



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

Sunday of the MYRRH-BEARING WOMAN + Sun, April 30, 2023 + Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!



Hymns for Today's Service

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the Tree, wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices, and placed it in a new tomb. But Thou didst arise on the third day, O Lord, granting the world great mercy.

Thou wast called to be a disciple and warrior of Christ, one of the exalted choir of Apostles. With thy brother John, thou didst abandon all to follow the Master, O James; thou wast filled with the Holy Spirit and didst proclaim Him to all. Thou didst bow thy head to the sword, the first of the twelve to shed thy blood! We celebrate thy memory, O blessed one!

O James, when thou didst hear the voice of the Word calling thee, thou didst abandon thy father's love and ran to Christ, together with thy brother John. With him thou wast accounted worthy to behold the divine Transfiguration of Christ.

Thou didst command the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ God. By Thy Resurrection, Thou didst stop the lamentation of Eve, the first mother. Thou didst command them to preach to Thine Apostles: "The Savior is risen from the tomb!"

Please Sing Along!

Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies along with the choir throughout the Divine Liturgy is encouraged!

Epistle Reading - Acts 6:1-7

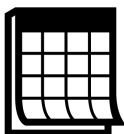
Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor,

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting. If you have questions please let us know!

Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Gospel Reading – Mark 15:43-16:8

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.



This Week's Schedule **Doly Trinity Orthodox Church**

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Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Woman

Please welcome Fr Gabe Aldridge who will be serving for Fr. Innocent while the Neal Family is on vacation this week.

Saturday, April 29th

NO Great Vespers

Sunday, April 30th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour, Church School

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THIS WEEK

WED – NO Private Prayer in Church
NO Akathist Service

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NEXT WEEKEND – Sunday of the Paralytic

Saturday, May 6th

5 PM: Great Vespers & Confessions

Sunday, May 7th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours, 9 AM: Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour, Church School



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

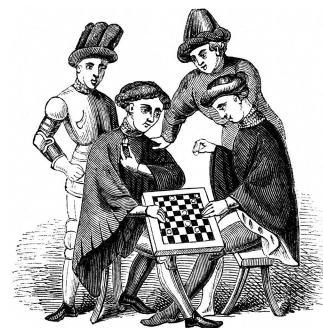
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PARISH GROUNDS MAINTENANCE DAY, MAY 13 –

Dear Parish Members. Please plan to come to our spring parish maintenance day, May 13th, 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Bring lawn tools, gloves, rakes etc. We will be cleaning up around the church and on the hill. Any questions please see Steve Dutko or Paul Tumavitch. Please offer whatever time you can to help keep up YOUR church property.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – May 14th @ 11:30 AM

+ MAY COMMUNITY DAY + **Board Games, Snacks, Fun**



Saturday, May 20th, 1 PM–5 PM

Join us monthly downstairs in the Church Hall for games, snacks, fellowship and fun followed by Great Vespers at 5 PM. Bring a snack!

EVERYONE is Welcome

Summer Grounds Maintenance Help Needed: It's that time of year to begin our summer grounds maintenance. We need volunteers to cut grass, weed whack, etc. on the property once or twice a month for 2 or 3 hours. If you would like to be put on the schedule for this important Church ministry please speak with Fr. Innocent or Paul Tumavitch. It is wonderful to be outside caring for and beautifying the lovely property Our Lord has entrusted to us. Questions? See or contact Fr. Innocent.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May Birthdays: Joann Salazar (5/3), Jeremy Haugh (5/18), Paul Meck (5/18), Becky Leonori (5/20), Zach Harvey (5/24), Jack Willis (5/24), Elaine Benczkowski (5/26), Eva King (5/30), Martha Tumavitch (5/30)

Anniversaries: Matthew & Aimee Austin (5/15)

This Week's Birthdays: Joann Salazar (5/3)



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women with the Noble Joseph

The Myrrh-bearing women are those women who followed the Lord, along with His Mother. They remained with her during the time of the saving Passion, and anointed the Lord's body with myrrh. Joseph and Nikódēmos asked for and received the Lord's body from Pilate. They took it down from the Cross, wrapped it in linen cloths and spices, then they laid it in a tomb, and then they placed a great stone over the entrance of the tomb.

According to the Evangelist Matthew (27:57-61) Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses (Mark 15:40) were there sitting opposite the sepulchre, and they saw where He had been laid. This other Mary was the Mother of God. Not only were these present, but also many other women, as Saint Luke says (24:10).



Today the Church honors Saints Mary Magdalene (July 22), Mary the wife of Cleopas (May 23), Joanna (June 27), Salome, mother of the sons of Zebedee (August 3), Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus (June 4), and the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who was the stepmother of her husband Joseph's sons James (October 23) and Joses (October 30). Today we also remember Saint Joseph of Arimathea (July 31), who was a secret disciple (John 19:38), and Saint Nikódēmos, who was a disciple by night (John 3:3; 19:38).

The holy right-believing Queen Tamara of Georgia is honored twice during the year: on May 1, the day of her repose, and also on the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women.

On this day the Church also remembers All Saints of Thessalonica, Saint Seraphim Bishop of Phanar (December 4, 1610), the New Martyr Elias Ardunis (January 31, 1686), and the New Martyr Demetrios of the Peloponnesos (April 13, 1803).

Homily from Met. Anthony Bloom

FEAST OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN, ST JOSEPH
OF ARIMATHEA AND ST NICODEMUS

11th May 1997

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

We keep today the feast of a number of the followers of Christ of whom we think seldom, because they are

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Nadine Breisch, Holoviak Family, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Mary Ann Lepa, Mat. Delores Donlick, Vladimir & Marie Dutko, Alan, Cathy & Paul, Archpriest Vladimir, Tom & Joan Austin, Lilly, David, Elizabeth, George Krill, Lydia, Melanie Bishop, Hannah Selick, Naren Mansharamani, Dave Hamilton, Kathy & Michael Bufalino **Departed:** John Zoranski

mentioned very little in the Scriptures. And each of them could be a lesson for us.

St. Joseph of Arimathea was a rich man who listened to Christ with an open mind and did not commit himself. Neither did Nicodemus; but Nicodemus was a learned man, part of the Sanhedrin. He had been listening to Christ, he had been asking questions from Him, he wanted to understand, he wanted to be sure. But neither of them had committed themselves to follow Christ, to declare themselves as His disciples.

And yet, when Christ in the eyes of everyone was defeated, when victory had come to His enemies, when He was dead, about to be buried, their faithfulness to Him who had taught them words of life came to the fore. And they joined the Mother of God to bring down the body of Christ and to bury him. Daringly they went to Pontius Pilate and asked for this body so that they could bury Him with veneration. In the course of His life they had been listening to Him with a hesitant yet open mind. When death came their faithfulness sprang to the fore. And seeing the pain of the Mother of God and St. John the apostle there was no doubt left in them; they must declare themselves, because they could not accept that He should be rejected through defeat after having been their teacher, their guide and their friend.

And then there is another group of people, the myrrh-bearing women, a group of women who had been following Christ and supporting Him and His disciples in their need. When Christ was crucified all the apostles fled, with the exception of St. John and with the exception of these women. It was not an intellectual conviction that held them as disciples of Christ. It was something which perhaps could be defined in the words of the pilgrims to Emmaus: 'was not our heart burning within us when He was speaking to us on the way'. All the way from Galilee to Jerusalem, from the peace of the land to the tragedy of Jerusalem, all this time they had been listening and their hearts had come to life — not with personal love but with a deep sense of life eternal. These are the words which also St. Peter had said earlier, when most people who surrounded them had left, and Christ turned to his disciples and said: are you also going to go? And Peter said: where should we go? You have the words of eternal life. And these words were not simply syllogisms, or proofs, or ways of conveying things. When he spoke it was life eternal that was awoken in them — the door into eternal life that came to life. And they knew

that these words were true because there was new life in them. And so was it also for these women.

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So today we keep the feast of people who proved faithful, the ones who in their frailty had not fled, and the ones who in the face of defeat and tragedy had suddenly become disciples and faithful. Let us remember them, not only seeing their glory as we have done today in the service, but also asking ourselves: do we belong, to any extent, to the example given by one or another of them? Can we say that in the face of the defeat of Christ we would come out and say: I am one of His disciples, although in the time when there was no danger around I kept out, hesitant, unsure, asking myself questions, indeed asking Him questions? Is any one of us Joseph of Arimathea, is any one Nicodemus, and can we say that we are like these myrrh-bearing women, whom neither the needs nor the defeat nor the death of Christ had been able to alienate from Him?

None of us is any of it to the full; but let us learn from them and try to grow into that faithfulness which they have shown; the ones throughout the life of Christ, and the other ones in the face of His defeat. Amen.
