

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN



Icon of the Myrrh-bearing Women

St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church

A Parish of the Self-Ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese (antiochian.org) ... and ...
The Diocese of Charleston, Oakland & The Mid-Atlantic (antiochian.org/east)
(“...the Disciples were called Christians first in Antioch!” [Acts](#) 11:26)



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Most Rev. Metropolitan SABA – Archbishop & Primate
Right Rev. Bishop THOMAS – Auxiliary Bishop
Very Rev. Fr. Donald E. Shadid, M.Div. & D.Min. – Archpriest & Pastor
Sub-Deacon Timothy (Cade) Scott, MAT
Edward Makdad, Jr. – Parish Council Chairperson

“Go to Church ... Say Your Prayers ... Don’t Forget God!” (+Fr. Tom Hopko’s Mom)

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+ SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN + (Pious Joseph of Arimathea & Righteous Nikodemus)

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Hieromartyr PATRICK, Bishop of Prussia / Martyrs MENANDER & PHILETAIROS /
Venerable CORNELIOS of Komelsk / Grand Prince DIMITRI Donskoy of Moscow

We welcome all of you, our Faithful and our Visitors, to St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Christian Church! It is a pleasure to have you with us as we glorify and praise the Name of our God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Please sing along with our Choir during the Liturgy.

Please note, as has been the practice of the Church since the Feast of Pentecost, that the Sacrament of Holy Communion can only be given to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting (Wed., Fri. & the prescribed Fasts), regular Confession (at least twice per year ... 7 Yrs. old & up), who attend Liturgy regularly & on time (at least 3 times a month) ... and ... are at peace with all people.

When receiving Holy Communion, please fold your arms over your chest, open your mouth wide, tip your head back slightly, and allow the priest to place the elements in your mouth.

For our non-Orthodox brethren, we welcome you to sing and pray with us, venerate the Cross, and receive the Blessed Holy Bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Please join us again soon. May God Bless You Always!

HOLY OBLATION: (Sunday, May 19, 2024) Offered by Ed & Nancy Makdad for the health of *The Makdad Family ...* and ...

(Sunday, May 26, 2024) Offered by Lisa Catanese for the health of: husband, *Sam*, as he celebrates his Birthday and son & daughter-in-law, *Nathan & Kristen*, as they celebrate their Wedding Anniversary.

PASCHAL CANDLES: Offered in beloved memory of: (1) *Anthony Berrich, Jr.* by Tony & Marianne Spada and Family ... **and** ... (2) *Jesse George* by his mother, *Christine Asfar*.

PROSKAMEDIA CANDLE: : Offered for the health of *Judy, John, Fey, Richard, Zoe & Fr. Justin*, as they celebrate their birthdays; and in beloved memory of *Fr. Elias*, by The McClatchey Family.

SEVEN-BRANCHED CANDLE: Offered: (1) in beloved memory of Parents, Grand & Great-Grandparents, *John & Elizabeth (Andrews) Spada*, who were married on May 5, 1940, by their Children (*Barbara Skala* and Family [husband, *Buddy*, son & wife, *Andy & Jill*, daughter & husband, *Stephanie & Dennis*, and their children, *Brendan & Erin*] and Tony & Marianne Spada and Family) ... **and** ... (2) for the health of *Elias, Rebecca, Marissa, Michael, Noah & Themselves* by Albert & Mary Jo Ghantous.

TRISAGION PRAYERS OF MERCY (Naha): Offered in beloved memory of mother, *Dorothy Ferre & Helen Hegados* by *Peter Ferre*. **Memory Eternal!**

**For The Living – “God Grant Them Many Years!”...and...
For The Departed – “May Their Memory Be Ever Eternal!”**

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- VARIATIONS & NOTES ON THE LITURGY -

FIRST ANTIPHON: (Refrain: “*Thru the intercessions of the Theotokos...*”)
“Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.” / Refrain. / “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 & Now” ... **and** ... Refrain.

SECOND ANTIPHON: (Refrain: “*Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, as we sing to Thee: Alleluia.*”)
“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. / “That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy Salvation among all nations; let the peoples give

thanks to Thee, O God, let all the peoples give thanks to Thee." / *Refrain.* / "May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him." / *Refrain.* / "Glory & Now" ... **and** ... "O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God ...".

THIRD ANTIPHON: (*Verses & Troparion During The Little Entrance – Tone One*)

"Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered; and let those that hate Him flee from before His face." / *Refrain - "Christ Is Risen!"* / "As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire." / *Refrain.* / "So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad." / *Refrain.* / "This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein." / *Refrain.*

THE 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.

AFTER THE LITTLE ENTRANCE:

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION: (*Tone Two*)

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou Deathless and Immortal One, then Thou didst destroy Hell with Thy Godly power; and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ Thou Giver of Life, glory to Thee!

TROPARION OF JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA: (*Tone Two*)

The pious Joseph, having brought down Thy pure body from the Tree, wrapped it in fine linen, embalmed it with ointment, provided for it, and laid it in a new tomb. But Thou didst verily rise after three days, O Lord, granting the world Great Mercy.

TROPARION OF THE HOLY MYRRH-BEARERS: (*Tone Two*)

Verily, the angel came to the tomb and said to the Ointment-Bearing Women, the ointment is meet for the dead, but Christ is shown to be remote from corruption. But cry ye, The Lord is risen, granting the world the Great Mercy.

TROPARION OF THE DORMITION: (*Patron Feast Day - Tone One*)

In thy birth-giving, O Theotokos, thou didst keep and preserve virginity; and in thy falling-asleep thou hast not forsaken the world for thou wast translated into life, being the Mother of Life. Wherefore, by thine intercessions, deliver our souls from death.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA: (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.

EPISTLE: Acts of The Holy Apostles 6:1-7 (*Third Sunday of Pascha*)

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 15:43-16:8 (*Sunday of The Holy Myrrh-Bearers*)

Concerning the “Kiss of Peace,” prior to the Nicene Creed, we encourage you to greet those around you with a bow of the head and your hands across your chest, saying: “**Christ is Risen!**”...the response being: **Truly He is Risen!**” In this way, we express: (1) our Joy that God has acted to restore our Communion with Him ... **and ...** (2) our Hope in the Resurrection from the Dead that is offered to us by our Lord’s own “trampling down death by death!” **God is With Us (“Emmanuel!”)**!

MEGALYNARION FOR PASCHA (*Instead Of “It Is Truly Meet...”*): (Tone One)
The angel cried unto her that is full of grace: O pure Virgin, rejoice, and again I say, rejoice; for thy Son hath arisen from the grave on the third day.

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; dance now and be glad, O Zion, and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

KOINONIKON (*Communion Hymn*): (Tone Eight)
“Receive ye the Body of Christ; taste ye the Fountain of Immortality. Alleluia!”

INSTEAD OF “We Have Seen The True Light...”:
“Christ Is Risen...!” - **(Once)** - See “Troparion Of Pascha” Above.

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- THIS WEEK’S EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS -

(Church Office: Closed May 16-27)

+ Sunday, May 19 – THE HOLY SACRAMENTS OF BAPTISM, CHRISMATION & HOLY COMMUNION FOR NORA MARIE SHADID, daughter of Fr. Chris & Kh. Sophia Shadid @ St. Ignatius Chapel at The Antiochian Village Camp – 3 PM ... please RSVP to Sophia @ 617-548-1543 ... OR ... smk1091@gmail.com. Thank You!

+ Saturday, May 25 – GREAT VESPERS – 5 PM.

+ Sunday, May 26 – SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC (Fourth Sunday of Pascha) – MATINS (Morning Prayers) @ 8:30 AM & DIVINE LITURGY @ 9:30 AM ... followed by Agape Fellowship.

A BIRTHRIGHT "THANK YOU!"

Fr. Don is pleased to announce that our St. Mary Parish Family hosted a "Baby Shower" for the Birthright Organization, which supports & assists pregnant women & new mothers. This was chaired by our own Laura Slifko. Thanks to Laura, and all who offered their prayers & donations, we are grateful to God that we were able to gift Birthright with the supplies & monetary donations listed below.

Birthright wants to thank our St. Mary AOCC for our prayers, generosity & love. They are very grateful for the generous donations of:

- 620 individual diapers
- 43 packs of diaper wipes
- 37 newborn (4 oz) baby bottles
 - 4 diaper bags
- 3 nursery/laundry baskets
- \$277. 00 cash/checks

May God Bless them as they continue in their ministries!

Dear members of St. Mary,

We want to start by expressing gratitude for your unwavering support and generosity towards our church. Your contributions have been essential to our ability to continue carrying out our mission and serving the needs of our community.

We also want to take this opportunity to introduce our new online giving platform, Vanco. **This platform provides a secure and user-friendly way to give to our church online**, and we are confident that it will make giving more convenient for many members of our congregation.

You can give now at this link: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZKAC/home>

The link is available on our website as well as in the weekly email.

Whether you choose to give online or in person, your support is vital to the continued success of our church community. We are so grateful for your generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

Thank you again for all that you do.

Blessings,

+ *Fr. Don*

Please Note That As Is Our Tradition, The Royal Doors (The Beautiful Gate) & The Deacon's Doors Remained Open Throughout Bright Week And Were Not Closed Until The Great Vespers for Thomas Sunday (May 11, 2024) ... (Verse 10 of The Stichera on Psalm 140:

"Into the gathering of the Disciples, while the doors were shut, Thou didst suddenly enter, O Jesus our Almighty God. And standing in their midst, Thou didst grant them peace, and filled them with a holy spirit, commanding them to tarry and not depart from Jerusalem until they were vested with power from above. Wherefore, O our Light, Resurrection, and Peace, we cry unto Thee: Glory to Thee."

Also, Note That There Is To Be No Fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays From Pascha Until The Feast of The Ascension (Thursday, June 13) by Decree of The Holy Synod of The Church of Antioch (1997).

Lastly, Note That From Pascha to The Sunday of Pentecost (June 23) The Troparion, "O Heavenly King..." Is Not Sung ... and ... From Pascha to its Leave-Taking, Instead of: "Holy God...", "O Come, Let Us Worship & Fall Down..." in Matins, The Hours and Vespers; and "Glory to God in The Highest" Before the Matins Psalms; and, "We Have Seen The True Light..." in The Divine Liturgy, We Sing "Christ is Risen From The Dead..."

THOSE IN SPECIAL NEED OF OUR PRAYERS: CONEMAUGH MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER – Lee Campus: Huda Martin(TCU); AMBER HILLS @ CAMBRIA CARE CENTER (Ebensburg, PA): Mary Ann Unis-Asfar (#606); LAURELVIEW VILLAGE: Rhoda (Nasser) Zdravecky (Vista – 913); HILLTOP HEIGHTS CARE CENTER (formerly "Laurelwood Care Ctr.): Suzanne George (#37-W); HERITAGE RIDGE SENIOR LIVING (formerly "Lutheran Home"): Elaine Heider (#34); QUALITY LIFE SERVICES – WESTMONT WOODS (formerly "Presbyterian Home"): Emma (Nasser) Audey (#115-W) ... and ... IN TREATMENT, RECOVERING AND / OR "SHUT-IN AT HOME": Becky Azar; Larry Bertino; Carolyn Clark; Renee D'Ettorre; Michael & Patty Devich; Joanne George; John & Dalal George; Olga Hodge; Denise Khorey-Harriman; Matthew Makdad; Donald McMillan; Anna Marie (Abraham) Rovanseck; Jane (Farrah) Salem and Sara Shahade. **May God Be With All of Them & All of Those Who Are Ill and / or in Need!**

NOTICE: RE: BULLETIN & CHURCH SERVICE CHANGES

Sunday, May 26, 2024 – No Church Bulletin will be printed due to the Office Administrator being out of town.

