

TRANSFIGURATION

Saint Paul the Apostle Orthodox Church

24 BURKE ROAD

FREEHOLD, NJ 07728

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

August 4, 2013

Father Robert E Lucas, Pastor; Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba and Nikitas Tsokris, Cantors Rectory 215-862-9227; Parish Center 732-780-3158

We Are A Stewardship Parish Of Time, Talent and Treasure

The mission of our parish faith community is to teach the Gospel message in the rich tradition of the Orthodox Church; to enable people to reflect the image of Jesus Christ in every day activities of life; to offer spiritual formation through changing times; and to celebrate community among Orthodox believers in our Freehold area.

We of St. Paul the Apostle Parish dedicate ourselves to maintaining the sanctity of worship and spiritual enlightenment in a family environment that reaches and involves all ages and unifies all people.

We believe in the spirit of ecumenism in which we share our faith by word and example and extend our spiritual insights to all people.

We accept the responsibility of Christian Stewardship that through generous giving we may all experience a faith communion with Christ as the Center of our lives.

We dedicate ourselves to insuring the well-being of all people so that we may truly experience the message of Christ's salutary gospel.

We are a beacon on a hill with the eyes of many upon us; that beacon is the inspired Light of Christ which must shine brightly in our lives.

It is not ourselves we preach but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts, that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. This treasure we possess in earthen vessels to make it clear that its surpassing power comes from God and not from us. We are afflicted in every way possible, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in us 2 Corinthians 4: 5 – 8.

GLAD TIDINGS

+++ Tuesday is the solemn feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. In anticipation, a vespers Divine Liturgy will be celebrated Monday evening at 7: 30 PM. Please come and join us in prayer and praise. Fruit will be blessed at the conclusion of the celebration.

+++ **Pirohi Schedule for the next few months: September 14; October 12, November 1 and December 7. The Bake Sales will take place on November 22 and December 20.**

+++ **Please keep the intentions of these members of our parish intercession community in your daily prayers: Anna, Ryan, Betty, Mary, Beth, Ann Helene, Delores, Claire Elizabeth, Debra and Michael.**

+++ **The sign-up sheet for both the Web Site and Bulletin sponsors is on the bulletin board in the kitchen. Please sign up as soon as possible. Do NOT make payment until your sign-up month has arrived. This will make it easier for Father to keep track of payments. Thanks in advance to all who support the parish in this way.**

+++ **We offer thanks to the Blessed Trinity for inspiring generosity in the souls of our faithful and the blessing of abundant grace in our midst with the offering received last Sunday: Tithe Offering, \$194.00; Holyday, \$35.00; CNDLES, \$27.00, for a total of \$256.00, while that for the previous Sunday was: Offering, \$237.00; Holyday, \$45.00; Candles, \$11.00, for a total of \$299.00. We express our profound gratitude to the parishioner communicants who offer their God-given treasure and labored for the sake of the Lord and the good of our parish. God bless and reward you good and faithful souls! The attendance was 44 adults and 13 children last Sunday.**

+++ **As faithful believers, we intercede and associate ourselves in prayer with the following who have prayed and offered seven day lights for their intentions: Father Lucas, Anna Zacharyczuk, Eleanor Korba, Michael Douglas, Robert Gorbich, Maria Garcia and Pani Bulezta.**

+++ **We make a PENNIES FROM HEAVEN Canister available for our faithful to bring in pennies for our altar and its appointments. We are already in receipt of \$1694.00 from this apostolate. Even your pennies can help and are a blessing to our parish.**

+++ **Please be certain to see a member of the Parish Council if you would like to help our parish by using Shop Rite Food Coupons available in \$20.00 denominations. We invite ALL to be caring and supportive and use Grocery Coupons for food shopping as we have gratefully realized \$5550.00 on this project to date!**

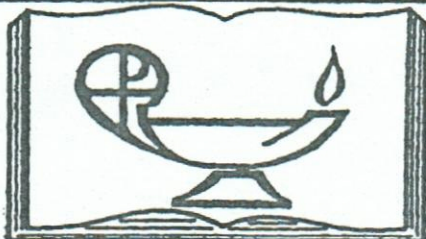
+++ **The Clothing Drive is a permanent on-going project in our parish. Please bring any type of clothing and fabrics along with stuffed animals and shoes for the benefit of our parish. The bags can be left in the vestibule or on the front porch of the rectory. Please invite your friends and neighbors to assist us in disposing of unwanted clothing, shoes and fabrics.**

