

August 2016

ST. NECTARIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH

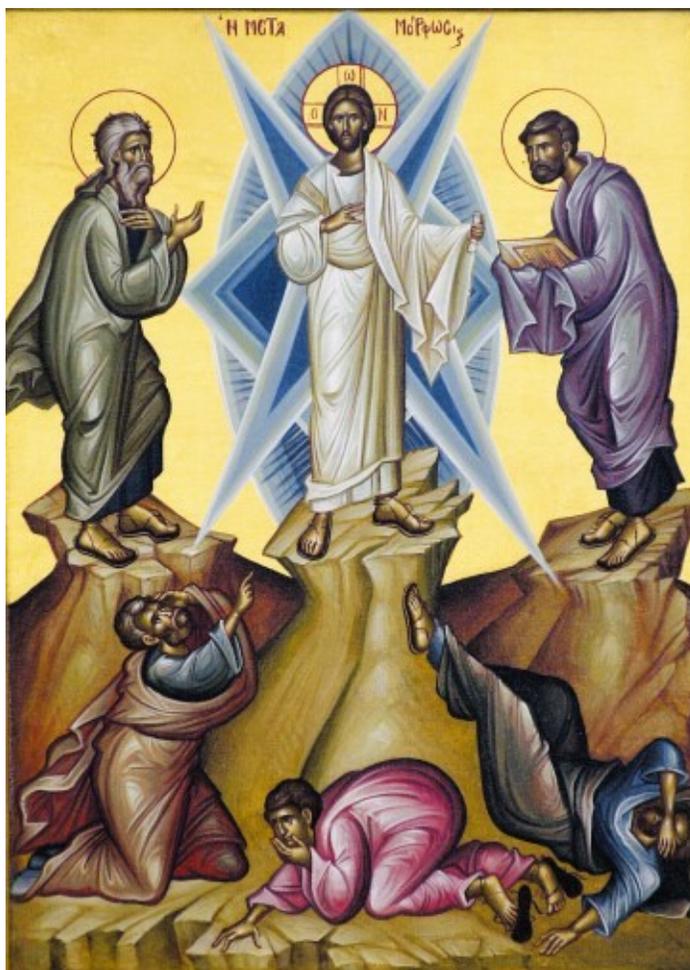
405 Marcum Road, Lakeland, FL 33809

Rev. Fr. Nicholas Wyborski Rev. Fr. Frederick Watson

Subdeacon Joseph Brown Subdeacon Peter Flynn

Phone: (863) 815-1576 Rectory: (863)-853-1054 Cell: (863) 838-9423

E-mail: FatherNicholas@StNectarios.com *Website:* www.StNectarios.com



FEAST OF THE HOLY TRANSFIGURATION

August 6

PRAYER ON ENTERING THE CHURCH

I will come into Your House in the multitude of Your mercy; and in Your fear I will worship Your Holy Temple. Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies make Your way straight before me, that with a clear mind I may glorify You forever, One Divine God worshiped in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

We welcome to our parish all visitors, guests, relatives and friends of parishioners & all those visiting for the first time or have not been with us for some time. We sincerely hope that the celebration of the Divine Liturgy with us is spiritually rewarding for you and that you will return often to worship with us.

Schedule of Services for August 2016

Saturday:	Vespers	5:00 pm
Sunday:	Matins	8:30 am
	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
Wednesday	Moleben (except as noted)	6:00 pm

Monday Aug 1 **Procession of the Lifegiving Cross (Dormition Fast begins)**

	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
	Paracletis to the Mother of God	6:00 pm
Tues, Wed, Thurs	Aug 2, 3, 4 Paraklis to the Theotokos	6:00 pm
Friday	Aug 5 Forefeast of the Transfiguration - Vigil	6:00 pm
Saturday	Aug 6 - Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ	
	Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Fruit	9:30 am
	Vespers	5:00 pm
Mon - Fri	Aug 8 - 12 Paracletis to the Theotokos	6:00 pm
Sunday	Aug 14 Forefeast of Dormition (11th Anniversary Parish Founding)	
	Matins	8:30 am
	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
	Vespers for Dormition	6:00 pm
Monday	Aug 15 Dormition of the Birthgiver of God	
	Epitaphios Service (Matins with Lamentations)	8:30 am
	Divine Liturgy and Blessing of herbs and flowers	9:30 am
Friday	Aug 26 Commemoration of St. Natalia - Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
Monday	Aug 29 Beheading of John the Baptist (Strict Fast)	
	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

Confessions: Before/After Services or by Appointment

Schedule of Epistle Readers for August 2016

Monday	Aug 1	Pañi Wanda
Saturday	Aug 6	Ellen Flynn
Sunday	Aug 7	Arlene Tonjes
Sunday	Aug 14	Pañi Wanda
Friday	Aug 26	TBD
Sunday	Aug 21	Subdeacon Peter
Sunday	Aug 28	Subdeacon Joseph
Monday	Aug 29	Natalie Pope

SPECIAL DAYS

Birthday:	Rose Maria Ward	8/5
	Duane Fielder	8/17
	Reagan Lizardi	8/18
	Joseph Taylor	8/20
	Yuliana Koeberle	8/29
	Emmanuelle Lizardi	8/31
Anniversary:	Subdeacon Peter and Ellen Flynn	8/10
	Fr. Frederick and Pañi Susan Watson	8/12
	Founding of St. Nectarios Mission	8/14
Nameday:	Emmanuelle (Photius Anicetus)Lizardi	8/12 (SS Photius & Anicetus of Nicomedia)
	Annamarie Andrejkanic	8/15 (Dormition of the Most Holy Bohorodice)
	Mary Flynn	8/15 (Dormition of Mary the Birthgiver of God)
	Tracy Mary Orender	8/15 (Dormition of Mary the Mother of God)
	Rose Maria Ward	8/15 (Dormition of Mary the Virgin Ever-Pure)
	Natalie Pope	8/26 (St. Natalia)
	Natalie Henderson	8/26 “
	Natasha Sennett	8?26 “

May God grant you many Blessed years!!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Dormition Fast begins on Monday, **August 1** and ends on **August 14**. This Fast is similar in practice to the Fast of Great Lent. We'll begin it with Divine Liturgy at 9:30am. Additionally, on most evenings during the Fast a special Service is celebrated in honor of the Theotokos. On **Monday, Aug 15, Divine Liturgy for the Feast** will be celebrated at 9:30 am with the **Blessing of Flowers and Herbs** at the conclusion of Divine Liturgy.

For the Feast of Transfiguration on Saturday, August 6, after **Divine Liturgy at 9:30 am**, we will have the **Blessing of Fruit**. The oldest known prayer in the Apostolic Tradition, the Prayer of Thanksgiving for new fruits, composed about 220 A.D., is the work of St. Hippolytus. The **6th Ecumenical Council of Constantinople** (680-681) prescribed that new "wheat and grapes" were to be blessed in Church on the **Feast of the Holy Transfiguration** (Canon 28). Our ancestors from Eastern Europe brought apples, plums and pears since those were the fruits of the season there. In the U.S. we have a wide variety of fruit crops, therefore a variety of fruits are brought to the Church for blessing on this Holy Day, especially grapes.

Saturday, August 29 is the Feast of the Beheading of the Forerunner of Christ, John the Baptist. Although it is a Feastday, it is also a **Strict Fast Day** on which we should fast from **meat and dairy**. There is also an ancient pious custom of not eating from a plate of platter on that day since the head of St. John was given to Herod on a platter at the request of Herodias.

Distinguished Diocesan Donors Fund - If you have not had the opportunity to participate in the annual drive for the "DDD" Fund it is not too late and You are encouraged to become a Distinguished Donor. This fund is used to support and maintain Camp Nazareth and other worthwhile Diocesan projects such as Missions (including St. Nectarios Parish). You may send your donation directly to the Diocese or give it to Father who will submit it for you. If you feel that the \$100 entry level donation is more than you can afford. give what you can through the parish and we can send it in with others as a combined parish donation.

School Kit Project: Church World Service (CWS), a longtime partner of IOCC, makes it possible to send school kits to needy children. By putting together a school kit, you give a less fortunate child the tools needed to do well in school. CWS will collect the kits at a warehouse facility, prepare them for shipment and work together with IOCC to make sure these kits reach these children when needed. To participate, donate a 12" by 14" to 14" x 17" cotton or lightweight canvas bag with cloth handles (please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks) with the following items: One pair of blunt scissors (rounded tip), three 70-count spiral or tape-bound pads of 8" x 10-1/2" ruled paper or pads with 200-210 sheets (please do not provide loose-leaf or filler paper); One 30-centimeter (12") ruler; one hand-held pencil sharpener; six new pencils with erasers; one extra 2-1/2" eraser; one box of 24 crayons (only 24) Bring them to the church for later packaging and mailing. For more information check out the following website: <https://www.iocc.org/take-action/assemble-emergency-kits/school>

Ancient Faith Radio (www.ancientfaith.com) seeks to deepen and enrich the faith of Orthodox Christians around the world with streaming audio programming, live call-ins, and on-demand podcasts. It features liturgical music from a variety of Orthodox traditions, as well as prayers, readings, lectures, and interviews.

