

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

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A parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America · Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Weekly Update: Up Next at HTOC!

Join Father Alexis Woytek and our church family

Sunday, August 1, 2021 · 9:30 a.m.

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, August 4, 2021 · 12 noon

Dormition Fast Prayer Service

Moleben to the Virgin Mary

We look forward to seeing you then!

“Let us not give up the habit of meeting together... Instead, let us encourage each other all the more...”

Hebrews 10:25

Aim for Change

During the coming week (August 6), the Church celebrates the **Transfiguration of Christ Jesus** (Matthew 17:1-9) – the occasion when the heavenly light of his divine nature shone through his human flesh on earth.

But his transfiguration is our destiny as well, for we Christians are meant to change and grow in Christ, through whom humans **“can share in God’s nature”** (2 Peter 1:4), **“live as children of light”** (Ephesians 5:8), and **“be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord”** (2 Corinthians 3:18) as we become ever more Christlike. How? By living out our baptism, chrismation, and eucharist through almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, which move us beyond ego to love both God and neighbor, as Jesus commanded (Mark 12:30-31).

Transfiguration reminds us to aim for change: **“Don’t conform to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind”** (Romans 12:2).

Pooling Together, Pulling Together

Many hands make light work. Teamwork in Christ, with all chipping in God-given time, talent, and treasure as they can in the spirit of conscientious stewardship, is key to keeping a church in shape and active. Not sure what your helping hands can do? Talk to our priest, Father Alexis Woytek, to find out what needs doing. Want to contribute, but can’t make it to church every Sunday? Send your gifts – as checks payable to “Holy Trinity Church” (no cash, please!) – to our treasurer: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, c/o Lydia Pinkowski, 7431 Glasgow Rd, Weeki Wachee FL 34613. **Thank you for doing your share to keep *your* church healthy!**

Practicing What We Preach

Christ Jesus’ message of **loving God and loving neighbor** (Mark 12:30-31) comes alive in the eyes of others when we move beyond words and put it into action. One way our church does that is by collecting nonperishable groceries in our parish charity bin year-round for sharing with hungry children and grown-ups in our own neighborhood through our friends at **People Helping People in Hernando County** (phphernando.org). Download a shopping list from our website to see what’s needed: www.htoc-sh.org/downloads/php.pdf. Through this outreach ministry, our church nourishes many local lives. **Please do your part to put Jesus’ gospel values into action!**

MORE! ➡

Dormition Fast: August 1-14

The **Dormition Fast** runs from Saturday, August 1 through Friday, August 14 this year. Those two weeks of increased effort at almsgiving, prayer, and fasting ready us to celebrate the **Dormition of the Virgin Mary** (August 15), on which we honor how she died, rose, and was taken up into heavenly bliss, as the Church remembers it. During it, we will also gather in praise and prayer for the **Moleben to the Virgin Mary** at 12 noon on **Wednesday, August 4** and **Wednesday, August 11**. The Dormition Fast is time for us to take stock of our lives and recommit to our life in Christ, mindful that Mary's fate is God's pledge of what awaits all who **"look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come,"** as we affirm in the Creed. We too will share in her blessed destiny if we **"listen to the word of God and put it into practice"** (Luke 11:28) just as she, the mother of Christ Jesus, did.

Parish Pandemic Precautions

Keeping our church open amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic means we must adjust familiar churchgoing habits for the safety of one and all. Please join us in following these precautions:

- If you are feeling ill, please stay home, follow doctor's orders, and take good care of yourself.
- Face masks and hand sanitizer will be available in the entryway of the church in case you forgot yours at home. Please use them!
- Please practice social distancing and respect personal space. The seating and choir stands have been rearranged to ensure safe leeway between each other.
- Please do not kiss icons, crosses, or the hands of clergy – until less contagious days return, a simple bow is ample sign of reverence and respect.
- Please drop any offerings in the collection plate set in the entryway of the church, so we do not have to pass it hand to hand.
- To avoid any possible cross-contamination, there will be no "coffee hour" or other refreshments served after church until after the pandemic.

Thank you for doing your part to keep our church experience as safe as possible amid these challenging times. It's all part of doing what Christ Jesus told us to do: **"Love others as much as you love yourself"** (Mark 12:31).