+++ **Please pray the Lord our God grants us an enrichment of our spiritual lives for his glory.**

+++ **May all glory, adoration and worship be accorded our God in the Holy Trinity by all the faithful of our parish with one mind, one soul and one heart each day of the week!**

+++ **Please remember to observe the Dormition Fast which concludes on the feast day, August 14. On Monday, August 12 at 7: 30 PM, we will celebrate the Akathist service to the Birthgiver of God.**

LORD



TEACH
US

Developing A Sense of Community

You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Men do not light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket. They set it on a stand where it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, our light must shine before men so they may see goodness in your acts and give praise to your heavenly Father Matthew 5: 14 – 16.

The sheep he will place on his right hand, the goats on his left. The king will say to those on his right, 'Come, you have my Father's blessing! Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me. I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me'...The king will answer them: 'I assure you as often as you did it for one of these my least brothers, you did it for me' Matthew 25: 33- 40.

You love must be sincere. Detest what is evil, cling to what is good. Love one another with the affection of brothers. Anticipate each other in showing respect. Do not grow slack but be fervent in spirit; he whom you serve is the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient under trial, persevere in prayer. Look on the needs of the saints as your own; be generous, in offering hospitality. Bless your persecutors; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep Romans 12: 9 – 15.

A new commandment I give to you: Love one another. Such as my love has been for you, so must your love be for each other. This is how all will know you for my disciples, your love for one another John 13: 34, 35.

Go, therefore and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always until the end of the world Matthew 28: 19, 20.

GOD SPEAKS

Some new billboards are getting a lot of attention in Dallas, Texas. They are "God Speaks" billboards. The billboards are a simple black background with white text. No fine print or sponsoring organization is included.

They are awesome.....enjoy.

"Let's meet at my house Sunday before the game." -God

"C'mon over and bring the kids." -God

"What part of 'Thou Shalt Not...' didn't you understand?" -God

"We need to talk." -God

"Keep using my name in vain, and I'll make rush hour longer." -God

"Loved the wedding, invite me to the marriage." -God

"That 'Love Thy Neighbor' thing.....I meant it." -God

"I love you and you and you and you and..." -God

"Will the road you're on get you to my place?" -God

"Follow me." -God

"Big bang theory? You've got to be kidding." -God

"My way is the highway." -God

"Need directions?" -God

"You think it's hot here?" -God

"Have you read my #1 best seller? There will be a test." -God

"Do you have any idea where you're going?" -God

(And maybe the best-for-last)

"Don't make me come down there." -God

ORTHODOX LANGUAGE

Eagle Rug A small circular or oval woven carpet or permanent design on the church's floor depicting an eagle with outstretched wings hovering or flying over a city. It signifies the watchfulness and authority of the bishop over his diocese and the flock entrusted to his care. It reminds him he is appointed shepherd to the task by God of being responsible for believers and non-believers in his jurisdiction. The eagle is also the symbol of St. John the Evangelist, the disciple whom the Lord loved and as such is encouragement to witness to the Lord's love to all entrusted to his spiritual care. Usually the bishop stands upon this rug when consecrated to his office and when he celebrates.

Ecclesia A Greek word meaning "gathering of the people" which implies being gathered together by the all encompassing grace of the Holy Spirit for the single purpose of glorifying God in worship and fellowship with Christ and one another. It also refers to the church itself where the Divine Liturgy is celebrated invoking God's blessing upon them as they come forward worthily to receive the Eucharist conferred only for them as heavenly nourishment of soul and body. In addition it also refers to the entire Church as the Body of Christ of which we are individual members.

Epiklesis The special and particular prayer or petition offered by the priestly celebrant to invoke can call down or to call upon the Holy Spirit so that God's generous grace may descend upon the humble gifts of bread and wine that they become the Holy Gifts of His Body and Blood for our spiritual and physical nourishment because without them we do not have life.

Fanar That neighborhood and section of the imperial city of Constantinople separate and distinct from the rest, where the Ecumenical Patriarchate is located.

