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**Sunday, July 6, 2025**

*Fourth Sunday of Matthew*

8:45am: Orthros

10am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

## Hymns of the Day

### Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Third Mode

Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. \* For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. \* He trampled death under foot by means of death; \* and He became the firstborn from the dead. \* From the maw of Hades He delivered us; \* and He granted the world His great mercy.

## Ἀπολυτίκιον Ἀναστάσιμον. Ἦχος γ´.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον· πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο· ἐκ κοιλίας ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

### Apolytikion of Saint Nicholas in the Fourth Mode

An example of the faith and a life of humility: \* as a teacher of abstinence you did inspire and lead your flock, \* and through the truthfulness of your deeds \* were exalted to greatness through your humility, \* uplifting all, and by poverty gaining wealth. \* Father and hierarch Saint Nicholas, \* intercede with Christ our God \* that our souls may be saved.



### Kontakion in the Second Mode

O Protection of Christians that never falls, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you.

# Gospel and Epistle Readings

## Orthros Gospel

**Luke. 24:1 – 12**

On the first day of the week at early dawn, the women went to the tomb, taking spices which they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.

While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel; and as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise.” And they remembered his words and returning from the tomb they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest.

Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told this to the Apostles; but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home wondering at what had happened.

## Epistle Reading

**Romans 6:18 – 23**

Brethren, having been set free from sin, you have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms, because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you once yielded your members to impurity and to greater and greater

iniquity, so now yield your members to righteousness for sanctification.

When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. But then what return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## Gospel Reading

### Matthew 8:5 – 13

At that time, as Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to him, beseeching him and saying, “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress.” And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.” But the centurion answered him, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”

When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.” And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; be it done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

# Saints and Feasts

## Sisoës the Great

This Saint, great and renowned among the ascetics of Egypt, lived in the fourth century in Scete of Nitria. After the death of Saint Anthony the Great, he left Scete to live in Saint Anthony's cave; he said of this, "Thus in the cave of a lion, a fox makes his dwelling." For his sixty years of labor in the desert, Saint Sisoës attained to sublime spiritual purity and he was granted the gift of wonderworking, so that by his prayers he once restored a dead child back to life.

Extremely strict with himself, Abba Sisoës was very merciful and compassionate to others, and he received everyone with love. To those who visited him, the saint first of all always taught humility. When one of the monks asked how he might attain to a constant remembrance of God, Saint Sisoës remarked, "That is no great thing, my son, but it is a great thing to regard yourself as inferior to everyone else. This leads to the acquisition of humility." Asked by the monks whether one year is sufficient for repentance if a brother sins, Abba Sisoës said, "I trust in the mercy of God that if such a man repents with all his heart, then God will accept his repentance in three days."

When Sisoës was at the end of his long life of labours, as the Fathers were gathered about him, his face began to shine, and he said, "Behold, Abba Anthony is come;" then, "Behold, the choir of the Prophets is come;" his face shone yet more bright, and he said, "Behold, the choir of the Apostles is come." The light of his countenance increased, and he seemed to be talking with someone. The Fathers asked him of this; in his humility, he said he was asking the Angels for time to repent. The monks said, "You have no need for repentance, Father." Saint Sisoës said with great humility, "I do not think

that I have even begun to repent.”

Finally his face became as bright as the sun, so that the Fathers were filled with fear. He said, “Behold, the Lord is come, and He says, ‘Bring Me the vessel of the desert,’” and as he gave up his soul into the hands of God, there was as it were a flash of lightning, and the whole dwelling was filled with a sweet fragrance.

### **Martyr Lucy (Loukia) and those with her at Rome**

Saint Lucy, a native of the Italian district of Campania, from the time of her youth dedicated herself to God and lived in an austere and chaste manner. While still quite young, she was taken captive and carried off into a foreign land by Rexius, who had the title of Vicarius. Rexius at first tried to compel Saint Lucy to sacrifice to idols, but she remained firm in her faith and was ready to accept torture for the sake of Christ. Rexius was inspired with profound respect for her and even permitted her and her servants the use of a separate house, where they lived in solitude, spending their time in unceasing prayer. Whenever he left to go on military campaigns, Rexius reverently asked for Saint Lucy’s prayers, and he returned victorious.

After 20 years Saint Lucy, having learned that the emperor Diocletian had begun a persecution against Christians, entreated Rexius to send her back to Italy. She wanted to glorify the Lord together with her fellow countrymen. Rexius, under the influence of Saint Lucy, had already accepted Christianity by this time, and even longed for martyrdom. Leaving behind his retinue and family, he went to Rome with Saint Lucy. The Roman prefect Aelius sentenced them to be beheaded with a sword. After them the holy martyrs Antoninus, Lucian, Isidore, Dion, Diodorus, Cutonis, Arnosus, Capicus and Satyrus were also beheaded.

## Wisdom of the Fathers

“Let us listen, as many as are to receive Christ: for it is possible to receive Him even now. Let us hearken, and emulate and receive Him with as great a zeal, for indeed, when you receive a man who is hungry and naked, you have received and cherished Him.”

- St. John Chrysostom, *Homily 26* “On Matthew 8,”.

“I had the habit from the time I was a boy—and it’s a habit I still have—that whenever I sinned I went and confessed and everything went away. I would jump for joy. I am sinful and weak. I resort to God’s compassion and I am saved, I become calm and I forget everything. Every day I think that I sin, but I desire that whatever happens to me I turn it into prayer and I don’t keep it locked within me.”

- St. Porphyrios the Kavsokalyvite, *Wounded by Love* ch. 26 “On the Mystery of Repentance,” p. 173.

“If we are all sinners and no man is superior to the temptations of sin, it is certainly true that no virtue is more pre-eminent than repentance. For a man can never complete the work of repentance. It is always suitable for every sinner and righteous man who wishes to gain salvation.”

- St. Isaac the Syrian, *Ascetical Homilies 32*, p. 278.

## Parish Prayer List

Please remember in your God-pleasing prayers the servants of God:

Connie (Constantina) Joufflas; Robert Tewis

*If you would like for yourself or a loved one to be added to the prayer list, please contact Fr. Jeremy.*

# Parish Information

## Byzantine Chant Classes

Byzantine chant classes take place on **Saturdays at 4pm**. If you are interested in learning and helping out, please feel free to attend!

## Men's Breakfast

Our next Men's Breakfast will take place on Saturday, **August 2 at 8am**. Feel free to invite a friend!

## Ladies' Potluck Luncheon

Our Ladies' Potluck Luncheon group meets on the second Thursday of each month! The next luncheon will take place in the Church hall on **Thursday, July 10** at 12pm.



## This Week at St. Nicholas

- Wednesday, July 9: 6pm Small Paraklesis
- Thursday, July 10: 12pm Ladies' Luncheon
- Friday, July 11 **Great Martyr Euphemia**: 8:30am Orthros, 9:30am Divine Liturgy
- Saturday, July 12: 4pm Byzantine Chant Class, 5pm Great Vespers