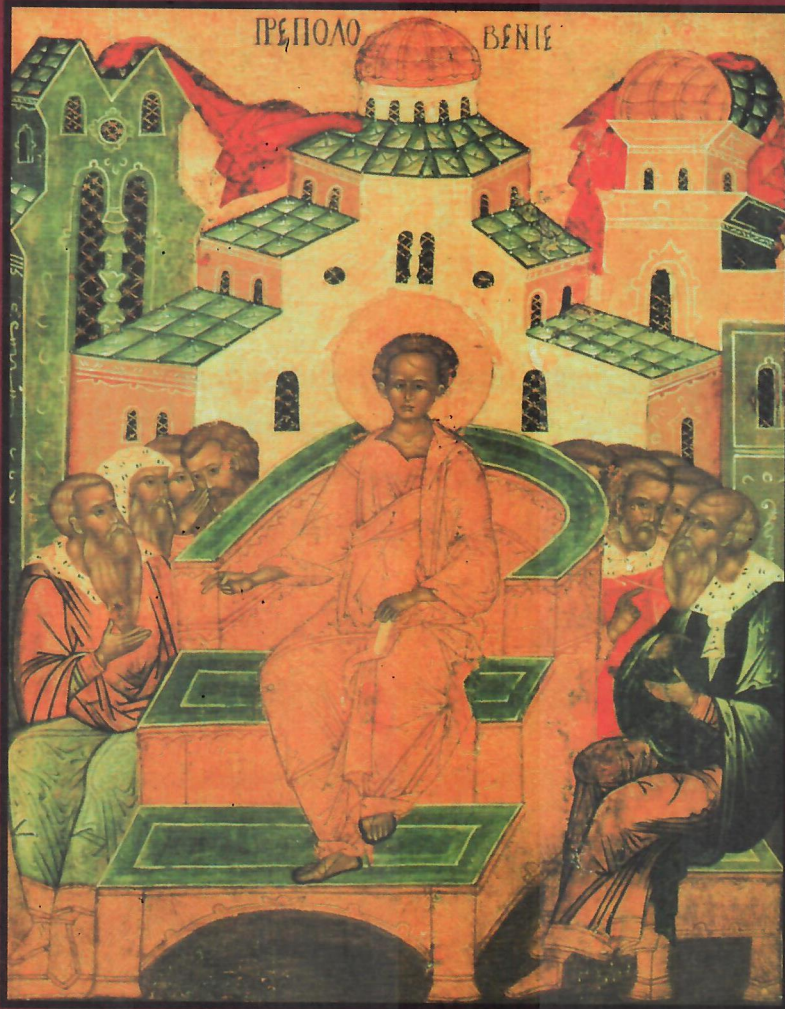
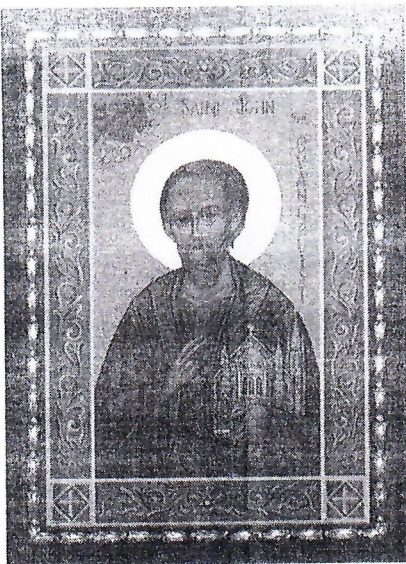


CHRIST TEACHING



IN THE TEMPLE

May 7, 2023



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

1501 8TH AVENUE
BEAVER FALLS, PA. 15010

(724) 847-1111

WWW.SAINTJOHNCHURCH.ORG

**HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN JOSEPH, ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK AND
METROPOLITAN OF ALL NORTH AMERICA**

**HIS GRACE BISHOP THOMAS, AUXILIARY BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON,
OAKLAND, AND MID-ATLANTIC**

PASTOR: REVEREND FATHER STEPHEN SHAHEEN

REVEREND FATHER SERAPHIM MOSLENER

We take this opportunity to welcome those guests praying with us.

