

ST. JAMES ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Very Reverend Fr. Steven Ritter, Pastor

Reverend Deacon Anthony Bridges

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Saturday Great Vespers @ 5:00 p.m. :: Sunday Orthros @ 9:00 a.m. & Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 a.m.

May 26, 2019



FIFTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN & AFTER-FEAST OF MID-PENTECOST



APOSTLES KARPOS AND ALPHAIOS OF THE SEVENTY; SINESIOS, BISHOP OF CARPASIA IN CYPRUS; NEW-MARTYR ALEXANDER OF THESSALONICA; AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY, EVANGELIZER OF ENGLAND

CHRIST IS RISEN!



DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM (TONE 4 / EOTHINON 7)

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION TONE 4

(p.96)

Having learned the joyful message of the Resurrection from the angel, the women disciples of the Lord cast from them their parental condemnation. And proudly broke the news to the Disciples, saying, Death hath been spoiled; Christ God is risen, granting the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF MID-PENTECOST TONE 8

In the midst of this Feast, O Savior, give Thou my thirsty soul to drink of the waters of true worship; for Thou didst call out to all, saying: Whosoever is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Wherefore, O Christ our God, Fountain of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JAMES TONE 4

(p.26)

As a disciple of the Lord, O righteous one, thou hast received the Gospel. As a Martyr thou art never turned away. As the Brother of God, thou hast boldness. As a hierarch thou canst intercede. Do thou intercede with Christ God that He save our souls.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA TONE 8

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

Confession is available after Divine Liturgy, as well as before or after Vespers on Saturday evenings. You can also Contact Fr. Steven to set up an appointment.

WELCOME!

We welcome all our visitors and are eager to share our faith with you! Please join us for coffee hour and take a few moments to fill out the VISITORS INFORMATION CARD that is found in the narthex.

As a friendly reminder, only Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through fasting, prayer, and recent confession may approach the Holy Chalice to receive Communion

EPISTLE READING

*How great are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!*

The Reading from the Acts of the Saintly and Pure Apostles. (11:19-30)

In those days, the Disciples, who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen, traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the Word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who, upon coming to Antioch, spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the Disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the Disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea; and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

GOSPEL READING

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (4:5-42)

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as He was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His Disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that Thou, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and Who it is that is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, Thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Art Thou greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst forever; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that Thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and Thou sayest that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming [He Who is called Christ]; when He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I Who speak to you am He." Just then His Disciples came. They marveled that He was talking with a woman, but none said, "What dost Thou wish?" or, "Why art Thou talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city, and said to the people, "Come, see a man Who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to Him. Meanwhile the Disciples besought Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to

them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the Disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him Who sent Me, and to accomplish His work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in Him because of the woman's testimony, "He said to me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His words. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

Your prayers are Requested for:

Nicholas, Tamara, Christina, Theodore, Elizabeth, Pelagia, Anastasia, Photini, Nectarios, Richard, Thomas, Christine, Alexandra, Richard, Robert, Betty, Charles, Katherine, Joe, Randa, Marcella, Jonathan, Savva, Keenan, Diana, Carmen, Mariana, Michael, Gabriel, Arvil, Evdokia, Michael, Elizabeth, Melina, Newly-departed Reuben, Mark, Carson, Wayne, Marilyn, Jerome, Angela, Archbishop John

Upcoming:

Bishop Nicholas will be here the weekend of May 31 – June 2. Please plan accordingly as we would like everyone here during the time of his first pastoral visit!

