



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

+ Sun, May 8th, 2022 + The Myrrh-Bearing Women + Holy Apostle & Evangelist John the Theologian



DYMNUS 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.

Beloved Apostle of Christ our God, hasten to deliver a defenseless people! He Who allowed thee to recline on His breast, receives thee as thou dost bow before Him. Implore Him, O John the Theologian, to disperse the persistent threat from the heathens, entreating for us peace and great mercy!

Who shall declare thy greatness, O virgin disciple, for thou dost pour forth wonders and art a source of healings, and prayest for our souls as theologian and friend 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!"

Epistle Reading - ACTS 5:12-20

And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon's Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those who were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

Gospel Reading - JOHN 20:19-31

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they

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!*

are retained.” Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.” And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, “Peace to you!” Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.” And Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.



This Weeks Schedule Doly TRINITY ORChodox Church

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Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Woman

MOTHERS DAY

Saturday, May 7th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, May 8th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours

9 AM: Divine Liturgy

10:30 AM: Coffee Hour & Church School

THIS WEEK

WED, 11 AM-1:30 PM: Private Prayer

NEXT WEEKEND - Sunday of the Paralytic

Saturday, May 14th

5 PM: Great Vespers, Confessions

Sunday, May 15th

8:40 AM: 3rd & 6th Hours

9 AM: Divine Liturgy

10:30 AM: Coffee Hour & Church School

11:30 AM: Parish Council Meeting



ANNOUNCEMENTS

& Upcoming Parish Events

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Upcoming Fundraisers: We need YOUR help to make our upcoming fundraisers possible. On the schedule we have our **Election Day Food Sale**. Setup and preparation will be Monday, May 16th / Sale on Tuesday May 17th. The signup sheet is in the vestibule. ANY amount of time you can offer is greatly appreciated. NEXT, our first **Peirogi Project** is scheduled for May 20-21st. We need ALOT of help for this on both days to make it possible. Please signup in the vestibule.

Parish Council Meeting: Sunday May 15th @ 11:30 AM

This Weekend (13th-14th) Potato Pancake Stand / Ticket Both Roof Replacement: All hands on deck! Support Eli King as he completes his Eagle Scout project by replacing the roof on two of our food stands. We are very thankful to Eli for his contribution and willingness to offer his love and service to HTOC. Anyone available to support Eli by lending a hand please come beginning Friday at NOON and Saturday at 8:30 AM. Please signup in the vestibule if you are available to help for any amount of time. Contact Jason King with any questions.

WEEKLY GIVING UPDATE: We thank you for your continued giving in gratitude for all that our loving God does for each of us, for His Holy Church, and all the blessings we receive through her.

Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$2,840

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$12,305

Collections last Sunday: \$1,645

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), Dolores Karas (5/27), Eva King (5/30), Martha Tumavitch (5/30) **Anniversaries:** Matthew & Aimee Austin (5/15)

This Week's Birthdays: N/A **Anniversaries:** N/A



Words of Wisdom From the Saints & Teachers

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Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Woman

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 Arduinis (January 31, 1686), and the New Martyr Demetrios of the Peloponnesos (April 13, 1803).

Homily by Met. Anthony Bloom on the Myrrh-Bearing Woman

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

We remember today the Myrrh-bearing women, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, people who in the course of the Gospel are hardly mentioned, yet who, when Christ was seemingly defeated, when death, rejection, betrayal and hatred had conquered, proved to be people of faithfulness and courage, the faithfulness of the heart and the courage that can be born only of love. At the moment of the Crucifixion all the Apostles had fled save one, John, who stood at the foot of the Cross with the Mother of God. Everyone else had abandoned Christ, only a small group of women stood at a short distance from the Cross, and when He had died, they came to anoint His Body which Joseph of Arimathea had sought from Pilate, unafraid of being recognised as a disciple, because in life and in death love and faithfulness had conquered.

Let us reflect on this. It is easy to be Christ's disciples when we are on the crest of the wave, in the security of countries where no persecution, no rejection is endured, no betrayal can lead us to martyrdom, or simply to becoming the victims of mockery and rejection.

Let us think of ourselves not in regard to Christ alone but with regard to one another, because Christ has said that

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nadine Breisch, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Catherine, Danny Gobish, Lorraine Pace, Peter Holoviak & Family, Evelyn Kosmiski, Mat. Elizabeth, Jeri Basarab, Fr. Theodore Orzolek, Delores Voda, Mary Ann Lepa, Eric, Mat. Delores Donlick, Fr. Vladimir Fetchko, Dorothy Sysak, Vasilli (Bill) Talpash, Barbara, Jodi, Diane, David, Erin Dougherty, Lauren Butruce, Ashlee Parlante, Maureen Metz and the Metz Family, Bernard Golubiewski, Deborah, Reader Matthew **Departed:** His Eminence Archbishop Paul, Bill Conklin

what we have done to any one of us, to the smallest, to the most insignificant, we have done to Him.

Let us ask ourselves how we behave when someone is rejected, mocked, ostracised, condemned by public opinion or by the opinion of those who mean something to us, whether at that moment our heart remains faithful, whether at that moment we find courage to say, 'He was, and he remains my friend whether you accept or reject him'.

Let us ask ourselves how we behave when someone is rejected, mocked, ostracised, condemned by public opinion or by the opinion of those who mean something to us, whether at that moment our heart remains faithful, whether at that moment we find courage to say, 'He was, and he remains my friend whether you accept or reject him'. There is no greater measure of faithfulness than that faithfulness which is made manifest in defeat. Let us consider this, because we all are defeated, we are defeated in so many ways. We all strive, with whatever energy we have - a little or much, to be what we should be, and we are defeated at every moment. Should we not look at one another not only with compassion, but with the faithfulness of friends who are prepared to stand by a person who falls, falls away from grace, falls away from his own ideal, frustrates all hopes and expectations which we have set on him or her. At that time let us stand by, at that time let us be faithful and prove that our love was not conditioned by the hope of victory but was a wholehearted gift, gratuitous, joyful, wonderful. Amen.

Happy  Mother's Day

*In honor of all the Mothers,
God-Mothers, aunts
and hard-working
women of the church,
Geraniums are given
to each one of you!*

**May God Grant you Many Years!
ALL WOMEN please receive your Mother's Day
flower on the way out of church!**
