



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610 (609) 393-1234
Rev. Volodymyr Chaikivskiy V. Rev. Paul Shafran, Pastor Emeritus
saintvladimir.org
facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666

LEAVETAKING OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD / ST. TIKHON, BISHOP OF VORONEZH, WONDERWORKER OF ZADONSK & ALL RUSSIA August 13, 2023

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 1

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: “Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ! Glory to Thy Kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

Troparion – Tone 7

Thou wast transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God, revealing Thy glory to Thy Disciples as far as they could bear it. Let Thine everlasting Light also shine upon us sinners, through the prayers of the Theotokos!// O Giver of Light, glory to Thee!

Troparion – Tone 8

From thy youth thou didst love Christ, O blessed one. Thou hast been an example for all by word, life, love, faith, purity, and humility. Therefore, thou dost now abide in the heavenly mansions, where thou standest before the throne of the All-holy Trinity.// Holy Hierarch Tikhon, pray for the salvation of our souls!

Kontakion – Tone 8

Successor to the Apostles, adornment of hierarchs, teacher of the Orthodox Faith,// beseech the Master of all to grant peace to the world and to our souls great mercy.

Kontakion – Tone 7

On the mountain Thou wast transfigured, O Christ God, and Thy Disciples beheld Thy glory as far as they could see it; so that when they would behold Thee crucified, they would understand that Thy suffering was voluntary, and would proclaim to the world!// that Thou art truly the Radiance of the Father.

Prokeimenon – Tone 4

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all.
V. *Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!*

Prokeimenon – Tone 1

My mouth shall speak wisdom; / the meditation of my heart shall be understanding.

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

Leavetaking of the Transfiguration of our Lord

On the Leavetaking of the Transfiguration, all of the service for the Feast is repeated, except for the Entrance at Vespers, the Old Testament readings, Litya, the Polyeleos and Gospel at Matins, and the blessing of grapes at Liturgy. The Gospel and Epistle readings at Liturgy are those prescribed for the day.

St. Tikhon, Bishop of Voronezh, Wonderworker of Zadonski & All Russia

Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk, Bishop of Voronezh (in the world Timothy), was born in the year 1724 in the village of Korotsk in the Novgorod diocese, into the family of the cantor Sabellius Kirillov. (A new family name, Sokolov, was given him afterwards by the head of the Novgorod seminary). His father died when Timothy was a young child, leaving the family in such poverty that his mother was barely able to make ends meet. She wanted to give him to be raised by a neighbor, a coachman, since there was nothing with which to feed the family, but his brother Peter would not permit this. Timothy often worked a whole day with the peasants for a single piece of black bread.

As a thirteen-year-old boy, he was sent to a clergy school near the Novgorod archbishop's home, and earned his keep by working with the vegetable gardeners. In 1740, he was accepted under a state grant set up for the Novgorod seminary. The youth excelled at his studies. Upon finishing seminary in 1754, he became a teacher there, first in Greek, and later in Rhetoric and Philosophy. In the year 1758, he was tonsured with the name Tikhon. In that same year they appointed him to be prefect of the seminary. In 1759, they transferred him to Tver, elevating him to be archimandrite of the Zheltikov monastery. Later, they appointed him rector of the Tver seminary and, at the same time, head of the Otroch monastery.

His election as bishop was providential. Metropolitan Demetrius, the presiding member of the Holy Synod, had intended to transfer the young archimandrite to the Trinity-Sergiev Lavra. On the day of Pascha, at Peterburg, Archimandrite Tikhon was one of eight candidates being considered for selection as vicar-bishop for Novogorod. The lot fell on him three times. On the same day, during the Cherubic Hymn, Bishop Athanasius of Tver, without realizing it, commemorated him as a bishop while cutting out particles from the prosphora at the Table of Oblation. On May 13, 1761 he was consecrated Bishop of Keksgolma and Ladoga (i.e., a vicar bishop of the Novgorod diocese).

