



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA

July 29, 2009

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN ALEXIOS` REFLECTIONS ON THE TRANSFIGURATION

This next week we will celebrate the historical event of the Transfiguration, which took place before our Lord's Passion and Crucifixion. That is why we celebrate our Lord's Transfiguration 40 days before the Elevation of the Holy Cross, and why, in the service of Orthros, the hymns refer to the Elevation of the Cross.

"Thus by beholding Your miracles, they do not fear confronting Your Passion.

Deem us worthy that we may also venerate Your Passion in peace."

Of course, we know that our Lord had both human and divine nature, and the Apostles were comfortable with Him as a man, who talked and walked and ate with them. In the Transfiguration, He gave them the opportunity to see a part of the glory and wonder of His Divine nature. This is what we see depicted in the icon of the Transfiguration that we venerate: Christ up on the mountain, and at the same time, we note that the Apostles are not able to see His Divine nature as it is described in the Apollitikon:

"You were transfigured on the mountain, O Christ God, in so far as they could comprehend."

We understand that it was the Apostles, who were transformed, so that they could physically see the revelation of our Lord's Divinity. Their eyes were opened to the truth of Christ, as they saw the Uncreated Light of God.

So, as we celebrate His Transfiguration, let us pray that we also may be transformed and illuminated:

"Illuminate us sinners who with Your everlasting Light, through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Giver of Light, glory to You!"