



## ST. ATHANASIUS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

300 Sumida Gardens Lane, Santa Barbara, CA 93111

Office hours: Tues-Fri. 12:00—5:00 p.m.

**His Eminence Met. JOSEPH,  
Archbishop of New York &  
Metropolitan of all N. America**

**Senior Pastor:**

Fr. Symeon Halsell

805-685-5495

frsymeon@stathanasius.org

**Pastor Emeritus**

Fr. Nicholas Speier

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**Priests attached to the parish:**

Fr. John Carrillo 805-770-3749 (retired)

Fr. Jon Braun (retired)

Fr. John Finley (Archdiocese Dept. of Missions)

**Deacons:**

Dn. Gary Braun

Dn. Scott Jacobs

Dn. Richard Easbey (retired)

Dn. John Young (retired)

**Subdeacons:** Stephen Butler & Michael Easbey

**Music Director/Administrator:**

Valerie Yova

Office phone: 805-685-5400

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**Teen Program & College/Young Adult  
Coordinator**

Subdn. Michael Easbey: measbey@gmail.com

**Parish Council 2021-2022:**

Laurie Baker, President

Dan Braun, Treasurer

Terri Speier, Secretary

Dorothy Alexander

Mary Denny

David Dillon

Glenn Hoppe

Lara Jacobs

Zak Landrum

## **DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

Sunday, May 22, 2022

**Tone 4 / Eothinon 7**

**Fifth Sunday of Pascha:**

**Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**

**& After-feast of Mid-Pentecost**

Martyr Basiliskos of Comana;

Holy Fathers of the Second Ecumenical Council;

John Vladimir, King of Serbia



### **WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!**

We are glad you are with us this morning.

If you are not Orthodox, we invite you to partake of the blessed bread during communion.

Please join us on the patio after the Liturgy for Coffee Hour.

We'd love to meet you!

### **We welcome children of all ages in our worship.**

“Let the little children come unto Me for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.” Luke 18:16

## CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK

### Sunday, May 22—Sunday of Samaritan Woman

9:00 a.m.	Religious Ed. ages 6-12
9:00 a.m.	Matins
10:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
11:30 a.m.	Teen Religious Ed.
11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour
12:15 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal

### Monday, May 23

6:45 a.m.	Paschal Daily Matins
5:15 p.m.	St. Xenia Prayer Ministry—Akathist by Zoom
7:00 p.m.	Men's Fireside (moved from May 16)

### Tuesday, May 24

5:30 p.m.	Daily Vespers
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### Wednesday, May 25

6:45 a.m.	Paschal Daily Matins
12:00 p.m.	St. Xenia Prayer Ministry

### Thursday, May 26

#### NO YOUTH GROUP

7:45 a.m.	St. Xenia Prayer Ministry by Zoom
10:00 a.m.	Showers of Blessing
3:30 p.m.	Catechesis Level I
5:30 p.m.	Daily Vespers
6:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
6:00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting

### Friday, May 27

6:45 a.m.	Paschal Daily Matins
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### Saturday, May 28

6:00 p.m.	Great Vespers/Confessions
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### Sunday, May 29—Sunday of the Blindman

9:00 a.m.	Religious Ed. ages 6-12
9:00 a.m.	Matins
10:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy
11:30 a.m.	Teen Religious Ed.
11:45 a.m.	Coffee Hour

## SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRIES

### SCHEDULE

#### EUCCHARIST BREAD

May 22	Dillon
May 29	Jacobs
June 5	D. Washburn
June 12	Morrison

#### READERS

May 22	Gish
May 29	Lange
June 2	Meyer (Ascension)
June 4	Washburn (Vespers)
June 5	Alexander
June 11	Gish (Vespers for Pentecost)
June 12	Butler

#### GREETERS

May 22	C. Fisher/L. Baker
May 29	P. Cocores/M. Loulias
June 5	K.P. King/D. Washburn
June 12	G. & L. Hoppe

