

# Iconography

Adult Spiritual Enrichment

January 17, 2021

CLASS 12

## THE HOLY WASHING



### SCRIPTURE

#### John 13:2--:17

*And the supper, being ended, the devil having already put it into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray Him, Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God, rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded. Then He came to Simon Peter. And Peter said to Him, "Lord, are You washing my feet?"*

*Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not understand now, but you will know after this."*

*Peter said to Him, "You shall never wash my feet!"*

*Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me."*

*Simon Peter said to Him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!"*

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*Jesus said to him, "He who is bathed needs only to wash his feet, but is completely clean; and you are clean, but not all of you." For He knew who would betray Him: therefore He said, "You are not all clean."*

*So when He had washed their feet, taken His garments, and sat down again, He said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you say well, for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you. Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them."*

## COMMENTS

### From the Orthodox Study Bible:

- Washing of another's feet was a common expression of hospitality in the ancient Middle East but was usually done by slaves or house-servants.

### From Go Arch:

- Example of love, humility and service.
- It signifies His intense love and the giving of Himself to each person according to that person's ability to receive Him. (Peter first objects but then agrees).
- By washing the feet of His disciples, He summarized the meaning of His ministry, manifested His perfect love and revealed His profound humility.
- This account is also a symbol of Holy Baptism, Holy Confession, and Stewardship.
- As Christians, we are bathed and cleansed by Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Periodically, throughout our lives, we have "foot-washings" by our Lord through the Sacrament of Holy Confession.
- Christ is also teaching that humankind may be transformed into His likeness by the by service and stewardship.
- Commemorated on Holy Thursday of Holy Week.

### THE ICON:

- Depicts Christ with a towel around him. The remains the only with a halo.
- Christ washing Peter's feet.
- Peter with his hand on his forehead—"not only my feet but my hands and head'.
- The other disciples preparing, loosing their sandals.
- Emphasis is placed on Peter by his position, and emphasis is place on Christ by His contrasting colors.
- Judas appears furthest away.
- The red cloak on the building signifies the event occurred indoors.
- Why depict trees? The wood. The cross. All of these icons are symbolic for what is to come. The Cross constitutes the ultimate manifestation of Christ's perfect obedience to His Father. (Philippians 2:5-:8)

## CHRIST EXPELLING THE MONEY CHANGERS FROM THE TEMPLE



### Mark 11:15-:17

“So they came to Jerusalem. Then Jesus went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He would not allow anyone to carry wares through the temple. Then He taught, saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations’? But you have made it a ‘den of thieves.’”

### John 2:14

“Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. When He has made a whip of chords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers’ money and overturned the tables. And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise! Then His disciples remember that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.”

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## Luke 19:45--:48

Then He went into the temple and began to drive out those who bought and sold in it, saying to them, "It is written, 'My house is a house of prayer, but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

## Matthew 21:12 - :13

"Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all the those who bought and sold in the temple and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves. And He said to them, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you have made it a 'den of thieves.'"

### COMMENTS

#### From the Orthodox Study Bible:

- Those who "bought and sold" were trading in live animals to be used for sacrifices.
- The money changers traded in Roman coins for Jewish coins since Roman coins, which bore the image of Caesar, were considered defiling in the temple.
- The cleansing of the temple also points to the necessity that the Church be kept free from earthy pursuits. As each person is considered a temple of God (1 Co 3:16; 6:19), it is also a sign that our hearts and minds must be cleansed of earthly matters.

#### THE ICON:

- Notice Christ's face.
- Christ with a whip.
- Tables overturned.
- Coins scattered on the ground.
- Movement of the merchants moving away from Christ.
- Merchants with wares on their heads.
- Look closely at Christ's face.



## THE PROPHET JONAH

See Lesson 1.

The Prophet Jonah is also located in the dome.

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## THE PROPHET HOSEA

He lived and prophesied around 750 B.C.

The name Hosea means “salvation” or “deliverance.”

From the Synaxarion, Volume One:

Like other prophets he was an interpreter of the messages of God to his people, not in word alone but in deed also.

In his life, Hosea showed forth the mysterious purposes of God; for the Lord commanded him to marry a harlot who would be unfaithful to him, just as the people of Israel were unfaithful to their covenant with God by giving themselves over to idolatry.

In broken-hearted tones, Hosea gives voice in his Prophecy to the disappointed love of the Lord and to his threats of dire punishments awaiting the adulterous people, namely invasion and exile. But God chastens only to save. God will again lead his people into the wilderness and, as if to an erring wife allure her and speak tenderly to her, so that in repentance and tears, she may return forever to her divine Bridegroom and eternally rejoice in his peace, his tenderness and his love.

In those days, God will say to the Church; *Thou art my people*; and she will reply; *Thou art my God*. This reconciliation between God and his people will only truly come to pass Hosea affirms, when Christ comes to release mankind from the power of death.

*“I will deliver the out of the hand of Hades,  
And will redeem them from death.  
Where is your penalty, O death?  
O Hades, where is your sting?  
Pity is hidden from my eye.”* (Hosea 13:14)

The Prophet Hosea is commemorated on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

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## ST. NECTARIOS

See Lessons 3 and 4.

St. Nectarios is depicted on our Iconostasis in Bishop's clothing.



## ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST AND FORERUNNER

See Lessons 3, 4 and 7.

St. John is also on our iconostasis, as well as in 2 large wall icons.



## ST. BARBARA

See Lessons 3 and 4.

St. Barbara is also depicted on our icon screen.



St. Joseph with Christ

## ST. JOSEPH

Commemorated (along with Prophet and King David and James the Brother of the Lord) on the Sunday after Christmas Day.

### From the Synaxarion, Volume II:

The holy and righteous Joseph was a witness and servant of the great mystery of the Incarnation. He came from the royal tribe of Judah and of the house of David. He was a carpenter by trade. He had 7 children by his first marriage: 4 sons and 3 daughters. In middle age, he became a widower. Joseph was chosen by the high priest, on a sign from God, to become the protector and guardian of the virginity of the Theotokos on her leaving the Temple at age 12. He appeared to everyone to be her lawful husband.

When signs of maternity appeared in Mary, the pious and righteous Joseph could not comprehend how the Virgin consecrated to the Lord could be guilty of secret relations. Strict morality required that he divorce her but he did not want to publicly shame her and decided to quietly send her away. But an Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and reassured him, telling him that this conception was the work of the Holy Spirit.

Joseph was one of the first witnesses of the marvel of the birth of God incarnate, and his was the privilege of Child His name: JESUS.

See Lessons 5 and 6 for more on the Righteous Joseph. (The Nativity Icon and the Flight into Egypt).

When the time for the Lord Jesus to begin his ministry drew near, Joseph gave back his soul to God in the presence of Jesus and Mary, having fulfilled with humility and devotion all that he was sent to do.