



# WEEKLY BULLETIN

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
**August 23, 2020**

**The 11th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Laurence the Holy Martyr & Archdeacon of Rome**  
Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:2-12  
Gospel: Matthew 18:23-35

## *Weekly Schedule of Services/Events*

### **Sunday, August 23**

9:00AM Divine Liturgy-Blessing of fruit  
Epistle: Gregory Morrison

### **Wednesday, August 26**

6:00PM Moleben to the Mother of God

### **Thursday, August 27**

6:00PM Dormition Vespers

### **Friday, August 28**

9:00AM Dormition-blessing of flowers and herbs

### **Sunday, August 30**

9:00AM Divine Liturgy-blessing of flowers and herbs  
Epistle: Hailey McKane

*Wherefore then did He not do this, nor forgive the debt before the account? Desiring to teach him, from how many obligations He is delivering him, that in this way at least he might become more mild towards his fellow servant .... He gave more than he asked, remission and forgiveness of the entire debt.*

### **St. John Chrysostom**

*Homily 61 on Matthew 18, 4th Century*

### **Service Schedule**

Divine Liturgy 9am  
Weekday Eve Service 7pm

### **General Information**

[www.stjohnsmillhill.com](http://www.stjohnsmillhill.com)

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### **Diocesan Resources**

**Diocesan Website**

[www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)

**Camp Nazareth**

[www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)

**Facebook**

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## *Weekly Announcements*

**THIS WEEK:** We will celebrate the Feast of Dormition of the Mother of God on Thursday with Vespers at 6pm and Divine Liturgy on Friday at 9am. We will bless flowers and herbs on this Feast. We will also celebrate the Moleben to the Mother of God with prayers for the pandemic on Wednesday at 6pm.

**BANNS OF MARRIAGE:** Banns of Marriage are announced for Marc Paul Pirhala and Danielle Elizabeth Gonzalez on August 29, 2020.

**ICON SHRINES:** Since members of our community were unable to participate in the Appalachian Service Project due to the pandemic, Lynne Goetz and Hailey McKane are spearheading a project to put Icon shrines on our church property. Tomorrow, directly after Divine Liturgy, we will be installing the 4 posts for the shrines. So we need volunteers to dig – bring/wear work clothes, work gloves, face coverings please, a water bottle, and if you have them, post hole diggers and/or shovels. Many hands make light work, or at least faster work, so please join us!

## *Scripture Readings for Sunday*

### **Epistle Reading - 1 Corinthians 9:2-12**

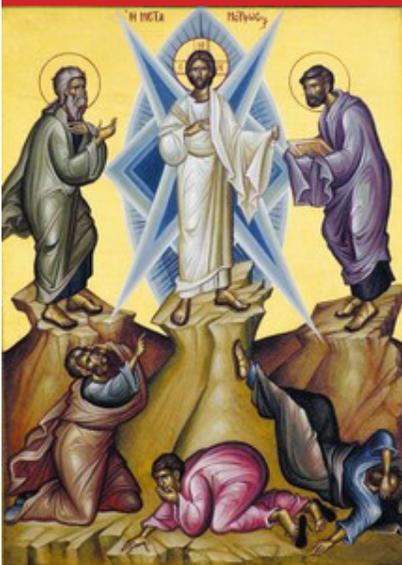
Brethren, you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. This is my defense to those who would examine me. Do we not have the right to our food and drink? Do we not have the right to be accompanied by a wife, as the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas and I who have no right to refrain from working for a living? Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard without eating any of its fruit? Who tends a flock without getting some of the milk? Do I say this on human authority? Does not the law say the same? For it is written in the law of Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain.” Is it for oxen that God is concerned? Does he not speak entirely for our sake? It was written for our sake, because the plowman should plow in hope and the thresher thresh in hope of a share in the crop. If we have sown spiritual good among you, is it too much if we reap your material benefits? If others share this rightful claim upon you, do not we still more? Nevertheless, we have not made use of this right, but we endure anything rather than put an obstacle in the way of the gospel of Christ.

### **Gospel Reading - Matthew 18:23-35**

The Lord said this parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the reckoning, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents; and as he

could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him the lord of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But that same servant, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and besought him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison till he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you besought me; and should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord delivered him to the torturers, till he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

### *The Transfiguration of our Lord*



Our Lord had spoken to His disciples many times not only concerning His Passion, Cross, and Death, but also concerning the coming persecutions and afflictions that they themselves would endure. Since all these evils were near at hand, but the enjoyment of good things which they hoped to receive in their stead was yet to come, our Savior desired to give them full assurance, evidently and openly, concerning that glory which is prepared for those who endure to the end. Therefore, fulfilling that which He had promised shortly before, that "there be some standing here which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His Kingdom" (Matt. 16:28), He took His three foremost disciples and ascend-

ed Mount Tabor, where He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became white as the light. Suddenly, together with this dread and marvelous effulgence of light, there appeared those pinnacles of the Prophets, Moses and Elias, who spoke with the Lord Jesus concerning His saving Passion which was about to take place. Standing before Him as reverent servants, they showed that He is the Lord of both the living and the dead, for Moses came forth from Hades, having died many centuries before, and Elias, as it were from heaven, whither he had been taken up while yet alive. After a little while a radiant cloud overshadowed them and out of the cloud they heard that same voice

which had been heard at the Jordan at the Baptism of Christ, testifying to the Divinity of Jesus and saying: "This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well-pleased; hear ye Him" (Matt. 17: 5).

Such are the marvels, truly worthy of God, celebrated in this present feast, which is an image and prefiguring of the future state of the righteous, whose splendor the Lord spoke of, saying: "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun" (Matt. 13:43). It is because of this that the Kontakion of this Feast is said daily (when there is not a great feast) in the Service of the Typica in perpetual commemoration of the glory that will be the lot of the Saints. According to tradition, the Lord's Transfiguration came to pass forty days before His Crucifixion; this is why the Transfiguration is celebrated forty days before the Exaltation of the Cross.



PHILOKALIA QUOTES

**Do not be distressed if you do not  
at once receive from God  
what you ask. He wishes to  
give you something better -  
to make you persevere  
in your prayer. For what is better  
than to enjoy the love of God and  
to be in communion with Him?**

EVAGRIUS PONTICUS, PHILOKALIA 1