



**St George the Great Martyr  
Orthodox Church - Weekly Bulletin**

Sunday, July 22, 2018

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**SUNDAY, JULY 22 TONE 7**

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/ Holy Myrrhbearer and Equal-to-the-Apostles Mary Magdalene/ Hieromartyr Phocas**

**Tone 1 Troparion** (*Mary Magdalene*)

By keeping His commandments and laws, holy Mary Magdalene, thou didst follow Christ, Who for our sake was born of the Virgin, and in celebrating thy most holy memory today, // we receive forgiveness of sins by thy prayers.

**Tone 4 Troparion** (*Hieromartyr Phocas*)

By sharing in the ways of the Apostles, / thou didst become a successor to their throne. / Through the practice of virtue, thou didst find the way to divine contemplation, O inspired one of God; / by teaching the word of Truth without error, thou didst defend the Faith, even to the shedding of thy blood. // Hieromartyr Phocas, entreat Christ God to save our souls!

**Tone 7 Kontakion** (*Resurrection*)

The dominion of death can no longer hold men captive, / for Christ descended, shattering and destroying its powers. / Hell is bound, while the Prophets rejoice and cry: / "The Savior has come to those in faith; // enter, you faithful, into the Resurrection!"

**Tone 3\* Kontakion** (*Mary Magdalene*)

Standing before the Cross of the Savior, / suffering with the Mother of the Lord, / the most glorious Mary Magdalene / didst offer praise with tears. / She cried out: "What is this strange wonder? / He Who holds the whole creation in His hand chooses to suffer. // Glory to Thy power, O Lord!"

**Tone 2 Kontakion** (*Hieromartyr Phocas*)

The Master established thee as a brilliant sun, / shining on all the faithful, glorious O hieromartyr Phocas. / He accepted thy life, faith, and contest as myrrh, // for He is rich in mercy.

### **Matthew 14:14-22 (Gospel)**

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is already late. Send the multitudes away, that they may go into the villages and buy themselves food." But Jesus said to them, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat." And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said, "Bring them here to Me." Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained. Now those who had eaten were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

### **Next week's Gospel for 7/29: Matthew 14:22-34 (Gospel)**

Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary. Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God." When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret.

## Trust God or Ourselves?

by Fr. Demetrios Makoul (<http://ww1.antiochian.org/>)

Trust God or Ourselves? In the Old Testament, in the book of Kings, the prophet Elijah was serving God by fighting against the priests of Baal (Canaanite god). Elijah at some point withdrew to the wilderness and God made sure he was fed by ravens who brought him food and there was even a small brook that provided him with water. Eventually however the brook dried up and God sent Elijah to a widow in Zarephath. The widow lived with her only son. When Elijah arrived there he asked the widow for help. At this time there was a famine and the widow responded that she could not for fear that she would not have enough food for her and her son. Elijah told her that God would not allow her supply of flour or oil to run out, saying, "Don't be afraid, this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord gives rain on the land.'" The widow trusted Elijah and God, she offered what she had and sure enough her jar of oil and flour miraculously never ran out. She had more than enough for her, her son, and Elijah.

The message here is clear. There are times in our life when we are asked to give to God, to give a portion of what we have. However we struggle as the widow did. We worry if I give of what I have, will there be enough for me and my family? We find ourselves confronted with a trust issue. If I do what is right, will God do what is right? If I obey, will God come through and provide for me? We often are afraid to help or to give for fear we won't have enough. We hoard our resources and treasure because we don't trust God will provide for us if we offer some back to God. We clearly see in the encounter between Elijah and the widow that God provides and responds when we give. God was acting through Elijah in fighting the people's belief in a false God. Even today God acts through the church to counter the darkness of the world and to bring the light of Christ to others. Today we have the same opportunity as the widow of Zarephath. We are asked to support the church that it may continue the Lord's ministry in the world, just as the widow was asked to help Elijah in doing God's work. We are confronted by the same fears the widow experienced. She gave unconditionally and without her own conditions and expectations, she trusted God. May we learn from the example of the widow, to not be afraid to give, and to allow God to work miracles through us and our generosity.

**Please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers during the week.**

**For good health and healing:**

Abram, Debrutu, Denise, Joseph, Souraya, Alice, Issa, Basil, Rania and the child born of her, Ghaleb, Majdlin, Jacob, Collette, Christina, Connie, Eddie, Fred, James, Peter, Nikos, Lilia, Alees, Paniotis.

**For a new Job:** Mario, Jason, Janice, Jamileh.

## Calendar of Events – Starting today: July 22

Sunday	7/22	<b>9:10am</b> - Hours <b>9:30am</b> - Divine Liturgy
Monday	7/23	
Tuesday	7/24	
Wednesday	7/25	<b>NO</b> Office Hours this week
Thursday	7/26	
Friday	7/27	
Saturday	7/28	<b>No Vespers this week</b>
Sunday	7/29	<b>9:10am</b> - Hours <b>9:30am</b> - Divine Liturgy
Monday	7/30	
Tuesday	7/31	
Wednesday	8/1	<b>NO</b> Office Hours this week <b>Dormition</b> fast begins
Thursday	8/2	
Friday	8/3	
Saturday	8/4	<b>No Vespers this week</b>
Sunday	8/5	<b>9:10am</b> - Hours <b>9:30am</b> - Divine Liturgy <b>6:00pm</b> - Vespers
Monday	8/6	<b>9:10am</b> - Hours <b>9:30am</b> - Divine Liturgy <b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b>

### Weekly announcements:

- ◆ **NO Office Hours and NO Vespers** these next two weeks.
- ◆ August 5th the Myrrh Bearers of St George will meet.
- ◆ Father Michael and Matushka Xenia are away 7/23 - 8/4.
- ◆ Dn George is away 7/28-8/4.
- ◆ **Sunday July 29th Father Arkadi** will be serving The Divine Liturgy. Please welcome him with support and our warm hospitality!!
- ◆ Please keep the OCA and our Hierarchs in your prayers as the entire OCA church gathers together in St. Louis Missouri, for the 19th All American Council July 23rd through the 27th.
- ◆ **Dormition** fast begins Wednesday **August 1st**.
- ◆ **The Transfiguration of Our Lord** Monday **August 6th**.