Fathers of the Church Pious and educated individuals, most of them consecrated bishops, who lived the first eight centuries of Christianity and by holy erudition and piety showed themselves filled with the Holy Spirit. They wrote extensively, taught, explained and defended the faith of the Church of Christ. They gave the Church its form and integrity. All have been glorified by God as saints and are worthy of our imitation. The most important Orthodox Fathers are: St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory Nazianzen, St. Gregory Nyssa, St. John Chrysostom, St. Athanasius the Great, St. Cyril of Alexandria, and St. John Damascene with whom the age of the Fathers come to a close in Church history. They are honored with the same title as God our Father because they begot faith and faith commitment in the souls entrusted to their care in the Body of Christ. Collectively they addressed the problems which faced believers and through God's inspiration provided a Christ-like response that their spiritual children might also be glorified by our God.

JUST IMAGINE!

The memory capacity of an ordinary human mind is fabulous. We may not consider ourselves particularly adept at remembering technical data...but consider how many faces we can recognize, how many names call up some past incident, how many words we can define and spell....It is expertly estimated that in a lifetime, the ordinary human brain can store 1,000,000,000,000,000 (a million billion) "bits" of information.

Just imagine how blessed we would be if we placed some emphasis on remembering the blessed words of the Lord and applying them in our lives. Just imagine how blessed we would be when someone asked us about the purpose of our life and we could recall personal incidents of God's love made manifest in our own lives. Just imagine how blessed we would be if we made the effort and lived and practiced all we have been exposed to in our faith experience and made it a living reality in our lives. Just imagine how truly blessed we would be if we utilized the grace of the Holy Spirit to strength and guide us in a Christ-like life. Together with God's grace, we have it within ourselves to be what our baptismal vocation demands of us. Just imagine what would happen to our families, our parish family and our community if we lived up to our innate potential! Our personal simple Christian philosophy would unfold magnificently; we would accept serious responsibility with great spiritual sensitivity of soul for the impact of what we say, do, and live has on others! The world would truly be converted to Christ and believers would truly understand that death is not the greatest loss in life, because the greatest loss is what dies in us, the freely offered grace of God, while we yet physically live! Let us transform vibrant imagination into living reality!

IN A WORD

William Booth (1829-1912) founded the Salvation Army in the London slums in 1865. At that time Victorian England was not kind to its poor, and early on Booth was actually arrested as he practiced his well-known charity. He persevered nevertheless and by 1880 was ready to send his army troops to America, where the Salvation Army was desperately needed because of the similar needs among poor immigrants and native Americans.

How can his philosophy be summarized? Well, on an anniversary, Booth wished to send an inspired cable to Salvation Army commanders all around the world. He would not allow himself a lengthy message; it would cost too much and detract from funds better utilized in aiding the needy. And so he chose to cable just one word.

That word? *OTHERS.*

That is precisely what our parish is all about. We must be even more focused on the needs of others, particularly believers and non-believers who have come into our area, seeking the good life. We, by our example must show them the authentic good life is only possible when Christ is an integral part of it. We must make known to them in our conversation and life-style we already have the gift of grace which makes all blessings possible. And we must witness in such a way that others wish also the very self same way of life for themselves. We are not just another denomination, an alternative religious experience among many. It must be seen in our heart and soul that we actually do belong to the One, Holy Catholic Apostolic Church, the actual Body of Christ meant for all who seek salvation and a better life! We are the cells who make up the Body of Christ, the one and only vessel of redemption for mankind!

READY AND WILLING

An insightful tourist was visiting the Washington monument in our nation's capital. As he and his family approached the obelisk, he heard a guide gently announcing that there would be a two-hour wait to ride the elevator to the top of the monument. However, with a smile on his face which betrayed deep inner conviction, the tourist was not dismayed. He said, "There is no one waiting to go the top if you are willing to take the stairs."

