

# The Gospel's Voice



**Orthodox Parish of the Holy Transfiguration**

**Number 9, August 2016**

## **The Holy Transfiguration**

The icon is built on two levels: three persons above and three below. There is a big difference in attitude between the two groups. On the top of the mountain, Moses and Elijah are standing with Christ, they entered the circle of light and participate in the glory of God, in harmony with Him. While the Apostles, in the bottom of the icon at the foot of the rock are upset and their attitude expresses disorder, disarray. This contrast reminds us that man can not see God in his carnal eyes.

Moses and Elijah stand there on the mountain and support the Light of God, because during their earthly life, they were, with Isaiah, the only men from the fall that God gave to see Him (Exodus 33: 18-23 and First book of Kings 19: 9-13). Also they went to the other world, and their eyes are no longer limited to the material world. Moses died in the desert before reaching the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 34: 1-7), Elijah was taken in a

chariot of fire and its passage from earth to heaven remains mysterious (II Kings 2: 11-13 ).

Elijah came down from heaven on Mount Tabor to contemplate God made man, while Moses, united through death to his fathers, represents those who await the coming of Christ into Hades. Moses and Elijah bow before Jesus. Moses personifies the law, Elijah comes in the name of the prophets to testify with him in the divinity of Christ who is “the fulfillment of the Law and the prophets.”

But, the three apostles knocked down, are part of the living humanity. Despite their upset at the sight of Christ in glory, they

are filled with joy and want to remember this moment. Peter asks to stay forever on the mountain, which is why it offers tents to secure the vision of God for eternity. But he did not know what he said, because it was too early, they were not prepared for eternity. They had to pass with Christ through death to see him again in glory after the resurrection.



The last verse of the Gospel story speaks of a bright cloud, which

covered the apostles and in this cloud they heard a voice saying, " This is my beloved Son, listen to him". This is the voice of the Father, that John the Baptist did hear at Jesus' baptism in the Jordan. The bright cloud is the Holy Spirit that covers and protects the apostles, since without the presence and the illumination of the Holy Spirit, man cannot behold the glory of God. The Transfiguration is a Theophany, as the Baptism of Christ. The apostles got, as St. John, the revelation of the one God in three persons: "The father speaks, the Son radiates splendor, the Spirit covers with the bright cloud ..." (Sermon on the Transfiguration of Peter the Venerable. )

It is through the person of the Son that man gains knowledge of God in three Persons. "No one has ever seen God; the only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, has declared him "(John 1: 18). Jesus Christ is the radiance of the Father, and through him the Holy Spirit acts in the world. When we pray Christ, He leads us to the Father through the Holy Spirit.

According to *Dieu est vivant, catéchèse orthodoxe*,

pp 99-104, Cerf, Paris 2009



# Information

Father Athanasios visits cities, since recent weeks, accompanying Mr. EDOUARD, social worker. Together, they meet poor people living in precarious conditions.

Mr. EDOUARD handles administrative approaches to the institutions to help (pension, housing, etc.).

Our parish has decided to participate in collecting food and clothes to be distributed to the poors.

You can drop your donations to the Church.

Thanks a lot !

## **Divine Liturgy**

*Every Sunday at 9.30 a.m.*

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> of August 4 p.m.:**  
Matins of **the Holy Transfiguration**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>:** Divine Liturgy

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> :** Divine Liturgy

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup>: 9.30 a.m.**  
**Dormition of the Holy Theotokos**

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>:** Divine Liturgy

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>:** Divine Liturgy

## **The Orthodox Church of the**

## **Holy Transfiguration**

Grande-Rivière N-O

Mauritius

(behind Garage BALA)

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

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