In 1763, Saint Tikhon was transferred to the See of Voronezh. During the four and a half years that he administered the Voronezh diocese, Saint Tikhon provided constant edification, both by his life and by his numerous pastoral guidances and soul-saving books. He wrote a whole series of works for pastors:

Concerning the Seven Holy Mysteries
A Supplement to the Priestly Office
Concerning the Mystery of Repentance
An Instruction Concerning Marriage

The saint considered it essential that each priest, deacon and monk have a New Testament, and that he should read it daily. In an Encyclical, he called on pastors to perform the Holy Mysteries with reverence, with the fear of God, and love for one's neighbor. (An Explanation of Christian Duties was often republished in Moscow and Peterburg during the eighteenth century).

At Voronezh the saint eradicated an ancient pagan custom, the celebration in honor of Yarila (a pagan god associated with the fertility of grain and cattle). In the outlying districts where military units of the Don Cossacks were dispersed, he formed a missionary commission to restore sectarians to the Orthodox Church. In 1765, Saint Tikhon transformed the Voronezh Slavic-Latin school into a seminary. He invited experienced instructors from Kiev and Kharkhov, and planned the courses for it. He exerted much attention and effort to build up both the churches and the school, and to guide pastors to understand the need for education.

The saint was unflagging in his efforts to administer the vast diocese, and he often spent nights without sleep. In 1767, poor health compelled him to give up running the diocese and withdraw for rest to the Tolshevsk monastery, at a distance 40 versts from Voronezh. In 1769, the saint transferred to the monastery of the Theotokos in the city of Zadonsk. Having settled into this monastery, Saint Tikhon became a great teacher of the Christian life. With deep wisdom he set forth the ideal of true monasticism in his Rule of Monastic Living and his Guidances to Turn from the Vanity of the World, and in his own life he fulfilled this ideal. He kept strictly to the precepts of the Church. Zealously (almost daily) he visited the temple of God, and he often sang and read in the choir. In time, out of humility, he altogether ceased participating and serving, but merely stood in the altar, reverently making the Sign of the Cross over himself. He loved to read the Lives of the Saints and the works of the Holy Fathers. He knew The Psalter by heart, and he usually read or sang the Psalms on his journeys.

The saint underwent much tribulation because he had to leave his flock. When he recovered his health, he thought about returning to the Novgorod diocese, where Metropolitan Gabriel had invited him to head the Ivéron Vallaisk monastery.

But when his cell-attendant mentioned this to the Elder Aaron, he declared: "Are you mad? The Mother of God does not direct him to move away from here." The cell-attendant conveyed this to His Grace. "If that is so," said the saint "I shall not move away from here," and he tore up the invitation. Sometimes he journeyed to the village of Lipovka, where he celebrated church services at the Bekhteev house. The saint journeyed also to the Tolshev monastery, which he loved for its solitude.

The fruition of all his spiritual life were the books that the saint wrote while in retirement: A SPIRITUAL TREASURY, GATHERED FROM THE WORLD (1770), and ON TRUE CHRISTIANITY (1776).

The saint lived in very simple circumstances: he slept on straw, covered by a sheepskin coat. His humility was so great that he paid no attention to the workers who laughed at him as he walked about the monastery, pretending that he did not hear it. He used to say, "It is pleasing to God that even the monastery workers mock me, and I deserve it because of my sins." He often said, "Forgiveness is better than revenge."

Once, a fool named Kamenev struck the saint on the cheek saying, "Don't be so haughty." The saint, accepting this with gratitude, gave the fool three kopeks every day for the rest of his life. All his life the saint "in troubles, and sorrows, and insults... joyfully endured, mindful that there can be no crown without the victory, nor victory without effort, nor effort without struggle, nor struggle without enemies" (Ode 6 of the Canon).

Strict towards himself, the saint was indulgent towards others. On the Friday before Palm Sunday, he entered the cell of his friend the schemamonk Metrophanes, and he saw him at table together with Cosmas Ignatievich, of whom he was also fond. There was fish on the table, and his friends became upset (fish is not permitted during Lent, except for Feast days). The saint said, "Sit down, for I know you. Love is higher than fasting." To further calm them, he ate some of their fish soup. He especially loved the common folk, and comforted them in their grievous lot, interceding with the landowners, and moving them to compassion. He gave away his pension, and gifts from admirers, to the poor.

