

Parish Announcements

- **Sisterhood of St. Thekla:** The women's group will meet today following coffee hour.
- **Sunday School (June 2):** The final children's Sunday school classes for the year will be held next week.
- **2019 Parish Life Conference:** This year's PLC will run from June 26 – 30 (Wednesday – Sunday) at Antiochian Village and will be hosted by St. John Chrysostom Church of York, PA. For additional details or to register, visit <http://registration.antiochianvillage.org/Registration/Welcome.aspx?e=541B5D758D5A1AB723DAC632B2C6BB6A>.

Ways to Get Involved

- **DERD Syrian Relief Program:** For details on contributing to relief efforts, see <http://antiochian.org/syrian-relief-program-introducing-derd>.
- **West Chester Food Cupboard:** We are now collecting **canned fruit, boxed pasta, and spaghetti sauce**. Please place your donations in the clear plastic bin in the library. Your contributions really help the needy in our West Chester area community! Thank you!

Prayer Requests

LIVING:

Catechumen Yiannis B.; Catechumen Amelia B.; Catechumen Laurie W.; Catechumen Roy B.; Catechumen Peter Y.; Catechumen Braden M.; Catechumen David S.; Newly Illumined Amira S.; Tina D. (recovering from surgery); John D. (sick); Theodore D. (eye); Joe (Sarah B.'s uncle, recovering from surgery); Cindy (Mark R.'s sister, recent hospitalization); Seraphim B.; Kathy A. (cancer and stomach); Jeff K. (recovering from knee surgery); Marlan A. (spine); Alexandra C.; Sue (Yiannis B.'s aunt, undergoing chemotherapy); Tom (Yiannis B.'s uncle); Fiona (Jane S.'s family friend); Elias (Lisa K.'s cousin, tumor); Mary (Jeff K.'s cousin, cancer); Vincent and Marteen (Mitri D.'s family); Bp. Alexander (undergoing chemotherapy); Christina (Lisa K.'s mother); Suad and Nasri (ill); Jack (Coleen's dad, for continued healing); Nicholas (John C.'s friend); Daniel (Mark R.'s son); Orthodox suffering from persecution; those suffering from war and disasters

DEPARTED:

Arlene (Elise S.'s grandmother)
Nita S. (one-year memorial)
Gertrude (Patrick B.'s grandmother)
Samir (Jeanne K.'s cousin)
Those killed in recent natural disasters
Orthodox Christians and others recently murdered and killed during the fighting in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere in the world

Sunday, May 26, 2019



HOLY ASCENSION

Orthodox Christian Church

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Diocese of
Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic

Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch
and All the East

Primate

His Eminence, the Most Rev. Metropolitan Joseph
(Al-Zehlaoui)

Diocesan Hierarchy

His Grace, the Right Rev. Bishop Thomas (Joseph)

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Daniel Meyer

Subdeacon

Vladimir Moses

Saturday Vespers - 5:00 PM

Sunday Orthros - 8:25 AM

Sunday Liturgy - 9:30 AM

Confessions - Saturday evenings,
following most divine services,
and by appointment

For an updated service and event
schedule, visit our online calendar:

HolyAscension.net/calendar

Today's Scripture Readings

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Acts of the 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.

THE GOSPEL

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."

Divine Liturgy Variables

Resurrectional Apolytikion in Tone Four

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 in Tone Eight

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 Holy Ascension in Tone Four

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

Kontakion of Pascha in Tone Eight

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades, and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment-bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those who had fallen.

Did you know ...

Bodily nourishment cannot satisfy the soul of man, nor can bodily drink quench its thirst...

That the soul is immortal, and that it, in its essence, belongs to the immortal world, is proved by the fact that, in this earthly world, it feels itself a discontented traveller in a foreign land, and that nothing in the world can fully feed and refresh it. And even were the soul to be able to pour the whole universe into itself like a glass of water, its thirst would not only not become less but would, of a certainty, become greater.