Also, **Come Receive the Light**, a National Orthodox Radio Program, is available on the web at www.myocn.net This program presents excellent broadcasts every week. Each day you can hear a different show from "The Best of Come Receive the Light," featuring favorite interviews from past episodes.

Be sure to check out the **Diocesan Website**: <http://www.acrod.org>. You will find many interesting features as you browse through the site which even allows you to light a candle and pray for someone.

Panachidas (Memorial Services). In addition to the general commemorations for the departed made on All Souls Saturdays, it is customary to remember our loved ones on the anniversary of their departure from this earthly life. If you would like to have a Memorial Service for a loved one after the Liturgy, let Father Nicholas or Pani Wanda know. Koliva (sweetened boiled wheat) may also be prepared and shared with the congregation, if desired. Check with Pani if you need the recipe or we can prepare it for you.

Adjacent to the tithing basket on the counter in the Narthex are two stacks of envelopes for your convenience. In addition to the usual envelopes provided for your stewardship offering are envelopes for the children to use. It would be good to teach our children how to give back to God out of their resources.

If you have not approached the **Mystery of Confession** recently, do not delay any further to repair or enhance your relationship to Christ. A good rule of thumb is to participate in this Sacrament every 8 - 10 weeks unless there is a desire to do so more frequently. This is especially important for those who frequently approach with fear of God, with faith and with love to receive the Body and Blood of Christ

Finally - if you would like to have the Divine Liturgy celebrated on your Birthday, Anniversary, Patronal Feast Day (Slava) or Names Day, please contact Father Nicholas to make arrangements.

Parish Council Meeting is held on the First Sunday of the month after Divine Liturgy.



ACRY CORNER..... The next Sr. A.C.R.Y. meeting will take place on Sunday, August 21 after Divine Liturgy.

71st National A.C.R.Y. Convention Hosted by Chapter #25 Potomac, MD: September 2-5, 2016.

Remember to pray for our God-loving Bishop Gregory, all the members and friends of our parish family – especially the sick, those who are away, those who have no one to pray for them, and all in need of God's mercy.

May the Lord God bless them, protect them and grant them length of days

August 6 - Feast of the Holy Transfiguration

This feast, which the Fathers of the Church number among the greatest of those miracles which testify to Christ's divinity, commemorates the manifestation of His glory. The occasion is described in detail by the three Evangelists (Mt. 17:1-8; Mk, 9:1-7; Lk. 9:28-36). St. Peter also vividly recalled the event in his Epistle, saying: "We have seen His majesty for ourselves. He was honored and glorified by God the Father, when He spoke to Him and said: 'This is my beloved Son in Whom I am well-pleased. We heard this ourselves spoken from heaven, when we were with Him on the Holy Mountain.'" (II Pet. 1:16-18).

As recorded by Matthew: "Jesus took Peter, James and his brother John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves and was transfigured before them. And His face shone as the sun and His garments white as snow. And behold there appeared to them Moses and Elias talking together with Him. Then Peter addressed Jesus, saying, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If You will, let us set up three tents here, one for You, one for Moses and one for Elias. "As he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and suddenly, a voice out of the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear Him" and on hearing it the disciples fell on their faces and were exceedingly afraid. And Jesus came near and touched them. And said to them. "Arise, and do not be afraid. 'But lifting up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus only' (Mt 17: 1-8)

Israel had rejected the Messiah; but now the true Israel represented by Moses and Elias, recognized and adored Him. One was a representative of the Law, the other, a representative of the prophets, "for the Law and prophets do serve You since You are God" (Kathisma for the Feast). Neither St. Peter nor the Evangelists have given us the name of the mountain on which the transfiguration took place. But Christian tradition since the 4th century designates the place as Mt. Tabor, an imposing elevation near Nazareth, surging almost 2,000 feet high into the blue sky of the lush Plain of Esdraeion. There, on the top of Mt. Tabor, St. Helen built the Church of the Holy Transfiguration, which shortly afterward became a favored place of Christian pilgrimage.