By his deeds of self-denial and love of soul, the saint advanced in contemplation of Heaven and foresaw the future. In 1778, he had a vision in his sleep: the Mother of God stood in the clouds, and near Her were the Apostles Peter and Paul. On bended knees, the saint prayed to the All-Pure Virgin for the peace of the whole world. The Apostle Paul loudly exclaimed: "When they shall say, peace and safety; then sudden destruction will come upon them" (1 Thess. 5:3). The saint fell asleep in trembling and in tears. The following year, he again saw the Mother of God in the air and several people near Her. The saint knelt down, and near him four others in white garments also fell to their knees. The saint entreated the All-Pure Virgin for someone, that She would not leave him (the saint did not tell his cell-attendant who the four people were, nor for whom the request was made). She answered, "Let it be as you ask."

Saint Tikhon prophesied much about the future, particularly the victory of Russia over the French in 1812. More than once they saw the saint in spiritual rapture, with a transformed and luminous face, but he forbade them to speak about this. For three years before his repose he prayed each day, "Tell me, O Lord, of my end." And a quiet voice in the morning dawn said, "It will be on a Sunday." In that same year, he saw in a dream a beautiful meadow with wondrous palaces upon it. He wanted to go inside, but they said to him: "In three years, you may enter. For now, continue your labors." After this the saint secluded himself in his cell and admitted only a few friends.

Both clothing and a grave were prepared for the time of his death. He often came to weep over his coffin, while standing hidden from people in a closet. A year and three months before his death, in a vivid dream, it seemed to the saint that he was standing in the monastery church. A priest of his acquaintance was carrying the Divine Infant, covered with a veil, out of the altar through the Royal Doors. The saint approached and kissed the Infant on the right cheek, and he felt himself stricken on the left. Awakening, the saint sensed a numbness in his left cheek, his left leg, and a trembling in his left hand. He accepted this illness with joy.

Shortly before his death, the saint saw in a dream a high and twisting ladder and he heard a command to climb it. "At first, I was afraid because of weakness," he told his friend Cosmas. "But when I started to go climb, the people standing around the ladder lifted me higher and higher, up to the very clouds." "The ladder," said Cosmas, "is the way to the Heavenly Kingdom. Those who helped were those you have helped by your advice, and they remember you." The saint said with tears, "I thought so, too. I feel that my end is near." He frequently received the Holy Mysteries during his illness.

Saint Tikhon died, as was revealed to him, on Sunday August 13, 1783, at the age of fifty-nine. The first uncovering of his relics occurred on May 14, 1846. Saint Tikhon's glorification took place on Sunday August 13, 1861.

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 4:9-16

For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored! To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless. And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure; being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now. I do not write these things to shame you, but as my beloved children I warn you. For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Epistle: Hebrews 7:26-8:2

For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for his own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever. Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens, a Minister of the sanctuary and of the true tabernacle which the Lord erected, and not man.

Gospel: Matthew 17:14-23

And when they had come to the multitude, a man came to Him, kneeling down to Him and saying, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting." Now while they were staying in Galilee, Jesus said to them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, and the third day He will be raised up." And they were exceedingly sorrowful.

Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19

You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the week of August 13

Sunday August 13 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

Monday August 14 – **DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS** 7:00 PM Vespers with Litya followed by blessing of flowers

Tuesday August 15 – **DORMITION OF THE THEOTOKOS** 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy followed by blessing of flowers

Saturday August 19 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession

Sunday August 20 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

August 6 – 70 adults, 16 youth, \$4,530

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church School will begin September 17, and the last day will be June 2, 2024. Two classes will be available – pre-school children ages 4 through 6, and elementary school children ages 7 through 12. A sign-up sheet is on the table across from the candle desk. Same as last school year, after Holy Communion children will be escorted by their parents or teachers over to Daria Hall for classes.

Spring water used to make coffee and tea is needed for Coffee Hour. Please donate a few gallons!

A Parish "Directory" with photos and identifying names of all parishioners is in the works. This will help us all with "putting a face to the name"! When you are at Daria Hall for Coffee Hour, please see Awet Tesfa to get your picture taken.

The Ladies Altar Society is creating and publishing the first Parish Cookbook – with your help! **We are interested in your favorite recipes**, ethnic recipes, recipes from your grandparents, parents, children, relatives and friends, and Lenten recipes. They can include Appetizers, Main Meals, Side Dishes, Soup, Salad, Dessert, and Beverages. In addition to recipes, the Cookbook will include a Helpful Hints section. In order for the Cookbook to be a success, we will need many recipes! Each recipe should include your name, who you may have received the recipe from, and your phone number (phone number is only if we have questions and will not be published in the Cookbook). Please give your recipes to Alla Strauss, Melody Stavisky, or Nancy Mitsos. Thank you!

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Christina DiDonato – August 18

Lauren Berck – August 18

Lynne Sheedy – August 19

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

COFFEE HOUR

Please remember the Coffee Hour Helpers do not bring any refreshments for Coffee Hour, but are there to assist in setting up for Coffee Hour. Hosts are responsible for: Providing the refreshments, setting up in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM with guidance from the Helper, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing and drying dishes, and taking out the trash. If you have any questions, please contact Melody Stavisky, Alla Strauss, or the Helper assigned to your Coffee Hour date.

COFFEE HOUR PARAMETERS:

1. Plan on providing refreshments for 50 people.
2. Food items are limited to: 4 doz. Bagels/breads (2 doz. per host)
4 doz. Donuts/pastries (2 doz. per host)
Fruit
2 gallons water for coffee (1 gallon per host)

Green Salad
Sugar-free dessert/pie
Tortilla chips & salsa

NOTE: For Fasting Coffee Hour:

Bagels (except egg & cheese bagels) and some breads (rye) are non-dairy.

Oreos and most apple pies are non-dairy.

Hosts may provide homemade non-dairy breads and/or desserts.

3. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese/Tofu cream cheese, butter/margarine, or milk is needed.
4. The church will provide coffee, tea, assorted coffee creamers, peanut butter, jelly, paper products, water bottles, and juice.
5. Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

6. Hosts take home or give away ALL leftover refreshments so the freezer and refrigerator do not get clogged with unused food.

(The last name listed is the Coffee Hour Helper)

- Aug. 13 **FAST** Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav, Trudy Ellmore, Alla Strauss
Aug. 20 Alex & Rebeca Medina, Guy Radcliffe, Awet Tesfa
Aug. 27 Ladies Assumption Altar Society
Sept. 3 Tahara & Germain Ortiz, Alan & Mimi Berck, Alla Strauss
Sept. 10 Olga & James Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey, Darice Keyes
Sept. 17 Jessica & Blake Kilgore, Svetlana Sosedov, Nina Laushell
Sept. 24 ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC
Oct. 1 Vera Pschenyczny, Paul & Patti Denko, Francine Meyer
Oct. 8 John Cassar, Christina DiDonato, Alla Strauss
Oct. 15 Ramazi Shubitidze, Ilonica & Corneliu Balasa, Nancy Mitsos
Oct. 22 Tony Vashkevich, Manny & Lourdes Montiel, Awet Tesfa
Oct. 29 Nina Laushell, Alex Godun, Darice Keyes
Nov. 5 Tamara Karkusova, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky, Francine Meyer
Nov. 12 Natalia Kolomatskaia, Matthew & Kris Bohush, Alla Strauss
Nov. 19 **FAST** Sophie Dumas, Melissa Braun, Darice Keyes
Nov. 26 **FAST** Gebrekvistos Amleset, Awet Tesfa
Dec. 3 **FAST** Nicholas Torrisi, Nina Laushell
Dec. 10 **FAST** Victoryia Baranava, Madeleine Sekulich & Mark McDevitt, Nancy Mitsos
Dec. 17 **FAST** Paula & Ludwig Koerte, Melody Stavisky, Darice Keyes
Dec. 24 **FAST** Father Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana, Carmen & Cezar Mateiescu, Alla Strauss
Dec. 31 Nebiat Tesfa, Luwam Tesfa, Francine Meyer