Our faithful communicants are ready and willing to take the stairs to the top if this is necessary. We do not shirk our responsibilities as believers and followers of the Lord. We already have his generous example and that of the apostles. The saints and martyrs have furthered our conviction by their lives. We follow the trail of faith necessary so that an enduring presence is made among us of our precious Orthodox Christian faith. Even if it is the more difficult path to trod, we will not seek an easier route if that is what we are called to do. We will not count the cost. We will ignore the price to be paid. He has blessed us abundantly and we will take His gifts and advance our noble cause because it is first of all, His cause. He will not permit us to fail because He offers us the abundant temporal gifts and his grace to persevere. If He is with us, who can be against us? What an awesome dignity He is calling us to participate in! He has so enriched our lives we cannot image an "existence" without him. We are ready and willing to take the steps necessary to insure his continuing vibrant presence in this part of God's beautiful creation. We will build a successful and enduring temple of faith that the world may marvel and give glory and praise to our God! We will invite members of the community and friends of our mission to join us in this exciting and invigorating labor. We are honored our God has chosen us as the pillars of faith for this noble endeavor. It has eternal implications because we gladly fashion our souls in the image and likeness of our God. What we have begun here now will continue beyond the limitations of time and space.

WISDOM! BE ATTENTIVE

Let us the faithful praise the Word eternal with the Father and the Spirit. Let us adore Him Who was born from the Virgin for our salvation. For He willed to ascend the cross as a man, and to suffer death, and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection Troparion, Resurrection Tone Five.

O Saviour, You descended into the Abyss. Being the Almighty, You destroyed its power. Being the Creator, You raised the dead and dulled the sting of death. Adam was delivered from the curse and we all cry out to You: "O Lord, Lover of mankind, save us!" Kontakion, Resurrection Tone Five.

You, O Lord, will keep us and preserve us always from this generation Prokimenon, Resurrection Tone Five.

The Lord, Who bestows Resurrection upon the race of men was led like a lamb to the slaughter. The powers of the Abyss trembled; its gates opened. Christ the King of glory entered it. He said to those in chains: "Come out!" To those in darkness, He said, "Let light surround you!" Vesper Hymn, Tone Five.

We offer You this evening worship, O Light Who never fade! In the fullness of time You filled the world with light, Your flesh being a mirror of Your splendor. You descended into the Abyss, dispelling its darkness. You revealed the light of Your Resurrection to the world. O Lord, Giver of light, glory be to You! Vesper Hymn, Tone Five.

O Virgin most pure, you are a temple, palace, the throne of the King. Through you, Christ the Lord has appeared. He is the Sun of Justice and the Saviour. He willed to enlighten those in darkness, those fashioned in His image by His hand. We beseech you, worthy of our praise, You are His mother. Intercede for the salvation of our souls Vesper Hymn, Tone Five.

A symbol of the pure Virgin and bride is revealed in the Red Sea: There, Moses divided the waters; here Gabriel is the minister of a wonder. There, Israel crossed the deep as on dry land; here the Virgin gives birth and remains a Virgin. There, the sea remained uncrossable after Israel passed; here, the immaculate one remains a Virgin after the birth of Immanuel. O immortal and eternal God, have mercy on us! Vesper Hymn, Tone Five.

DR. FUNK'S TOP 10 LIST

DR. WILLARD FUNK, the well-known dictionary publisher, was asked to select the 10 most expressive words in the English language. Here is the list:

- the most bitter word—alone
- the most tragic—death
- the most reverend—mother
- the most beautiful—love
- the most cruel—revenge
- the most peaceful—tranquil
- the saddest—forgotten
- the warmest—friendship
- the coldest—no
- the most comforting—faith

IF THEY DO NOT HEAR
MOSES AND THE PROPHETS,
NEITHER WILL THEY BE
PERSUADED THOUGH ONE
RISE FROM THE DEAD.

LUKE 16.31

Did You Know That ...

...death is the last chapter of time, but the first page of eternity?

...when trouble grows, your character always shows?

...toying with sin invites disaster?

...success consists in getting up just one more time than you've fallen down?

...a slip of the foot you may soon recover, but a slip of the tongue you may never get over?

...three may keep a secret if two are dead?

...it is easier to suppress the first desire than to satisfy all that follow it?

...if you would like a servant devoted to you, serve yourself?

...life takes on new meaning when we give ourselves to others?

...in creation, we see God's hand, but in redemption, we see His heart?

...everyone born must choose between Christ or condemnation?

...death does not separate those who are one in Christ?

...your discontents should be well-kept secrets?

...ceremony is not civility nor civility ceremony?

...common sense is a thing all need, few have, and none think they want?

...blessed is he that expects nothing for he shall never be disappointed?

...it is easier to prevent bad habits than to break them?

...he who wishes to live in peace and at ease, must not speak all he knows, nor judge all he sees?

