

# HOLY TRINITY HERALD



**August 2020, №17**

<http://holytrinitymission.com/index.php/ru/>

<https://www.facebook.com/russian.church/>

**Rector Fr. Nikon (Kashkovalov):** [nikon.prst@gmail.com](mailto:nikon.prst@gmail.com)

**Warden Andrew Semyanko:** [starosta@holytrinitymission.com](mailto:starosta@holytrinitymission.com)

**Editorial Board:** Milla Albers, Irina Balan, Gayane Bogdanova, Ksenia Ereemeeva, Maria Kononova, Natalia Smith: [vestnik-holy-trinity@googlegroups.com](mailto:vestnik-holy-trinity@googlegroups.com)

## FROM FR. NIKON

Dear brothers and sisters!

We are entering the final phase of the summer season - August. With the arrival of the eighth month, we are approaching the end of the summer, but we continue adjusting our life in the changed realities. Danger of the pandemic; concern about our health and the health of our friends and family; possible problems at work and in relations with loved ones; possible confusion caused by SMI ... it was all part of our life in recent months. And, of course, it takes tremendous efforts to maintain inner peace, sobriety of mind, inner strength and unbreakable hope. At times it may seem that there is no longer any strength to withstand all this pressure. However, no matter how great today's problems might seem to us, the joy of being Christian is much greater and infinite. Indeed, in Christ we not only find strength, hope and consolation during our life journey - we see a completely different side of our human existence. The Apostle Paul writes that during our earthly life we see the world as if in mirror, dimly (1 Cor. 13:12).

Today our life should not be a path to succumb to panic or to get overwhelmed by fears, but a way to see the world in all its inexplicable miracle and splendor, as it was intended by God. This means to find true love, joy and hope for God's providence. Indeed, we get what we seek, the whole spectrum of human world, harmony, exultation and happiness when we turn our hearts to God,

when we have the Gospel as the guide of life, and the Holy Orthodox Church as the ship of salvation. In Holy Scripture and patristic heritage, the Church is called “the ship of salvation”. Because it really appears to be the very refuge that saves and protects a person from any adversity and sorrow; which forms the foundation of his life and gives strength. It is in Church we already on earth perceive the words of the Savior: "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

And now when many were left without church worship does not mean that we have dropped out of church life. On the contrary, it means that today, even without the temple, we can and must make even more efforts in order to acquire undoubted faith, hope and love; in order to show your faith by deeds of love and mercy. This is by no means the notorious and anti-Christian, "Why do I need the Church, because God is in my soul." Quite the opposite, it is that yearning for the church and the communion that teaches us to trust the Lord, reminds the value of the church and its importance in our life, and speaks of how much wider and more diverse our spiritual life is.

Those who have the opportunity to fully embrace the church life and be in church, should try with special trepidation to share a piece of this joy, to light the hearts of other people from their own hearts. At least of those who are very close to us.

As a priest of the Church of Christ and as your spiritual friend, who also follows the path of turning the heart to Christ, I will always make every effort so that we can together see the amazing miracle, love and joy of our life in Christ, which is still to us only by reflections through that very dim mirror.

With love in Christ,  
**Fr. Nikon**, rector of the Holy Trinity Church in Mebane.

## **ADDRESS of Rector Fr. Nikon to the Holy Trinity parish:**

Dear brothers and sisters! Over the past months, we have talked a lot about the current situation in the world related to the spread of a dangerous virus. We have talked about the real need for both sincere trust in the Lord and the extreme importance of taking possible precautions. Now, by the grace of God, we celebrate the Liturgy in the Church together with the parishioners, but we still urge those who prefer self-isolation to wisely refrain from going to Church. However, people who come to the temple should remember to be attentive to their health and the safety of others. We regularly clean and disinfect the Church, and we also expect prudence from the parishioners, especially during periods of increased virus activity.

**THEREFORE, EVERYONE WHO COMES TO THE CHURCH MUST ATTEND THE DIVINE SERVICE IN A MASK OF INDIVIDUAL PROTECTION AND TRY TO KEEP A DISTANCE.**

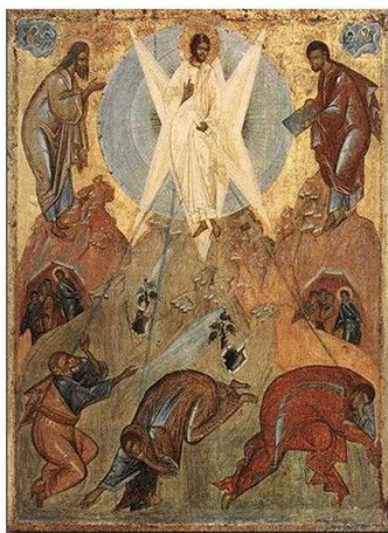
## THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OUTSIDE OF RUSSIA

From the ROCOR archives: Prof. I.M. Andreev. *The Second All-Diaspora Council [Sobor] of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad.*

[http://www.synod.com/synod/engdocuments/enhis\\_2vsezarsobor.html](http://www.synod.com/synod/engdocuments/enhis_2vsezarsobor.html)

### MAIN HOLIDAYS IN AUGUST

#### Transfiguration of Lord



*Transfiguration (att. to Th. Greek)*  
Tretyakov State Gallery

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 miraculous 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 earthly 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.

- Fr. Bill Olnhausen. *The Transfiguration – The Other Great Forgotten Feast*,  
<http://www.pravmir.com/the-transfiguration-the-other-great-forgotten-feast/>

- Metropolitan Anthony (Khrapovitsky, +1936). *Sermon on the Transfiguration of the Lord*. Delivered during Liturgy at Simferopol Cathedral. First published in Tavricheskije Eparkhijalniye Vedomosti, 1898, No. 16, <https://stnektariosroc.org/2014/08/metropolitan-anthony-sermon-transfiguration-lord/>

## Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary



*Theophanes the Greek (1392),  
Tretiakov Gallery*

**St. Theophan Zatvornik (the Recluse), 1815-1894.**  
***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 tells, 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 earthly life! [...]

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. »

- Full text of the sermon in Russian [https://lib.pravmir.ru/library/readbook/2934#part\\_51684](https://lib.pravmir.ru/library/readbook/2934#part_51684).
- More about the holiday <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2017/08/15/102302-the-dormition-of-our-most-holy-lady-the-mother-of-god-and-ever-v>

- St. John of Kronstadt (1829-1909). Sermon on the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, <http://www.pravmir.com/sermon-on-the-dormition-of-the-most-holy-theotokos-by-st-john-of-kronstadt/>
- Father Alexander Men (1935-1990). Sermon on the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, Predanie.ru: <https://predanie.ru/audio/7922-uspenie-presvyatoy-bogorodicy/>

## AUGUST HOLIDAY CALENDAR

- **1 August.** Uncovering of the relics of St. Seraphim of Sarov (1903) <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2020/01/02/100008-repose-of-venerable-seraphim-wonderworker-of-sarov>
- **2 August.** Holy Glorious Prophet Elias. <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2019/07/20/102060-holy-glorious-prophet-elijah>
- **4 August.** Myrrhbearer and Equal of the Apostles Mary Magdalene <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2019/07/22/102070-myrrhbearer-and-equal-of-the-apostles-mary-magdalene>
- **6 August.** Martyrs and Passion-Bearers Boris and Gleb <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2019/07/24/102082-martyrs-and-passion-bearers-boris-and-gleb>
- **7 August.** Dormition of the Righteous Anna, the Mother of the Most Holy Theotokos <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2019/07/25/102086-dormition-of-the-righteous-anna-the-mother-of-the-most-holy-theo>
- **9 August.** Greatmartyr and Healer Panteleimon <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2019/07/27/102099-greatmartyr-and-healer-panteleimon>
- **10 августа.** Appearance of the Smolensk “Directress” Icon of the Mother of God brought from Constantinople. The holy icon of the Hodēgētria Mother of God is one of the chief holy objects of the Russian Church. The celebration in honor of this wonderworking icon on July 28 (old style) was established in the year 1526 in memory of the return of Smolensk to Russia. <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2019/07/28/102120-appearance-of-the-smolensk-directress-icon-of-the-mother-of-god>
- **14 августа.** Procession of the Honorable Wood of the Life-Giving Cross of the Lord <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2019/08/01/102161-procession-of-the-honorable-wood-of-the-life-giving-cross-of-the>
- **14 по 27 августа.** 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.