#### USHERS

May 22	D. Washburn/K.L. King
May 29	D. Meyer/M. Loulias
June 5	P. King/J. King
June 12	C. Berari/D. Alexander

#### COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

May 22	Morrison
May 29	NEED A HOST
June 5	D. Lewis
June 12	PENTECOST BBQ

#### TO SIGN UP TO HOST A COFFEE HOUR:

<https://bit.ly/SAOCcoffeehour>

#### THURSDAY SHOWERS OF BLESSING HOSPITALITY TEAM

May 26	M. Loulias/K. Gomez
June 2	D. Alexander/D. Washburn
June 9	F. Young/S. Saunders
June 16	L. Ballew/D. Franzen

### HOLY COMMUNION

In the Orthodox Church, the sacrament of Communion is offered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive. Non-Orthodox believers and others **may approach the chalice for a blessing and the blessed bread instead of the Eucharist.** So that the priest is aware of this, please just say, *“Father, bless” when you get to the chalice.*

**At the conclusion of Matins, we sing the Great Doxology followed by the Matins Dismissal Troparion:**

### THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

*The Priest begins Divine Liturgy with “Blessed is the Kingdom” and the choir responds “Amen.” Bearing the Paschal Candle, the Priest then leads the singing of the Paschal Apolytikion and censes the west side of the Altar Table.*

**Priest:** Blessed is the Kingdom of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of age.

**People:** Amen.

**Clergy:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

**People:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. **(2 times)**

### GREAT LITANY

#### FIRST ANTIPHON

Verse: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His Name, give glory to His praise!

**Refrain:** Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

- Say to God: How awesome are Thy deeds! So great is Thy power that Thine enemies cringe before Thee. [Refrain]
- Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee. Let it praise Thy Name, O Most High! [Refrain]
- Glory to Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. [Refrain]

## SECOND ANTIPHON

Verse: God be bountiful to us and bless us! Show the light of Thy countenance upon us and have mercy on us!

**Refrain: O Son of God, Who rose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia.**

- That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among all nation! [Refrain]
- Let the people give thanks to Thee, O God! Let all the people give thanks to Thee! [Refrain]
- Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen

Only begotten Son...

## THIRD ANTIPHON

Verse: Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

**Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.**

- As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire. [Refrain]
- So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad. [Refrain]
- This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it. [Refrain]

## LITTLE ENTRANCE

**In the gathering places bless ye God the Lord from the Springs of Israel.**  
O Son of God Who Rose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee, Alleluia!

### Troparion of the Resurrection

**Tone 4**

Having learned the joyful message  
of the Resurrection from the angel,  
the women disciples of the Lord cast from them  
their parental condemnation,  
and proudly broke the news to the disciples  
saying death has been spoiled.  
Christ God is risen, granting the world great mercy.

**Troparion to St. Athanasius****Tone 3**

Holy Bishop Athanasius,  
you became a stronghold of Orthodoxy,  
strengthening the Church through your divine teachings.  
Opposing the heretical opinion of Arius,  
you explained and taught that the Son is equal in nature with the Father.  
O holy Father, intercede with Christ God  
That He may grant us abundant mercy.

**Troparion for Mid-Pentecost****Tone 8**

In the middle of the feast, O Savior,  
fill my thirsting soul with the waters of piety as You cried to all:  
“If anyone thirst, let him come to Me and drink!”//  
O Christ God, Fountain of our life, glory to You!

**Kontakion for Pascha**

Thou didst descend into the tomb O Immortal. Thou didst destroy the pow'r of death. In victory  
Thou didst arise, O Christ God, proclaiming rejoice to the myrrh-bearing women, granting  
peace to Thine apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

**TRISAGION HYMN**

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, Have mercy on us. (3 times)  
+Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.  
Holy Immortal have mercy on us. Deacon: With strength!  
People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

**Preparatory Psalm verses before the Epistle****Tone 4**

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works, in wisdom Thou hast made them all. (*Ps 103/104:24*)

Vs. Bless the Lord O my soul, O Lord my God, Thou art very great.