Sunday, June 30, 2024 – Church Services to be offered at the SS. Peter & Paul Chapel in the Chestnut Room of the Antiochian Village & Conference Center (Rt. 711) as we gather with our Brothers & Sisters-in-Christ ... Matins @ 8 AM & Hierarchical Divine Liturgy @ 9 AM. Thus, our St. Mary Church will be closed. Also note that there will not be a Church Bulletin that day. Please join us as we come together around our Bishop, who, as St. Ignatius wrote, is the one who manifests Christ & thus, completes the Church.

25 QUOTES FROM ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

St. John Chrysostom (349- 407) was the Archbishop of Constantinople and is considered one of the greatest saints, early church fathers, and doctors of the Eastern and Western Churches. He was famous for his incredible insight and powerful preaching. It has been said that he memorized the Bible. After his death he was named Chrysostom, which comes from the Greek word chrysostomos, meaning “golden-mouthed”.

The church celebrates St. John Chrysostom’s Feast Day on September 13th. In honor of the golden-mouthed Archbishop, here are a few quotes from his writings and preaching.

1. “No matter how just your words may be, you ruin everything when you speak with anger.”
2. “As a moth gnaws a garment, so doth envy consume a man.”
3. “God asks little, but He gives much.”
4. “Every man is the painter and the sculptor of his own life.”
5. “Prayer is the root, the fountain, the mother of a thousand blessings.”
6. “Fasting of the body is food for the soul.”
7. “We must not mind insulting men if by respecting them we offend God.”
8. “The rich man is not one who is in possession of much, but one who gives much.”
9. “Glory be to God for all things!”
10. “Faithfulness in little things is a big thing.”
11. “The primary goal in the education of children is to teach, and to give the example of, a virtuous life.”
12. “Laughter has been implanted in our soul, that the soul may sometime be refreshed.”
13. “Riches are not forbidden, but the pride of them is.”
14. “Mercy imitates God and disappoints Satan.”
15. “The love of husband and wife is the force that welds society together.”
16. “Be ashamed when you sin, not when you repent.”
17. “Only those who do not fight are never wounded.”
18. “Men have the power of thinking that they may avoid sin.”
19. “Why not learn to enjoy the little things there are so many of them.”
20. “It is simply impossible to lead, without the aid of prayer, a virtuous life.”
21. “What greater work is there than training the mind and forming the habits of the young?”
22. “What gnats are compared with humans, so is the whole creation compared with God.”
23. “What the soul is in the body, let Christians be in the world.”
24. “Nothing will divide the church so much as the love of power.”
25. “The bee is more honored than other animals, not because she labors, but because she labors for others.”

May 19
Epistle

The Lord is my strength and my song. With chastisement has the Lord chastened me.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (6:1-7)

In those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily ministry. And the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said: "It is not right that we should forsake the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good report, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. And we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Próchoros, and Nikánor, and Tímon, and Parmenás, and Nikólaos a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased, and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem exceedingly, and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (15:43-16:8)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathaea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the Kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if He were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that He was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud, and laid Him in a tomb, which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where He was laid. And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb at the rising of the sun. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back – it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a long white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He is risen; He is not here; see the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you." And they went out quickly and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

May God Be With You!

May 26

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.

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.

May God Be With You!

