



September 10, 2017 :: Sunday before Holy Cross

Commemorations: Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora the Martyrs,
Poulcheria the Empress, Afterfeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
Plagal First Tone :: Third Matins Gospel

Epistle Reading: Galatians 6:11-18

Reader: *O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance; and shepherd them, and raise them up forever.*

Priest: Let us be attentive.

Reader: *To You, O Lord, I cry; O my God, may You not pass over me in silence; may You never be silent to me, else I would become like those who go down into the pit.*

Priest: Wisdom.

Reader: *The reading is from the letter of the holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians.*

Priest: Let us be attentive.

Brethren, see with what large letters I am writing to you with my own hand. It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that would compel you to be circumcised, and only in order that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. For even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised that they may glory in your flesh. But far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Peace and mercy be upon all who walk by this rule, upon the Israel of God. Henceforth let no man trouble me; for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Holy Gospel: St. John 3:13-17

The Lord said, "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man who is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."

WISDOM

With sincere Christians prayer is continual, because we continually sin; gratitude is perpetual, because everyday, every moment, we receive fresh mercies from God, besides the old mercies, which are numberless. Praise is also perpetual, because we perpetually see the glory of God's works in ourselves and in the world, especially the glory of His infinite love towards us.

— St. John of Kronstadt

We congratulate **Austin and Heidi Albers** with the birth of their daughter, **Cordelia Jean**, yesterday afternoon.
[8 pounds + 5 ounces]
All's well!



Resurrection Hymn (*Plagal of the First Tone*)

Let us worship the Word Who is unoriginate with the Father and the Spirit, and from a Virgin was born for our salvation, O believers, and let us sing His praise. For in His goodness He was pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, and to undergo death, and to raise up those who had died, by His glorious Resurrection.

Hymn for the Feast (*Fourth Tone*)

Your Nativity, O Theotokos, imparted joy to the entire earth, for out of you has risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God. He nullified the curse and instead gave His blessing; and causing death to be neutralized, He granted us eternal life.

Hymn for the Transfiguration (*Grave Tone*)

You were transfigured upon the mountain O Christ our God, showing to Your disciples Your glory as much as they could bear. Do also in us, sinners though we be, shine Your everlasting Light. At the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to You.

Kontakion for the Nativity of the Theotokos (*Fourth Tone*)

Joachim and Anna were freed from the reproach of childlessness, and Adam and Eve from the corruption of death, O immaculate one, by thy holy nativity, which thy people, redeemed from the guilt of offenses, celebrate by crying to thee: the barren woman giveth birth to the Theotokos, the nourisher of our life.

PARISH NOTICES

We warmly welcome our guests this morning. Please join us downstairs after Liturgy for a time of fellowship and refreshment, hosted today by **Panagiota Theodosopoulos**.
Next week's hosts: the **Philoptochos Society** for the benefit of Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology. — **An offering will be received at fellowship hour next Sunday.** —

Memorial prayers are offered today for the repose of the soul of our brother of blessed memory, **Spiro Theodosopoulos**. May his soul dwell among the righteous, and may you be granted long life and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ.

Book Club meets in the Quiet Room after Fellowship Hour today.

Philoptochos will meet in the Parish Hall after Fellowship Hour next Sunday.

Catechism Class continues this week on Thursday at 7:00 P.M.

Sunday School will begin next Sunday, September 17th. If your child is not yet registered, please fill out a form. *It is important that we have current contact information for everyone.*

To make a donation for hurricane relief through **International Orthodox Christian Charities**, please visit this website: support.iocc.org/site/Donation2

THIS WEEK AT TRANSFIGURATION CHURCH

- Wednesday Vespers for the Feast at 6:30 P.M.
Bible class following the service. We are reading selected passages from the Old Testament book, *The Wisdom of Solomon*, which prophetically illumines the Incarnation of Jesus Christ and His Church. All are welcome
- Thursday **Exaltation of the Holy Cross** :: Orthros/Liturgy at 8/9 A.M.
Catechism Class at 7 P.M.
- Saturday Vespers at 5 P.M. :: Confessions following, or by appointment
- Next Sunday *September 17th, the Sunday after Holy Cross*
Orthros at 9:00 A.M. :: Divine Liturgy at 10:00 A.M.
Liturgical readings: Galatians 2:16-20 Mark 8:34-38; 9:1