**THE EPISTLE READING— Acts 11:19-30**

In those days, those apostles who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch.

For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians.

Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the disciples determined, everyone according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea; and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

**Alleluia Refrain and Psalm verses before the Gospel  
(Music on p. 64 of Liturgy Book)**

**Tone 4**

**Chanter:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**People:** Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**Verse:** Draw Thy bow and prosper and reign, in the cause of truth, meekness and righteousness. (*Ps 44/45:5*)

**Verse:** Thou hast loved righteousness and hated wickedness. (*Ps 44/45:8*)

**GOSPEL READNG**

**John 4:5-42**

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as He was with His journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to Him, "How is it that You, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and Who it is that is saying to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water." The woman said to Him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst forever; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered Him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying: 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and You say that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who

worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming [He who is called Christ]; when He comes, He will tell us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

Just then His disciples came. They marveled that He was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city, and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to Him.

Meanwhile the disciples besought Him, saying, "Rabbi, eat." But He said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought Him food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest?' I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in Him because of the woman's testimony, "He said to me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His words. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world."

### **Hymn to the Mother of God (Meglynarion)**

The angel cried to the lady full of grace: Rejoice, O pure virgin! Again I say rejoice, O pure Virgin. Your son is risen from His three days in the tomb. With Himself He has raised all the dead. Rejoice all ye people. O Shine! Shine! Shine, O New Jerusalem! The glory, the glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult, exult and be glad. Be glad, O Zion, be radiant, O Mother of God, in the resurrection of your Son, of your Son!

### **Communion of the Clergy & of the Faithful**

Receive the body of Christ. Taste the fountain of immortality.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Instead of "We have seen the true light, we sing: "Christ is risen" ONE time.**

### **Thanksgiving Prayers after Communion**

At the end of the Divine Liturgy, we offer the prayers of thanksgiving for having received the Body and Blood of Christ. These beautiful prayers help us to reflect on the mystery in which we have just partaken, and prepare us for our transition back into the "world." We invite you to listen to these beautiful prayers during and after the veneration of the cross at the end of the service, and **ask that you show courtesy to those who are remaining to hear the prayers in their entirety by waiting until the blessing of the food at Coffee Hour to eat and socialize.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 2022 GRADUATES

If you have a 2022 high school or college graduate in the family, please send a brief narrative and photo to the church office so that we can honor our grads. (School graduating from, degree, plans for the next year, achievements or accolades, etc.) Please send by June 1st to: [valerie@stathanasius.org](mailto:valerie@stathanasius.org)

### AN OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE

**Holy Assumption (Women's) Monastery in Calistoga, CA, is rebuilding its St. Nicholas House** to better serve their monastic community and visitors, and to ensure that it is structurally sound enough to last for many more decades. The new building will be 2,720 square feet and cost approximately \$1 million. It will provide accommodation for nuns, especially those with special physical needs. The upstairs will be a second kitchen and work rooms. With the additional space for nuns in this building, the monastery hopes that one of the other small cottages could become available for pilgrims or women in need. Female pilgrims with physical handicaps might also be accommodated in the new space.

Throughout the month of May they are conducting a matching campaign for their building fund. A private donor will match all donations up to \$50,000. They have raised almost half of that amount already. If you would like to learn more about the building campaign and/or support their fund drive, go to:

**<https://holyassumptionmonastery.com/support>**

### UPCOMING FEAST DAY SERVICES

#### ASCENSION

Thursday, June 2

5:30 p.m.

Festal Great Vespers/Artoklasia

6:30 p.m.

Festal Divine Liturgy

#### PENTECOST

Saturday, June 11

6:00 p.m.

Festal Great Vespers/Artoklasia

Sunday, June 12

9:00 a.m.

