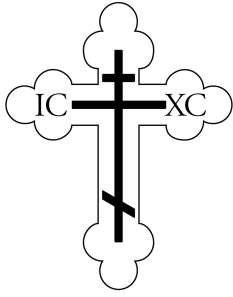
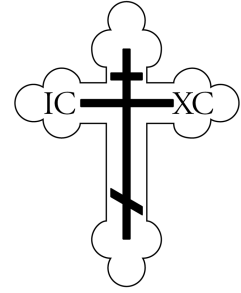


Protection of the Virgin Mary Orthodox Church



A Parish of the
Diocese of Chicago
and the Midwest
Orthodox Church
in America



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May 17, 2020 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Fourth Sunday of Pascha

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 4 – Resurrectional Troparion

When the women disciples of the Lord
learned from the angel the joyous message of Your Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

Tone 8 – Troparion of Mid-Pentecost

In the middle of the feast, O Savior,
fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety as You cried to all:
“If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!”//
O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to You!

Tone 8 – Kontakion for the Samaritan Woman

The Samaritan Woman came to the well in faith;
she saw You, the Water of wisdom and drank abundantly://
She inherited the Kingdom on high, and is ever glorified!

Tone 4 – Kontakion of Mid-Pentecost

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all,
cried to all in the midst of the feast of the Law:
“Come and draw the water of immortality!”
We fall before You and faithfully cry://
“Grant us Your mercies, for You are the Fountain of our life!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Tone 3 – Resurrectional Prokeimenon (Psalm 46)

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! / Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Acts of the Apostles 11.19-26, 29-30

In those days, those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.

Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Gospel: John 4.5-42

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria which is called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Now Jacob’s well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.

Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says 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, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?"

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Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting 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 and said, "I have no husband."

Jesus said to her, "You have well said, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; in that you spoke truly."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such 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" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things."

Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

And at this point His disciples came, and they marveled that He talked with a woman; yet no one said, "What do You seek?" or, "Why are You talking with her?"

The woman then left her waterpot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come, see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" Then they went out of the city and came to Him.

In the meantime, His disciples urged Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat."

But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know."

Therefore, the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him anything to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest'? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest! And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, that both he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this the saying is true: 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored, and you have entered into their labors."

And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans had come to Him, they urged Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His own word.

Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

N.Dep. Archpr. Paul Lazor

Joseph Clark

Wayne Fritz

Ev.Mem. Virginia Tekich ('13)

Health/Salvation:

Archpr. Peter

Pr. John

Pr. Christopher

Mat. Jennifer

Andrew

Gideon

Dn. Nicholas

Kevin

Jon

Tanya

Jovan

Julia

Warren

Carol

Tom

Elizabeth

Tina

Brittany

Jennifer

Lennox

Laila

Paula

Melissa

Jonathan

Matthew

Gail

Maria

Stacy

Jeramie

Olivia

Parker

Barbara

Thomas

Mary Barsuko ('28)

Gregory Sajkovich ('57)

John Puskos ('88)

Kateryna Gruszyk (2012)

Jessica

Eduardo

Christine

Nicholas

Natalie

Barbara

Kristin

Linda

Phyllis

Kay

Fred

Larry

Rollie

Joseph

Mark

Alexa

Paula

James

Joanne

Michael

Joseph

Kathleen

Paul

William

Frederick

Janet

Lea

Hania

James

Gerald

Nadia

Charlene

Milka

Daniel

Russell	Sharon	Olga	Myah
Brendan	Michael	Claudia	Michael
Benjamin	John	Mark	Wanda
William	Miriana	Jerry	Prudence
Kara	Vern	Daniel	Clay
Nathan	Janice	Joanna	Brandi

*If you know someone who needs prayer, please give their name to Fr Jacob

In place of "It is truly meet..." we sing:

The angel cried to the Lady full of grace: 'Rejoice, O pure Virgin!
 Again I say: Rejoice! Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!
 With Himself He has raised all the dead! Rejoice, rejoice, all you people!
 Shine! Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you!
 Exult now, exult and be glad, O Zion!
 Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the resurrection, the resurrection of your Son!

*We sing "Christ is risen..." in place of "We have seen the true Light..."
 At the Dismissal, the priest says "Glory to You, O Christ..." and the choir sings "Christ
 is risen..." three times.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have entered "**phase one**" in the reopening of the Church. Nine people under the age of 65 (besides the priest) may now attend each service. I will serve up to three divine Liturgies per week in order to allow more to attend each week. **Please use the form that was emailed** to the parish to let me know if you would like to begin attending services, and which services of the week you can come. Please contact me with any questions or if you have trouble with the online form. If you did not receive the email, please send your email address to ptvmchurch@gmail.com.

For **Bible Study** on Wednesday read **Acts 2-4**. If you would like to participate but haven't before, email Fr Jacob.

Memorial Day is next Monday, May 25. We will bless graves as usual, beginning at **St. Mary's cemetery at 9am**. After St. Mary's, Fr Jacob will visit other cemeteries in Northwest Indiana as requested. Please contact him to get on the schedule.

St. Mary's O-Club is partnering with our own **Sergei Ely's Pierogi** truck to bring meals to workers at local nursing homes during the health crisis. Tomorrow we will deliver to Wittenberg Village in Crown Point. Anyone interested in volunteering should email ptvmchurch@gmail.com or contact Juli Grankowski or Sergei Ely directly.

The annual **Golf Outing** will not take place in June as usual. We are looking to schedule it for August or September. Stay tuned.

On June 17 we will host a **Red Cross blood drive** in our parish hall. If anyone would like to volunteer for a 2-3 hour shift at the registration table, please contact Fr Jacob.

If anyone in our community is suffering hardship, please contact Fr Jacob. The parish has established a **benevolence fund** to help those in need during this crisis.

Our **Fashion Show** has been rescheduled for Sunday, August 9. Lunch will be served at 12:15pm. Please contact Elizabeth Pedersen, Sherry Mizimakoski, or Nada Bucek if you need to return tickets or buy new ones.

Mark your calendars:

- May 25: **Memorial Day** blessing of graves starting at St. Mary's cemetery @ 9am.
- May 28: **Feast of Ascension:** Festal Vespers @ 6pm; Divine Liturgy @ 10am.
- June 17: **Blood Drive:** 12-6pm

Dispassion in the Spiritual Life

A reflection by His Grace, our Bishop Paul

Here's a story from a Desert Father that helps us to understand Dispassion:

There was an elder living in the desert. One day, a young man came to visit him and asked, "Abba, what can I do to be saved?"

The old man thought for a moment, and then said, "Go to the cemetery and curse the gravestones." The young man was puzzled, but he obeyed. He went to the cemetery and shouted the worst curses he could imagine at the gravestones. When he returned, the Elder said, "Now go back and praise the tombs to the sky." The young man again obeyed, feeling rather foolish.

When he returned the second time, the Elder asked, "Now tell me: when you yelled curses at the graves, what did they say?" "Nothing," the young man replied, still not knowing where this was going. "And when you praised them, what was their response?" "Nothing, Abba. They were silent." "If you would be saved," the Elder said, "you must become like the gravestones, being moved neither by men's curses nor their praise."

In this story, the Elder was not suggesting that the young man become void of feeling, his heart as hard as a gravestone. He would certainly say that emotions are an integral part of who we are, and that to deny them is to deny our very humanity.

Rather, the Elder was exhorting his protégé to become free from enslavement to external forces. However good or bad something may feel, he is suggesting, you cannot allow that feeling to control how you respond. Having a feeling is perfectly natural and good; being controlled by that feeling is something else entirely.

It comes down to this: if someone behaves like a jerk and I feel like punching his lights out, do I act on it? Or do I heed the Psalmist's advice: "Be angry, but sin not; commune with your own hearts on your beds, and be silent" (Ps. 4:4). When someone hurts me unjustly, do I react as my feelings would dictate, or do I follow Jesus and say, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:24).

The right choice seems clear. And yet our society would have us follow our feelings blindly, making choices according to our least whim and impulse. Advertisers count on precisely this kind of reaction when they bombard our senses with their sounds and images. Faced with such an onslaught, dispassion is the answer.

Indeed, I would go even further and say that acquiring dispassion is the most important and urgent challenge of the spiritual life. If we want to mediate true spiritual healing in this world of ours, each of us needs to seek freedom from those forces—biological, psychological, emotional, social, national, ideological and even religious—that would subject us to their wills and ultimately, pit us against one another.

When something comes into our orbit and threatens to throw off our equilibrium—whether towards the negative or the positive—we cannot allow it dictate our actions or reactions. Instead, we must offer everything—however bad or good it feels—to God, allowing Him and Him alone to measure our best response.

In next week's note I want to take this above story and explanation and apply it to the question I raised last week: "What can be done to help our children walk through this challenging mine field of polarity, especially in addressing the Covid 19 issue?"

Christ is risen! The Lord's blessing be upon you!

+Paul

Glory to God for all things!