



**"IF ANYONE THIRSTS  
LET HIM COME TO ME AND DRINK!"**

**SUNDAY, MAY 15<sup>TH</sup>**

**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha**

8:40a.m. Hours  
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Coffee Hour  
Parish Council Meeting

**TUESDAY, MAY 17<sup>TH</sup>**

7:00p.m. Blessing of Water

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup>**

**Mid-Pentecost**

8:40a.m. Hours  
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

**SATURDAY, MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>**

5:00p.m. Bible Study  
6:00p.m. Great Vespers

**SUNDAY, MAY 22<sup>ND</sup>**

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Pascha**

8:40a.m. Hours  
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy  
Open House @ Rectory

*"Thou didst die – Thou Who art the  
Life of all – in order to revive me  
who was dead. Thou wast laid in  
the tomb that I might rise from the  
tomb. Thou wast brought to life  
again that I might believe in my  
own resurrection."*

St. Tikhon of Zadonsk

**READER SCHEDULE**

**Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Bruce Eckerd

**Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**

Constantine Mitsopoulos



**CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH**

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**BULLETIN OF MAY 15, 2011**

**CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

**Please Remember in Prayer**

Don Young, Mat. Maura, Jerrie Rife, Wallace & Michelle Wilson, Victoria Kokkinos, Ed Tucker, Karen Nichols, Irene Clenney, Denise Royal, Gabriela Jones, Simeon, Scott & Maryann, Roman Szwec, Mat. Dunia, Patti Lease, Garrett Cuppels, Frs Michael & Andrew, Fr. Christian, Jane Koshutko, Robert Evanusa, Nicholas & Linda, Nicholas, Anna, Nina Gordon, Mirela & Chris, Jaroslav, Troy, Frank & Mary Miranda, Kathy T., Bruce, Julia Plisko & family, Stella.

**The Feast of Mid-Pentecost**

is celebrated this year on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. On this feast we bless water, recalling how the Lord cried out to all in the midst of the feast, "If anyone thirsts let him come to me and drink!" The Blessing of Water will be served on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm, and the Divine Liturgy will be served on Wednesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am. All are encouraged to attend!



**About Holy Water**

The water that will be blessed on Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm, may be used for drinking (health of soul and body) and for blessing (homes, cars, gardens, etc.). Holy Water is grace-filled and offers health, protection, and sanctification. Often a bottle of Holy Water is kept in the refrigerator for frequent use throughout the year.

**The Parish Council**

will meet today, Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, following the coffee hour. All are welcome to stay for the meeting, though, voting privileges are reserved from those who have been blessed to hold office.



**Open House – Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Everyone is invited to an Open House at the rectory on Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Open House will be in lieu of the coffee hour. Please try to save the date and let others know. If you would like to bring a dish, please see Mat. Emily. Absolutely everyone is invited – please spread the word!

**Have An Idea?**

Do you have any idea that you would like to share about our Mission? Please share it with Fr. John or one of the Council Members – we are always looking for ways to improve the Mission!

**Looking Ahead**

The Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's is Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. Fr. John and his family will not be able to make it this year, but if you are interested in going and need directions or would like to find travel partners, please let Fr. John know.

**Prayer for Graduates**

will be offered on Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, at the end of the Liturgy.

## MIDFEAST OF PENTECOST

The time of Pentecost is 50 days. Indeed, the word Pentecost, means "fifty." In the middle of the feast, that is on the 25<sup>th</sup> day, always a Wednesday, we celebrate the feast known as Mid-Pentecost. The feast unites and connects Pascha (the beginning) with Pentecost (the ending).

The symbol of water provides the theme for the feast of Mid-Pentecost. "Whoever is thirsty should come to Me and drink." As the Scriptures says, "Whoever believes in Me, streams of life-giving water will pour out from his heart." Christ said this about the Spirit which those who believe in Him were going to receive (John 7:37-38). This passage is also part of the Gospel reading for the Sunday of Pentecost.

Anticipating the gift of the Holy Spirit by Christ, the Troparion and Kontakion of Mid-Pentecost express the yearning of the believer with these words:

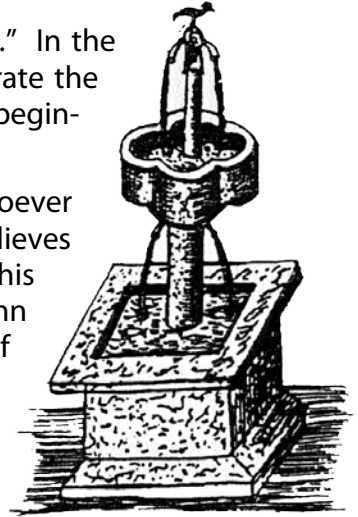
### Troparion

In the middle of the Feast, O Savior, fill my thirsting soul with the waters of godliness, as Thou didst cry to all: If anyone thirsts let him come to Me and drink! O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to Thee!

### Kontakion

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all, cried to all in the midst of the feast of the law: Come and draw the water of immortality! We fall before Thee and faithfully cry: Grant us Thy bounties, for Thou art the Fountain of our life.