...it is possible to do right for the wrong reason?

VESPER VERSES ACCORDING TO THE EIGHT TONES

TONE 5

1. By your precious cross, O Christ,
You have put the devil to shame
By your resurrection, You destroyed the sting
of sin;
You saved us from the gates of death.
We praise You, the only-begotten Son.
2. The Lord who bestows resurrection upon the
race of men was led like a lamb to the
slaughter.
The powers of the Abyss trembled; its gates
opened.
Christ the King of glory entered it.
He said to those in chains : " Come out! "To those in darkness, he said : " Let light
surround you! "
3. Truly, it is a great wonder :
Because of his love for man, the Creator
suffers.
Now He is risen again—immortal.
Come, all you nations and peoples,
Let us bow to Him in worship.
Because of his love, He saved us from error,
And we have learned to praise
One God in three Divine Persons.
4. We offer You this evening worship, O Light
who never fade!

In the fulness of time, You filled the world with
light,
Your flesh being a mirror of your splendor.
You descended into the Abyss, dispelling its
darkness.
You revealed the light of your resurrection to
the world.
O Lord, giver of light, glory be to You!

5. Let us praise Christ, the Author of our salvation :

By his resurrection from the dead,
He has saved the world from error.
The angelic host rejoices; the deceit of the
demons vanishes;
Adam fallen is raised again.

6. The guards were told to deny the resurrection :

Bribed with money they were told to say :
“ While we slept, his body was taken away. ”
When has a naked and embalmed body ever
been stolen,
Leaving the burial cloth in the tomb?
Do not be deceived—learn from the prophets
and understand
That Christ is truly the Savior of the world
and the almighty Lord.

7. O Lord and Savior,
You despoiled the Abyss and conquered Death.
You enlightened the world by your cross :
Have mercy on us!

8. Glory be to the Father ✝, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and
forever. Amen.

A symbol of the pure Virgin and bride
Is revealed in the Red Sea :

There, Moses divided the waters;
Here, Gabriel is the minister of a wonder.
There, Israel crossed the deep as on dry
land;
Here, the Virgin gives birth and remains a
virgin.
There, the sea remained uncrossable after
Israel passed;
Here, the Immaculate One remains a virgin
after the birth of Immanuel.
O Immortal and eternal God,
You appeared as man :
Have mercy on us!

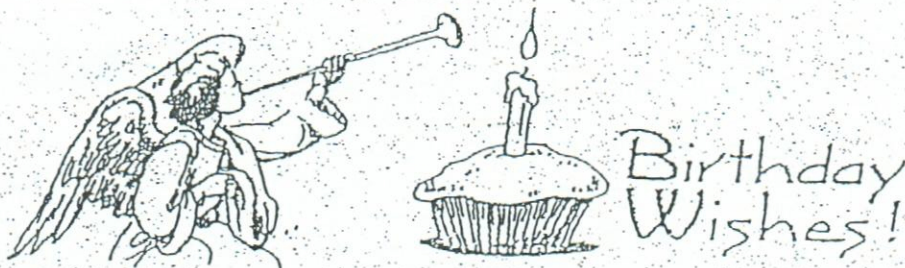
At the Apostichon

1. O Christ our Savior,
Not leaving heaven, you became man.
You suffered and died for us because of your
love.
We extol you in song!
You crushed the gates of the Abyss;
You arose on the third day
Granting salvation to our souls.
2. O Christ, Giver of life,
From your side pierced by the lance
There flowed pardon, salvation, and life for all.
Accepting death, you gave us eternal life :
Your burial has made us free.
Being God, you raised us with you in glory.
We cry out to you :
“ O Lord, Lover of mankind, glory be to
you! ”
3. O Christ, Lover of mankind,
Your death and descent into the Abyss are
marvels.

You conquered death by raising with you in
glory
Those bound for ages by the chains of death.
Grant to us who praise your resurrection
The forgiveness of our sins; make us worthy
of paradise :
You alone love mankind.

4. O Lord, You suffered for us;
On the third day you rose from the dead.
Heal our bodily passions;
Raise us from our sin, and save us :
You alone love mankind.
5. Glory be to the Father \dagger , and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and
forever. Amen.

