

A WORD FOR THE DAY

Encountering the truth of God in the person of Christ by receiving his Spirit is at the same time being faced with the truth about ourselves, and we simply fool ourselves if we think that this is going to be easy.

The two go hand in hand: it is impossible to come to know God without at the same time coming to see ourselves as we really are. These are two sides of the same reality: it is by knowing God, contemplating his image—the crucified and exalted Christ—that we come to know ourselves as sinners, yet also know that we are forgiven in Christ. This reality is inescapable—it is the truth; and it is better that we are broken upon this rock, and then built up upon it, rather than that it falls upon us and grinds us to dust (cf. Matt. 21:44).

Let us pray, then, in this period of Pentecost, as we move towards the feast of Pentecost, that we learn to desire, with all our hearts and strength, the righteousness of God, so we may taste of that living water, and that we may be prepared for the trials that it will certainly bring.

Fr. John Behr

Here is love! Here is teaching! Here is acquiescence! Here is a model! Those who love they also serve. If you want to find out how great your love is towards God, then measure your obedience to the will of God, and you will immediately learn. Lack of positive obedience is a sign of a lack of love. Those who love, delight in fulfilling the will of the beloved. The Son of God so loved His Father, that He thought it to be preferable to food to fulfill the will of the Father. What is the will of the Father? The salvation of man. The Lord, Son of God felt an unquenchable hunger to carry out the will of the Father. And when He had saved [a soul] He felt nourished with the sweetest food. See how exalted is the spirituality of Christ!

O my brothers, if you only knew how much Christ our Lord also hungers for our salvation! We begin our own salvation which He offers to us. This is for Him the most gladsome food. O Lord Jesus, insatiable love of men, have mercy on us and save us. Glory to you and praise for ever. Amen.

