

Christ is Risen!
Χριστός Воскресе!
Χριστός ἀνέστη!

St. Mary ~ Holy Protection
Byzantine Catholic Church
4480 Route 981 Latrobe, PA 15650

Indeed He is Risen!
Воистину Воскресе!
Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!

Administrator: Fr. Paul-Alexander Shutt, OSB
Confession Schedule: *Saturday* 16:00 – 16:30,
Sunday 9:00 – 9:30, or by appointment

Parish Office: 724-423-3 673 **Hall:** 724-423-8838
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Website: www.stmarybyzantinecatholic.org

10 MAY 2020 / 7528
SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

Post-festive Day of Mid-Pentecost. The Holy Prophet Simon the Zealot.
Rest of the Blessed Bishop Martyr Vasile Aftenie.



Epistle: Acts 11:19 – 26; 29 – 30

GOSPEL: John 4:5 – 42



05 / 03 / 2020
COLLECTION
TOTAL: \$822

Adults: \$690

Children: \$6

Candles: \$21

Holy Days: \$20

Holy Week: \$30

PASCHA: \$25

Seminary: \$30

Cemetery: \$5



The midpoint of the Feast has arrived; the days which begin with the Resurrection of the Savior and are fulfilled in the divine Feast of Pentecost. Truly it unites both Feasts and draws light from their double brightness, giving honor to the Ascension of the Lord, which prefigures our glory.

Today we have come to the midweek of the festal season. As a river of divine glory, the Lord gives streams of goodness to all and calls out: All who thirst, come to Me and drink deeply, because I AM the Fountain of compassion and the Ocean of mercy. From Him flows forgiveness to the peoples; He washes away sin and cleanses infirmities. He saves those who celebrate His Resurrection, embraces with love those who honor His glorious Ascension, and bestows upon our souls peace and great mercy.

My soul has become sterile because of sin; pour the streams of Your blood over it and make it fertile in virtues; for You have commanded all to come to You, O Word of God, and to draw the waters of immortality that cleanse the sins of those who sing of Your divine and glorious Resurrection. O God of goodness, send the strength of the Spirit, Who truly descended from heaven, upon Your disciples who acknowledge Your divinity, for You are the Source of our life.

When we were baptized into Christ and clothed ourselves in Him, we were transformed into the likeness of the Son of God. Having destined us to be His adopted sons, God gave us a likeness to Christ in His glory, and living as we do in communion with Christ, God's anointed, we ourselves are rightly called "the anointed ones." When He said: *Do not touch my anointed ones*, God was speaking of us. We became "the anointed ones" when we received the sign of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, everything took place in us by means of images, because we ourselves are images of Christ. Christ bathed in the river Jordan, imparting to its waters the fragrance of His divinity, and when He came up from them the Holy Spirit descended upon Him, like resting upon like. So we also, after coming up from the sacred waters of baptism, were anointed with chrism, which signifies the Holy Spirit, by Whom Christ was anointed and of Whom blessed Isaiah prophesied in the name of the Lord: *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me. He has sent me to preach good news to the poor.* Christ's anointing was not by human hands, nor was it with ordinary oil. On the contrary, having destined Him to be the Savior of the whole world, the Father Himself anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. The words of Peter bear witness to this: *Jesus of Nazareth, whom God anointed with the Holy Spirit.* And David the prophet proclaimed: *Your throne, O God, shall endure for ever; your royal scepter is a scepter of justice. You have loved righteousness and hated iniquity; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above all your fellows.* The oil of gladness with which Christ was anointed was a spiritual oil; it was in fact the Holy Spirit Himself, Who is called *the oil of gladness* because He is the source of spiritual joy. But we too have been anointed with oil, and by this anointing we have entered into fellowship with Christ and have received a share in His life. Beware of thinking that this holy oil is simply ordinary oil and nothing else. After the invocation of the Spirit it is no longer ordinary oil but the gift of Christ, and by the presence of His divinity it becomes the instrument through which we receive the Holy Spirit. While symbolically, on our foreheads and senses, our bodies are anointed with this oil that we see; our souls are sanctified by the holy and life-giving Spirit.

From the Jerusalem Catecheses (Cat. 21, Mystagogica 3, 1-3: PG 33, 1087-1091)



~ A MOTHER'S DAY SONNET ~

Sonnets are full of love, and this my tome
Has many sonnets: so here now shall be
One sonnet more, a love sonnet, from me
To her whose heart is my heart's quiet home,

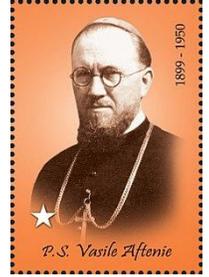
To my first Love, my Mother, on whose knee
I learnt love-lore that is not troublesome;
Whose service is my special dignity,
And she my loadstar while I go and come.

And so because you love me, and because
I love you, Mother, I have woven a wreath
Of rhymes wherewith to crown your honored name:

In you not fourscore years can dim the flame
Of love, whose blessed glow transcends the laws
Of time and change and mortal life and death.

Christina Rossetti, 1830 – 1894

Bishop Martyr Vasile Aftenie (June 14, 1899 – May 10, 1950) He studied at Lodroman, Bucharest, Blaj, and at Rome. He obtained his PhD in Philosophy and Theology in 1925 and returned to Romania. On January 1, 1926, he was ordained as a priest by Metropolitan Vasile Suciu. He worked at Blaj and Bucharest 1926 to 1940. On April 12, 1940 he was appointed as a Bishop by Pope Pius XII. He was arrested on October 28, 1948 in Bucharest and imprisoned along with the other five Greek-Catholic bishops first in Dragoslavele, then in Căldărușani, a former monastery converted to a prison. It was proposed that he be appointed as an Orthodox Metropolitan if he would have embraced Orthodoxy, but he refused. Tortured, mutilated, crippled mentally and physically, Bishop Vasile Aftenie died May 10, 1950 in Vacaresti Prison. On June 2, 2019, Pope Francis beatified Bishop Aftenie and six other Romanian Greek-Catholic Bishop-martyrs in Blaj on the Liberty Plain.



~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

- **LILLIES** are located along the sidewalk between the rectory and the church for anyone who would like to have the bulbs.
- **SEMINARY COLLECTION:** The annual collection for our **Saints Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary** is next weekend of **16 – 17 May**. Please be generous in your support of our men in priestly and diaconal formation. They are the future of our Church!
- **PURIFICATION OF THE HEART: The First Stage of the Spiritual Life** The purification of the heart is the essential starting point of the Christian life. How do we identify the presence of the passions in our own lives, and what are the means, the medicine, that the Church gives us to overcome them? This live webinar will take place on the following dates: **May 13 & 20 @ 8 - 9 pm EDT**. All courses are free of charge, but you must register at **EasternCatholic.org/Events**. Rev. Deacon Thomas Moses, the presenter for this series, serves as a deacon at Our Lady of the Cedars Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Manchester, NH.