

Parish Announcements

- **Service Streaming:** To view livestreams of our services, please visit https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGp9uDgdYDw_sqUBWP_8zeQ.
- **Agape Meal:** We will have a potluck following Liturgy.
- **Feast of the Ascension:** Services for Ascension will be held on Wednesday, June 9 starting at 6:30 PM. A potluck will follow.
- **Service Time Change:** Great Vespers on Saturday, June 12 will take place at 5:30 PM so that all diocesan churches may hold it simultaneously.
- **Lecture on the Sacraments** (June 5): All are invited to attend a lecture on the sacraments of the Orthodox Church on Saturday at 3 PM.
- **Prayer Chain Ministry:** To join the prayer chain, write Fr. Christopher or reply to the email announcement. Please contact Fr. Christopher to add new prayer requests.
- **Virtual PLC 2021:** This year's virtual Parish Life Conference will feature one Saturday of retreat, business, and worship followed by three Wednesday evening discussions, all focused on renewing our relationships with each other and Christ. Please preregister at no charge to receive the Zoom link for each individual event. For more details and registration information, visit <https://www.holycrossonline.org/plc2021>.
- **VCS 2021:** Vacation Church School will run from August 16-20, with dinner at 5:30 PM followed by lessons and singing, games for kids, and classes and activities for adults. For more information, contact Gaye B.
- **Fall Episcopal Visit:** Bishop Thomas will visit Holy Ascension the weekend of September 11.
- **Receipts for Donations:** If you have purchased items for the church or made gifts in kind, you can submit receipts to Jeff K. to be added to your giving as non-pledging contributions.

Prayer Requests

LIVING:

Catechumen John R.; Catechumen Dan S.; Della (Basil S.'s wife); David K. (Vicki M.'s nephew); Carol (Vicki M.'s sister, recent hospitalization); Maggie (Fran H.'s sister-in-law, health); Thomas (Fran H.'s husband, health); Jean (Lisa K.'s friend, cancer); Sophia (infant granddaughter of Lisa K.'s coworker, leukemia); Marlan A.; Mitri, Tina, and family; Courtney M. (health); Maggie W. (health); Ariel (Barbara H.'s daughter-in-law) and baby; Barbara H. (shoulder); Bp. Alexander (health); Met. Hilarion (cancer); Jeanne K. (health); Dorothy (Fran's mother); Elizabeth G. (heart); Fiona (Jane S.'s family friend); Elias (Lisa K.'s cousin, tumor); Mary (Jeff K.'s cousin, cancer); Christina (Lisa K.'s mother); Suad and Nasri (ill); Jack (Coleen's dad, for continued healing); Daniel (Mark R.'s son); Orthodox suffering from persecution; those suffering from war, illness, and disasters

DEPARTED:

Basil (Bill) S. (Jeanne's friend)
Casandra K. (Vicki M.'s sister-in-law)
Dennis K. (Vicki M.'s brother)
Those lost to illness or 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 30, 2021



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 Hierarch

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

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Christopher Eid

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 Holy Apostles (11:19-30)

In those days, when the apostles were scattered because of the tribulation that arose over Stephen, they traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one, except to Jews only. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who upon coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. The report concerning them reached the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas, to go as far out as Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they should cleave to the Lord; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great multitude was added unto the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year, they were gathered together in the church, and they taught a great multitude of people, and the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabos stood up and signified by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over the whole world; and this took place in the days of Claudius Caesar. And the disciples, every one according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren who dwelt in Judaea; 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 for 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

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.

Words from the Saints

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.