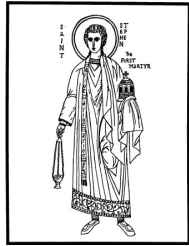


# “THE PROTOMARTYR”

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF ST. STEPHEN



**Sunday Aug. 1, 2010 – 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost – Tone 1**

**Epistle:** 1 Cor. 4:9-16; 1 Cor. 1-18-24

**Gospel:** Matt. 17:14-23; John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28

## PROCESSION OF THE HONORABLE WOOD OF THE LIFE-GIVING CROSS OF THE LORD



The Procession of the Venerable Wood of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord: In the Greek Horologion of 1897 the derivation of this Feast is explained: "Because of the illnesses that occur in August, it was customary, in former times, to carry the Venerable Wood of the Cross through the streets and squares of Constantinople for the sanctification of the city, and for relief from sickness. On the eve (July 31), it was taken out of the imperial treasury,

and laid upon the altar of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia (the Wisdom of God). From this Feast until the Dormition of the Most Holy Theotokos, they carried the Cross throughout the city in procession, offering it to the people to venerate. This also is the Procession of the Venerable Cross."

In the Russian Church this Feast is combined also with the remembrance of the Baptism of Rus, on August 1, 988. In the "Account of the Order of Services in the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Great Church of the Dormition," compiled in 1627 by order of Patriarch Philaret of Moscow and All Rus, there is the following explanation of the Feast: "On the day of the Procession of the Venerable Cross there is a church procession for the sanctification of water and for the enlightenment of the people, throughout all the towns and places."

Knowledge of the day of the actual Baptism of Rus was preserved in the Chronicles of the sixteenth century: "The Baptism of the Great Prince Vladimir of Kiev and all Rus was on August 1."

In the present practice of the Russian Church, the Lesser Sanctification of Water on August 1 is done either before or after Liturgy. Because of the Blessing of Water, this first Feast of the Savior in August is sometimes called 'Savior of the Water.' There may also be a Blessing of New Honey today, which is why the Feast is also called "Savior of the Honey." From this day the newly gathered honey is blessed and tasted.

<http://ocafs.oca.org/FeastSaintsViewer.asp?SID=4&ID=1&FSID=102161>

## SERVICES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

July 31, Saturday	Vigil	5:00 p.m.
August 1, Sunday	Hours	9:10 a.m.
	Divine Liturgy	9:30 a.m.

## Transfiguration of our Lord

August 5, Thursday	Vigil	6:30 p.m.
August 6, Friday	Hours	9:10 a.m.
	Divine Liturgy	9:30 a.m.
August 7, Saturday	Vigil	5:00 p.m.
August 8, Sunday	Hours	9:10 a.m.
	Divine Liturgy	9:30 a.m.

## REMINDERS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*A Warm Welcome to all our visitors and guests who have participated in our celebration of the Divine Liturgy this morning!  
We invite all of our guests to please join us for our Fellowship Hour and to visit our Bookstore.*

*We will celebrate the feast of The Holy Transfiguration on Thursday with Vigil at 6:30 p.m. and Friday with Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m.!*

**(Atlanta, GA)** Under the leadership of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, Locum Tenens of the Diocese of the South, the clergy and laity concluded a successful Diocesan Assembly here on Friday. The Assembly was held once again at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. A record attendance was counted at this year's Assembly with 175 registered Delegates and Observers.

On Tuesday morning, His Beatitude and DOS Chancellor, Archpriest Joseph Fester met with His Eminence, Metropolitan Alexios of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta. His Eminence was a wonderful and gracious host for the week, attending the opening Divine Liturgy and Brunch and the Banquet on Thursday.

The work of the Assembly began on Tuesday with the Diocesan Council meeting to discuss necessary matters before the business meetings. The Council approved two items for consideration by the Assembly: the adoption of the proposed 2011 DOS Budget and to recommend to the Assembly that the 2011 DOS Assembly be held in conjunction with next year's All-American Council in Bellevue, WA.

After Vespers and dinner on Tuesday evening, Hieromonk Irenaeus (Steenberg) delivered the Assembly Keynote Address on Tuesday, July 20 at 7:30pm at the Holy Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, on the topic, "The Fathers' Voice to Modern Man- Probing the Relevance of the Fathers for the 21st Century."

On Wednesday the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy was celebrated at which Deacon Jason Foster (SVS) was ordained to the Holy Priesthood. Father Jason works in the SVS Development Office and will be returning to the DOS next year to do missionary work in Louisiana. At the brunch, Metropolitan Alexios offered warm greetings and an invitation for any Metropolis of Atlanta services and programs to be also accepted as DOS services and programs.

Assembly workshops filled the balance of Wednesday afternoon on the topics of "Combating Depression - A Modern Epidemic, An Ancient Solution?" presented by Hieromonk Irenaeus; Youth Leadership Development Workshop on "NetWise: Net Safety, Social Media, GoogleSmart and Wikipedia Wise" by Matushka Kathy Fester, Parish Development Workshops: "Hope in the battle against Pornography" presented by Metropolitan Jonah and Priest Jacob Myers, "Virtual Saints? - Christian Reality in a Virtual World" presented by Archpriest Stephen Freeman and Archpriest Peter Smith, and "Financial Advising/Discussions" with Milos Konjevich closed out the afternoon before Vespers and Dinner.

On Wednesday evening Hieromonk Irenaeus met with the Assembly young adults in an open discussion. At the same time, Assembly delegates and observers gathered to offer feedback and ideas on the draft OCA Strategic Plan document. His Beatitude and Archpriest Joseph Fester led the discussion. A video by Strategic Plan Committee member, Archpriest Michael Oleksa was also presented. A feedback report will be submitted to the Committee next week. Also present for part of the Assembly and for the Strategic Plan presentation was Archpriest Alexander Garklavs, Chancellor of The Orthodox Church in America.

On Thursday, Daily Matins was celebrated followed by Breakfast. The

Assembly Youth took a day trip to Stone Mountain, GA while the morning Plenary session of the Assembly was opened at 10:00am by His Beatitude. The Assembly Presidium was appointed; Archpriest Joseph Fester, Clergy Chairman and Judge Ray Lanier, Lay Chairman, Ms. Anya Gill, Secretary and Mother Thecla and Priest John Parker the Credentials Committee. During the morning session His Beatitude gave his report. Included in his remarks were His Beatitude's insights on the recently concluded Episcopal Assembly held under the protocols of the Chambesy statement. His Beatitude also spoke regarding the vacant See of Dallas and his desire to make sure that the See of Dallas is filled by the right candidate. In the meantime he is willing, and the Assembly concurred, that he will remain the Locum Tenens. His Beatitude also commented on the health of the DOS in which he stressed his pleasure that the Diocese continues to be an example of spiritual and fiscal stability where growth is taking place.

After His Beatitude's report, Archpriest Joseph Fester offer his Chancery Report in which he highlighted other aspect of DOS life since the last Assembly. New clergy to the DOS were introduced and those clergy retiring were also thanked for their longtime service to the Church.

The last report of the morning session was given by Mr. Milos Konjevich, DOS Administrator and Treasurer. Detailed reports were available to all delegates and observer prior to the Assembly. Mr. Konjevich's report touched on several aspects of the financial reports the most important being that since last year's Assembly decision to stop collecting the OCA Assessment from parishes and having the DOS meet the Assessment obligation from DOS Tithes, the DOS has seen an increase in Tithes off 11% over last year and all DOS expenses, OCA Tithe and DOS mission and parish support is easily being met. If historic trends going back over the past 15 years hold true again this year, Tithe income in 2010 will surpass the \$600,000 level and could be as high at \$618,000. The 2010 DOS Budget was passed without objection before the morning session adjourned for lunch.

During the lunch break the annual clergy wives lunch with Metropolitan Jonah was held. Hieromonk Irenaeus was also present at the lunch.