A Blessing of Water takes place on this feast. We may bring vessels to church the next time we come for services so as to bring the newly-blessed waters to our homes.



## THE ICON OF MID-PENTECOST

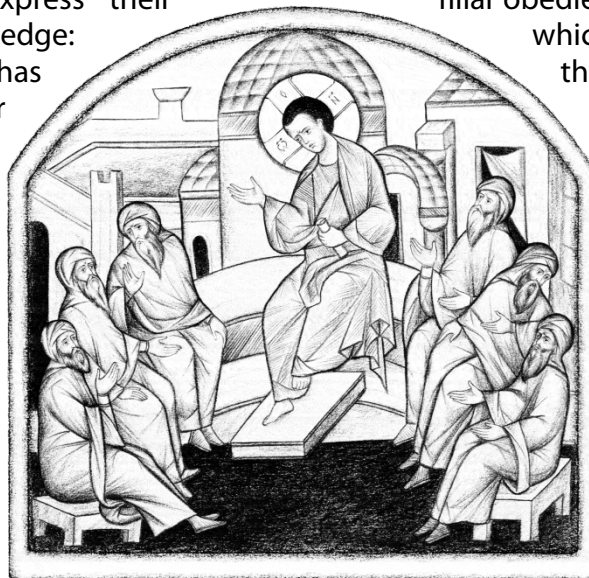
*From the Incarnate God – Volume 2*



The iconography adopted by the Church to illustrate Mid-Pentecost shows us Jesus Christ teaching in the Temple, just as in the Gospel. Christ is sitting at the center of a circle of Jewish scholars and wise men. These express their amazement at His knowledge:

"How is it that this Man has learning, when He has never studied?" (John 7:15). In answer to this question, Jesus speaks of His connection to the Father, of His divine origin.

Most often, the icons of Mid-Pentecost represent Christ's first encounter in the Temple with the doctors of the Law – this is the episode described by St. Luke, when Jesus was twelve years old (Luke 2:41-50). "Did you not know that I must be in My Father's house?," He says to His worried parents, thus openly declaring that He is the Son of God and



that He must carry out His mission. On that day, Christ declares His independence from Joseph and Mary, escaping their tutelage. He tells them about His unique link with God the Father. He accepts filial obedience to the end, an obedience which will lead Him all the way to the Cross. "Not My will, but Thy will be done!" (Luke 22:42).

Divine Wisdom is revealed to the doctors of the Law who admire the wisdom of the Child, revealing Jesus as the Child-Emmanuel announced by the Prophets (Isaiah 7:14). The authority of His teaching is already confirmed during His infancy, for "He is before all things," He precedes creation (Colossians 1:17 and Proverbs 8:22-30), "He is

begotten, not made, of one essence with the Father" (the Creed). He is "the Wisdom, the Word, and the Power of God" (From Matins of Pascha).

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## ASK FATHER: 3 QUESTIONS / 3 ANSWERS

**Question:** I do not understand in Genesis 27, where Jacob lies, deceiving Isaac, and steals the blessing of his brother. How is he favored by God?

**Answer:** This is a difficult section. To start, we can acknowledge that lying and stealing are both sinful, and cannot be the reason why Jacob received the blessing.

Now, without question, it was Esau's birthright, as the first-born son, to receive Isaac's blessing. Yet, as we read in Genesis 25, Esau chose to sell this birthright to Jacob. Here it even says that Esau "despised" his birthright. This was all in fulfillment of the Lord's words, spoken in His perfect foreknowledge:

"And the LORD said unto her (Rebecca), 'Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.'" (Gen 25:23)

Now in regard to the "deception": Since by purchasing the birthright, Jacob, in a spiritual sense, truly was the elder son, Esau, it could be said that he did not really deceive his father. Isaac, although a great patriarch, "was old and his eyes were dim and he could not see." (Gen 27:1) This was true not only physically, but in a sense spiritually too, for he was not able to see the Lord's plan for his two sons.

In purchasing the birthright, rather than stealing it, Jacob is "wise as a serpent, but guileless as a dove".

**Question:** Is there an additional meaning to all of this?

**Answer:** Yes, this section has a great prophetic message as it speaks to us about the Lord Himself and His two sons: the Old Testament people and the New Testament Church – both called Israel.

Remember, it was Jacob who was the first to be called "Israel", meaning one who "sees or perseveres with God". This was the birthright Jacob had purchased from his brother Esau, and this was the blessing he had received from his father Isaac, "to see and persevere with God".

This foreshadows the two covenants. Old Israel (the Jewish nation, represented by Esau) "despised" its birthright, and by its rejection of the Lord, could not see and persevere with the God who had become Incarnate in the Person of Jesus Christ. New Israel (the Church, represented by Jacob), saw and recognized God in the flesh, and inherited the blessing, which should have belonged to the older son, the Hebrews, had they not rejected their birthright as the nation from which Emmanuel ("God with us") was to come.

