Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church

A parish of the New England Diocese ✣ Orthodox Church in America

285 ALDEN AVENUE NEW HAVEN, CT 06515 (203) 397-9682 www.holytransfigurationnh.org

The Very Reverend Michael Westerberg, Rector

phone (203) 387-3882 *fax* (203) 387-3043 *email frwesterberg@sbcglobal.net*

Rectory and Parish Mailing address: 25 Kohary Drive New Haven, CT 06515-2418

Sunday, July 30, 2017 ***Eighth Sunday after Pentecost***

Today's readings are:

I Corinthians 1:10-18 and Saint Matthew 14:14-22

Weekly calendar:

Today				coffee hour
July	31	Mon	5:30pm	Daily Vespers
Aug.	1	Tue		*The Dormition Fast begins*
			5:30pm	Daily Vespers
Aug.	2	Wed	5:30pm	Daily Vespers
Aug.	3	Thu	5:30pm	Daily Vespers
Aug.	4	Fri	5:30pm	Daily Vespers
Aug.	5	Sat	4:30pm	choir rehearsal
			5:00pm	**Vigil of the Transfiguration** with the blessing of fruit **– and Confessions afterward**
Aug.	6	Sun	**9:00am**	**Divine Liturgy- *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost — The Transfiguration of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ – our parish feast –*** and a second blessing of fruit [II Peter 1:10-19 and Saint Matthew 17:1-9] Cross procession and blessing of our church followed by a potluck brunch

The Dormition Fast begins this Tuesday, and ends on August 15th, the Dormition of the Theotokos.

Next Sunday is the Great Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord, our parish feast. As always, there will be a procession and the blessing of our church, and a 'pot-luck brunch'. Transfiguration always falls during the Dormition Fast so the brunch will be meatless. Speak to Susan Papademetris or Matushka Lydia about how you will help.

On Oct. 1st the Annual FORCC Benefit Dinner will be at Saint Barbara's Church in Orange, beginning at 1:00 P.M. This year's speaker is Father Chad Hatfield, president of Saint Vladimir's Seminary. FORCC (The Fellowship of Orthodox Churches in Connecticut,) is worthy of your support. For dinner tickets see Alex Oji, our parish ticket chair. (Tickets are not available at the door.)

Keep in mind that parish expenses continue even when we are away. Make your offerings before you go away, or catch up when you return, but remember that your support continues to be vital.

Christ the Good Shepherd *–from a sermon by Saint Gregory the Great* (+604)

I am the good shepherd, I know my own– by which I mean, I love them– *and my own know me.* In plain words, those who love me are willing to follow me, for anyone who does not love the truth has not yet come to know it.

My dear brethren, you have heard the test we pastors have to undergo. Turn now to consider how these words of our Lord imply a test for your selves also. Ask yourselves whether you belong to his flock, whether you know him, whether the light of his truth shines in your minds. I assure you that it is not by faith that you will come to know him, but by love; not by mere conviction but by action. John the evangelist is my authority for this statement. He tells us that *anyone who claims to know God without keeping his commandments is a liar.*

Consequently, the Lord immediately adds: *As the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep.* Clearly he means that laying down his life for his sheep gives evidence of his knowledge of the Father and the Father's knowledge of him. In other words, by the love with which he dies for his sheep he shows how greatly he loves his Father.

Again he says: *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, they follow me, and I give them eternal life.* Shortly before this he had declared: *If anyone enters the sheepfold through me he shall be saved; he shall go freely in and out and shall find good pasture.* He will enter into a life of faith; from faith he will go out to vision, from belief to contemplation, and will graze in the good pastures of everlasting life.

So our Lord's sheep will finally reach their grazing ground where all who follow him in simplicity of heart will feed on the green pastures of eternity. These pastures are the spiritual joys of heaven. There the elect look upon the face of God with unclouded vision and feast at the banquet of life forever more.

Beloved brethren, let us set out for these pastures where we shall feel joyful festival with so many of our fellow citizens. May the thought of their happiness urge us on! Let us stir up our hearts, rekindle our faith, and long eagerly for what heaven has in store for us. To love thus is to be already on our way. No matter what obstacles we encounter, we must not allow them to turn us aside from the joy of that heavenly feast. Anyone who is determined to reach his destination is not deterred by the roughness of the road that leads to it. Nor must we allow the charm of success to seduce us, or we shall be like a foolish traveler who is so distracted by the pleasant meadows through which he is passing that he forgets where he is going.

∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞∞

Сегодня- 8-я Неделя по Пятидесятница
[Первое Послание к Коринфянам 1:10-18 и от Матфея 14:14-22]

Субб. 5:00чд Великая Вечерня с литей и Утреня – и освящение плодов и потом Исповедь

Воск. 9:00чу Литургиа- 9-я Неделя по Пятидесятница – *Преображение Господа Бога и Спаса Нашего Иисуса Христа* – и освящение плодов
[Второе Послание Петра 1:10-19 и от Матфея 17:1-9]

Втор., 1-я Августа: Начал Успенского поста в честь Богоматери.