The importance of this Feast is indicated by its high rank in the Orthodox calendar, one of the twelve Major Feasts. It is celebrated on August 6 because it was on that day that the first church on Mt. Tabor was solemnly dedicated. Transfiguration has a deep meaning for the liturgy, as well. Liturgical texts exist not merely to instruct us, but to signify that which actually takes place. What once happened on Mt. Tabor happens every time the Holy Sacrifice is offered. Christ is, in fact, being transfigured on the altar. Under the simple appearance of bread and wine, the eyes of faith can see the glorified Christ. Holy Eucharist is "the Sacrament of Transfiguration." We also find in this Feast the assurance

of our own participation in Christ's glory. At Vespers we profess: "Through Your transfiguration, O Lord, You renewed Adam's fallen nature to its original beauty, restoring it to the glory and splendor of Your divinity." and again at Matins: "As You were transfigured on Mt. Tabor, O Savior, You manifested the transformation of mankind by Your glory, which will take pace at Your awesome second coming." The entire Liturgy of the Holy Transfiguration is filled with a joyful assurance and hope of our own glorification with Jesus as we "grow brighter and brighter into His image." (II Cor. 3:18)

The Feast of the Holy Transfiguration is celebrated late in summer, at the time of the first fruits, which reminds us of God's great goodness and His infinite bounty. To express our recognition and gratitude to God for His generosity we bring some of these first fruits to the church for blessing. The custom to bless the first fruits passed to us from the Old Testament, since the Jews at the very beginning of their exodus were ordered by Almighty God: "You must bring the best of the first-fruits of your soil to the house the Lord, your God." (Ex 23:19) St. Gregory of Nazianz calls the practice to bless the fruits in church a "just and holy" custom. While there is no restriction on what fruits are to be brought to church for blessing, grapes are especially favored since they are symbolic of the perpetually new transfiguration of our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

Tropar — Tone 7

You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ our God, revealing as much of Your glory to Your disciples as they could bear. Through the prayers of the Birthgiver of God, let Your everlasting light also shine upon us sinners, O Giver of Light, glory be to You!

Kondak— Tone 7

You were transfigured on the mountain, 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, and would proclaim to the world that You are truly the brightness of the Father.

				<i>For the Record</i>		
<i>Liturgy Attendance</i>					<i>Income</i>	<i>Outgo</i>
	Adults	Children	Comm			
				Stewardship	\$3753.00	
Jul 3	41	9	40	Candles	354.00	(160.00)
Jul 12	23	6	21	Youth Activities	100.00	
Jul 19	23	5	23	Camp Nazareth	37.00	
Jul 26	20	0	19	Sunday School	100.00	
Jul 31	27	9	29	Paypal Giving Fund	15.50	
				Natalie Pope (Loan Payment)		(627.64)
				Diocese (Loan payment)		(416.60)
				Water		(14.54)
				Electric		(161.12)
				ADT (Security)		(55.17)
				Brighthouse (Internet)		(39.23)
				Publix (Lunch – July 3)		(59.84)
				Sam's Club (Kitchen Supplies)		(30.22)
				Staples (Liturgy copies)		(118.67)
				ACROD(Parish Assessment - 3 Qtr)		(765.00)
				Priest's Salary - Fr. Nicholas		(1500.00)
				Stipend Gas		(50.00)
<i>Totals:</i>					\$4359.50	(\$3998.03)



On Stewardship and the Orthodox Life

Part 27: Time and Talent I

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6 RSV) One goal of every Orthodoxy faith community is to provide the structure and opportunities to help each and every one of us grow into true disciples of Jesus Christ. As an aid for this journey of growth, every Orthodox person is expected to live out his or her faith actively in this parish community. Every member of every parish is challenged to live their Orthodoxy to the fullest by serving that community. This means serving by various means: reaching out to others and focusing less on self; sharing our God-given talents within the parish community; serving the needs of all. A true disciple has no other choice. Valentine Zander tells this story about St. Seraphim of Sarov, 18th century Russian monk and saint: The care of the two churches was entrusted to two nuns. St. Seraphim told them that everything to do with the church “is like an inner fire enkindling us, and looking after it is the best work of all. The humblest job, be it only to clean the floor of the house of God, is a nobler work than all the others. Everything you do in the house of God should be done with love and reverence. You must do nothing trivial there, only necessary duties. For where else could you find greater joy than in the place where our Lord is dwelling, surrounded by cherubim and seraphim and all the heavenly spirits!”

This is an example of what our stewardship should mean to us and require of us. It is not enough to say of the Church, "I'm a member in good standing," and then walk away from the responsibilities that Almighty God has placed into our hands. It is solely through our love and commitment to the Holy Trinity expressed in both faith and action that salvation can be ours. All that we have belongs to Him. This includes the gifts of the talents we have, and the gift of time we spend. As the nuns in the story about St. Seraphim found out, even sweeping the floor in the house of God is an honorable and noble work. But there are so many other works that need to be done. It is only the believer and practitioner of the Orthodox faith that can do them with the joy of seeing that whatever is done, is done to the glory of God and the benefit of the Church. We must do all we can to express unreserved love emptying ourselves and following Him always. This is true stewardship.