Festal Matins

10:00 a.m.

Festal Divine Liturgy

**followed by BBQ on the patio,  
face painting for the kids, music**

#### SAINTS PETER & PAUL

Tuesday, June 28

6:00 p.m.

Vesperal-Liturgy



# SAOC SUMMER SCHOOL!

FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE JUST COMPLETED GRADES K-6

Monday, June 13-Friday, June 24 (weekdays only)

8:45-noon — Class time

12:00-12:30 p.m. — Lunch

12:30-2:00 p.m. — Activities

**MEMO TO PARENTS & REGISTRATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE  
IN THE LOBBY OF THE CHURCH  
& ON THE WEBSITE AT:**

**<https://www.stathanasius.org/ministries/youth-education/summer-school/>**

**Tuition:** \$275 for 1 child/ \$400 for 2 children/\$500 for 3 children  
Does not include ticket to Magic Mountain on Friday, June 24th.

## FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT—January-April, 2022

Goal for Tithes January—April (includes mortgage)     \$ 216,668  
Actual Tithes January-April     \$ 214,298

Total Temple Fund donations for Jan.-April     \$ 37,370

Monthly tithe goal = \$54,167

### Tithes received per month:

January     \$ 58,011  
February     \$ 30,917  
March     \$ 65,687  
April     \$ 59,683

### Temple Fund donations per month:

\$ 20,164  
\$ 3,310  
\$ 5,035  
\$ 8,861

## CELEBRATIONS THIS WEEK

### Wedding Anniversaries

5/22 Beau & Leticia Brunner  
5/27 Andrew & Andrienne Macdonald

### Birthdays:

5/23 Nataliya Tinyayeva  
5/25 Tatiana Speier  
5/27 Adam King

## Dearest St. Athanasius Family,

Thanks to all in the parish who helped to make our Holy Week and Pascha celebrations so wonderful! Now we are looking ahead to plan **Coffee Hours** for the rest of the **Church year**. Coffee hours have been so enjoyable lately, encouraging folks to hang around after Liturgy to nurture deeper relationships within the parish.

In order to keep Coffee Hour going smoothly, it is **our hope to see participation from every family or household in the parish**. There are many openings for hosts over the next few months. If you haven't signed up to host a Coffee Hour during the current liturgical year (and even if you have), please consider signing up for an open Sunday. You can choose a day to celebrate a patron saint, commemorate a loved one, or celebrate a holiday.

**Our goal is to see every slot filled to guarantee a great coffee hour every week! If you can fill one of the gaps between now and September, please sign up at:**

**<https://bit.ly/SAOCoffeehour>**

Hosting a coffee hour takes some work, but it can be very fun too! Please keep in mind:

- **You don't need to handle it all yourself!** You can team up with other families or a ministry team to co-host a coffee hour. We also have a great Coffee Hour team that can help.
- **You can keep it simple.** We want to serve snacks for 125-150 folks each Sunday, but it doesn't have to be a full meal. It can be donuts, muffins, fruit, granola, etc. Just something to break the fast so we can hang around for fellowship!
- **Partial reimbursement** -- up to \$100 per coffee hour -- is available upon request, if necessary. (Receipts must be kept and submitted to the church office.) It is not expected that \$100 will cover all expenses to host a coffee hour. Many families do not request reimbursement, but please know that it is available if needed.

With sincere thanks to all,  
Suzi Wiley and the Coffee Hour Team



## PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer requests received through the parish office will be printed in the bulletin and will be prayed for during the litanies at the daily services. Prayer requests received in the box at the church will be prayed for quietly at the altar at all services. Prayer requests remain for 40 days unless requested otherwise.