Schedule For This Week:

Thursday, May 30th

10:30 AM St. Maria of Paris Ladies' Prayer Group

Saturday, June 1st

Noon	Bishop Nicholas lunch with clergy wives
1:30 PM	Bishop Nicholas meet with church clergy and candidates
2:30 PM	Bishop Nicholas meet with Teens
3:45 PM	Bishop Nicholas meet with Young children
5:00 PM	Reception of Bishop and Great Vespers
6:30 PM	Dinner with the St. Maria Ladies' Antiochian Women (Bldg 700)

Sunday, June 2nd

8:45 AM	Greeting Bishop Nicholas
9:00 AM	Orthros
10:00 AM	Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
Noon	Parish Luncheon with His Grace (Bldg 700)
1:00 PM	Open time with His Grace
2:00 PM	Meeting with Men's Group

The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

One of the most ancient cities of the Promised Land was Shechem, also called Sikima, located at the foot of Mount Gerazim. There the Israelites had heard the blessings in the days of Moses and Jesus of Navi. Near to this town, Jacob, who had come from Mesopotamia in the nineteenth century before Christ, bought a piece of land where there was a well. This well, preserved even until the time of Christ, was known as Jacob's Well. Later, before he died in Egypt, he left that piece of land as a special inheritance to his son Joseph (Gen. 49:22). This town, before it was taken into possession by Samaria, was also the leading city of the kingdom of the ten tribes. In the time of the Romans it was called Neapolis, and at present Nablus. It was the first city in Canaan visited by the Patriarch Abraham. Here also, Jesus of Navi (Joshua) addressed the tribes of Israel for the last time. Almost three hundred years later, all Israel assembled there to make Roboam (Rehoboam) king.

When our Lord Jesus Christ, then, came at midday to this city, which is also called Sychar (John 4:5), He was wearied from the journey and the heat, and He sat down at this well. After a little while the Samaritan woman mentioned in today's Gospel passage came to draw water. As she conversed at some length with the Lord and heard from Him secret things concerning herself, she believed in Him; through her many other Samaritans also believed.

Concerning the Samaritans we know the following: In the year 721 before Christ, Salmanasar (Shalmaneser), King of the Assyrians, took the ten tribes of the kingdom of Israel into captivity, and relocated all these people to Babylon and the land of the Medes. From there he gathered various nations and sent them to Samaria. These nations had been idolaters from before. Although they were later instructed in the Jewish faith and believed in the one God, they worshipped the idols also. Furthermore, they accepted only the Pentateuch of Moses, and rejected the other books of Holy Scripture. Nonetheless, they thought themselves to be descendants of Abraham and Jacob. Therefore, the pious Jews named these Judaizing and idolatrous peoples Samaritans, since they lived in Samaria, the former leading city of the Israelites, as well as in the other towns thereabout. The Jews rejected them as heathen and foreigners, and had no communion with them at all, as the Samaritan woman observed, "the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans" (John 4:9). Therefore, the name Samaritan is used derisively many times in the Gospel narrations. After the Ascension of the Lord, and the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, the woman of Samaria was baptized by the holy Apostles and became a great preacher and Martyr of Christ; she was called Photine, and her feast is kept on February 26.

Please bring in your Lenten Food for Hungry People Boxes!



Before the Episcopal visit of Bishop Nicholas, some reflections of St. Ignatius of Antioch on the Role of the Bishop in the Church

“See that ye all follow the bishop, even as Jesus Christ does the Father, and the presbytery as ye would the apostles; and reverence the deacons, as being the institution of God. Let no man do anything connected with the Church without the bishop. [...] Wherever the bishop shall appear, there let the multitude [of the people] also be; even as, wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church. [...] Whatsoever [the bishop] shall approve of, that is also pleasing to God, so that everything that is done may be secure and valid.” (St. Ignatius: Letter to the Smyrnaeans; Ch 8)

“Let all things therefore be done by you with good order in Christ. Let the laity be subject to the deacons; the deacons to the presbyters; the presbyters to the bishop; the bishop to Christ, even as He is to the Father.” (St. Ignatius: Letter to the Smyrnaeans; Ch 9)

St. James Orthodox Church is a mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America under His Eminence, JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America, and His Grace NICHOLAS, Bishop of Miami and the Southeast. If you have any questions or comments, or if you would like more information about the Orthodox Faith, please contact Fr. Steven (info@stjamesorthodox.org).