

## GODPARENT SPONSORSHIP FORM

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church  
(Add Consecration Godparent to memo)

To pay by credit card,

CC # \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Or contact the office at (512) 329-6363.

The members of the Consecration Fundraising Committee, the Parish Council are available to answer any questions you may have about the intended uses of the funds.

## Dear Parishioners and Friends:

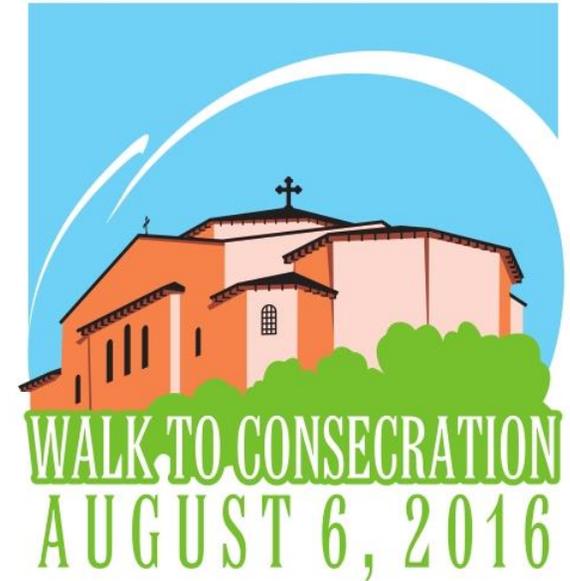
It brings us great joy to be able to announce this Godparent campaign in honor of the Consecration of Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church! Truly, this event will be the greatest celebration of the achievements of this dedicated and faithful community. Over the last thirty years with the tools of faith, hope, and love for our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ, this community has expanded from humble neighborhood Church to a shining beacon of Orthodoxy for all of Austin.

With this celebration, however, we realize that our work as Orthodox Christians is never complete. Having come such a long way as a community to this point where we celebrate the completion of our Church, we cannot simply rest, or sit back and enjoy the fruits of our labor. On the one hand, we will be celebrating the work that we have accomplished, the laying of a foundation and building of a church upon it. On the other however, we look to the future work of this community, laying a foundation of love of God in the hearts and minds of our faithful, and building up the body of Christ upon it.

It is with regard to this great calling, to preach Christ Crucified to the ends of the earth that we ask for your generosity with regards to this campaign, and welcome you to become Godparents of the Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church.

Fr. Vasileios

## TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



## Holy Consecration

## Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church

Austin, Texas

August 5-7, 2016

## What is a Holy Consecration?

The Holy Consecration of a Church is a sacred event that will happen only once in the history of our Church community. Consecration is a holy service where the Church is set apart to be “in the world, but not of the world,” dedicated to God. These ceremonies and prayers date back to the Holy Tabernacle of Moses and then the Holy Temple of Jerusalem. The hymns teach us its meaning.

Tone 1

**Be renewed, be renewed, O New Jerusalem, because your light has shown, and the glory of the Lord has come upon you. This house has been founded by the Father, this house has been made firm by the Son, this house has been renewed by, the Holy Spirit, which illumines and supports, and hallows our souls.**

**In early times, while the temple was consecrated, Solomon offered to the Lord sacrifices of animals and holocausts. When you were pleased in us O Savior, to forgo the formalities and let the truth be known, the whole world offers to You the bloodless sacrifices [on Your altar], to Your glory, because You are the Lord of all things and make everything holy through Your Holy Spirit.**

What is it to make holy and to become holy? It is salvation. What is salvation for an Orthodox Christian? For an Orthodox Christian salvation is union with Christ, through His Holy Spirit. This union with Christ is called the “Life in Christ”. The center of this “Life in Christ” is the Holy Altar, as well as the services which are related to it, i.e. the Seven Sacraments. Because the Holy Altar is so important in the life of an Orthodox Christian, the service of Consecration centers around the Holy Altar Table. In simple terms the Consecration Service is the Baptism and Chrismation of the Church.

## What happens?

The Consecration of the Church begins on the Eve of the celebration with a short Prayer Service honoring the memory of Martyrs. These Vespers will be on Friday evening, August 5, 2016.

Before the Consecration Service begins, all Articles on the Altar Table are removed, and the Altar is left uncovered with nothing on it. When the Bishop enters the Church he will bring with him the relics of three Saints. These relics will be placed on a Paten (Diskarion), which will remain on the Altar Table overnight, together with a Vigil Light.

**First**, on the morning of Saturday, August 6, 2016, there will be three processions around the church, setting the church apart from the world.

**Second**, the Metropolitan will command the doors to be opened “that the King of Glory may enter,” and Holy Relics of three martyrs will be taken into the Holy Altar.

**Third**, the Holy Relics will be placed and sealed in the Holy Altar Table just as the first altars in the Early Church were the tombs of the holy martyrs.

**Fourth**, the Holy Altar will be washed and the Altar and icons of the church will be anointed with Holy Chrism, representing the Baptism and Chrismation of the church. The Holy Altar will be dressed with new altar coverings and the holy articles.

The final steps are the lighting of the vigil light, which reminds us of the never failing light of Christ, followed by the celebration of the first Divine Liturgy in the newly consecrated church.

## The Sacred Role of the Godparent

In the Holy Sacrament of Baptism it is our Godparent who affirms our acceptance of Christ, pledges our adherence to the teachings of the Church, and helps guide us on our journey toward salvation. The sacred role of the Godparent is to be our sponsor and guardian in the faith.

Similarly, in the sacred Service of Consecration, we are invited to become the Godparents and guardians of our church! We are called to reaffirm our commitment to Christ, pledge our heartfelt support and be sanctified as those who “love the beauty of His house.” All together we will ask God to “preserve the fullness of His Church.”

For the parishioners of Transfiguration this fullness of the Church is manifested through the expansion of a vibrant spiritual life, ministries responsive to the needs of the faithful and programs that enrich the mind, body, and soul.

We invite you to participate in the special ceremony by becoming a Godparent of Transfiguration’s Consecration.

The funds donated for consecration are dedicated to the expenses of the Holy Consecration as well as improving the education facilities of our parish, as directed by the general assembly.

While remembering our past let us look towards the future with faith and love.

***We humbly ask you to become a Godparent of our Church!***