

Слава Ісусу Христу!

Слава навіки!



Glory be to Jesus Christ!

Glory for ever!

Dormition of the Mother of God

Sunday, August 2, 2026

"10th Sunday after Pentecost"

Reflections for this Weekend

Matthew 17:14 through 23 brings us to the foot of the mountain immediately after the glory of the Transfiguration. Christ has revealed His divine light to Peter, James, and John, yet He now descends into the pain of ordinary human life. This movement is deeply meaningful. The light of Tabor is never given so that we may escape the suffering of the world. It is given so that we may carry that divine light into places of darkness, fear, and despair. Every Divine Liturgy sends us from the heavenly banquet back into the brokenness of daily life, where Christ continues His work through us.

A desperate father kneels before Jesus and pleads for his son. The child is tormented by a destructive spirit that throws him into fire and water. The disciples have tried to heal him but have failed. Their failure is not simply the result of lacking technique. It reveals something much deeper. Ministry without complete dependence upon God eventually reaches its limits. The disciples had previously experienced success in casting out demons, yet they now discover that yesterday's victories cannot replace today's living faith.

The father becomes an image of every person who has exhausted every human solution. Many parents know the pain of watching a child suffer physically, emotionally, or spiritually while feeling powerless to help. Many families carry hidden crosses that no one else can see. They continue praying even when hope seems to fade. The father's cry echoes through every generation. Lord, have mercy on my child.

Christ responds with authority, compassion, and truth. He rebukes the demon, and the child is instantly healed. The healing reminds us that evil never has the final word. In our spirituality we recognize that sin is not merely the breaking of rules. It is a sickness that distorts the image of God within us. Christ comes as the Divine Physician who restores health to the whole person. His healing reaches beyond the body into the deepest wounds of the soul. Every confession, every sincere prayer, every worthy reception of the Holy Eucharist becomes another encounter with the Physician who desires our complete restoration.

Later the disciples ask privately why they could not cast out the demon. Jesus answers that it was because of their little faith. He teaches that faith even as small as a mustard seed can move mountains. The Lord is not praising quantity but authenticity. A mustard seed is alive. It possesses within itself the power to grow because God placed that life within it.

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Genuine faith is not loud or dramatic. It is humble, persistent, obedient, and rooted in complete trust. Such faith slowly transforms the impossible into the possible because it allows God's grace to act without resistance.

The mountain that Christ speaks about is often found within our own hearts. Pride, resentment, fear, addictions, despair, and unforgiveness can stand before us like towering cliffs. Human determination alone often cannot remove them. Yet when the heart opens itself to God's grace through prayer, fasting, repentance, and the mysteries of the Church, mountains begin to move. The Eastern Fathers constantly remind us that salvation is cooperation with divine grace. God never forces holiness upon us. He invites us into communion where His strength perfects our weakness.

Then Jesus tells His disciples that the Son of Man will be betrayed, killed, and on the third day raised. They become overwhelmed with grief because they still struggle to understand that glory always passes through the Cross. The Transfiguration and the Passion belong together. The dazzling light on Tabor prepares the disciples for the darkness of Golgotha. Likewise every Christian receives moments of consolation that strengthen the soul before times of trial. God never wastes our suffering when it is united with the Cross of Christ.

This Gospel invites every of us to descend from the mountain carrying the light of Christ into a wounded world. We are called to trust when our strength fails, to pray when answers seem delayed, to persevere when mountains appear immovable, and to remember that every Cross embraced with Christ already contains the promise of the Resurrection. The light that shone on Tabor still shines in every faithful heart that surrenders completely to the living God, and through that light the world slowly begins to behold the coming Kingdom.



Congratulations!

Our parish family joyfully extends our heartfelt congratulations to **Martha and Leo** on the Holy Baptism, Chrismation, and First Holy Communion of their daughter, **Mila Eva**.

Today, Mila has been born into new life in Christ, sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and nourished at the Lord's Holy Table. We rejoice with her family and give thanks to God for this beautiful and grace filled milestone in her life of faith.

May the Lord bless Mila with a lifetime of faith, hope, and love.

May the Most Holy Theotokos protect her, may her Guardian Angel watch over her always, and may God's abundant blessings be upon Martha, Leo, and their entire family.

Mnohaya Lita! Many Blessed Years!

The Spiritual Courage To Learn About Holy Poverty And Finding The One Who Is Everything. !!!

The seventeenth step of the Ladder of Divine Ascent leads us into one of the most liberating and misunderstood virtues of the spiritual life, holy poverty and non possession. Saint John Climacus does not simply speak about owning few things. He speaks about possessing a heart that is completely free for God. A person may own very little and still be consumed by greed, while another may possess many things and remain detached, generous, and inwardly free. The battle is not first about our hands, but about our hearts.

The world teaches us to accumulate, protect, and define ourselves by what we own. Our homes become larger, our closets fuller, our schedules busier, and yet our hearts often become more restless. We spend so much energy acquiring things that we forget to cultivate the one treasure that truly lasts, communion with Christ.

Saint John Climacus teaches that non possession is not the absence of responsibility. It is the presence of complete trust in God's providence. The poor in spirit are those who know that everything they have is a gift. They do not cling to possessions because they understand that nothing earthly can accompany them into eternity. They live with open hands because their hearts are already resting in heaven.