***Anyone wishing to request prayers for Health and Well-being, or a Trisagion prayer,
please contact Fr. Steven***

The Orthodox Church understands that the sacraments we experience are a fundamental part of the sacred life of a worshipping community that shares in "one body...one faith". (Eph. 4:5). Thus, we can only share Communion with those who are Orthodox and who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting and Confession. If you are not Orthodox, or are not properly prepared, you are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing and then to take a piece of the blessed bread. Please see Father Steven after Divine Liturgy.

Divine Liturgy Variables for Sunday, May 07, 2023

Tone 3 / Eothinon 5;

Fourth Sunday of Pascha

Sunday of the Paralytic Appearance of the Sign of the Precious Cross in the heavens above Jerusalem (351 A.D.); Martyr Akakios the centurion at Byzantium

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Verse: Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises. Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Verse: Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High. (Refrain) Glory...

Both now... (Refrain)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

Verse: May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us. Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia. Verse: That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the people give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the people give thanks to Thee. (Refrain) Verse: May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him. (Refrain) Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Verse: Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face. Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life! Verse: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire. (Refrain) Verse: So let sinners perish before the face of God, and let the righteous be glad.

(Refrain) Verse: This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Refrain)

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA

In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia. • Now sing these hymns in the following order.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE THREE

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad, for the Lord hath done a mighty act with His own arm. He hath trampled down death by death, and become the first-born from the dead. He hath delivered us from the depths of Hades, granting the world the Great Mercy.

TROPARIAN OF SAINT JOHN

O Apostle John, speaker of deity, the beloved of Christ our God, hasten to deliver your people, powerless in speech, for He on Whose bosom you lean accepts you as an intercessor. Beseech Him therefore to disperse the darkness of ignorance, and pray for peace and great mercy to be shown upon us.

THE 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.

THE EPISTLE

O chant unto our God, chant ye. Clap your hands, all ye nations.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (9:32-42)

In those days, as Peter went throughout all regions, he came down also to the saints who dwelt at Lydda. There he found a certain man named Aeneas, who was bedridden for eight years and paralyzed. And Peter said to him: "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; arise and make your bed." And immediately he arose. And all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned back to the Lord. Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha (which means Gazelle). She was full of good works and of charitable deeds which she did. And it came to pass in those days that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her, they placed her in an upper chamber. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men to him entreating him: "Come to us without delay!" So Peter arose and went with them. And when he arrived, they took him into the upper chamber. All the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and other garments which Tabitha made while she was with them. But Peter put them all outside and knelt down and prayed; then turning to the body, he said: "Tabitha, arise!" And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand, and raised her up. Then he called the saints and widows and presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

MAY

Sun

Mon

Tue

We

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 Leonard Kays |
| 7 Matins 9AM DL 10AM | 8 Divine Liturgy St John 9 AM | 9 | 10 |
| 14 Matins 9AM DL 10AM | 15 Joni V. Birthday! | 16 Fr Steven @ AV—— Kietzke Anniversary! | 17 Meeting with Fr. BD |
| 21 Matins 9AM DL 10AM | 22 DeJesus Anniversary! | 23 | 24 Brian Linville James Tutwiler |
| 28 Matins 9AM DL 10AM | 29 Spiro Nellas BD | 30 | 31 |

2023

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Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | |
|----------|---|--|--|
| fas BD | 4 Ministry 10-4 Ministry Mtg 4:30 | 5 Addiction Service Benjamin Linville BD Fr. Seraphim & Kh Pat -Anniversary! | 6 Great Vespers 5 PM Journey Through Orthodoxy |
| | 11 Ministry 10-4 Office Hours | 12 | 13 Great Vespers 5 PM Journey Through Orthodoxy |
| et. Saba | 18 Ministry 10-4 | 19 | 20 Great Vespers 5 PM Journey Through Orthodoxy |
| BD BD | 25 Ministry 10-4 Office Hours Divine Liturgy 9 AM | 26 | 27 Great Vespers 5 PM Journey Through Orthodoxy |
| | | | |

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (5:1-15)