- **15 August.** Blessed Basil of Moscow the Fool-For-Christ.  
<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2019/08/02/102185-blessed-basil-of-moscow-the-fool-for-christ>
- **19 August.** The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ  
<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2019/08/06/102215-the-holy-transfiguration-of-our-lord-god-and-savior-jesus-christ>
- **22 August.** Apostle Matthias of the Seventy  
<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2019/08/09/102243-apostle-matthias-of-the-seventy>
- **28 August.** The Dormition of our Most Holy Lady the Mother of God and Ever-Virgin Mary  
<https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2019/08/15/102302-the-dormition-of-our-most-holy-lady-the-mother-of-god-and-ever-v>

## TRANSFIGURATION IN RUSSIAN LITERATURE

### *August. Boris Pasternak (1953)*

As promised and without deception,  
The sun passed through in early morning  
In a slanting saffron stripe  
From the curtain to the sofa.

It covered with burning ochre  
The neighboring woods, village houses,  
My bed, the wet pillow  
And the strip of wall behind the bookshelf.

I remembered for what reason  
The pillow was slightly damp.  
I dreamed that you were coming to my  
wake,  
One after another through the woods.

You were coming in a crowd, in ones and  
twos,  
Suddenly, someone remembered that it was  
August sixth by the old calendar,  
The Transfiguration of Christ.

Usually, a light without fire  
Pours this day from Mt. Tabor  
And autumn, clear as an omen,  
Compels the gaze of all.

And you walked through the scant, beggarly  
Naked trembling alder grove  
Into the ginger-red cemetery woods,

Burning like glazed ginger bread.

A solemn sky verged  
Upon its silent heights,  
And distance called out  
In drawling rooster voices.

In the woods, among the gravestones  
Death stood like a government surveyor,  
Looking at my dead face  
To dig my grave to measure.

All sensed the presence  
Of someone's calm voice nearby.  
It was my old prophetic voice  
That rang, untouched by decay:

"Farewell to the azure of Transfiguration  
And the gold of the Second coming.  
Soothe the woe of my fatal hour  
With a woman's parting caress.

Farewell to the trackless years!  
Let's say goodbye, o, woman who hurls  
A challenge to the abyss of humiliation.  
I am your battlefield.

Farewell to you unfurled wing-span,  
Free, persistent flight,  
The world's image, captured in a word,  
Creative work, and miracle-working

## FOLKLORE AND CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS



*Prophet Elijah, 12th century, Pskov school. Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow*

**Ilyin's day** (August 2, July 20, according to the old style) is a church day in memory of the prophet Elijah and a traditional folk festival for many peoples who converted to Orthodoxy. The story of the prophet Elijah, who belonged to the most revered saints, along with Nicholas the Wonderworker, is told in the pages of the Old Testament. These ancient book traditions served as the genesis of Slavic folk legends about Ilya, who sat at home until the age of 33, was healed, endowed with tremendous power and then taken alive. In Russia, the cult of Elijah originated before the adoption of Christianity, and with baptism only strengthened. Orthodox Christians of all times, and in all places, have venerated the Prophet Elijah for centuries. The first church in Russia, built at Kiev under Prince Igor, was named for the Prophet Elijah. After her Baptism Saint Olga (July 11) built a temple of the holy Prophet Elijah in her native region, at the village of Vibuta. By

the 17th century, in every Russian city there was a church dedicated to Elijah the prophet, and in Novgorod there were even eight of them! And, of course, no other day of the saint is connected to so many natural observations, sayings and proverbs.

