

Ends the fast of the feast of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On August 27th, during the evening divine services in the temples, the Shroud with the image of the Mother of God is brought out for worship from the altar. The shroud is located in the middle of the temple before the funeral, when it is carried around the church in a procession of the cross.

### **Sermon on the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos**



After the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross, The Most Holy Theotokos lived for about fifteen years in Jerusalem, in the house of the Holy Apostle John the Divine, whom the Lord Himself commanded her from the cross. Now the time has come for her to go to the heavenly abode of Her Son. When the Mother of God prayed on the Mount of Olives, She, the tradition tell, came the Archangel Gabriel, who brought the date branch, and notified Her death in three days.

She was overjoyed to hear such a news, and began to prepare. By the day of Her death, at the command of God, miraculously appeared in Jerusalem, except the apostle Thomas, all the apostles scattered for preaching all over the world. They witnessed her peaceful, quiet, holy and blissful demise. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself, in the glory of heaven, surrounded by a countless multitude of angels and righteous spirits, appeared to receive the soul of His Most Holy Mother and brought her to heaven with glory.

Thus, the Most Holy Virgin Mary ended her earthy life! With burning lamps and singing psalms, the apostles carried the body of Our Lady to Gethsemane, where Her parents and Joseph were buried. The unbelieving high priests and scribes, stricken with the grandeur of the funeral procession and embittered by the honors given to the Mother of God, sent servants and soldiers to disperse the mourners and burn the very body of the Mother of God. Excited people and warriors rushed at the Christians with fury, but were amazed by the blindness. At this time, the Jewish priest Athonius passed by, who rushed to the tomb with the intention of plunging him to the ground; but he barely touched the bed with his hands, as the Angel cut off both hands to him: their severed parts hung from the bed, and Athonius himself fell to the ground with a cry.

The Apostle Peter stopped the procession and said to Athonius: "Make sure that Christ is the true God." Athonius immediately confessed Christ to be the true Messiah. The Apostle Peter ordered Athonius to work a fervent prayer to the Mother of God and attach the remains of his hands to the parts hanging from his bed. In the performance of this hand grew together and healed, and only signs remained at the cut-off point. The blinded people and warriors with remorse touched the bed and received vision not only physical, but also spiritual, and all with reverence joined the procession.

On the third day after the burial of the Mother of God, the Apostle Thomas was absent, according to the will of God, and wished to see Her tomb. At his request, the coffin was opened, but the body of the Mother of God was not found in it. In the evening of the same day, during their meal, the apostles saw in the air the Most Holy Theotokos in heaven, alive, with many Angels. The standing and inexpressive glory of the consecrated Mother of God told the apostles: "Rejoice! I am always with you"; the apostles exclaimed: "Most Holy Theotokos, help us". This appearance of the Mother of God completely convinced the apostles, and thought them the whole Church in Her resurrection. In imitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who often visited the places that Her Son and God consecrated with the feet of His most pure feet, it became customary between Christians to visit holy places.

#### **SISTERHOOD OF ST. TATIANA:**

You can apply for membership to the Sisterhood at the Church Shop or by emailing [sisterhood@holytrinitymission.com](mailto:sisterhood@holytrinitymission.com).

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Recently departed: Galina and Vyacheslav.

The unwell: Lydia, Larissa.

#### **THANK YOU:**

We thank all parishioners for their donations to the Church!

#### **OUR PARISHIONERS RECOMMEND:**



**Ksenia Ereemeeva:** "My first Orthodox book" by Peter Sinyavsky (ONIKS-LIT, 2016). An amazingly kind book for kids about God and the saints, beauty and love, and Orthodox traditions. There are about 30 poems in the book written in a simple and comprehensible style. The poems' titles speak for themselves: "Thank God for everything!", "The bell tower of the soul", "Our wonderful father", "Dear kindness", "Christmas Day", "Poems about a wonderful candle", "Name Day", "Little parishioner", "Pray, children, for your mothers", "Baby's prayer" among others. The first and last illustrations in the book are colored, the rest are black and white. Children will be able to color in the book's kind and bright drawings.

Here are two poems to give you a taste of the work from the book. Let these kind words fill your heart!

### "Baby's prayer"

At church, people are supposed to pray,  
 Even if they are babies.  
 Here, a pinch of three fingers is folded,  
 The other two are pressed to the palm.  
 After the forehead, the hand goes to the tummy,  
 After the right shoulder, it goes to the left.  
 But how to pray at the age of two, let the soul tell the little man.

### "Pray, children, for your mothers"

We will always be understood and forgiven...  
 We are raised with such love,  
 That they are ready to give up their hearts,  
 So that the heart of the little one beats.

And at the big and the small churches  
 On the holiday and on a routine day  
 Pray, children, for your mothers  
 To the Blessed Virgin.