Jesus Himself became poor for our sake. The Creator of the universe was born in a cave, had nowhere to lay His head, washed the feet of His disciples, and died stripped of everything upon the Cross. Yet no one has ever been richer than Christ, because He possessed the infinite love of the Father. His poverty was not emptiness. It was complete freedom to love without limits.

In our tradition, holy poverty is closely connected with theosis, our journey toward union with God. Every attachment that controls us becomes an obstacle to divine communion. Pride, greed, ambition, and excessive attachment fill the heart until there is little room left for the Holy Spirit. Poverty of spirit creates space for God's presence. The less we cling to ourselves, the more Christ fills us with His life.

This step is especially relevant for today's world. We often believe that happiness is only one purchase away, one promotion away, one investment away, or one possession away. Yet after receiving what we desired, we soon begin searching again. The human heart was created for God, not for endless consumption. Only the infinite can satisfy what is infinite within us.

Holy poverty also transforms our relationships. When we no longer possess people as if they belonged to us, we begin to love them freely. Parents recognize that their children are gifts entrusted to them by God. Husbands and wives love one another not as owners but as companions on the journey toward the Kingdom. Priests serve their people not for recognition

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but as humble stewards of Christ's flock. Every relationship becomes healthier when possession gives way to gratitude.

Practically, this step begins with small choices. Before buying something new, ask whether it is truly necessary or simply another attempt to fill an inner emptiness. Learn to thank God each day for what you already have instead of constantly focusing on what you lack.

Give generously to those in need without expecting recognition. Open your home, your table, and your heart to someone who is lonely. Simplify your life so that you have more time for prayer, your family, and the Divine Liturgy. The greatest poverty today is often not financial, but spiritual. Many possess everything except peace.

There is another form of non possession that is even more difficult. We must let go of the need to control every circumstance. We cannot possess tomorrow. We cannot possess perfect health, perfect success, or perfect security. Every day is received from God's loving hands. Every breath is a gift. Every sunrise is an invitation to trust once again.

Saint John Climacus reminds us that the soul becomes light when it is no longer weighed down by unnecessary attachments. Like a bird released from its cage, the heart rises naturally toward heaven. Such a person discovers a freedom that no amount of wealth can purchase.

As we climb the seventeenth step of the Ladder, we discover that holy poverty is not about losing everything. It is about finding the One who is everything. When Christ becomes our greatest treasure, nothing can truly impoverish us. Our possessions become instruments of charity, our time becomes an offering of love, and our lives become a joyful witness that the richest person is the one whose heart belongs completely to God. The poverty of Christ is not deprivation, it is the abundant freedom of a soul that has discovered the inexhaustible riches of the Kingdom of Heaven.



Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord

On **Thursday, August 6**, the Byzantine Catholic Church joyfully celebrates the **Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ**, one of the Twelve Great Feasts of our liturgical year.

On Mount Tabor, Christ revealed His divine glory to Peter, James, and John, strengthening their faith before His saving Passion. The Transfiguration reminds us that we are called to be transformed by God's grace and to reflect the light of Christ in our daily lives.

Following the Divine Liturgy, we will celebrate the traditional **Blessing of Fruits**, giving thanks to God for the gifts of the harvest and asking His blessing upon all who share in them. May the radiant light of Christ transform our hearts and lead us ever closer to His Kingdom.

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Sunday Divine Liturgy:
8:50 a.m. The Third Hour
And
Prayer Service for Peace in
Ukraine.
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

Religious Education
September - May

Sacraments Penance:
Sunday before Liturgies
or by appointment

Baptism - Matrimony
In most instances
six-month membership
required

Funerals
Membership of an
immediate family member
required

**Communion to the
Homebound**
If you or your family
members are confined to a
health center or are
homebound, please contact
Fr. Hugo directly so that
arrangements can be made
for his visitation.

Sunday, August 2

"10th Sunday after Pentecost"

"The Transfer of the Relics of the First-martyr and Archdeacon Stephen"

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16. Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23.

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour

9:30 a.m. God's blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends
God's blessings & good health for **Mila Eva Tabak**.

Holy Baptism, Chrismation and Holy Communion of **Mila Eva Tabak**.

Monday, August 3

"Our Venerable Father Isaac, Dalmatus and Faustus"

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 2:4-15. Gospel: Matthew 23:13-22.

Tuesday, August 4

"The Seven Holy Youths of Ephesus; the Holy Venerable-Martyr Eudocia"

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 2:14-3:3. Gospel: Matthew 23:23-28.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Wednesday, August 5

"The Holy Martyr Eusignius"

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 3:4-11. Gospel: Matthew 23:29-39.

6:00 p.m. God's blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends

Thursday, August 6

"The Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ"

Epistle: 2 Peter 1:10-19. Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Friday, August 7

"The Holy Venerable-martyr Dometius"

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 4:13-18. Gospel: Matthew 24:27-33; 42-51.

Saturday, August 8

"The Holy Confessor Emilian, Bishop of Cyzicus"

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9. Gospel: Matthew 19:3-12.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

Sunday, August 9

"11th Sunday after Pentecost"

"The Holy Apostle Matthias"

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12. Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35.

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour

9:30 a.m. God's blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends

We are most appreciative for your generosity in donations to the church, and pray that the Lord bless you all with many blessings and good health.