

## A WORD FOR THE DAY

Having heard the good news, our temptation is to take it on our own terms, and so our attention is held more by the affairs of this life: we know more about our investments, pensions, taxes...than we do about the Scriptures...The reason why Pascha is the center of our ecclesial year—spending so many weeks preparing ourselves for it, and so many weeks afterwards unpacking the mystery—is to make sure we get the point!

The light of Pascha shines to enlighten us, so that we may no longer live in the darkness of our old ways, but rather even if only by a glimpse, by the first rays of a new day, begin to live in the light that befits children of God.

It would be a great mistake to think that this doesn't involve toil and labor, to dry out our bodies, as Joseph and Nicodemus prepared Christ's body, to dry out our passions, our attachments to all that holds us back, all that attracts our attention away from Christ, to prepare ourselves with myrrh—that which is fitting for the dead—so that we also become a sweet-smelling offering to God, working hard at ourselves, carving out of our rock-hard hearts a place where Christ can abide, to give new life to our mortal members.

Only if we truly give ourselves to Christ—to labor with zeal, desire, and love for his body—only then will we find that that which we thought was impossible has been accomplished, that the stone which lies over each of our hearts, weighing us down, making us unable to see or feel God, that that stone will have been rolled away, and then we will no longer have merely a glimpse of what lies ahead, but be invited into the tomb, our heart, the bridal chamber.

**Fr. John Behr**

Genuine faith is not a blind leap in the dark, an irrational and unreasonable acceptance of the unreasonable and absurd. Genuine faith is eminently reasonable; it is rooted and grounded in man's reasonable nature as made in the image of God. Not to believe, according to the Scriptures and the saints, is the epitome of absurdity and foolishness.

Man was made to have faith in God. Not to believe in God is a perversion of human nature and the cause of all evils...The spiritual person lives "by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Gal. 2:20) The spiritual person is the one who, by the grace of God's Spirit, is faithful in all things.

**Fr. Thomas Hopko**

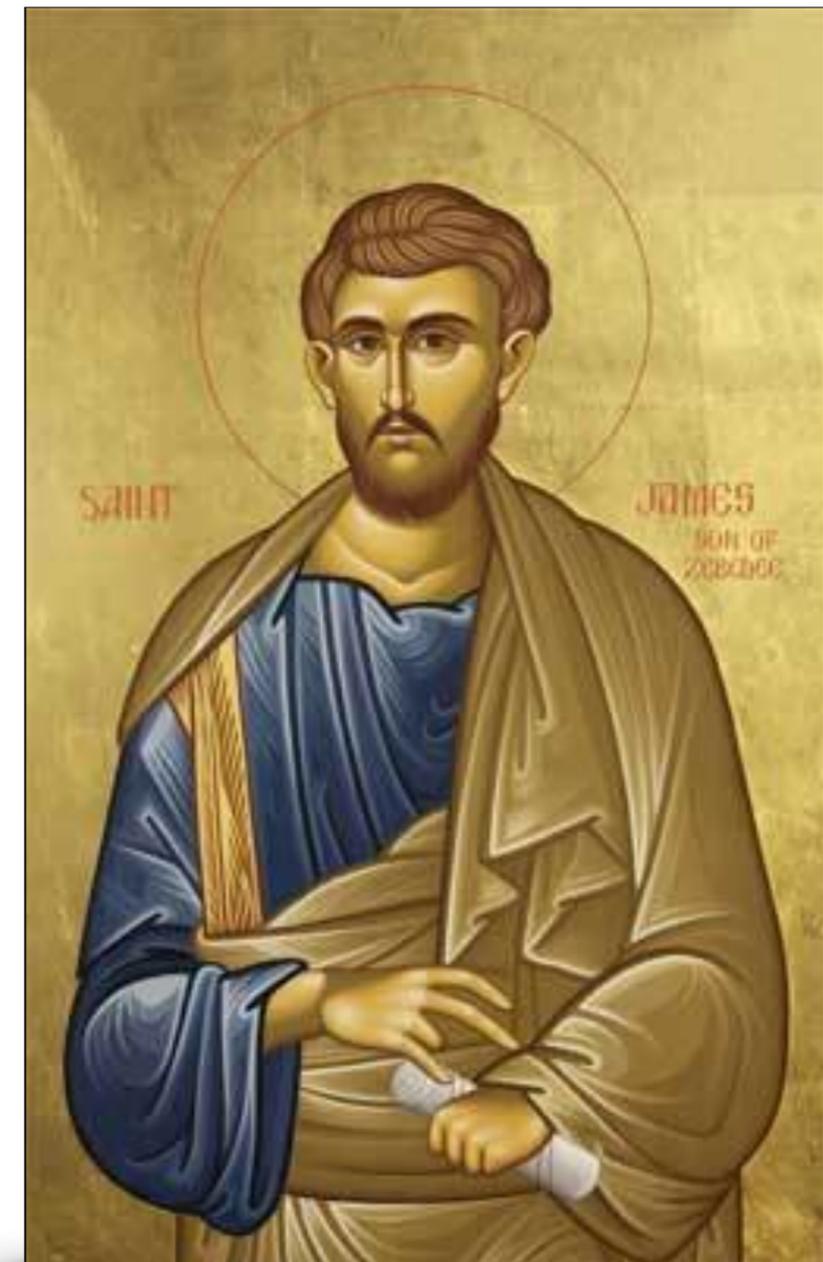
## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish Of The New England Diocese ✦ Orthodox Church In America

