

April 5, 2020: 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: *and the Son of Man will be betrayed 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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and, in accordance with the measures taken by our Hierarchs, for the time being, the following changes will go into effect:

1. **The Divine Liturgy is to be attended only by the clergy, the chanter and those who help with the church service.**
2. **All other services during the week are suspended, except Vespers (Saturdays at 5:00), mainly for those who come for Confession**
3. **Our Sunday fellowships are being suspended until further notice.**
4. **All Sunday School classes are suspended.**

We ask all of you to observe the recommendations made by the health experts, such as: stay home if you are not feeling well, wash your hands, keep the social distance, etc.

Don't forget to read our weekly electronic Bulletin, which comes out every Thursday at 6:00PM, for other details and updates.

We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for the understanding!

May God keep all of us safe!

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!

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!

During these trying times, we expect some of families (individuals) of our community to experience a higher degree of hardship, in terms of paying the rent, groceries, etc.

In order to help them cope with such difficulties, we are announcing the creation of a Humanitarian Fund, called "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR."

Fr. George is committing \$500 per month for this cause until the current situation is resolved.

Those who want to contribute, with any amount, please call Mrs. Corina Sasu (780 - 200 - 1171) to make arrangements for payment.

Thank You and God Bless!

CHURCH DIRECTORY PICK UP

The 2019 Church Directory is now available for those who participated in this project. If your family came to the Hall for a photography appointment or submitted your own family picture (for \$15), then you will receive a Directory. There is no rush to pick up your family directory.

Under the current unusual conditions, it is better to contact Fr. George (780-473-0029) to make arrangements for pick up.

We appologize for the delay and thank you for your patience and support for this Church project!

Have a happy and safe Spring!

Prayer at the time of pandemic

O Lord, our God, who are rich in mercy and, with Your wise care, guard our lives, listen to our prayer, receive our repentance for our sins, stop this pandemic, as You have ceased the punishment of the people in the days of King David. You who are the Physician of our souls and our bodies, give healing to those contaminated with this disease, hastily raising them from their bed of suffering, to glorify You, the Most Merciful Savior, and protect those who are healthy from any disease.

Bless, strengthen and shield, O Lord, with Your grace, all those who, with love of people and sacrifice, care for the sick at their homes or in hospitals. Remove all disease and suffering from the people and teache us to value life and health as gifts coming from You.

Grant us, O God, Your peace, and fill our hearts with unwavering faith in Your protection, with hope in Your help, and with love towards You and our neighbor.

For Yours is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glorify: Father and Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen!