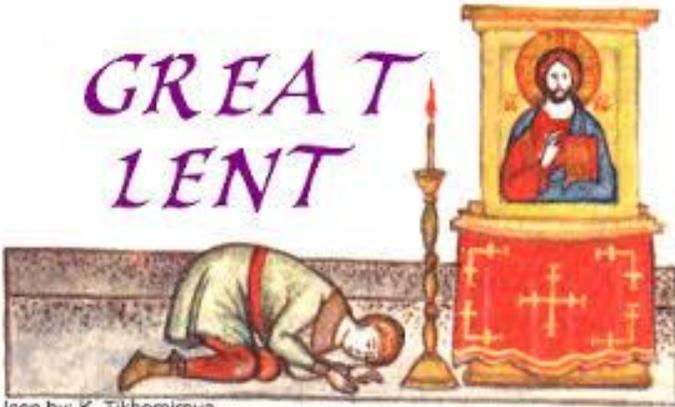


*GREAT  
LENT*



Icon by: K. Tikhomirova

The Great Lent

By: Roshan Alex



## First Miracle: Wedding at Cana

- Date in 2020- February 23, 2020
- Gospel Reading- St. John 2:1-12
- Summary- Jesus, His mother Mary, and His disciples are invited to a wedding. During the wedding, the wine runs out and Mary asks Jesus to help. He tells the servants to fill six jars of water, and He turns the water into wine.
- My Reflection- Through this miracle, we learn that Jesus can provide us with what we need. It shows His glory and helps us build our faith. We also learn that Jesus is blessing marriage as being holy and honorable. Marriage is not complete without the presence of Christ. (“Orthodox Study Bible 1424”).

# Shubkhono: Day of Forgiveness and Reconciliation

- Date 2020- February 23, 2020, Sunday, is when we observe Shubkhono however it is on Monday, February 24, 2020
- Gospel Reading- St. Mathew 18:18-35
- Summary- This reading is about forgiveness and is also called the Parable of the Unmerciful Servant. Peter is asking Jesus how many times he should forgive his brother and sister who sins against him. Jesus tells him that it is not seven times, but seventy-seven times. The parable is about a servant whose debt is forgiven, but he is not willing to forgive the debt of his fellow servant. Because his lack of forgiveness, he is handed over to the jailers to be tortured until he pays back what he owes.
- My Reflection- We have to be willing to forgive others from our heart, so that we are also forgiven. Even if others hurt us, we have to forgive them.



# Second Miracle: Jesus Cleansing a Leper

- Date 2020- March 1, 2020
- Gospel Reading- St. Luke Chapter 5: 12-16
- Summary- After Jesus comes down following Sermon on the Mount, many people followed him. A man full of leprosy comes and kneels before him and asks if he is willing to heal him. Jesus reaches out his hand and touches him and says, "I am willing. Be clean." The man was cured of his leprosy.
- My Reflection- In this passage, leprosy is God's view of sin. When Christ performs the miracle, we are to understand God's healing powers, and how faith is important in helping us overcome hopeless situations. We have to learn to persevere.





Jesus Heals The Paralytic by Harold Copping

# Third miracle: Healing of the Paralytic at Capernaum

- Date: March 8, 2020
- Gospel Reading- St. John 5:1-15; St. Mark 2:1-12; St. Luke 5:17-26
- Summary- Jesus is healing a man who has been paralyzed for 38 years. This is taking place close to the Sheep's Gate in Jerusalem in Sheep's pool. Jesus sees the man lying at the pool and asks if he wants to get well. The man tells Jesus he has no one to help him get into the pool when the water is stirred. He said when he tries to get in, others get ahead of him. Jesus then tells him to "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." The man is cured, and he picked up his mat and walked. Later Jesus finds him at the temple and tells him to stop committing sins.
- My Reflection- Sins distances us from God. As long as we recognize our sins and correct them, we can still be forgiven and be healed.



# Fourth Miracle: Faith of a Canaanite Woman

- Date 2020- March 15, 2020
- Gospel Reading- St. Matthew 15:21-28
- Summary- This is about the healing of a Canaanite woman's daughter. The Canaanite woman asked Jesus to save her daughter who was demon possessed and suffering. At first Jesus didn't answer; then, once Jesus realized how much faith she had, He healed her daughter.
- My Reflection: The Canaanite woman teaches us to have complete faith in God. She reaches out to Jesus seeking mercy and finds healing for her daughter through Jesus.



# Mid-Lent

- Date 2020- March 18, 2020
- Gospel Reading- St. John 3:13-21
- Summary- This reading tells us “Whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” We learn that God sends his son Jesus to save us.
- My Reflection: We learn about how Jesus came into the world so that mankind will know about the character of God and God is a loving God. We should also know that Jesus is Son of God.



# Fifth Miracle: Crippled Woman

- Date 2020- March 22, 2020
- Gospel Reading- St. Luke 13:10-17
- Summary- When Jesus is teaching in one of the Synagogues, he sees a woman who was bent over for 18 years and could not raise herself up. Jesus calls her and puts his hand on her. She was immediately made straight and she glorified God.
- My Reflection: This reading is also about healing. It shows us the compassion Jesus has towards others. It also tells us that we must stay close to God if we want him to be in our lives. We should regularly listen to God's word for our own healing.