The afternoon session began with deanery and monastic reports. Archpriest John Anderson, Assistant Pastor of St Seraphim Cathedral in Dallas gave a multimedia report on the newest monastic community in the DOS, The Nativity of Our Lord Monastery in Kemp, TX.

The Assembly passed the recommendation of the Diocesan Council to hold the 2011 Assembly during the All American Council. Archpriest Joseph Fester stressed the importance for the DOS to be well represented at the AAC and the folding into the AAC of the DOS Assembly is to help full delegate and observer participation at both events next year.

His Beatitude closed the business sessions of the Assembly noting that this

year's business agenda was light but reminded the gathered that last year's decisions on Uniform Parish Bylaw revisions and the OCA Assessment financial decision (noted above) cleared the way for this year's Assembly to be light on business but heavy on fellowship with a feeling of a "family reunion" at this year's gathering in Atlanta.

After Vespers, the Assembly Banquet continued this feeling of a "family reunion" with a relaxed and less formal dinner. Metropolitan Alexios welcomed the banquet participants and reiterated his enjoyment at being part of the Assembly events. At the conclusion of the meal, Metropolitan Jonah thanks everyone for attending and in his Banquet remarks encouraged the members of the DOS to keep focused on Jesus Christ and to be inspired by the Holy Spirit to keep the missionary vision of the Diocese active by planting new missions and being witnesses of the new life in Christ.

The Assembly concluded on Friday with the Divine Liturgy celebrated at St. Mary of Egypt Church in Norcross, GA, in the north suburbs of Atlanta. Hieromonk Irenaeus preached the sermon. A wonderful farewell luncheon was provided by the parish which has been led for many years by Archpriest Peter Smith.

[http://www.dosoca.org/latest\\_news.html](http://www.dosoca.org/latest_news.html)

**You will not want to miss this opportunity to serve!** God has been at work in the Orthodox community of Central Florida and amazing things are happening! Some of you may not know that over the past few months Orthodox clergy and laity from the Orlando area have been meeting and praying to seek God's will concerning our mission to the community and how the Holy Spirit can unite us to accomplish that mission. We have teamed up with a non-profit organization named "The Ephraim Project" whose leader recently converted to the Orthodox faith. We serve dinner to the homeless community every Friday night at 6PM at St George Orthodox Church downtown. Through this ministry, we have seen people rescued from the streets and many are hearing the truth of Orthodox Christianity for the first time. Some have already begun the process of spiritual healing in the Orthodox Church. You need to be a part of this. Here's how you can help:

The Orthodox parishes of Central Florida will be serving dinner to the homeless of downtown Orlando on the feast of the Transfiguration, Friday August 6. Please join us at 6PM St George Orthodox Church, 24 N. Rosalind Ave., Orlando, FL 32801. This event will be covered by the Orlando Sentinel so please participate and bear witness to your Orthodox faith. Orthodox Christians from Central Florida will also be preparing the food on that day. We will start at 12 noon August 6th at St. George and work all afternoon. Please let Fr. Daniel know if you are able to help with the cooking. You do not need to be an experienced chef in order to help.

## 2010 PHONE DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please send/give your updates to Fr. Protodeacon Michael of John P. They are maintaining a master list for next years directory.

**There is a Lost & Found container in the Narthex.** If you are missing anything please check it out.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Susan Engelhard's father Robert just suffered a heart attack. Please keep him, his wife Gwendolyn, and Susan in your prayers!

Gloria Malanowski's sister-in-law Margaret is suffering from many aggressive cancers and is in hospice. Please keep her, her husband Glen, the Anderson family, and Gloria in your prayers!

Dorothy Levitske, Stephanie Janik's mother, is in the hospital. She had a leg amputated. Please keep her and the Janik's in your prayers!

## PRAYERS FOR THE HEALTH & SALVATION OF THOSE IN NEED

Priest Lawrence, Priest Peter, Priest Michael, George, Rima, Stacy, Margaret, Lisa, Larry, Margaret, Roberta, Burt, Karen, Maria, Angie, Helene, Robert, Dorothy, Amanda and the child to be born.