Saint of the Day – May 19, 2024

THE HOLY HIEROMARTYR PATRICK [PATRICIOS], BISHOP OF PRUSA, WITH THREE PRESBYTERS: ACACIUS, MENANDER AND POLYENUS

They suffered for the Christian Faith in Asian Prusa during the reign of Julian the Apostate. Junius the imperial deputy brought these saints to a hot spring and asked Patrick: "Who created these curative waters if not our gods Aesculapius and others whom we worship?" St. Patrick replied: "Your gods are demons and these waters, like everything else, were created by Christ the Lord, our God." Then the deputy asked: "And will your Christ save you if I throw you into this boiling water?" The saint replied: "If He wills, He is able to preserve me whole and unharmed, even though I desire that in these waters I become separated from this temporary life to live with Christ eternally. But let His holy will be done, without which not even a hair from a man's head can fall!" Hearing this, the deputy ordered that Patrick be cast into the boiling water. Drops of boiling water splashed on all sides and cruelly scalded many of those present, but the saint, whose lips were continually in prayer, remained unharmed as though he were standing in cold water. Seeing this, the deputy, deeply embarrassed, became enraged and ordered that Patrick and his three presbyters be beheaded with an ax. Then the innocent followers of Christ recited their prayers and placed their heads under the ax of the executioner. When they were beheaded, their joyful souls ascended to Christ's Kingdom of Light, to reign forever.

Saint of the Day – May 26, 2024

THE HOLY APOSTLE CARPUS

Carpus was one of the Seventy Apostles. He was a follower and companion of the Apostle Paul, by whom he was appointed Bishop of Varna in Thrace. He also preached the Gospel on Crete, where he received St. Dionysius the Areopagite in his home. St. Dionysius testifies that Carpus was a man with an exceptionally pure mind, meekness, and innocence; that the Lord Jesus, with His angels, appeared to him in a vision; and that he never began the Divine Liturgy without first receiving a heavenly vision. Enduring many assaults for the name of Christ, he finally suffered at the hands of the unbelieving Jews and was slain. His soul took up habitation in the Kingdom of God, there to delight eternally, gazing upon the Lord in glory.

THE HOLY APOSTLE ALPHAEUS

Alphaeus was the father of two apostles from among the Twelve: James the son of Alphaeus, and Matthew the Evangelist. He ended his earthly life peacefully.

To God be the Glory and Praise Always!

Can You Offer the Paschal Greeting in ... Korean?!?

Give it a try ...

"Kristo gesso!"

"Buhar ha sho nay!"

A MESSAGE FROM FR. DON: Khouria Janet, Fr. Christopher, Khouria Sophia, Luke, Nora, Dr. Stephen, Zayna, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers, support & gifts during this Great Lent & Paschal Season. May God truly grant you His Joy & Peace (John 14:27) as we greet each other with:

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

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The Myrrh-Bearing Women

The Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women ... reminds us that the love and faithfulness of a few individuals shone brightly in the midst of hopeless darkness. It calls us to ensure that in this world love and faithfulness do not disappear or die out. It judges our lack of courage, our fear, our endless and servile rationalizations. The mysterious Joseph and Nicodemus, and these women who go to the grave at dawn, occupy so little space in the gospels. Precisely here, however, is where the eternal fate of each of us is decided.

Today, I think, we are especially in need of recovering this love and basic human loyalty. For we have entered a time when even these are being discredited by harmful concepts of the person and human life now prevailing in this world. For centuries, the world still had the weak, but still flickering and shining, glow from that faith-

fulness, love and co-suffering which was silently present at the sufferings of the Man cast aside by all. And we need to cling, as if to a last thread, to everything in our world that still thrives on the warm light of simple, earthly, human love. Love does not ask about theories and ideologies, but speaks to the heart and soul. Human history has rumbled along, kingdoms have risen and fallen, cultures have been built and bloody wars fought, but what has remained unchanging on earth and in this troubled and tragic history is the bright image of the woman. An image of care, self-giving, love, compassion. Without this presence, without this light, our world, regardless of its successes and accomplishments, would be a world of terror.

Father Alexander Schmemmann

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