

THE SYNAXARION (Plain Reading)

On May 3 in the Holy Orthodox Church, we commemorate Martyrs Timothy the reader and his wife Maura of Egypt; Peter, archbishop of Argolis; Ekumenios, bishop of Trikala; Venerable Luke of Mt. Stirion; and Venerable Theodosios of the Kiev Caves, founder of Russian monasticism.

On this day, the third Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the feast of the holy Myrrh-bearing women. And we also commemorate Joseph of Arimathaea, the secret disciple, and Nicodemus, the disciple by night.

Verses

*Christ is brought myrrh by the wise women disciples;
And to them, I bring a hymn as myrrh in offering.*

The women went to Christ's tomb on Holy Pascha to anoint His body, only to discover it empty. We know the names of only eight of these women: Mary the Theotokos, the "mother" of James and Joses, who were the sons of Joseph the Betrothed from his previous marriage (Matt. 27:56 and Mark 15:40); Mary Magdalene; Mary, the wife of Cleopas; Joanna the wife of Chuza; Salome the mother of the sons of Zebedee; Susanna; and Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus. Joseph was a rich and noble man, and a member of the Privy Council of Jerusalem. He dared to ask Pilate for the undefiled body of our Savior, which he took and buried in his own new tomb. Accompanying Joseph to the sepulcher was Nicodemus, a Jerusalemite who was one of the leaders of the Pharisees. Nicodemus brought 100 pounds of myrrh and aloes to scent and embalm the body of Christ.

By the intercessions of the holy Myrrh-bearers, Joseph of Arimathaea and Nicodemus, O God, have mercy on us. Amen.



Bulletin Submissions

*Please help us provide a quality weekly bulletin by submitting all prayer requests and announcements to the church office by **Noon on Wednesdays**. Any requests received after this time will be in the following week's bulletin. Thank you for your cooperation.*



Sunday, May 3, 2020

***Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women and
Sts. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus***

Saint Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church

"A parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America"

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**His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH, Archbishop of New York
& Metropolitan of all North America**

**His Grace Bishop JOHN, Auxiliary and Bishop of the
Diocese of Worcester and New England**

V. Rev. Father Elie Estephan
Cell- 1-(240) 205-9079

Sub-Deacon Emad Amirhom
Sub-Deacon Elijah Vollendorf

Schedule of Services

Sunday: Orthros (Matins)	9:00 a.m.
Church School	11:15 a.m.
Sunday: Divine Liturgy	10:00 a.m.

*Enter in Quietness, Rest in Prayer,
Worship in Reverence, Depart in Peace to Serve*

We welcome our Visitors & Guests: Please take a moment to fill out a Visitor Card. We invite you to join us for coffee hour at the Parish Center following Liturgy.

Receiving Communion: Only those Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves may approach the chalice for Holy Communion. Everyone is welcome to partake of the Holy Bread after the Liturgy.



Prayer Line

St. Mary ~ Internet Prayer Line
Prayer requests can be sent to us via the internet at
office@stmarypawtucket.org

All requests must be received by Wednesday noon to be included in that week's bulletin.
Any requests received after that time will be included in the following week's bulletin.

Christ Is Risen, Truly He is Risen!

The Myrrh Bearing Women

The Sunday of the Myrrh bearing Women. refers to the women who came to anoint Jesus' body in the tomb and to whom the Resurrection was first announced. At the liturgy, we read from the Book of Acts the account of appointing the first seven deacons. They are chosen to ensure the "daily ministrations" that is the distribution of material help which would allow the apostles to concentrate on "prayer and the ministry of the world"

This episode contains a double teaching. On the one hand, it is necessary to 'serve tables' and this should be organized on a regular basis in a Christian community. A Church which neglected the material needs of men and did not exert itself to be a source of help could not be an authentic Church of Jesus Christ. On the other hand, the Gospel involves more than philanthropy; discipleship must not become simply social work; "It is not reason that we should leave the word of God and serve tables." In our human condition, we can not escape this division of work: one will be called to contemplation, another to the apostolate, yet another to works of mercy. There is only One who is able not only to multiply the loaves and to preach on the mountain, to wash the feet of the guests and to address them after the Supper, and that One alone, infinitely above all the apostles and all the deacons, is the perfection and fullness of the Church. When, at times, We do not know how to combine the demands of "external works" and those of the Divine Word - whether we hear it or speak it - he alone, if we will but consult him, can show us the right proportion in which to unite the obedience of Martha to that of Mary.

The Year of Grace of the Lord.



In all your works, either at home or at the place of your service, do not forget that all your strength, your light and your success are in Christ and His Cross. Therefore do not fail to call upon the Lord before beginning any work, saying, "Jesus help me! Enlighten me! Thus your heart will be supported and warmed by lively faith and hope in Christ, for His is the power and the glory unto ages of ages.