LOOKING AHEAD

September 17 Sunday School Begins

September 24 Parish Council

SUNDAY SCHOOL GROUPS AND TEACHERS

Preschool and Pre-K (Four rotating teachers: Justin and Michelle Elkin, Kristina Theodosopoulos, Hailu Atsemet, Jessica Pappas)

K-1st Anne Sherod

2nd-3rd Iaroslav Zhulin

4th-8th Mina Iskandr

9th-12th Austin Albers

WORDS OF LIFE

Many rich and powerful men would pay dearly to see the Lord or His Most Pure Mother, but God does not appear in riches, but in the humble heart... Every one of the poorest men can be humble and come to know God. It needs neither money nor reputation to come to know God, but only humility.

— St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, I.11,21

No matter how much we may study, it is not possible to come to know God unless we live according to His commandments, for God is not known by science, but by the Holy Spirit. Many philosophers and learned men came to the belief that God exists, but they did not know God. It is one thing to believe that God exists and another to know Him. If someone has come to know God by the Holy Spirit, his soul will burn with love for God day and night, and his soul cannot be bound to any earthly thing.

— St. Silouan the Athonite, Writings, VIII.3)

Always have the fear of God in your heart, and remember that God is always with you, everywhere, whether you are walking or sitting.

— St. Gennadius of Constantinople, The Golden Chain, 14

Having God, fear nothing, but cast all of your care upon Him, and He will take care of you. Believe undoubtingly, and God will help you according to His mercy.

— St. Barsanuphius the Great, Instructions, 166

You must love everyone with your whole soul, but put your hope in the one God and serve Him alone. For as long as He is protecting us and our friends (the angels) are helping us, our enemies (the demons) cannot inflict evil upon us. But when He forsakes us, then also our friends turn away from us, and our enemies receive power over us.

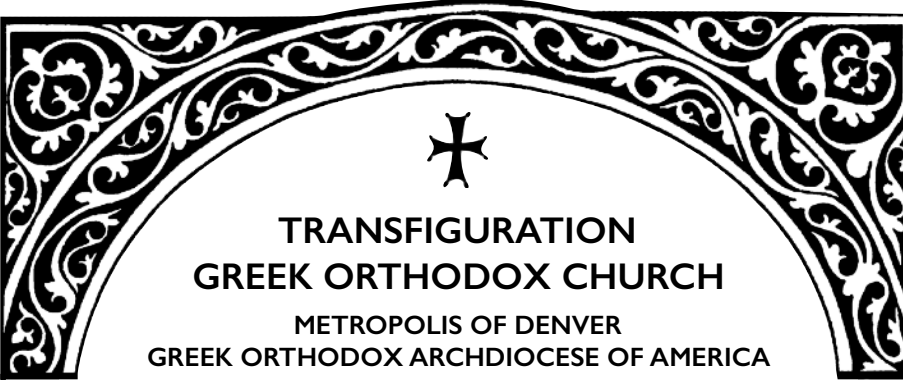
— St. Maximus Confessor, Chapters on Love, 4.95

If a man has no worries about himself at all for the sake of love toward God and the working of good deeds, knowing that God is taking care of him, this is a true and wise hope. But if a man takes care of his own business and turns to God in prayer only when misfortunes come upon him which are beyond his power, and then he begins to hope in God, such a hope is vain and false. A true hope seeks only the Kingdom of God... The heart can have no peace until it obtains such a hope. This hope pacifies the heart and produces joy within it.


— St. Seraphim of Sarov, Works, 4

Do not say, "this happened by chance, while this came to be of itself." In all that exists there is nothing disorderly, nothing indefinite, nothing without purpose, nothing by chance ... How many hairs are on your head? God will not forget one of them. Do you see how nothing, even the smallest thing, escapes the gaze of God?


— St. Basil the Great



**TRANSFIGURATION
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**
METROPOLIS OF DENVER
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA



*Universal Exaltation of the Precious and Life-Giving Cross
celebrated on September 14th*



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