**Question:** Isn't this predestination?

**Answer:** Actually, this is a good example arguing against predestination as it is often understood. We see that in both cases, with Esau and Jacob, and with the Old and New Testament peoples, the Lord didn't predestine them, He simply foreknew their choices. When the Scriptures speak of predestination, this is the sense in which it is done – God's infinite foreknowledge and wise providence, not His forcing of man into anything independent of his own free will. Simply put: although God doesn't make the choice for us, He does know what we will choose, and, in His goodness, He works providentially with us for the best outcome. Praise be to God for His limitless knowledge, goodness, and providence!



### 3 CHURCHES ATTACKED IN EGYPT; 12 DEAD, OVER 200 INJURED

*From DirectionsToOrthodoxy.org / By Mary Abdelmassih / Posted on Tue May 10 2011*

(ANA) -- Christians Copts in the area of Embaba were attacked Saturday evening by Muslim Salafis. The attacks lasted for 14 hours. The Muslims fired guns and rifles and hurled Molotov cocktails at Coptic churches, houses and businesses. 12 Copts were killed and 232 injured.

The church of Saint Mina was the first to be attacked. According to its pastor Fr. Abanoub the attack started at 5.30 PM on Saturday May 7, when church parishioners noticed a large number of Salafis, estimated at 3000 men, congregating near the church. Anticipating trouble, the army was called. The Salafis went to the church and asked to search it because they believed a Christian girl named called Abir, who had converted to Islam, married a Salafi and wanted to revert back to Christianity, was hiding inside the church. The Muslims circulated a rumor that the husband of Abir received a call from her asking him to save her as she was being "tortured" inside the church. The governor of Giza said that there are no girls hiding in St. Mina Church. He falsely claimed that things were under control and a "reconciliation" meeting will be arranged for tomorrow. The army later cordoned off the entire district of Embaba.

Father Yohanna Mansour from Giza Bishopric confirmed that no one knows this alleged girl called Abir. He said the congregation was meeting at church and the Salafis wanted to break into the church and force a search to look for this alleged convert, he said in an interview with the Egyptian State TV. "Muslims always come invited to church, but this would have set a precedent that Muslims would use to search our churches." He refused the "reconciliation" meeting and insisted on the application of the law. According to Fr. Abanoub the Salafis started shooting at 5:30 but the army arrived at 10 PM. "I called everyone, but no one bothered to come." He said six policemen came and left when they saw the shooting. There were also snipers shooting the parishioners from rooftops. "I mourn all those young people who died. We now must ask for international protection."

The second church attacked by Salafis was St. Mary and St Abanob, also in Embaba. Muslims prevented the fire brigade from reaching it. Copts were also shot. This video shows the wounded brought inside the church. The third church attacked was St. Mary Church in Wehda Street in Embaba, the ground floor of which was completely torched. An apartment complex inhabited by Copts, near St. Mina Church, was set on fire after being looted. Another

two houses were torched. Youssef Edward, a deacon at St. Mina Church, said the army and security forces stood watching while Muslims threw Molotov cocktail at homes. He said the Muslims who attacked the church came from outside, as Muslims from the area live peacefully with them. "The army was not able to control the situation, and the mob was chanting 'Islamic'".

As soon as Copts heard of the Salafi attacks, they rushed to protect their churches. There were contradictory reports of Copts using guns to defend themselves. Witnesses reported the Salafis were wearing Taliban style clothes. "I believe they are of the 3000 Jihadis who returned lately from Afghanistan," Saber Loutfi, one of the Embaba residents told Coptic Free Voice.

Renowned Muslim liberal writer Nabil Sharaf el Din said on the Coptic Hope Sat Channel "The army is either incapable or is an accomplice to the Salafis." He believes that what took place today exceeds anything else that had previously happened to the Copts. "If the army does not takes a stern position with the Salafis they will look real bad." He said that all moderate Muslims and Copts should stick together to overcome the Salafis. In his opinion the Salafis, who were encouraged and nurtured by the old State Security, are like the genie who has come out of the lamp and now cannot be restrained or controlled.

Bishop Theodosius said "These things are planned. We have no law or security, we are in a jungle. We are in a state of chaos. One rumor burns the whole area. Everyday we have a catastrophe." To the Salafis he said "We will never leave our country".

Most witnesses interviewed asked for international protection of the Copts, as the army does nothing when it comes to attacks on Copts. Others accused the army of complicity.

Camelia Shehata, who the Muslims claim had converted to Islam and was held by the church against her will, appeared today on Hayat Christian TV and said Muslim claims are groundless and that she is 100% Christian. She denied that she had met any of the Salafi sheikhs who claimed they went with her to Al-Azhar to convert to Islam.

A large number of Copts are presently staging a sit-in in front of the US Embassy in Cairo, asking for International Protection for the Copts. Coptic groups have called for a "million-man" protest in Cairo and Alexandria on Sunday to protest the Embaba attacks. The march will start at the High Court and end in Maspero, in front of the State TV Building.