~Fr. John of Kronstadt

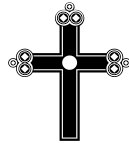


Orthodox Vocabulary

Doctrine of Immortality

In pre-Christian times, the Greeks, especially, reasoned out a doctrine of immortality. They showed an essential connection of the soul with the principles governing reasoning and they took both to be eternal. Plato inferred from this believed kinship the existence of the soul before birth as well as its survival after death. On the other hand the constant striving of the virtuous man after the eternally valid principles of morality was thought to point to the same belief Plato and other Greek philosophers dwelt on the fact that matter imposes limitations on the soul. The body was believed to be a prison-house, from which death released the soul into a fuller and more perfect existence. The doctrine of immortality in Christianity arose from the fact of Christ's Resurrection. Thus, man's highest destiny was more than the mere survival of an immortal soul. Rather, it was a life of continued union with the risen Christ which reached its completion only by the reunion of body and soul after death. St. Paul sketches in his First Epistle to the Corinthians and elsewhere the essence of this Christian belief The Fathers explain the hope of immortality only in relation with the redemptive work of Christ. The Fall of Adam had brought death and it was only through the Second Adam (Christ) that life was regained (St. Athanasios, Gregory of Nyssa.) Later theological developments on the concept of immortality reached the stage by which the resurrection of the body was necessary for a full human life in the world to come; else, a disembodied soul was no true being.

CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!



Because of the Resurrection of Christ, because of His victory over death, men have become, continue to become, and will continue becoming Christians. The entire history of Christianity is nothing other than the history of a unique miracle, namely, the Resurrection of Christ, which is unbrokenly threaded through the hearts of Christians from one day to the next, from year to year, across the centuries, until the dreaded judgment.

~St. Justin Popovich



Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women

Tone 2 / Eothion 4

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION: Tone 2

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF JOSEPH OF ARIMATHAEA: Tone 2

The noble Joseph, taking Thine immaculate Body down from the Tree, and having wrapped It in pure linen and spices, laid It for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day Thou didst arise, O Lord, granting to the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN: Tone 2

Unto the myrrh-bearing women did the Angel cry out as he stood by the grave: Myrrh-oils are meet for the dead, but Christ hath proved to be a stranger to corruption. But cry out: The Lord is risen, granting to the world Great Mercy.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA: Tone 8

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.



CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!

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THE EPISTLE

The Lord is my strength and my song. The Lord has chastened me severely.

The Reading from the Acts of the Saintly and Pure Apostles. (6:1-7)

In those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the Twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (15:43-16:8)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathaea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the Kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if He were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that He was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud, and laid Him in a tomb, which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where He was laid. And when the Sabbath was passed, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices so that they might go and anoint Him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back—it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He has 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 to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.



One-Week Memorial Service



A One-Week Memorial Service is being offered for *Eivon Ayoub Bazerji* by George & Carol Daikh & Family.

May God grant her peace and may her memory be eternal.

PRAYERS ARE BEING OFFERED FOR GOOD HEALTH AND BLESSING OF:

Kevin Hashway
Mark Hashway
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

Victoria & Albert Hallal
Offered by: Ron Hallal

Fr. Elie & Family
All Parishioners of St. Mary Church
Our Family & Friends
Kh. Dolly Crow
Edward Betor
Josephine Karam
Offered by: Elie, Julia & Naji Karam

Philip & Bette Ayoub on their 50th Wedding Anniversary
Offered by: Nancy, Lisa, Jimmy & Judy Penta

Philip & Bette Ayoub
Offered by: Joe & Marlene Samra

Paula Hallal
Offered by: Holly Lazieh & Sons & Bob Dessaint

Philip & Bette Ayoub
Lorice Hallal
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

Nicholas Chowning (celebrating his 17th Birthday)
Leila & Emily Chowning
Kevin & Judy Kiernan
Kh. Dolly Crow
George & Kim Matook & Family
Ronald Hallal & Family
Albert & Vicki Hallal
Elaine Wilbur
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier



IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

Fred Hashway Jr.
Offered by: Elaine Wilbur

V. Rev. Fr. Isaac Crow
Lillian Betor
Georges Karam
Offered by: Elie, Julia & Naji Karam

Janice Hallal
Offered by: Her Loving Husband Ron

Antoinette Slemmon
Offered by: Donna, Fred, Christina, Ellen & Family

V. Rev. Fr. Isaac Crow
Ronald, Christopher, Murad, Louis & Abraham
Offered by: Elaine Gauthier

John Swistak
Offered by: Elaine Swistak

Visitations

Please contact Fr. Elie with any names of parishioners that are in need of visitation either at home, in hospital or nursing homes.

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CHRIST IS RISEN, TRULY HE IS RISEN!