Part 28: Time and Talent II

“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6 RSV)

A Christian disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ. Sometimes we are tempted to prefer a comfortable and convenient discipleship. However, Jesus says, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” Christian discipleship involves sacrifice. When we make a conscious decision to follow Jesus Christ, no matter the cost to ourselves, we take on the lifestyle of stewardship. A Christian steward is one who realizes the fact that everything ultimately belongs to God. Even we ourselves belong to God. We are accountable to God for what we do with whatever He has entrusted to us. Christ says, “From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required.” This includes the gifts of the talents given to us. God has made you a

steward, or caretaker, of your life, your time, your health, your education, your material things, your relationships, and your personal talents. Being a faithful steward thus also means:

1. We gratefully accept the talents that God has given us.
2. We take care of those talents and develop them.
3. We give those talents back to God for use in bettering the church, and the world.

If the Church is going to fulfill its mission in the world, and if the world is going to become a better place, we must be good stewards. Part of our task in becoming good stewards is to put our talents to good use and leave the world a better place than we found it. But some may ask, "How do I know what talents I have to share? How do I use them in the Church?" A talent may be identified by answering these questions: Is my talent something I can do or learn easily? Do I feel strong when I do it? Does this talent come naturally to me? Does this talent bring joy to me and to others? Do you look forward to carrying out this talent? Does time seem to fly when you're doing it? After you've expressed your talent do you feel fulfilled? After you've expressed a talent do you look forward to doing it again? Those questions may help you identify your talent. Next week we will answer the question, "How do I use my talents in the church?"

Part 29: Time and Talent III

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one." (1 Corinthians 12:4-6 RSV) We are accountable to God for what we do with whatever He has entrusted to us. Christ says, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required." This includes the gifts of the talents given to us. What talents have been given to you by God? Do any of the following describe you?

The Holy Spirit enables some individuals to motivate, direct and inspire God's people in such a way that they voluntarily and harmoniously work together to do the Church's work effectively. This gift involves being able to put things together, tie up all the "loose ends" and get things done and setting a pattern for others to follow. Perhaps you are good at financing, planning, organizing, delegating responsibilities and problem-solving. If so, these can be indications of the gift of administration. Some persons are called to stand beside other people who are in need and bring comfort, counsel and encouragement so they feel helped. To exercise the gift of encouragement is to call forth the best from others. This gift involves helping others to be more dedicated in living out their faith, bolstering them up when they are discouraged or downhearted and challenging them to see the goals to which God calls them. Do you have the gift of encouragement?

The Holy Spirit leads some individuals to aid in giving hope to people who are sick. To exercise the gift of healing is to pray not necessarily for a cure but for God's help for the sufferer, that something of good may come out of the distress. This gift involves a healthy prayer life, confidence in God's power to provide courage in suffering, and wellness of spirit regardless of the condition of the body or mind. Perhaps you have the gift (or talent) of healing? A concern for the comfort of others may be a gift of hospitality. This talent involves having a knack for making people at ease, enjoying being in the presence of strangers and a welcoming spirit. Do you have the talent of hospitality? Some have the gift of the ability to assume responsibilities involved in decision-making for the good of the parish and the Church. Such gifts are used in parish councils, for example, to help make the best decisions possible. Do you have the gift of leadership? More examples of God-given talents next month.

We extend our thanks to the following businesses and professions who have generously agreed to sponsor this Bulletin by their ads. A good way to say 'Thank You' for supporting our parish through advertising in the bulletin is to patronize the listed businesses. When using their services be sure to mention that you saw their ad in the St. Nectarios Bulletin.

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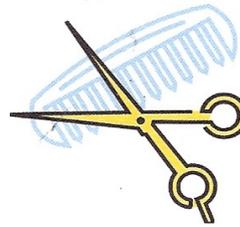
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Andrew Klymenko, Esquire
Coleman & Klymenko, LLC
Attorneys At Law

425 22nd Ave. N., Suite A, Mercantile Bank Bldg., St. Petersburg, FL 33704
Office 727.213.8100 Fax 727.213.8108
aklymenko@ckflalaw.com www.ckflalaw.com



Avon Rep

Hair Gallery
Kathy Pence
Plantation Square
5385 N. Sacrum Loop Rd.
Lakeland, FL 33809
Phone / 863.859.9229
Cell / 863.860.0606
Email / lwststyle@gmail.com

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[863] 984-2800
Fax: [863] 984-8172

KEITH ARONOFF
FIRSTCHOICESTORAGE@YAHOO.COM

WWW.FIRSTCHOICEMINISTORAGE.COM
8315 STATE ROAD 33N LAKELAND, FLORIDA 33809