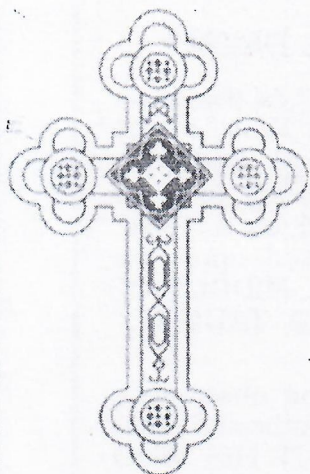
At that time, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda, which has five porticoes. In these lay a multitude of invalids, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and troubled the water; whoever stepped in first, after the troubling of the water was healed of whatever disease he had. One man was there, who had been ill for 38 years. When Jesus saw him and knew that he had been lying there a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is troubled, and while I am going another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your pallet, and walk." And at once the man was healed, and he took up his pallet and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who was cured, "It is the Sabbath, it is not lawful for you to carry your pallet." But he answered them, "The man who healed me said to me, 'Take up your pallet, and walk.'" They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your pallet, and walk'?" Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. Afterward, Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse befalls you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus Who had healed him.

What I Do Not Want in My Priest

By Metropolitan Saba (Isper)

My Lord, I cry out to you; hear me, for in my heart there are many worries and questionings regarding my priestly ministry. I have been taught that I am a priest at the altar of the Lord, to serve You by serving Your people, the Church. I have been taught that my priestly ministry has three aspects: first, sanctification, through serving the sacraments and the various divine liturgical services; second, pastoral care, through visitation of believers, diligent pursuit of the lost sheep, and service to the weary and the sick; third, teaching, through evangelism and through proclaiming and explaining the Scriptures to the people, so that they might live in accordance with them. My Lord and my God, I face many obstacles in my ministry and many different human situations, and so often I stand bewildered, searching for the best thing to do as a priest, according to Your heart and not according to what is comfortable for me. Lead me, my Lord, and enlighten me to walk in the straight path that is well pleasing to You. My Son, My heart is with you, and My grace is strengthening you. I will clarify some of the temptations through which you may sometimes be led, and I will tell you the things that I do not want My priest to do. So, listen carefully, My son. I do not want you to limit yourself to one single aspect of your ministry and forget about the other aspects. For example, do not consider yourself a teacher and neglect serving the sacraments, or vice versa. The priest might be talented in a specific ministry, but this does not justify neglecting the other ministries. I do not want you to forget that you are My servant among My people. Do not consider yourself to be the sole ruler. Do not forget the love that embraces you, nor fall for the love of power and therefore start micromanaging My parish, instead of ministering to it. When that happens, institutional rules will prevail over the laws of love, communion, and humility.

I do not want you to push away people who serve and who are zealous for the ministry, just because you are not their administrative master, forgetting that your spiritual leadership is more important and that this must lead the institutional aspect. I do not want you to abide with only the few that suit your taste, thinking that you are doing an honest service and that because some people are not with you, they do not want God. Do not be silly in your ministry, reducing it to mere worldly social events and amusements, empty of spirituality and not seeking the salvation of those who participate in them. I do not want you to forget that you should always be filled with the Divine Presence and perfect in humility, so that you can inspire My people to do My will. I do not want you to be full of yourself, not listening to the inspirations of the Holy Spirit who speaks through My people. I want to speak with you through them, so you will learn that you don't possess me exclusively. I do not want you to act as a feudal lord, who forces others to labor in his field instead of sharing with them the ministry of caring for one another. I do not want you to strive only to organize banquets, trips, parties, and festivals to raise money, even if this is for a goal that relates to the church. I do not want you to be exclusive in your ministry, favoring the talented and the rich, while neglecting those with less talent and less fortune. I do not want you to forget that you are My servant and work according to My will, and that you are not a master served by My children in accordance with your own will. My son, I have so much other advice for you. I will not say it all, but take heed of these things I have told you today. Work accordingly, testifying to Me and not to yourself, serving My Church and not treating it like your church, striving to lift My children up to where I am and not pushing them to do your own will. My son, do you understand what I want?



