

Galatians 3:23-29 (Epistle, Saint)

But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Hebrews 9:11-14 (Sunday, Epistle)

But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Luke 7:36-50 (Gospel, Saint)

Then one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner."

And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it."

There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more? Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins,

which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little. Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

Mark 10:32-45 (Sunday, Gospel)

Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again. Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared. And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John.

But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant.

And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.



PASCHA EGG HUNT

There will be a Egg Hunt for all of our children following the Agape Vespers on May 1st.

If anyone would like to help or donate, please let Fr. Andrew know.

Powerpoint presentation now available from Diocesan Stewardship Group

With the blessing of His Grace, Bishop Paul, a Powerpoint presentation prepared by the Diocesan Stewardship Group, in which data obtained from the parishes of the Diocese of the Midwest is analyzed, is being sent to all clergy. The presentation also is available on the diocesan web site.

“The presentation details actual assessments paid by the parishes in 2012, 2013, and 2014 as percentages of eligible income,” said Simeon A. Morbey. “Eligible income is defined as all non-restricted income received by a parish in a given year. This document does not contain any assessment proposal and is intended only to represent the current financial landscape. To be clear: these figures do not represent the final proposal.”

Questions may be directed to the Stewardship Group at midwestdiocesestewardship@gmail.com.

Abbot Sergius of St. Tikhon’s Monastery conducts retreat in Ash Grove, MO

On the weekend of March 26-27, 2016, Archpriest Moses Berry and the faithful of the Theotokos Unexpected Joy Church here welcomed Archimandrite Sergius, Abbot of Saint Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, PA, who conducted a retreat for faithful throughout the region.

Father Sergius brought with him the Myrrh Streaming Icon of Saint Anna and the Theotokos, which the faithful were able to venerate throughout the weekend.

On Sunday morning, Father Moses concelebrated the Divine Liturgy with Father Sergius, who delivered an inspiring sermon.

The Icon of Saint Anna, which had been enshrined at the Russian Orthodox Church of Our Lady, Joy of All Who Sorrow Church, Philadelphia, PA, began to stream myrrh on May 9, 2004. The recently departed Archimandrite Athanasys [Mastalsky], the parish’s Rector, noticed visible liquid streams and droplets. Accumulations of the liquid were observed on the cuff of Saint Anne’s left hand and on her left shoulder veil. Droplets also were found elsewhere on the icon. This fragrant, slightly oily liquid, is commonly referred to as “myrrh.”

Commissioned by Father Athanasys at the Russian Orthodox Convent on the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem, the icon was completed in 1998 and blessed at the Holy Sepulcher in the city’s Church of the Resurrection. According to Saint Tikhon’s

Monastery web site, “assistance and healings are still wrought by the miraculous icon and she continues to work wonders for those who approach with faith.”



OCCHY QUIZ

A. 18% B. 42% C. 87%

What percentage of youth are more likely NOT to use drugs when their parents take time to talk to them about it?

TALK TO YOUR KIDS

ABOUT THE DANGERS OF ALCOHOL AND DRUGS!

ANSWER: B

DID YOU KNOW...

Children of parents who talk to their teens regularly about drugs are 42% less likely to use drugs than those who don't, yet only a quarter of teens report having these conversations.

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