

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023 SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS ST. GEORGE THE GREAT-MARTYR

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, April 23: Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers and St. George the Great-Martyr

10:20am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy
for the deceased George Bacasa, Carr, Merem, and all Georges, by Theresa Carr
4pm Confessions and 5pm Divine Liturgy through Campus Ministry

Monday, April 24: 10am Confessions through Campus Ministry

6pm Confession, 7pm Daily Vespers

Friday, April 28: No Services

Saturday, April 29: No Services

Sunday, April 30: 10:20am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy

Confessions are available before Divine Liturgy. All divine liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out the request form in the back of church and leave it in the sacristy.

At Today's Divine Liturgy...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!

Thank you to all who attended and assisted with the Eparchial Choir Concert last weekend!

Don't Forget! We will switch to our summer schedule after Pentecost. Stay tuned for more details.

ACTS 6:1-7 (and 12:1-11)

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 (and John 15:17-16:2)

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 Jesus 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 *pláčanica*, 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!

CHRISTIAN GREETING FOR THE SACRED PASCHAL SEASON.... Throughout the glorious Easter holiday season, we use as our Christian greeting "Christ is risen!" ("*Christos voskrese!*"). In responding, we affirm the reality of the resurrectional event by proclaiming: "Indeed, He is risen!" ("*Voistinu voskrese!*"). These greetings also are used during *mirovanije*, the festive sacramental anointing with sacred oil.