

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
TENTH SUNDAY OF MATTHEW



Icon of the Crucifixion

This Friday, August 6th is the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. Though according to the canons of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, it is not an obligatory feast, I would encourage you to attend services at Holy Angels. There will be Matins at 9:00 AM and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 with the traditional blessing of fruit following Liturgy.

THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

From the Prologue of St. Nikolai Velimirovich

In the third year of His preaching, the Lord Jesus often spoke to His disciples of His approaching passion but at the same time of His glory following His suffering on the Cross. So that His impending passion would not totally weaken His disciples and that no one would fall away from Him, He, the All-wise, wanted to partially show them His divine glory before His passion. For that reason, He took Peter, James and John with Him and, with them, went out at night to Mt. Tabor and there was trans-figured before them: "And His face shone as the sun and His garments became white as snow" (St. Matthew 17:2). There appeared along side Him, Moses and Elijah, the great Old Testament prophets. And, seeing this, His disciples were amazed. Peter said: "Lord, it is good for us to be here: if You will, let us make here three tabernacles; one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah" (St. Matthew 17:4). While Peter still spoke, Moses and Elijah departed and a bright cloud overshadowed the Lord and His disciples and there came a voice from the cloud saying: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear Him" (St. Matthew 17:5). Hearing the voice, the disciples fell to the ground on their faces as

though dead and remained that way, lying in fear, until the Lord came near to them and said: "Arise and be not afraid" (St. Matthew 17:7). Why did the Lord take only three disciples on Tabor and not all? Because Judas was not worthy to behold the divine glory of the Teacher, Whom he will betray and the Lord did not want to leave him [Judas] alone at the foot of the mountain so that the betrayer would not, by that, justify his betrayal. Why was our Lord transfigured on a mountain and not in a valley? So as to teach us two virtues: love of labor and godly-thoughts. For, climbing to the heights required labor and height represents the heights of our thoughts, i.e., godly-thoughts. Why was our Lord transfigured at night? Because, the night rather than the day is more suitable for prayer and godly-thoughts and because the night, by its darkness, conceals all the beauty of the earth and reveals the beauty of the starry heavens. Why did Moses and Elijah appear? In order to destroy the error of the Jews, as though Christ is one of the prophets; Elijah or Jeremiah or some other that is why He appears as a King above the prophets and that is why Moses and Elijah appear as His servants. Until then, our Lord manifested His divine power many times to the disciples but, on Mt. Tabor, He manifested His divine nature. This vision of His Divinity and the hearing of the heavenly witness about Him as the Son of God, should serve the disciples in the days of the Lord's passion, in strengthening of an unwavering faith in Him and His final victory.

СВЯТКУЄМО 50-РОКІВ!

Celebrating 50 Years!

**Українська Католицька Церква Святого Йоана Хрестителя
St. John the Baptizer Ukrainian Catholic Church**

4400 Palm Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91941
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

Website: stjohnthebaptizer.org

Pastor: Fr. James Bankston

Парох: о. Яків Бенкстон

frjames@mac.com

Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

The Procession of the Venerable Wood of the Life-Creating Cross of the Lord

The history of this feast begins in Constantinople. Because of the illnesses that occur in August, it was customary, in former times, to carry the relic of the Venerable Wood of the Cross through the streets and squares for the sanctification of the city, and for relief from sickness. On the eve (July 31), the relic was taken out of the imperial treasury, and laid upon the altar of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia. On August 1st, it was solemnly placed in the middle of the Great Church for the faithful to venerate. The relic was then taken in procession daily throughout the city, offering it to the people to venerate until the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15), when it was returned again to the imperial treasury.

The Honorable Cross of Christ

Before it, all honorably prostrate,

By the power of the Cross of Christ

From temptation, we are redeemed.

The Holy Cross is mightier than the demons

And from every earthly king,

From sickness, the Cross saves

And from the assaults of barbarians.

From the armies of pagans,

From the tyrannical conquerors,

From all evils demonstrated that

The power of the Cross is mightier.