



St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral

4th Sunday of Pascha. Paralytic.
Epistle: Acts 9:32-43
Gospel: St. John 5:1-15
Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark

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Sunday, April 25, 2010 – Youth Sunday

This Week's Announcements

Wednesday – April 28

- The Konevets Quartet and the Tsar Lazar Serbian Male Chorus, originally scheduled to perform Wednesday, April 28th at St. Nicholas Church, McKees Rocks, has been canceled due to visa and volcanic eruption travel restrictions. We will let you know if the concert can be rescheduled.

Saturday – May 1

- Basket Party – 10 am-2 pm
- Vespers – 5:00 pm

Next Sunday – April 25

- Church School – 9:00 am
- Divine Liturgy – 10:00 am

Coming Events – Mark Your Calendar!

- Women's Association Meeting – May 4
- Women's Association Tea Party – May 22
- Church School Summer Camp – July 26-30
- Women's Association Golf Classic – July 30

Fundability Tip of the Week: Now that Spring is upon us, it's time to do some of those indoor and outdoor chores. Remember, whatever supplies you need, you can purchase them with gift cards from St. Alexander Fundability. For example, if you need to replace that hard-to-start lawnmower, use Fundability cards to buy one from Sears, Lowe's, Home Depot, Kmart, or Wal-Mart. And pick up a restaurant card to use when the job's done!

Remember, Fundability is your way to support the building fund without paying a penny extra. Thanks for your ongoing support of this important fundraiser!

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark, also known as John Mark (Acts 12:12), was one of the Seventy Apostles, and was also a nephew of St Barnabas. He was born at Jerusalem. The house of his mother Mary adjoined the Garden of Gethsemane. As Church Tradition relates, on the night that Christ was betrayed he followed after Him, wrapped only in a linen cloth. He was seized by soldiers, and fled away naked, leaving the cloth behind (Mark 14:51-52). After the Ascension of the Lord, the house of his mother Mary became a place where Christians gathered, and a place of lodging for some of the Apostles (Acts 12:12).

St Mark was a very close companion of the Apostles Peter and Paul (June 29) and Barnabas. St Mark was at Seleucia with Paul and Barnabas, and from there he set off to the island of Cyprus, and he traversed the whole of it from east to west. In the city of Paphos, St Mark witnessed the blinding of the sorcerer Elymas by St Paul (Acts 13:6-12).

After working with the Apostle Paul, St Mark returned to Jerusalem, and then went to Rome with the Apostle Peter who, in his first epistle calls him his son, "The chosen one at Babylon sends you his greeting as does Mark, my son" (1 Peter 5:13), not according to the flesh but a son according to the spirit. While Mark was in Rome with Peter, the faithful begged him to write down for them the saving teaching of the Lord Jesus, His miracles and His life. Thus, Mark wrote the Holy Gospel which the Apostle Peter himself saw and attested to its truthfulness.

Mark was appointed a bishop by the Apostle Peter and was sent to Egypt to preach. St. Mark was the first preacher of the Good News [Gospel] in Egypt and was the first bishop in Egypt. Egypt was entirely oppressed by the thick darkness of paganism, idolatry, soothsaying and malice. With the help of God, St. Mark succeeded to sow the seed of the teaching of Christ throughout Libiya, Ammonicia and Pentopolis. From Pentopolis, St. Mark came to Alexandria where the Spirit of God led him. In Alexandria, he succeeded in establishing the Church of God and installed bishops, priests and deacons and to firmly strengthen them all in the honorable Faith.

The pagans of Alexandria seized St Mark when he was serving the Liturgy. They beat him, dragged him through the streets and threw him in prison. There St Mark was granted a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who strengthened him before his sufferings. On the following day, the angry crowd again dragged the saint through the streets to the courtroom, but along the way St Mark died saying, "Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit."

In the ancient iconographic tradition, which adopted symbols for the holy Evangelists borrowed from the vision of St John the Theologian (Rev 4:7) and the prophecy of Ezekiel (Ez. 1:10), the holy Evangelist Mark is represented by a lion, symbolizing the might and royal dignity of Christ (Rev 5:5).

St Mark wrote his Gospel for Gentile Christians, emphasizing the words and deeds of the Savior which reveal His divine Power. Many aspects of his account can be explained by his closeness to St Peter. The ancient writers say that the Gospel of Mark is a concise record of St Peter's preaching.

One of the central theological themes in the Gospel of St Mark is the power of God achieving what is humanly impossible. The Apostles performed remarkable miracles with Christ (Mark 16:20) and the Holy Spirit (Mark 13:11) working through them. His disciples were told to go into the world and preach the Gospel to all creatures (Mark 13:10, 16:15), and that is what they did.