**We are done with Chapter One,
Book One!**

The Class can be seen at:

<https://stme.in/AcjJJugylX>

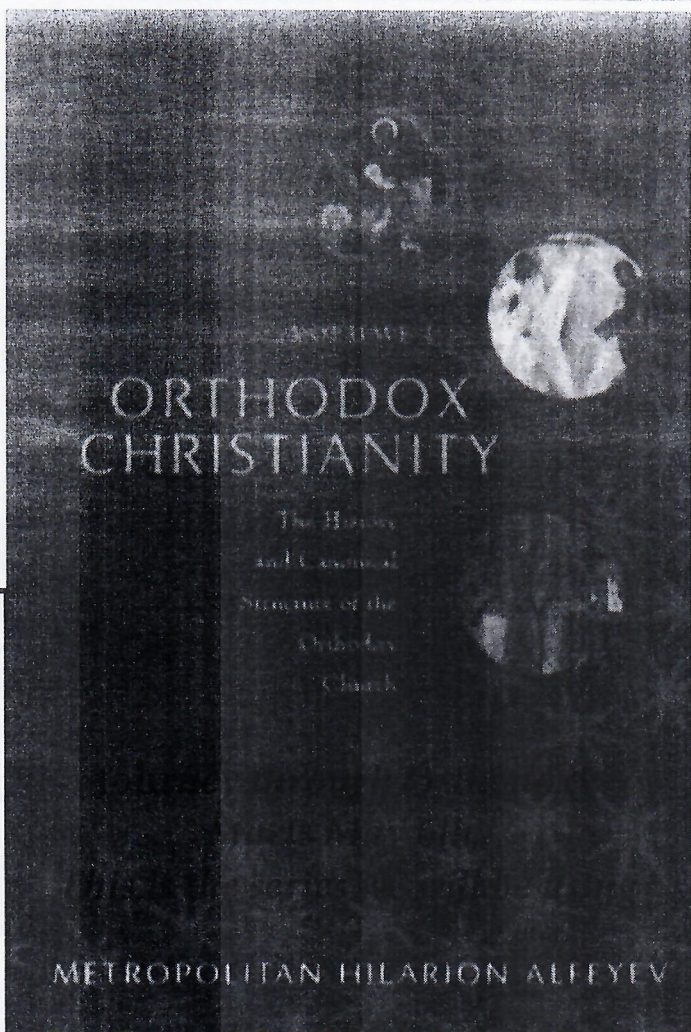
**This week we move onto Chapter
Two, with class to follow.**

During the week, I will ask

**You five questions pertaining to
what you have read and heard.**

This will be your "homework"

**Homework is Due Sunday prior to
Liturgy**



Limited

**St. Sergius of Rakvere 8x10 Icons are
available for 50.00 each.**

Limited supply of 5.

**It is a custom made Icon that matches the
bust of the one in our Church!**

"IF ANYONE THIRSTS, LET HIM COME TO ME & DRINK"

The Wednesday following the "Sunday of the Paralytic" is the exact midpoint between the celebration of Pascha and the Feast of the Descent of the Holy Spirit. For centuries, our Holy Orthodox Church has emphasized the significance of this day, referring to it as MID-PENTECOST. The Feast of Mid-Pentecost is viewed as a "link" between these great holy days of the Church, and is based upon the following words of St. John's Gospel: "NOW ABOUT THE MIDDLE OF THE FEAST, JESUS WENT UP INTO THE TEMPLE AND TAUGHT." (John 7:14)

What was it that Christ taught while in Jerusalem for the observance of the Feast of Tabernacles? He spoke of the "higher authority" that His words represented: "MY DOCTRINE IS NOT MINE, BUT HIS WHO SENT ME." (John 7:16) During the festivities of this important Jewish celebration, which commemorated the water flowing from the rock which Moses struck in the wilderness, Jesus boldly proclaimed: "IF ANYONE THIRSTS, LET HIM COME TO ME AND DRINK. HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME, AS THE SCRIPTURE HAS SAID, OUT OF HIS HEART WILL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATERS." (John 7:37-38)

The Feast of Mid-Pentecost is designed to strengthen our faith in the Risen Lord. It reminds us to focus on the coming of the Holy Spirit, which we will commemorate 50 days after our Savior's glorious Resurrection.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vestal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

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OFFICE HOURS
By Appointment Only