

The Gospel's Voice



Orthodox Parish of the Holy Transfiguration

Number 26, January 2018

The deification of man

Christmas, the feast of the nativity of Jesus Christ, is with Easter the founding event of Christianity.

Christmas, incarnation of the word of God who takes flesh of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He who is by nature God, co-author of the creation of the universe with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, becomes man, assumes human nature without losing his divinity.

At Easter, Jesus will go so far as to give his life to rise from the dead and thus overcome death, break the gates of hell and give us forgiveness of our sins, healing of our diseases and grace, that is, to say the energy of the Holy Spirit, the breath of God and the giver of life.

It is an intimate union between God and man, the total union of the divine and the human made in the person of Jesus Christ. This is the step of the Son of God visiting men.

When a human being puts his faith in Jesus Christ, Christ gives him his Holy Spirit: it is the human who is united to the divine, who participates in the divine.

What a program !

Concretely, it is a question of responding to this act of love of God by faith, love and hope, by adhering to the teaching of Christ and putting it into practice by counting on God to be able to do it, because Jesus said, *"Without me you can do nothing. "*

Obey and practice the commandments as the first of them: *"Love God with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your strength, and your neighbor as yourself. "*

By reading again, in particular, the first 10 chapters of the Gospel according to saint Matthew, you will find other commandments and teachings of Christ.

I wish you a good journey with our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. May He be your guide and your friend during the new year that begins!

Fr. Athanasios

THE PRAYER OF THE OPTINA ELDERS

1. O Lord, give me strength to face with serenity everything that this day will bring. Grant me to entrust myself fully to Your holy will. Every hour of this day teach me and support me. Whatever news I may receive during the day, teach me to accept it with peace of mind and with a firm conviction that everything is according to Your holy will.
2. In all my words and actions guide my thoughts and feelings. In all unexpected events, do not let me forget that everything is sent by You.
3. Teach me to deal sincerely and wisely with every member of my family, bringing confusion or sorrow to none.
4. O Lord, give me strength to bear the tiredness of the coming day and all the events of this day. Guide my will and teach me to pray, to believe, to hope, to endure, to forgive and to love. Amen.

Divine Liturgy

Every Sunday at 9.30 a.m.

Saturday 6th January at 9.30 a.m.: The Theophany

Sunday 7th at 9.30. a.m.: Russian Christmas

14th: End of the Feast of the Theophany

21st: Sunday of Zacchaeus

28th: Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Matins at 9.30 a.m. every week day.

His Eminence the Metropolitan Ignatios
will be with us from the 4th to the 7th of January.

The Orthodox Church of the Holy Transfiguration

Grande-Rivière N-O
Mauritius
(behind Garage BALA)

**Divine Liturgy every
Sunday
at 9.30 a.m.**

Web site:

<http://orthodoxchurchmauritius.org>

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week day.*



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