## PARISH LIFE

Please follow the service schedule on our ward page: [holytrinitymission.com](http://holytrinitymission.com).

**Every Sunday service**, as before, is broadcast live on facebook: [facebook.com/russian.church](https://facebook.com/russian.church) (the broadcast starts at 10 o'clock).

**Notes on the health and commemoration of the deceased** can be sent to Father Nikon by e-mail: [rector@holytrinitymission.com](mailto:rector@holytrinitymission.com).

More complete and up-to-date information about **the life of our church** will be constantly updated on the website of our parish and on Facebook: [holytrinitymission.com](http://holytrinitymission.com); [facebook.com/russian.church](https://facebook.com/russian.church)

## Know your Ws!



Dear Parishioners!

We would like to share the recommendations of local and federal organizations regarding the need to wear masks outside the house along with a few other precautions. These VERY simple measures save lives - yours, your loved ones and those around you. We will not repeat a great amount of information provided by scientists and doctors, we just share a few references that will help us all adapt to new realities in our personal and parish life:

- **NC Department of Health and Human Services** <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov>
- **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.** Very practical and informative guidance to select right masks for you : <https://thewell.unc.edu/2020/07/10/masks-masks-and-more-masks/>

## SISTERHOOD ST. TATIANA

The Sisterhood membership application can be obtained at the church shop or at: [sisterhood@holyltrinitymission.com](mailto:sisterhood@holyltrinitymission.com)

## PRAYERS NEEDED

#Pray for the doctors. Collective prayer for doctors, paramedics and volunteers working with coronavirus infection

## THANK YOU

### **KIRILL, His Holiness Patriarch of Moscow and All Russia:**

"I would also like to express special gratitude to the doctors. Today, medical workers are at the forefront of the fight against the disease, they show true heroism and fidelity to their calling. I express my most sincere admiration. "

From the bottom of our hearts we thank everyone who, during this difficult time, supports us with prayers and financially, so we can function properly.



Special thanks to the choir of our church, which, despite the difficult situation, always gets to the church in one way or another to make each service especially joyful and noble

Our sincere gratitude to parishioners who help maintain order in the church and its grounds.

## PARISHIONERS RECOMMEND

On **August 1**, the Orthodox Church celebrates the day of its most amazing saints, **Seraphim of Sarov**. We would like to share a selection of writings about him. We consider this selection of particular value and importance as too many myths, often ridiculous and harmful, are associated with the Saint: <https://blog.predanie.ru/article/serafim-sarovskij-zhitiya-filosofiya-razoblachenie-mifov/>



In 2007, St Elisabeth monastery published the audiobook *Holy Fathers of the 19th – 20th Centuries. On Prayer and Spiritual Life*, a compilation of teachings of Church fathers and spiritual writers who lived in the 19th and at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries: St. Seraphim of Sarov (instructions on the goal of Christian life, written down by spiritual children), the works of St. Theophan Затворник (the Recluse, an unpublished diary of St. John of Kronstadt, advice, teachings and testament of St. Nikon Optinsky. All these writings reveal the deep truths of life in Christ, instruct in how to walk towards salvation. You can listen (in Russian) to the audiobook on the Orthodox portal *Predanie* <https://predanie.ru/bez-avtora/svyatye-otcy-xix-xx-vekov-o-molitve-i-duhovnoy-zhizni/slushat/>

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

We ask you to support the church with prayer to God and with donations. You can send your donations: 1. A Check written to the address of the church: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 6803 US 70, Mebane, NC 27302

Online through PayPal, find the “Donate” link in the upper right corner of our website: [holytrinitymission.com](http://holytrinitymission.com).

Via AmazonSmile when shopping on Amazon. To do this, on the site [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) in charity support you can choose the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Mebane NC. A small percentage of the purchase payment will be automatically transferred (donated).

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



We thank our dear **Galina and Alexey Mikhailov** for their work on our garden. Under merciless NC sun, they cut tall shrubberies, took care of the church grounds and saved our beautiful roses from aphids.