



## TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

PARISH NEWSLETTER :: OCTOBER 2009

Our church website: [transfigurationoc.org](http://transfigurationoc.org)

1936 S. Summit Avenue, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57105

Church office: 605-334-5301

Father Sava's mobile: 605-321-0582

---

### FROM YOUR PASTOR

✝ *"Beloved Christians, you and your children shall appear at that Judgment of Christ, and you shall give account for them to the just Judge. He will not ask you whether you have taught you children the arts or whether you have taught them to speak French, or German, or Italian, but whether you have taught them to live as Christians."* – St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

Dear parishioners and friends,

These words of our holy father Tikhon emphasize our sacred duty to teach our children "to live as Christians."

Certainly we all want the best things for our children! We do everything that we can to educate them so that they may have a productive and successful life in this world. We make great sacrifices to do so. But we must also provide for their preparation for "the life of the Age to come."

For Orthodox Christians, the experience of the Heavenly Kingdom is not something that's reserved only for "the next life." Eternity begins *today*. We and our children can begin to enter into the Life of Paradise even while living in this temporary world, *if we wish to do so*. The Church provides what is needed to do this in its services, sacraments, and teachings. But we must each be willing to invest some of our own time and energy entering into the Christian Life and working toward this goal!

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."*

(life-giving words of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, recorded in the Apocalypse of St. John the Theologian, chapter 3)

Here are some ways that parents (and godparents) can help our children "open the door" and enter fully into the life of Christ in His Holy Church:

- Bring them to the services of the Church, especially the Divine Liturgy. Talk with them about the things that you experience there. Help them feel that the Church is their true home, a natural place to spend some time each week.

- Bring them to Sunday Church School.
- Learn more about our holy Orthodox Faith yourself so that you feel confident teaching your children.
- Invite the priest to visit and bless your home so that your children will have an opportunity to talk with him personally and get to know him.
- Pray with your children each day, asking God's blessing and protection for them and His guidance in their lives.

I close with this beautiful challenge to each of us in the words of our holy father Herman, the Wonderworker of Alaska:

*"From this day, from this hour, from this minute, let us strive to love God above all, and fulfill His holy will."*

Your intercessor before the Lord,

*Father Sava*

---

### SPECIAL EVENTS AND SERVICES IN OCTOBER

Thursday, Oct. 1 – **Parish Council** at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 3 – **Philoptochos** potluck luncheon and elections from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 6 – **Orthodoxy 101** class from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 15 – **Daughters of Penelope** evening meeting

Saturday, Oct. 17 – **Parish Retreat** with Fr. Paul Hodge (see info below)

Tuesday, Oct. 20 – **Orthodoxy 101** class from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 26 – **Holy Great Martyr Demetrios** (services TBA)

Wednesdays at 7 p.m. – **Bible Study**: the Old Testament book of Exodus  
Learn the story of our salvation while enjoying good fellowship and conversation.

Sundays at 9 a.m. – **Church School** and **Orthros** service

Sundays at 10 a.m. – **Divine Liturgy**



---

## ORTHODOXY 101

Father Sava is offering a series of six classes that deal with the basic elements of Orthodox Christian faith and life. Anyone who wishes to learn about Orthodoxy (or to refresh your knowledge) is welcome to attend.

We continue to meet on alternate Tuesdays from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. in the church basement. See the enclosed calendar for class meeting dates.

---

## PHILOPTOCHOS

The organizational meeting of the Ladies Philoptochos Society will be on **Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**, when we'll have election of officers and a potluck luncheon from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the church basement. Mark your calendar!

Any woman who is a member of our church is welcome and encouraged to participate as a full member of Philoptochos.

Women who are not church members but are related to the church through marriage, and also men who wish to participate, may become associate members of Philoptochos.

If you wish to become a member and participate in the election, please bring \$17 for the required annual per capita membership contribution.

---

## WISDOM FROM THE SAINTS



Understand me. It is so simple. People who do not know God, or who go against Him, are to be pitied; the heart sorrows for them and the eye weeps.

Both paradise and torment are clearly visible to us: We know this through the Holy Spirit. And did not the Lord Himself say, "The kingdom of God is within you"? Thus eternal life has its beginning here in this life, and it is here that we sow the seeds of eternal torment.

Where there is pride there cannot be grace, and if we lose grace we also lose both love of God and assurance in prayer. The soul is then tormented by evil thoughts and does not understand that she must humble herself and love her enemies, for there is no other way to please God.

- Saint Silouan of Mount Athos



## *The Divine Liturgy: The Window of Heaven*

Parish Retreat with  
V. Rev. Archpriest Paul Hodge  
Saturday, October 20, 2009

---



This spiritual retreat will be devoted to the topic:

*The Divine Liturgy in the Teachings of  
Archimandrite Aimilianos the Athonite*

### Retreat schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Coffee and rolls
- 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayers
- 9:15 a.m. First presentation by Father Paul
- 10:15 a.m. Break - conversation
- 10:45 a.m. Second presentation by Father Paul
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch (freewill offering will be received)
- 1:15 p.m. Third presentation by Father Paul
- 5:00 p.m. Great Vespers (confessions following)

### Retreat leader

**Archpriest Paul Hodge**, a presbyter of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America, is the presiding priest at St. Thomas Orthodox Church in Sioux City.

**Archimandrite Aimilianos**, former Abbot of the Holy Monastery of Simona Petra on the Holy Mountain Athos, is a renowned holy Elder and Spiritual Father of our time.