O Virgin most pure,
You are a temple, palace, the throne of the
King.
Through you, Christ the Lord has appeared.
He is the Sun of Justice and the Savior.
He willed to enlighten those in darkness,
Those fashioned in his image by his hand.
We beseech you, worthy of our praise,
You are his mother.
Intercede for the salvation of our souls.

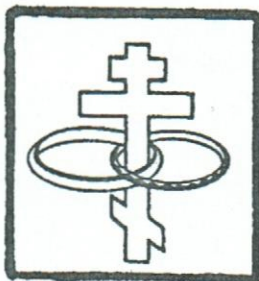


We are pleased to greet those of our faithful communicants who celebrate their birthday this month. Our Lord has offered these souls yet another year of blessed life. The most obvious way He blesses us and participates in our life is by sharing his divine life with us in the Eucharist at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Thus we gather together and offer thanks for yet another year of life blessed by his most gracious hands. Today, we prayerfully remember in the Divine Liturgy the following souls who celebrate their birthday during this month:

August 1 Anna Sabo
August 3 Maria Pashos
August 9 Kent Pasquino
August 16 Maria Idromenos
August 16 Alfred Camp
August 29 Robert Henry
August 30 Subdeacon Daniel J. Korba

With a prayerful heart and grateful soul, our parish faith community asks the Lord to continue to bless these birthday celebrants with good spiritual and physical health for the coming year. We invite all to add their personal intercessory prayers so that with one voice and one heart we may also participate in the grace and joy of their celebration. As we wish them a happy and blessed celebration of their birthday, our ardent prayer resounds that the Lord our God will continue to bless them for

Many and Blessed Years!



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

The Byzantine Fathers of the Church were wont to emphasize how ancient and how venerable marriage is in the sight of our God because it was established yet in paradise before the fall of Adam and Eve and brought to blessed perfection by Christ in Cana of Galilee. Its grace survived the sin of our first parents and it remains a sign of the presence of the Holy Trinity in our midst. It is a living symbol of the deep and abiding love between Christ and His Bride, our blessed Church. It is characterized in the liturgical life of the Church as a happy martyrdom. And it is precisely for this reason the sacramental Mystery of Marriage is such a joyous event. On the third Sunday of this month, we honor those of our good parishioners who observe their marriage anniversaries this month. They are specially remembered in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and subsequently receive an individual and personal blessing of the Lord at its conclusion. Celebrating this month are:

August 4 Alfred & Ann Camp
August 14 Subdeacon Daniel J. & Marilyn Korba

We gratefully give thanks to the Blessed Trinity for having guided and strengthened the marriages of these believers, and their cooperation with sacramental grace to remain faithful to one another over the years. Like all who are faithful to Christ, they recognize the presence and necessity of the Holy Spirit not only in the marriage, but in subsequent family life as well. As we praise our God for their witness in our midst, let us also join them with our prayers and thanksgiving before the throne of the Lord. May they continue to praise His Holy Name by their love and devotion to one another for

Many and Blessed Years

“YOU WERE TRANSFIGURED ON THE MOUNT, O CHRIST OUR GOD . . .”

A visit to the Holy Land is not complete without a trip to Mount Tabor! The view from the top of this majestic mountain in the region of Galilee is nothing short of spectacular!

The word “spectacular” can also be used to best describe the Transfiguration of our Lord, which occurred on this sacred site. The Apostles Peter, James, and John were privileged witnesses to this special manifestation of Christ’s Divinity. While praying with their Master on Mount Tabor, these faithful followers saw a great change come over Him. The Gospels tell us that Christ’s garments became as white as snow, and that His face shone brilliantly. During this moment of glory, the Prophet Elias and Moses, the great Law-giver of the Old Testament appeared to Jesus! Even the voice of God the Father echoed from a cloud: “This is my beloved Son, with Whom I am well-pleased. Listen to Him!” Is it any wonder that Peter boldly proclaimed: “Lord, it is good for us to be here!”

The Feast Day of the Transfiguration shows us that Christ was no mere mortal man. He was the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. He was God Incarnate!

Why was this wondrous display necessary? The Kontakion for the holy day gives us the answer: “You were transfigured on the mount, O Christ our God, and Your disciples beheld as much as they could of Your glory, so that when they would see You crucified, they would understand that You suffered willingly. So that they would proclaim to the world that You are truly the brightness of the Father.”