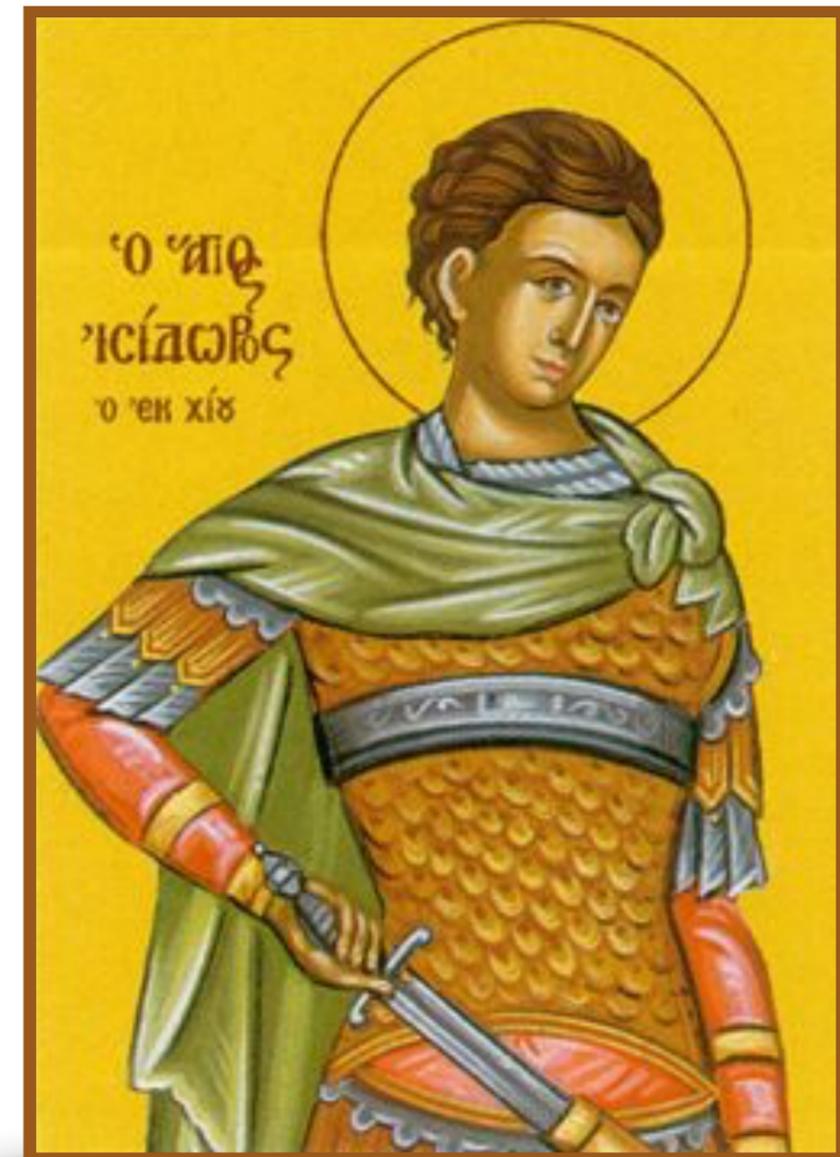
Bishop Nikolai Velimi

ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

May 14 2017

5th SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 4. Samaritan Woman. Martyr Isidore of Chios (251). Ven. Isidore, Fool-for-Christ, Wonderworker of Rostov (1474). St. Nikita, Bishop of Novgorod and Recluse, of the Kiev Caves. Martyr Maximus (ca. 250). Ven. Serapion of Egypt (5th c.). St. Leontius, Patriarch of Jerusalem (1175). First opening of the Relics of St. Tikhon of Zadonsk (1846).



Martyr Isidore of Chios

Divine Services

Wednesday, May 17thDaily Vespers.....6:30 p.m.
(followed by Study Group)
Saturday, May 20thGreat Vespers.....6:00 p.m.
(followed by Confessions)
Sunday, May 21stDivine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.....10:00 a.m.
Sunday of the Blind Man (Hours Begin at 9:40 a.m.)

Today's Readings

Epistle: Acts 11:19-26, 29-30

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Next Week's Readings

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

Gospel: John 9:1-38

For Next Week, May 21

Hours and Thanksgiving PrayersLucian Radulescu

Epistle:Emilie Goudey

Coffee HourMarina Bobrovsky

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

Happy Mothers Day! Today is Mother's Day. May God grant our mothers many years! And may God grant rest eternal to our mothers who have fallen asleep.

May Charities Collection is going to St. Tikhon's Seminary. Remember, the support of our seminaries is vital. Without our monetary support, we would have no priests. Seminarians make a huge commitment and sacrifice to give up what they are doing and go to seminary. They need support. Please donate generously this month to support our seminarians. Thank you!

Study Group will be held this week after Daily Vespers on Wednesday.

Today's Learning Session here in the church will be on the priest's vestments. What are the names of each vestment? What do they symbolize? Why all the fancy dress? Come and learn! Catechism Session will be held during coffee hour at the church.

Thank you! A wonderful gathering came together yesterday morning to dig, weed, plant, mulch and beautify our garden beds. Thank you to Sorin, Elena, Tanya, Nick, Marina, Irina T., Ruthann, Herman, Irene, Rick, and Len and Greg Carty.

Upcoming Events

Vesperal 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.

Pilgrimage to New Skete on Saturday, June 3rd. New Skete Monastery is holding an open house on Saturday, June 3rd. We are looking into rent a bus to go to New Skete—planned to depart around noon and return at 7pm. It is very important for us to get an accurate head count of who is interested in going, so we can decide if will rent a bus or not. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. Please sign-up if you would like to go. Since we will be at the monastery that evening, we will not hold Great Vespers at St. Nicholas.

Important Note: The Monks of New Skete will be showing their dogs off for their Open House. This is the only time of the year that the monks hold presentations with the dogs that they are famous for training. This is an extra special treat for any children who would like to go on this pilgrimage.

Ice-Cream Social, Sunday, June 11th. To celebrate the end of the Church School year, we will hold an Ice-Cream Social after Divine Liturgy on Sunday, June 11th. We hope to see all of our Sunday School children there. Save the date!

Last Sunday's Collection	\$892
2017 Budget	\$96,142
Progress Towards Budget.....	\$27,387