**Send prayer requests for the bulletin to: [office@stathanasius.org](mailto:office@stathanasius.org).**

**Please pray for the health of:**

Metropolitan JOSEPH  
Mother Victoria  
Met. Paul & Abp. John  
Fr. Markos  
Fr. Jon B.  
Dn. Richard E.  
Kh. Diane C.  
Greg & Margaret Y.  
Hoppe Family in Albania  
Joseph Wm. B. in Kenya  
Duane F.  
Richard and Susan B.  
Monsignor J. Yanek  
Bob N.  
Kh. Melissa H.  
Cole K. (military)  
Jeremiah H. (Airforce Academy)  
Lauren & Fernando J. (military)  
Chase K. (military)  
Nick & Kristine J. (military)  
Connor V. (military)

Steve T.  
Phyllis M.  
Abp. Benjamin  
Kris F.  
Temmo K.  
Sarah B.  
Coleman Family (Lori, Abby, Matt)  
Jerry J.  
Chuck S.  
Mat. Trudi & Richter Family  
Dn. John & Fay Y.  
Zachary B.  
Samantha & Chris N. & Family  
Lander and Washburn Families  
Bob  
Lance. S.  
Obadiah

The Ethiopian Orthodox Church  
The Church & people in Lebanon  
All those suffering and  
in danger in Ukraine,  
Africa, and the Middle East

Please pray for the raising up and support  
of long-term missionaries from our parish.

**For repose of the souls of:** Archbishop Paul G., Kh. Patricia R.

## ST. ATHANASIUS CHURCH BOOKSTORE

The church bookstore is located in the foyer of the fellowship hall - two enclosed cabinets containing items that are FOR SALE. One cabinet holds icons, crosses, incense, prayer ropes, etc. The bookshelf has books for sale, arranged alphabetically by book title. Children's books are on the bottom shelf. See Terri Speier if you are looking for jewelry such as a cross or chain. Payment should be made at time of purchase and placed in brown lockbox on wall next to Fr. Nicholas' office. Make checks payable to **S.A.O.C. Bookstore**. (The pamphlets in the rack are FREE, as are the 12-month liturgical calendars.)

**All proceeds go to the parish Temple Fund.**

***On this day, the fifth Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate  
the feast of the Samaritan Woman.***

St. Photini lived in first century Palestine. She was the Samaritan woman who Christ visited at the well asking her for water. It was she who accepted the “living water” offered her by Christ Himself after repenting from her many sins (John. 4:5-42). She went and told her townspeople that she had met the Christ. For this, she is sometimes recognized as the first to proclaim the Gospel of Christ. She converted her five sisters (Sts. Anatole, Photo, Photis, Paraskeve, and Kyriake) and her two sons (Victor and Joses). They all became tireless evangelists for Christ.

The apostles of Christ baptized her and gave her the name of Photini which means “the enlightened one.” She is remembered by the Church as a Holy Martyr and Equal to the Apostles. After Sts. Peter and Paul were martyred, St. Photini and her family left their homeland of Sychar, in Samaria, to travel to Carthage to proclaim the Gospel of Christ there.

During the reign of Emperor Nero in the first century, excessive cruelty was displayed against the Christians, St. Photini lived in Carthage with her younger son, Joses. Her eldest son, Victor, fought bravely in the Roman army against the 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 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 them not to preach Christ in public. Let them practice their faith in secret.”

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 Sebastian lay there blind, without uttering a word. On the fourth day he declared, “The God of the Christians is the only true God.” St. 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. St. 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. 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.” All these things, and even future events, were revealed to St. Photini. She left Carthage in the company of several Christians and joined the confessors in Rome.

At Rome, Emperor Nero severely tortured Photini and her family and many other Christians for refusing to renounce the Savior. Over the course of several years, they were miraculously saved from various tortures or healed, and also worked miracles of healing in others around them. Eventually, Nero had St. Photini brought to him and asked if she would now relent and offer sacrifice to the idols. St. Photini spat in his face, 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 throw St. Photini down a well, where she surrendered her soul to God in the year 66.

Source: <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2018/05/06/39-sunday-of-the-samaritan-woman>