

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN



Icon of the Myrrh-bearing Women

HOLY TRANSFIGURATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

3431 Trickum Road NE — Marietta, GA 30066 — Tel. 770-924-8080



Our purpose is to lead people to the Kingdom of God.

*Our mission is to provide a place of worship
where people actively gather to practice their authentic
Orthodox Christian faith to impact the world.*



Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou, Ph.D., Protopresbyter

Fr. John Brown, Protopresbyter

Fr. Michael Tishel, Presbyter

Fr. Christopher Zaferes, Presbyter

SUNDAY—THE LORD'S DAY—APRIL 26, 2026

Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women

Musical Mode: Second Mode

Fourth Eothinon Gospel: Luke 24:1-12

Readings of the Day: Acts 6:1-7 & Mark 15:43-16:8

Today's Saints: Basil the Holy Martyr Bishop of Amasea; Glaphyra the Righteous; Justa the Nun

APOLYTIKION OF THE PARISH

Μετεμορφώθης ἐν τῷ ὄρει Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, δείξας τοῖς Μαθηταῖς σου τὴν δόξαν σου, καθὼς ἠδύναντο. Λάμψον καὶ ἡμῖν τοῖς ἀμαρτωλοῖς, τὸ φῶς σου τὸ αἰδῖον, πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου, φωτοδότα δόξα σοι.

Metemorfóthis en to óri, Hristé o Theós, dixas tis Mathités sou, tin dóxan sou kathós idinanto; lampson ke imin tis amartolis, to fos sou to aidion, presvies tis Theotókou, Fotodóta dóxa si.

You were transfigured upon the mountain, O Christ our God, showing to Your disciples, Your glory as much as they could bear. Do also in us, sinners though we may be, shine Your everlasting light, by the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Giver of Light, glory to You.

TODAY'S HYMNS

Entrance Hymn. Second Mode.

**Bless God in the churches, the Lord from the fountains of Israel.
Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.**

Please sing along with us after the Small Entrance, as you are able.

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Second Mode.

When You descended unto Death, O Lord, You who are immortal Life put Hades to death, by the lightning of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the hosts of heaven sang aloud to You, "O Christ God, Giver of life, glory to You!

When he took down Your immaculate Body from the Cross, the honorable Joseph wrapped it in a clean linen shroud with spices and laid it for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day You rose, O Lord, and granted to the world the great mercy.

The Angel who had come to the sepulcher said to the Myrrh-bearing women, "Ointments are appropriate for mortal men; but Christ is indeed a stranger to decay. Now go proclaim that the Lord has risen and granted to the world the great mercy.

Apolytikion of the Parish. Grave Mode.

[See inside front cover]

Kontakion of Pascha. Plagal of the Fourth Mode.

Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION ABOUT ORTHODOXY

Trisagion Films: On YouTube, Facebook and website, www.trisagionfilms.com

Follow our Podcasts: "*An Imperfect Podcast*" - You can now listen to the entire series on iTunes, Spotify, GooglePlay, PlayerFM, and Sticher. You can find the entire series on iTunes here as well: <http://tinyurl.com/y5ved9lk>

For audio of spiritual discussions: **Ancient Faith Radio:** www.ancientfaith.com
Visit our **Church Bookstore** for books, icons and other spiritual items for your home.
Visit our **Library** at <https://holytransfiguration.info/ministries/education/library/>

To learn more about the Orthodox Faith, peak to Father Panayiotis and he will guide you. Email him at

Readings of the Third Sunday after Pascha

The Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women

Αναγνώσματα Κυριακῆς τῶν Μυροφόρων

Πράξεις τῶν Ἀποστόλων (6.1-7)

