

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Administrator: Reverend Michael D. Kunitz, M. Div.

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Cantor: Julia Revilak & Family

Sub-Deacon: Raphael Ruggiero

May 4, 2025

Sunday of Myrrh Bearing Women

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, May 4: NO SERVICES – DUE TO PITTSBURGH MARATHON

Monday, May 5: St. Irene the Great Martyr

6:00 pm Confessions, 7:00 pm Divine Liturgy

Friday, May 9: 6:00 pm Daily Vespers, 7:00 pm Vigil Divine Liturgy for St. Simon the Zealot

Sunday, May 11: Sunday of the Paralytic Man & Mother's Day

For all Mothers Living & Deceased of Our Parish

10am Monthly Matins, 10:45 am Rosary, 11 am Divine Liturgy

Divine Liturgies are open for intentions for this new year. If you would like to make an intention for a Liturgy, please call the office or fill out request form in the back of the church and give it to Fr. Michael.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS: If you are interested in learning to lead Matins as a Reader's Service on Sunday before Liturgy, please see Father Michael. Matins is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month unless otherwise noted. **This month Matins will be celebrated next Sunday, May 11.**

MAY 10th PARISH CLEAN UP DAY! Join us from 8:00 am – Noon for our Spring outdoor clean up. Help is needed with weeding, trimming and clean up around the property. Remember to wear your garden gloves!

MAY 31ST FLEA MARKET: We are currently accepting donations for our next flea market. It's a great time to Spring Clean, but please no books or clothing. We will need volunteers to help set up the tables and price items – more details to follow. We hope you can support this important fundraiser. Please see Mary Dzurichko with any questions.

COFFEE SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: In addition to attending services together, it is important that we spend time in conversation with one another. To make it truly a time of sharing – we ask everyone to sign up to host a Sunday. We look forward to seeing you!

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES:

May God grant you many happy and blessed years!

5/26 – Joseph and Dolores Bacasa, Anniversary

ICONS AVAILABLE: There are several blessed icons in the church hall. There is no charge to take these home, though a free will offering for the benefit of the parish is welcome.

EPISTLE: ACTS 6:1-7:

At that time, as the number of disciples continued to grow, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. So, the Twelve called together the community of the disciples and said, "It is not right for us to neglect the word of God to serve at table. Brothers, select from among you seven reputable men, filled with the Spirit and wisdom, whom we shall appoint to this task, whereas we shall devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." The proposal was acceptable to the whole community, so they chose Stephen, a man filled with faith and the holy Spirit, also Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicholas of Antioch, a convert to Judaism. They presented these men to the apostles who prayed and laid hands on them. The word of God continued to spread, and the number of the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly; even a large group of priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

~In today's lesson from *The Acts of the Holy Apostles*, the Holy Evangelist Luke tells us about the selection of the first deacons. As the Christian community was increasing quite rapidly, the apostles sought assistance in performing mundane matters so that their energies could be directed toward their ministry which was primarily spiritual. Their total efforts thus could be devoted toward the PROCLAMATION OF THE FAITH, thereby completely involving themselves with preaching the Word of God and with prayer. Seven spiritually minded men were chosen as deacons, which is a derivative of the Greek word *diakonia*, meaning "service." The deacons were to assist the apostles and were to be the servants within the Christian community. The first man to be so chosen was **Stephen** who is thus called the "archdeacon." The other deacons selected by the apostles were **Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus** of Antioch. This holy lesson reminds us how Jesus' disciples continued to PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF FAITH. It was their task to disseminate this gospel message, and we are directed to do exactly the same thing: to proclaim to our contemporary society and to affirm with conviction our firm belief in the risen and triumphant Jesus.

