

ST. JAMES ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Very Reverend Fr. Steven Ritter, Pastor

The Reverend Fr. Anthony Bridges, Deacon

3579 McEver Road, Gainesville, GA 30504

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Saturday Great Vespers @ 4:00 p.m. :: Sunday Orthros @ 9:00 a.m. & Divine Liturgy @ 10:00 a.m.



May 25, 2025





SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA: SUNDAY OF THE BLIND MAN & THIRD DISCOVERY OF THE FORERUNNER'S HONORABLE HEAD

MARTYR CELESTINE OF ROME;
HIEROMARTYR THERAPON, BISHOP OF CYPRUS



DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM (TONE 5/ EOTHINON 8)

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION

TONE 5

Let us believers praise and worship the Word; coeternal with the Father and the Spirit, born of the Virgin for our salvation. For, He took pleasure in ascending the Cross in the flesh to suffer death; and to raise the dead by His glorious Resurrection.

APOLYTIKION OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE HEAD OF THE FORERUNNER TONE 4

Christ God hath revealed to us thy truly ven'erable head as a divine treasure that had been concealed in the earth, O Prophet and Forerunner. Wherefore, as we gather on the feast of its finding, with our hymns inspired of God, we praise Christ the Savior, Who by thy mighty prayers saveth us from every kind of harm.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JAMES TONE 4

As a disciple of the Lord, O righteous one, thou hast received the Gospel. As a Martyr thou art never turned away. As the Brother of God, thou hast boldness. As a hierarch thou canst intercede. Do thou intercede with Christ God that He save our souls.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA TONE 8

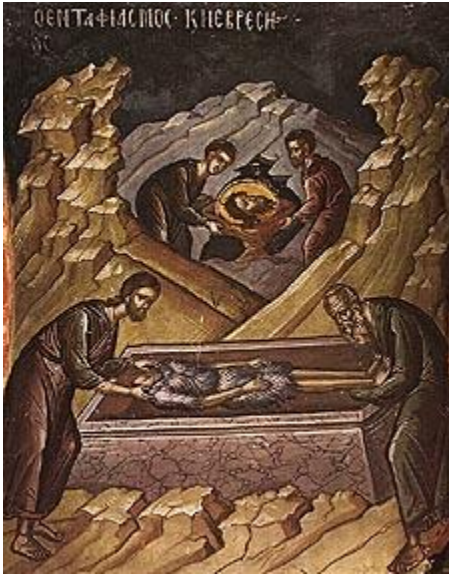
Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

As a friendly reminder, only Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves through fasting, prayer, and recent confession may approach the Holy Chalice to receive Holy Communion.

Confession is available after Divine Liturgy, as well as before or after Vespers on Saturday evenings. You can also Contact Fr. Steven to set up an appointment.

We welcome all our visitors and are eager to share our faith with you! Please join us for coffee hour and take a few moments to fill out the VISITORS INFORMATION CARD that is found in the narthex

Third Finding of the Honorable Head of the Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John



The Third Discovery of the Venerable Head of the Holy Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John occurred in about the year 850. The head of Saint John the Forerunner was first found on the Mount of Olives, where it had been hidden by Joanna, wife of Chusa (one of the myrrh-bearing women), after the Saint's beheading; and found the second time in the city of Emesia

during a time of unrest at Constantinople connected with the exile of Saint John Chrysostom (November 13).

It was transferred to Komana during the Saracen raids (about 810-820) and it was hidden in the ground during a period of iconoclastic persecution. When the veneration of icons was restored, Patriarch Ignatius (847-857) saw in a vision the place where the head of Saint John the Forerunner was hidden. The patriarch communicated this to the emperor, who sent a delegation to Komana. There the head was found a third time around the year 850.

Afterwards the head was again transferred to Constantinople, and here on May 25 it was placed in a church at the court. Part of the head is on Mt. Athos. Most of it is in France. The Third Discovery of the Head of John the Baptist is commemorated on May 25.

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Wed., May 28 @ 6 PM – Great Vespers of the Feast of the Ascension

@ 7 PM – Catechumen/Inquirer Class

Thurs., May 29 @ 10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy of the Feast of the Ascension

Your Prayers are Requested:

REMEMBER, O LORD: The Catechumens: Elias, Longinus, Xenia, John, Nectarios, Cassiane, Michael, Jerald, Cassiane, Aidan, Raphael, Joseph, Patrick, Matthew; Olga, Conner, Khouria Janet, Andrew, Constantine, Julie, Jay, Archpriest Peter, Marc, Thelma & family, Mia, Deacon James, Sarina, Subdn Michael, Graham, Madeline, Nicodemus, Mary, Elizabeth, Leah, Angie, Susan, Justin, Donna, Michael, Marie, Mary, Madeline, Mary Anne, Jeannette, Nectarios, Jerry, Barbara, Pasquale, Patricia, Mary, Maria, Alex, Sarah, Sara, Joshua, Shirley, Theodore, Elizabeth, Maria; PLEASE REMEMBER ALL OF THE MEMBERS OF ST. JAMES

*Diocese of Miami and the
Southeast*

*Parish Life Conference:
Southbank Hotel Riverwalk
Jacksonville (June 11th - 14th)
2025 Host Parish: St. George
Church (Jacksonville, FL)
Go to DOMSE.ORG*



St. James Orthodox Church is a mission of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese under His Eminence SABA, Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America. If you have any questions or comments, or if you would like more information about the Orthodox Faith, please contact Fr. Steven (frstevenr@gmail.com).

THE EPISTLE READING (for St. John the Baptist)

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord. O God, hear my voice.

The Reading from the Second Epistle of St. Paul to the Corinthians. (4:6-15)

Brethren, it is the God Who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," Who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. While we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So, death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak, knowing that He Who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

THE GOSPEL READING (for the Blind Man)

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John (9:1-38)

At that time, when Jesus was passing, he saw a man blind from his birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be made manifest in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me, while it is day; night comes, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." As he said this, he spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle and anointed the man's eyes with the clay, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam," which means "Sent." So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar, said, "Is not this the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he;" others said, "No, but he is like him." He said, "I am the man." They said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made clay and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the clay and

opened his eyes. The Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put clay on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" There was a division among them. So they again said to the blind man, "What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight, and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore, his parents said, "He is of age, ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give God the praise; we know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you too want to become His disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from." The man answered, "Why, this is a marvel! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, "Do you believe in the Son of God?" He answered, "And who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen Him, and it is He who speaks to you." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped Him.