# Annunciation to St. Mary

- Date 2020- March 25, 2020
- Gospel Reading- 1 John 3:2-17
- Summary- We celebrate the Annunciation to St. Mary twice a year. In the Gospel reading, the love of God is magnified and shows that Christians are the children of God. We learn the kind of life the children of God should live.
- My Reflection: Jesus came to show us how to live a good Christian life. We must not do evil deeds. God forgives us when we confess our sins. When we believe in God's message, we will receive eternal life.

# Sixth Miracle: The Blind Man



- Date 2020- March 29 2020
- Gospel Reading- St. John 9:1-41
- Summary- In this Gospel reading, Jesus sees a man who was blind from birth. Jesus spits on the ground and makes clay with his saliva. He then anoints the eye of the blind man with clay. The He asks the man to wash his eyes in the pool of Siloam. He washes his eyes and receives sight.
- My Reflection: We learn in this chapter that Jesus is the light of the world. The disciples asked Jesus if the man's blindness is caused by sin. Jesus tells them that the man's blindness has a bigger purpose. It is to show the glory of God in his life. His healing is an example of God's glory and love.

# Saturday before Hosanna: Lazarus' Saturday



- Date 2020- April 4, 2020
- Gospel Reading- St. John 11:28-46
- Summary- Lazarus Saturday is the day before Palm Sunday. Lazarus and his two sisters were friends of Jesus. When Lazarus got sick, his sisters sent a messenger to Jesus to let Him know; however Jesus didn't hurry back. He remained where He was for two more days. When Jesus returned Lazarus had been dead for four days. Jesus asks that Lazarus' gravestone to be moved. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus' resurrection precedes Jesus resurrection.
- My Reflection: In the event of Lazarus resurrection, we learn that Jesus was able to bring Lazarus back from the dead. As Jesus states "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die. (v. 25). Through this we see the glory of God and His power in giving life.

## First Important Day in Holy Week – Palm Sunday (Hosanna)

- Date 2020- April 5, 2020
- Gospel Reading- St. Mark 11:1-11
- Summary- Palm Sunday commemorates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. When Jesus and his disciples came to Bethany at the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples to the nearby village. He told them they will find a colt that no one has ever ridden. He asked that they bring the colt back to him. The disciples laid their cloaks over the colt and Jesus sat on the colt. Jesus rode the colt into Jerusalem. Many people gathered and threw their cloaks on the road. Others spread palm branches they cut from the fields. When Jesus passed by, the crowds shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven" (v.9-10)
- My Reflection: Palm Sunday is the beginning of the final week of Jesus' life. Jesus' entry into Jerusalem is very humble. He travels into Jerusalem on a colt to sacrifice His life on a cross. On Palm Sunday we reflect on Jesus' humility and the sacrifice He makes to give us eternal life.



## Second Important Day in Holy Week- Maundy Thursday (Pesaha)

- Date 2020- April 9, 2020 ( We observe Evening of April 8)
- Gospel Reading- St. Luke 22:14-30
- Summary- The Last Supper. This is the final meal that Jesus shares with his disciples. This passage is the basis of Holy Communion. Jesus takes the bread and the wine and asks God the Father to bless it. He breaks the bread into pieces, gives it to his disciples saying, "This is my body given for you, do this in remembrance of me." (v.19) Jesus also predicts betrayal by one of his disciples and prepares for his sacrifice.
- My Reflection: This passage teaches us about forgiveness. It also teaches us about being humble in our ways. We learn about the importance of receiving communion for our purification and spiritual cleansing.



# Third Important Day in Holy Week- Good Friday

- Date 2020- April 10, 2020
- Gospel Reading- St. John 19:23-42
- Summary- Good Friday commemorates the Crucifixion of Christ. We remember this day when Jesus suffered and died for our sins. Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. He is taken through many trials and is also beaten many times. They dressed him in a purple robe and a crown of thorns. He is forced to carry His cross to the place of His death. Jesus is crucified at Golgotha along with two criminals. His body is later wrapped in a clean linen cloth and placed into a tomb. A big stone is rolled in front of the tomb.
- My Reflection: Why is this day referred as Good Friday? This is because (Romans 5:8), "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we are still sinners, Christ died for us". We also know that even if Jesus died, he later rose from the grave. This was God's plan to save his people from their sins and helps us receive peace and righteousness. We later receive the joy of Easter.



## Fourth Important Day of Holy Week- Holy Saturday



- Date 2020- April 11, 2020
- Gospel Reading- St. Matthew 27:62-66
- Summary- In this passage the chief priests and the pharisees go to Pilate. They remind him that Jesus said that he will rise again in three days. An order is given to seal the stone that secured the tomb and a guard is posted there.
- My Reflection: Christ descends into Sheol on Holy Saturday. This is a day that we remember all our departed loved ones. On this day Christ brings salvation for those who died since the beginning.

# Fifth Important Day in Holy Week- Easter

- Date 2020- April 12, 2020
- Gospel Reading- St. Matthew 28:1-20
- Summary- Mary Magdalene and the other Mary go to the tomb. There is a violent earthquake and an angel of the Lord comes down from heaven, rolls back the stone, and sits on it. The angels tell the women not to be afraid and that Jesus has risen. The women meets Jesus, Jesus tells them not to be afraid, and tells them to ask His disciples to come to Galilee. Eleven disciples went to Galilee. Jesus asks them to go and spread the Word to all nations and teach them to obey everything He commanded.
- My Reflection: On Easter we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter symbolizes Jesus' victory over death and the eternal life that is given to everyone who believes in him.