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκεῖναις, πληθυνόντων τῶν μαθητῶν, ἐγένετο γογγυσμὸς τῶν Ἑλληνιστῶν πρὸς τοὺς Ἑβραίους, ὅτι παρεθεωροῦντο ἐν τῇ διακονίᾳ τῇ καθημερινῇ αἱ χῆραι αὐτῶν. Προσκαλεσάμενοι δὲ οἱ δώδεκα τὸ πλῆθος τῶν μαθητῶν, εἶπον, Οὐκ ἀρεστὸν ἐστὶν ἡμᾶς, καταλείψαντας τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ, διακονεῖν τραπέζαις. Ἐπισκέψασθε οὖν, ἀδελφοί, ἄνδρας ἐξ ὑμῶν μαρτυρουμένους ἑπτὰ, πλήρεις πνεύματος ἁγίου καὶ σοφίας, οὓς καταστήσωμεν ἐπὶ τῆς χρείας ταύτης. Ἡμεῖς δὲ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ διακονίᾳ τοῦ λόγου προσκαρτερήσωμεν. Καὶ ἤρρεσεν ὁ λόγος ἐνώπιον παντὸς τοῦ πλήθους· καὶ ἐξελέξαντο Στέφανον, ἄνδρα πλήρης πίστεως καὶ πνεύματος ἁγίου, καὶ Φίλιππον, καὶ Πρόχορον, καὶ Νικάνορα, καὶ Τίμωνα, καὶ Παρμενᾶν, καὶ Νικόλαον προσήλυτον Ἀντιοχέα, οὓς ἔστησαν ἐνώπιον τῶν ἀποστόλων· καὶ προσευξάμενοι ἐπέθηκαν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας. Καὶ ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἠῤῥαυετο, καὶ ἐπληθύνετο ὁ ἀριθμὸς τῶν μαθητῶν ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ σφόδρα, πολὺς τε ὄχλος τῶν ἱερέων ὑπήκουον τῇ πίστει.

Εὐαγγέλιον Κατὰ Μᾶρκον (15.43-47, 16.1-8)

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθὼν Ἰωσήφ ὁ ἀπὸ Ἀριμαθαίας, εὐσχήμων βουλευτῆς, ὃς καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν προσδεχόμενος τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ, τολμήσας εἰσῆλθε πρὸς Πιλάτον καὶ ἠτήσατο τὸ σῶμα τοῦ Ἰησοῦ. ὁ δὲ Πιλάτος ἐθαύμασεν εἰ ἤδη τέθνηκε, καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος τὸν κεντυρίωνα ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτὸν εἰ πάλαι ἀπέθανε· καὶ γνοὺς ἀπὸ τοῦ κεντυρίωνος ἐδώρησατο τὸ σῶμα τῷ Ἰωσήφ. καὶ ἀγοράσας σινδόνα καὶ καθελὼν αὐτὸν ἐνείλησε τῇ σινδόνι καὶ κατέθηκεν αὐτὸν ἐν μνημεῖῳ, ὃ ἦν λελατομημένον ἐκ πέτρας, καὶ προσεκύλισε λίθον ἐπὶ τὴν θύραν τοῦ μνημείου. ἡ δὲ Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία Ἰωσὴ ἐθεώρουν ποῦ τίθεται. Καὶ διαγενομένου τοῦ σαββάτου Μαρία ἡ Μαγδαληνὴ καὶ Μαρία ἡ τοῦ Ἰακώβου καὶ Σαλώμῃ ἠγόρασαν ἀρώματα ἵνα ἐλθοῦσαι ἀλείψωσιν αὐτόν. καὶ λίαν πρῶτὴ τῆς μιᾶς σαββάτων ἔρχονται ἐπὶ τὸ μνημεῖον, ἀνατείλαντος τοῦ ἡλίου. καὶ ἔλεγον πρὸς ἑαυτάς· τίς ἀποκυλίσει ἡμῖν τὸν λίθον ἐκ τῆς θύρας τοῦ μνημείου; καὶ ἀναβλέψασα θεωροῦσιν ὅτι ἀποκεκύλισται ὁ λίθος· ἦν γὰρ μέγας σφόδρα. καὶ εἰσελθοῦσαι εἰς τὸ μνημεῖον εἶδον νεανίσκον καθήμενον ἐν τοῖς δεξιοῖς, περιβεβλημένον στολὴν λευκὴν, καὶ ἐξεθαμβήθησαν. ὁ δὲ λέγει αὐταῖς· μὴ ἐκθαμβεῖσθε· Ἰησοῦν ζητεῖτε τὸν Ναζαρητῶνα τὸν ἐσταυρωμένον· ἠγέρθη, οὐκ ἐστὶν ὧδε· ἴδε ὁ τόπος ὅπου ἔθηκαν αὐτόν. ἀλλ' ὑπάγετε εἰπατε τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ καὶ τῷ Πέτρῳ ὅτι προάγει ὑμᾶς εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν· ἐκεῖ αὐτὸν ὄψεσθε, καθὼς εἶπεν ὑμῖν. καὶ ἐξελθοῦσαι ἔφυγον ἀπὸ τοῦ μνημείου· εἶχε δὲ αὐτὰς τρόμος καὶ ἔκστασις, καὶ οὐδενὶ οὐδὲν εἶπον· ἐφοβοῦντο γάρ.

Acts of the Apostles (6.1-7)

In those days as the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Gospel acc. to Mark (15.43-47, 16.1-8)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate marveled that he had already died; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been carved out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James saw where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

Parish Council On Duty: Eleni Reese/Steven Pelky
Greeters On Duty: Tammy Dionas/Pat Koutouzis
Ushers On Duty: Chris Davis/Philip George/Steven Pelky/Chris Holmes
Prosforo Bakers: Niki Kakissis/Elena Kay/Tasia Kipreos/Rachel Kourey

Sun. Apr. 26 **Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women**
8:45 am Orthros
10:00 am Divine Liturgy
11:15 am Youth Catechism classes
A 6 month Memorial Service for Constantine Ioannou is given by Maria (daughter) and Jeff Alberts. May his memory be eternal!
12:30 pm Fellowship Coffee Hour-PLC Banquet Hall

Sunday Dance Practice Schedule
12:30-1:00 pm Pitsirikia (Pre-K)-PLC Classroom #125
12:30-1:00 pm Palamakia (K & 1st)-PLC Classroom #127
12:30-1:15 pm Asteria (2nd & 3rd)-PLC Classroom #128
12:30-1:15 pm Petaloudes (4th & 5th)-PLC Classroom #130
12:30-2:30 pm Phoenix (middle school)-PLC Gym
1:00-3:30 pm Eleftheria (high school)-PLC Gym or Amphitheater

Mon. Apr. 27 5:30 pm Greek School Classes-PLC Lower Level Classrooms
7:00 pm Spiritual Book Club-PLC Library (St. Basil Conf. Room)

Tue. Apr. 28 8:30 am TOA Morning Prayers-Lighthouse
9:30 am TOA Classes-PLC Classrooms
10:30 am TOA Open House-PLC Lower Level Conf. Room/Classrooms
10:45 am Kafenion-PLC Upper Atrium
5:30 pm Greek School Adult Class-PLC Classrooms
7:00 pm Mixed Choir Practice

Wed. Apr. 29 10:00 am Chair Exercise Class-PLC Classroom #127
5:30 pm Greek School Classes-PLC Lower Level Classrooms
7:00 pm Youth Group (GOYA)

Thu. Apr. 30 8:30 am TOA Prayers
9:30 am TOA Classes
5:30 pm Greek School Adult Class-PLC Lower Level Classrooms

Fri. May 1 11:00 am Agiasmos-Blessing of the Waters

Sat. May 2 9:00 am Festival Cooking-PLC Kitchen
10:00 am Life and Faith Transitions Group-Online
12:00 pm Stuart Baptism
1:00 pm GOYA Olympics-PLC Banquet Hall/Atrium/Gym
3:30 pm Wedding
4:45 pm Rental: Wedding Reception (Adrian)-PLC Banquet Hall
5:00 pm Great Vespers

See full calendar for the rest of the schedule: www.holytransfiguration.info/calendar

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Parish Life Committee Seeks Team Members!

Parish Life, the behind-the-scenes group that brings the community together, is looking for volunteers to help with Sunday coffee hour and other events. Please contact:

Eleni: EReese@holytransfiguration.info

Cherie: CCookorinis@holytransfiguration.info

Lela: LBridgers@holytransfiguration.info

Calling All Former Dance Families - We Need Your Help!

The Dance Ministry takes gently used Marietta Dancer T-shirts, navy blue Jazz pants, and Character shoes back from former dancers so that we can provide for our current dance families who might be in need or forgotten to bring these items with them during the weekend of the festival. We are calling out for all former dance families to look in their closets and storages for these items and please drop these items off at the church office and mention they are for the Dance ministry. Your help is greatly appreciated!

TOA Open House, Jobs, & Applications:

Transfiguration Orthodox Academy is hiring & accepting new students. Also, there will be an Open House on **Tue. Apr. 28**. Please scan above QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page.

Marietta Greek Festival: Save the Date (May 15-17) & sign-up to volunteer: <https://tinyurl.com/signup-MGF> or scan above QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page.

AHEPA Celebration of Education: Save the Date **Sat. June 6** for AHEPA's 3rd Annual Fundraiser. Please scan above QR code to access flyer.

Vacation Church School Camp: Mark your calendars. **Mon-Fri, Jun. 22-26**. Theme: Behold the Light! Registration details coming soon. Please scan above QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page.