GOSPEL MARK 15:43-16:8:

Joseph of Arimathea, a distinguished member of the council, who was himself awaiting the kingdom of God, came and courageously went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate was amazed that he was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had already died. And when he learned of it from the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. Having bought a linen cloth, he took him down, wrapped him in the linen cloth and laid him in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance to the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph watched where he was laid. When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go and anoint him. Very early when the sun had risen, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb. They were saying to one another, "Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back; it was very large. On entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a white robe, and they were utterly amazed. He said to them, "Do not be amazed! You seek Jesus of Nazareth, the crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Behold, the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you.'" Then they went out and fled from the tomb, seized with trembling and bewilderment. They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

~The Holy Evangelist Mark relates how on the evening of Great Friday, Joseph from Arimathea, a distinguished member of the Jewish Sanhedrin, the senatorial council, went boldly to Pontius Pilate and asked for Jesus' body in order to bury it properly according to customary Jewish funereal procedures. Removing the corpse from the cross, Joseph wrapped the body in a *plaščanica*, a linen burial shroud, placed it in a new tomb hewn out of solid rock, and then rolled a stone over the entrance to the sepulcher. Saturday was the Sabbath, and Jesus' lifeless body reposed in the tomb. On Sunday morning, several women—among whom were Mary of Magdala, Mary the mother of James, and Salome—went to Jesus' sepulcher very early before dawn in order to anoint the body as was prescribed by Jewish burial ritual. As they hurried on their way, they worried about who would roll back the huge rock at the entrance. They found instead that the stone already had been rolled aside, and inside the tomb an angel announced the incredible good news: CHRIST IS RISEN! These holy myrrh-bearing women went out immediately and PROCLAIMED THE GOOD NEWS OF FAITH in the risen Lord Jesus. This is precisely our same task in the present age in which we live!

The fidelity to Jesus demonstrated by the myrrh-bearing women even while He was in the tomb was rewarded with unparalleled exuberance as they became the first to receive the news that "Christ is risen!" These holy women, the apostles, and all of the disciples of antiquity proclaimed this Good News of Faith in the resurrected Jesus. The Church emphasizes today that each of us has the mandate to do likewise within the context of our own daily lives!

Joseph of Arimathea and the Myrrh-Bearing Women:

On this third Paschal Sunday, we again renew the passover-resurrection event by commemorating the noble Joseph of Arimathea (a town about twenty miles northeast of Jerusalem), who removed Jesus' corpse from the cross and then buried it. He was aided in this task by Nicodemus, another distinguished council-member of the Sanhedrin. However, we remember today principally the pious women who went to the sepulcher to anoint Jesus' body according to the Jewish burial customs. We know seven of these holy women by name: Mary Magdalene; Mary, the mother of James and the wife of Cleopas; Joanna, the wife of Chuza, a steward in the household of King Herod Antipas; Salome, the mother of James and John the apostles; Suzanna; and Martha and Mary, the sisters of Lazarus of Bethany. Joseph and the Holy Myrrh-Bearers showed their true fidelity to Jesus after His physical death. The theme for today's Divine Liturgy is the proclamation of faith, and the Church bids us to do exactly what these ladies did: proclaim to all peoples our faith in the fact that Jesus rose from the dead and gives us all a New Life! Like the myrrh-bearing women, we discover at each Divine Liturgy that Jesus truly is alive, and we proclaim His actual real presence among us in the Most Holy Eucharist. We also must share our experience with others, telling them that Jesus is indeed alive – He lives!

ON-LINE GIVING IS HERE! If you wish to make a monetary donation to our parish – you can do so on our website or by using this QR code. Remember every dollar helps support the mission of our parish community. Thank you.



PRAYER FOR OUR FOUR SAINTLY BISHOPS: Please pray for the causes of our four Saintly Bishops and ask them to intercede for your specific intentions: O Almighty God, our Lord, we bless You, we praise You, and we thank you for all the graces which You, in Your infinite mercy have bestowed upon us. We are especially grateful for giving us four saintly and heroic Bishops: **Bishop Theodore G. Romzha, Bishop Paul P. Gojdich OBSM, Bishop Basil Hopko, and Bishop Alexander Chira**, who, by their courage, charity, and intrepid faith, inspired our Ruthenian people in the darkest moments of their history. By their great sufferings, humiliating imprisonment, and violent death they gave living witness to their Catholic faith and glorified Your exalted name. Therefore, O Gracious Lord, glorify them in return by Your divine power and inscribe their names in the book of Your Saints. For you are holy, our God, and we render glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever, Amen. With Ecclesiastical Approbation Acknowledgment of answered prayers: Postulator's office, 54 Riverview Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15214, U.S.A.

PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS: **Saints Cyril and Methodius**, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen. St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen