

## April 14, 2019: THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (Of St. Mary of Egypt)

### Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14:

*But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

### Gospel: Mark 10:32-45:



*Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But*

*Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am*

*baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared.” And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, “You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”*

Last Sunday, the Savior announced for the first time, since the beginning of Great Lent, His voluntary and redeeming Passion: *“The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day.”*

Today, one week before His triumphal (and last) entry into Jerusalem, He begins to be more detailed about the last chapter of His public ministry, preparing His disciples for the upcoming events: *“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again.”* As you can see, not only does He give precise details about His Passion, but He even foretells His betrayal *to the chief priests and to the scribes*.

The apostles were still hoping that their Master would establish a worldly kingdom, hence the request from James and John for a place of honor in such a kingdom: *“Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory.”*

Their request brings about another revelation, this time concerning the way these two disciples (and all of them, save John) would complete the last days of their life: *“You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized;*

Even such a personal revelation escapes the grasp of the disciples. The squabble that ensued among the apostles indicates that their minds were set rather on things of this world than on humility and personal sacrifice. It was at this point that Christ began to give them, in a more direct way, a lesson on humility and sacrificial love, making Himself the prototype of such selfless and loving example: *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*

May our good and loving Lord give us the spirit of humility, understanding and sacrifice!

**Fr. George Bazgan**

**Altar boys for this Sunday:**

**Arkin Gabriel Corbu  
Arsenie Gavriş**

## Sunday Fellowship

The following families are scheduled to look after  
this Sunday's fellowship:

**Latiş Cătălin & Livia  
Tapoveţi Dan & Diana  
Ioniţescu Robert & Daniela**

**Thank you all very much!**

## SPECIAL SERVICES DURING GREAT LENT:

Thursday at 7:00 PM: Bible Study.

Friday at 7:00 PM: AKATHIST TO THE HOLY VIRGIN.

Saturday at 5:00 PM: VESPERS.

CONFESSION WILL BE HEARD AFTER EACH OF THESE SERVICES.

## *Church Anniversary*

Our Church Anniversary will be celebrated on May 26, 2019, in the presence of His Eminence Metropolitan Nicolae, His Grace Bishop Ioan Casian and His Grace Ignatie of Husi. The stained glass windows will be blessed and our church will be elevated to the rank of Cathedral.

For tickets (\$75.00/person), contact

Mariana Diaconu: 780-473-6711 or 780-660-4748 (texting only).

No refunds after May 12.  
The number of seats is limited.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish, asking them to pay their membership until Easter.**

**This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our financial obligations during the Summer months and for the rest of the year as well.**

**THANK YOU VERY MUCH!**

## **A Prayer of Fr. Laurence**

Today, Christ Jesus, like David, we again ask you to forgive us all our sins, but especially those against the virtue of love. Forgive us for so often failing to love our neighbor, by disdainning our peers and resentfully resisting those who have any authority over us, by defaming our brothers and sisters as arrogant while elevating ourselves as models of humility, and by failing to love them and care for them while demanding unreasonable attentions for ourselves. Forgive us, O Lord, for our constant readiness to notice their every fault and failing while minimizing our own.

Pardon us all of these, O Christ, and the countless other ways we sin against love, ways we cannot even remember. During these lenten days, turn us around and make of us true lovers, lest we find ourselves rejected from the paschal banquet.

For you, O Christ, deserve all glory, honor, and worship, together with your eternal Father, and your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.