TOA Offering Middle School Courses:

Transfiguration Orthodox Academy is excited to offer new Middle School Courses in Math, Science, Composition, and History. Please scan above QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page.

Save the Date: The evening of **Sat. Aug. 22**, honoring Father Panayiotis' Retirement, immediately following Vespers. More details to come!

RECURRING MINISTRY EVENTS

Catechism (Youth PreK-12th grade): Classes meet on Sundays in the classrooms of the PLC following Communion. ALL CHILDREN MUST BE REGISTERED! Register online, <https://holytransfiguration.info/ministries/education/catechism/>

Chair Exercise Program: Our next meeting will be **Wed. Apr. 29, at 10:00 am** in PLC Classroom #127. Please text Ann Zakreski at 770.329.7421 if you plan to come.

GOYA: For rising 6th-graders thru High schoolers. Weekly meetings for fun and fellowship on Wednesdays. Contact goya@holytransfiguration.info to join our email list. **Next meeting Apr. 29.**

Greek School Registration: Greek School classes began in August, but the program is still accepting students. Biblical and Modern Greek Classes available! Please scan above QR code to access flyer on Ministry News page.

Hellenic Dance: Practices for all groups continues **Sun Apr. 26** See this week's ministry news email for a detailed schedule. Email Paulina Vastakis at hellenicdance@holytransfiguration.info with questions.

Life and Faith Transitions Group: Join us as We Discover *Christ in the Psalms*. Upcoming Session via Zoom: **Sat. May 2**. For info & Zoom invite reach out to BJ at 404-771-9335 or spanosbj@gmail.com.

Mixed Choir: Next practice **Tues. Apr. 28** from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Church.

Men's Choir: Next practice **Thu. May 21** from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Church. Singing the Divine Liturgy on **Sun. Apr. 26**

Parea: Our next meeting is on **Thu. May 21**. Join us as all are welcome.

Philoptochos 2026 Membership Drive: renew or join for the first time, <https://holytransfiguration.info/philoptochos>

Upcoming Philoptochos Events:

Tue. May 5: Philoptochos Book Club

Philoptochos Book Club: Calling ALL Book Lovers! Come join the Philoptochos Book Club! We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 11 am in the PLC Library followed by optional lunch out. ALL book lover readers are welcomed to come. **NEXT MEETING - Tue. May 5**, at 11:00 am. Book - *Broken Country* by Clare Leslie Hall.

Spiritual Book Club: We are reading *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers* (available in bookstore). Join us on **Mon. Apr. 27 at 7pm** in the PLC Library. Email mgavalas@holytransfiguration.info to register. Scan above QR code to access flyer.

Young Adults in their 20's and 30's meet twice a month for continuing education & fellowship. Want to learn more? Join the HTGOC Young Adults Group. Me chat for notifications on events. Contact Fr. Michael (frchris@holytransfiguration.info) or Ministry Lead (youngadults@holytransfiguration.info). **Next meeting: Sun. May 10** (Second Sunday)

LINKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2026 Annual Membership Campaign: see the Stewardship section to learn more.

Request a Home Visit with Clergy or Pastoral Assistant: Are you or someone you know unable to attend church due to illness or some other reason? Would you or someone you know like a visit from a member of our clergy team or lay volunteer? If so, please scan or click the QR code to fill out a form and we will do our very best to arrange times to visit! Scan QR code (on left page) to access further details on Ministry News page.

Driver Ministry: The Driver Ministry is here to support our parish family by offering transportation to those who need assistance getting to: Medical or personal appts., Grocery stores & errands, Church services & parish events, & other essential local needs. This ministry is open to any parishioner who may benefit from a little extra help. We are also warmly welcoming volunteer drivers who feel called to serve. Even one ride a month can make a meaningful difference in someone's life. If you or someone you know needs a ride or want to volunteer please contact Eleni Reese, elenireese@gmail.com, or 630-854-2174.

Philoptochos Assistance: If you or someone who's part of your community is in need, Philoptochos is here to help. Please contact Jamie Hughes at 770-710-7733 or jahughes421@gmail.com for details.

Phishing Scam Awareness: The church (priests, staff, Parish Council, ministry leads) will NEVER email or text you asking for you to buy gift cards or send money for any reason. If you receive such a message, IT IS A SCAM. Please disregard the request and report it to the church office (office@holytransfiguration.info or 770-924-8080). Always verify requests for financial assistance through direct communication with the church office. Protect yourself, your personal information, fellow parishioners, & the church by being cautious of these fraudulent attempts.

Fellowship/Coffee Hour Sponsorship is a great way to honor someone's birthday, nameday, memory, or a significant event with your church family. For ministries, it is a great opportunity to bring awareness to your group and gain members. Reserve your date by scanning or clicking the QR code. Scan QR code (on left page) to access further details on Ministry News page.

Youth Ministries Registration: Registration for our 2025-2026 youth ministries (Catechism, Hellenic Dance, HOPE & JOY, GOYA) is mandatory for youth to participate in these ministries. Register online via the Catechism webpage, Youth section, <https://holytransfiguration.info/ministries/education/catechism/>

BEYOND HOLY T.

Scan QR code on previous page to access flyers on Ministry News page.





2026 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

How to submit your 2026 Membership/Stewardship Card:

1. PAPER: Grab a paper Stewardship form from a Parish Council member in the Narthex on Sunday. You may mail back the completed paper form to the Church or drop the completed form in the offering tray.

2. ONLINE: You may complete the Online Membership/Stewardship Form on the website's Stewardship page (<https://holytransfiguration.info/join/>).

3. SCAN: use this QR code. Simply point your camera at the QR code and click the yellow link that appears in the image frame.



SO YOU KNOW

GENERAL FUND (GF) INCOME AND EXPENSES 01/01/26-04/16/26

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Stewardship Contributions: | \$272,307 |
| Other GF Income: | \$75,658 |
| Total GF Income | \$347,965 |
| Total GF Expenses: | —\$358,980 |
| Net General Fund Loss: | —\$11,015 |

2026 STEWARDSHIP REPORT AS OF 04/23/26

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| # of Pledged Households: | 390 |
| 2026 Budget: | \$1,030,102 |
| Total Pledge Amount: | \$899,242 |
| Stewardship Shortfall: | —\$130,860 |

KEEP UP TO DATE ON MINISTRY NEWS

1. To keep up with events digitally, please register with our email database if you haven't already at <https://tinyurl.com/yudcpubr>. If you're on our list, make sure you've added office@holytransfiguration.info to your safe senders list and contact list.
2. Ministry News is emailed every Wednesday complete with flyers and details about special events, recurring ministries, and events beyond Holy Transfiguration. Scan the QR code on the right to access the most recent email.
3. The Church Website has an up-to-date calendar and ministry pages and can be found at <https://holytransfiguration.info>.
4. Weekend Email with livestream links and a weekend schedule reminder goes out every Friday.
5. Check out the Ministry Bulletin Boards on the upper and lower level of the Parish Life Center for details about upcoming events.



RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Orthodox Christians who have prepared spiritually are invited to come forward "with the fear of God, with faith, and with love" to receive Holy Communion. Non-Orthodox Christians may receive the blessed bread (*antidoron*) offered at the conclusion of the service, but not Holy Communion. They may come up to receive a blessing during Holy Communion if they wish. Preparation for Holy Communion includes confession of sins (even of sinful thoughts) and repentance, making peace with those around us, forgiving those who hurt us, asking for forgiveness from those we have hurt, and prayer. There is a special set of prayers called "Preparation for Holy Communion" to help prepare. If you have further questions regarding the proper preparation for Holy Communion, please speak with Fr. Panayiotis.

The Myrrh-Bearing Women

The Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women ... reminds us that the love and faithfulness of a few individuals shone brightly in the midst of hopeless darkness. It calls us to ensure that in this world love and faithfulness do not disappear or die out. It judges our lack of courage, our fear, our endless and servile rationalizations. The mysterious Joseph and Nicodemus, and these women who go to the grave at dawn, occupy so little space in the gospels. Precisely here, however, is where the eternal fate of each of us is decided.

Today, I think, we are especially in need of recovering this love and basic human loyalty. For we have entered a time when even these are being discredited by harmful concepts of the person and human life now prevailing in this world. For centuries, the world still had the weak, but still

flickering and shining, glow from that faithfulness, love and co-suffering which was silently present at the sufferings of the Man cast aside by all. And we need to cling, as if to a last thread, to everything in our world that still thrives on the warm light of simple, earthly, human love. Love does not ask about theories and ideologies, but speaks to the heart and soul. Human history has rumbled along, kingdoms have risen and fallen, cultures have been built and bloody wars fought, but what has remained unchanging on earth and in this troubled and tragic history is the bright image of the woman. An image of care, self-giving, love, compassion. Without this presence, without this light, our world, regardless of its successes and accomplishments, would be a world of terror.

Father Alexander Schmemmann