**April 30 2017**

**3rd SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 2. Holy Apostle James (Jacob), the brother of St. John the Theologian (44 A.D.). Myrrhbearing Women.**

Uncovering of the Relics of St. Nikita, Bishop of Novgorod (1558). St. Donatus, Bishop of Euroea in Epirus (ca. 387). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Basil, Bishop of Amasea (4th c.). Martyr Maximus of Ephesus. St. Ignátii (Ignatius) Brianchaninov, Bishop of Stavropol' (1867). The "PASSION" Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos.



## Divine Services

Wednesday, May 3rd.....Daily Vespers.....6:30 p.m.

*(no Study Group)*

Saturday, May 6th .....Great Vespers.....6:00 p.m.

*(followed by Confessions)*

Sunday, May 7th .....Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.....10:00 a.m.

*Sunday of the Paralytic (Hours Begin at 9:40 a.m.)*

### Today's Readings

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

### Next Week's Readings

Epistle: Acts 9:32-42

Gospel: John 5:1-5

### For Next Week, May 7

Hours and Thanksgiving Prayers.....Tanya Bogaevskaya

Epistle: .....Lisa Goudey

Coffee Hour.....Irene Vassos

**For the health and well-being** of Archpriest Joseph and Matushka Julia, Abdullah, David, Tony, Stanislav, Leonard, Timothy, Helen, Fenaeda, Raya, Irina, Katia, Dennis, Svetlana, Konstantin, Vladislav, Galina, Nancy, Maria, Al, Mercy, and Michael.

### May Birthdays

Tony Makdisi (01), Galina Zeygerman (02), Emilie Goudey (08) Vladimir Yefremov (09) **Anniversary:** Alla and Real Gadoury (23)

## Announcements

Many years to Tony Makdisi and Galina whose birthdays are celebrated this week. God grant you many blessed years!

### Parish Council Meeting Today.

**This is the Last Day of Collection for April Charities.** Again, charities will go towards our diocesan sponsored Orthodox Youth Rally held every summer by Fr. John Hopko. Our diocese provides summer camp for Orthodox youth. This is a worthy cause. The children are the future of the Church. It is essential that we support and foster their childhood education and experience the best that we can.

**No Study group** will be held this week after Daily Vespers on Wednesday.

**Catechism Sessions** will be held today during coffee hour. Today we will begin to talk about the Proskomedie—the service of Preparation before the Divine Liturgy. Please come over to the church to listen to what our Orthodoxy spirituality and practice is all about.

## Upcoming Events

**Vespertal Liturgy of the Ascension of our Lord** is coming up on the evening of May 24th at 6:30pm. The service will be followed by a non-fasting pot-luck dinner. This is a major feast of the Church when we celebrate the Ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ to the right hand of God the Father. In this great act—Jesus Christ who is both fully human and fully divine—brings our flesh, our humanity, everything it means to be human except for sin, and rests it at the right hand of God the Father with himself. In one sense, we now, as human beings (by virtue of the fact that Jesus Christ is also a human being and our Lord and God) have complete access to God. Christ has bridged and healed the gap, the chasm, the abyss caused by our sin with himself—with his body. And guess what? We are now members of that same body too! Yes, we live here on earth, yet as members of Christ's body, reside in heaven.

Pascha and Holy Week .....	\$2,486
4/23 Sunday's Collection .....	\$1,319
Budget 2017 .....	\$96,142
Progress Towards Budget.....	\$24,921