



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

877 Francine Lane, Santa Maria, CA 93455

Rev. Justin Taylor, *Rector*

V. Rev. Lawrence Russell, *Pastor Emeritus (Retired, Attached)*

FrJustin@odox.org

www.odox.org

Confessions:

During & after Vespers, before Divine Liturgy, or by Appointment

Christ is Risen! Христос воскрес! Χριστός ἀνέστη! Hristos a înviat! Al-Masīh qām!

ქრისტე აღდგა! Cristos ha Resucitado!

Upcoming Services

Sunday, May 10

(Sunday of the Samaritan Woman)

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

Saturday, May 16

5:30 pm Great Vespers

Sunday, May 17

(Sunday of the Blind Man)

9:40 am 3rd & 6th Hours

10 am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, May 10

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman (Tone 4)

Acts 11:19-26, 29-30

John 4:5-42

Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

The Holy Martyr Photina (Svetlana) the Samaritan Woman, her sons Victor (named Photinus) and Joses; and her sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskevė, Kyriake; Nero's daughter Domnina; and the Martyr Sebastian: The holy Martyr Photina was the Samaritan Woman, with whom the Savior conversed at Jacob's Well (John. 4:5-42).

During the time of the emperor Nero (54-68), who displayed excessive cruelty against Christians, Saint Photina lived in Carthage with her younger son Joses and fearlessly preached the Gospel there. Her eldest son Victor fought bravely in the Roman army against barbarians, and was appointed military commander in the city of Attalia (Asia Minor). Later, Nero called him to Italy to arrest and punish Christians.

Sebastian, an official in Italy, said to Saint Victor, "I know that you, your mother and your brother, are followers of Christ. As a friend I advise you to submit to the will of the emperor. If you inform on any Christians, you will receive their wealth. I shall write to your mother and brother, asking

Many Years!

5/11: Alex Bell (Birthday)

* **Millar Wedding 5/17:** 3 pm @ St Barbara's Orthodox Church in Santa Barbara. All are invited to attend the wedding, but only those who have been invited may attend the reception.

them not to preach Christ in public. Let them practice their faith in secret.”

Saint Victor replied, “I want to be a preacher of Christianity like my mother and brother.”

Sebastian said, “O Victor, we all know what woes await you, your mother and brother.” Then Sebastian suddenly felt a sharp pain in his eyes. He was dumbfounded, and his face was somber.

For three days he lay there blind, without uttering a word. On the fourth day he declared, “The God of the Christians is the only true God.” Saint Victor asked why Sebastian had suddenly changed his mind. Sebastian replied, “Because Christ is calling me.” Soon he was baptized, and immediately regained his sight. Saint Sebastian’s servants, after witnessing the miracle, were also baptized.

Reports of this reached Nero, and he commanded that the Christians be brought to him at Rome. Then the Lord Himself appeared to the confessors and said, “Fear not, for I am with you. Nero, and all who serve him, will be vanquished.”

The Lord said to Saint Victor, “From this day forward, your name will be Photinus, because through you, many will be enlightened and will believe in Me.” The Lord then told the Christians to strengthen and encourage Saint Sebastian to persevere until the end.

All these things, and even future events, were revealed to Saint Photina. She left Carthage in the company of several Christians and joined the confessors in Rome....

...Nero then gave orders to crucify the saints, and to beat their naked bodies with straps. On the fourth day the emperor sent servants to see whether the martyrs were still alive. But, approaching the place of the tortures, the servants fell blind. An angel of the Lord freed the martyrs from their crosses and healed them. The saints took pity on the blinded servants, and restored their sight by their prayers to the Lord. Those who were healed came to believe in Christ and were soon baptized.

An expert in cruelty, the emperor readied the fiercest execution for Saint Photis: they tied her by the feet to the tops of two bent-over trees. When the ropes were cut the trees sprang upright and tore the martyr apart. The emperor ordered the others beheaded. Saint Photina was removed from the well and locked up in prison for twenty days.

After this Nero had her brought to him and asked if she would now relent and offer sacrifice to the idols. Saint Photina spit in the face of the emperor, and laughing at him, said, “O most impious of the blind, you profligate and stupid man! Do you think me so deluded that I would consent to renounce my Lord Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols as blind as you?”

Hearing such words, Nero gave orders to again throw the martyr down the well, where she surrendered her soul to God (ca. 66).

Please pray for...

Archpriest Matthew; Archpriest Lawrence Farley; Joe (Sunday’s brother); Thomas; Helen; Marija (cancer); Maria; the nun Paraskeva and her mother Radojka; Ginny; the newborn Sieglinda (for health); Derek (Nektarios) for employment/housing assistance; Miles (Larissa’s grandson); Zoi and Valeri (Oxana’s parents); Natalia (Nina Slater’s sister); Maria Carmen (Joseph Nuno’s mother); Carol (Edie’s mother); the child Rastko; Vasilije; Sophia; Steve; Alexis; Angelina; Helen (cancer); the child Uriah; Anna (sick); Alexis; Shawn; Claude; Olga (recovery from surgery); Kyle; Virginia (cancer); Lana; Ben, Maggie, Ada, and Stevie; Alexandra (health)...

...Emma Saperstein and the child to be born of her, and Scott; Leanna Marchell and the child to be born of her, Brandon, Elizabeth, and Margaret; Luisa and the child to be born of her (Fetzkó’s friend); Angelina and the children to be born of her (Brown’s friend)...