## PRAYERS FOR THE NEWLY DEPARTED: MEMORY ETERNAL!

*Please let Father know if there is anyone you would like to have prayed for and added to these lists. Please use these lists in your daily prayers to remember those in need, and the faithful departed.*

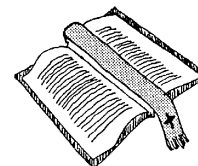
## BIRTHDAYS, AUG. 1 – AUG. 7

None

## ANNIVERSARIES, AUG. 1 – AUG. 7

3rd Fr Protodeacon Michael & Gloria M.  
4th Patrick & Arlene W.  
7th John & Rebecca P.

## MAY GOD GRANT THEM MANY YEARS!



## Readers for the 10th Sunday after Pentecost

SAT	VESPERS	Gloria M.
31	MATINS	Reader Stephen
SUN	HRS/COMM	Reader Stephen
1	EPISTLE	Arlene T.

## Readers for the Transfiguration of our Lord

THU	VESPERS	Mary Jane A.
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5	<b>MATINS</b>	Gloria M.
<b>FRI</b>	<b>HRS/COMM</b>	Reader Stephen
6	<b>EPISTLE</b>	Reader Stephen

**Readers for the 11th Sunday after Pentecost**

<b>SAT</b>	<b>VESPERS</b>	Reader Stephen
7	<b>MATINS</b>	Zora R.
<b>SUN</b>	<b>HRS/COMM</b>	Robert K.
8	<b>EPISTLE</b>	Anne v. d. B.

**The Holy Transfiguration of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ - Commemorated on Aug. 6**



In the third year of His preaching, the Lord Jesus often spoke to His disciples of His approaching passion but at the same time of His glory following His suffering on the Cross. So that His impending passion would not totally weaken His disciples and that no one would fall away from Him, He, the All-wise, wanted to partially show them His divine glory before His passion. For that reason, He took Peter, James and John with Him and, with them, went out at night to Mt. Tabor and there was transfigured before them: "And His face shone as the sun and His garments became white as snow" (St. Matthew 17:2). There appeared along side Him, Moses and Elijah, the great Old Testament prophets. And, seeing this, His disciples were amazed. Peter said: "Lord, it is good for us to be here: if You will, let us make here three tabernacles; one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah" (St. Matthew 17:4). While Peter still spoke, Moses and Elijah departed and a bright cloud overshadowed the Lord and His disciples and there came a voice from the cloud saying: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear Him" (St. Matthew 17:5). Hearing the voice, the disciples fell to the ground on their faces as though dead and remained that way, lying in fear, until the Lord came near to them and said: "Arise and be not afraid" (St. Matthew 17:7). Why did the Lord take only three disciples on Tabor and not all? Because Judas was not worthy to behold the divine glory of the Teacher, Whom he will betray and the Lord did not want to leave him [Judas] alone at the foot of the mountain so that the betrayer would not, by that, justify his betrayal. Why was our Lord transfigured on a mountain and not in a valley? So as to teach us two virtues: love of labor and godly-thoughts. For, climbing to the heights required labor and height represents the heights of our thoughts, i.e., godly-thoughts. Why was our Lord transfigured at night? Because, the night rather than the day is more suitable for prayer and godly-thoughts and because the night, by its darkness, conceals all the beauty of the earth and reveals the beauty of the starry heavens. Why did Moses and

Elijah appear? In order to destroy the error of the Jews, as though Christ is one of the prophets; Elijah or Jeremiah or some other that is why He appears as a King above the prophets and that is why Moses and Elijah appear as His servants. Until then, our Lord manifested His divine power many times to the disciples but, on Mt. Tabor, He manifested His divine nature. This vision of His Divinity and the hearing of the heavenly witness about Him as the Son of God, should serve the disciples in the days of the Lord's passion, in strengthening of an unwavering faith in Him and His final victory.

Bishop Nikolai Velimirovich, The Prologue from Ohrid  
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**Please contact** Fr. Daniel Hickman for all pastoral issues, hospital visits, emergencies, etc. Please keep him abreast of any issues that come up.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

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