

# HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

4815 5TH AVENUE, PITTSBURGH PA 15213 (412) 687-1220

Administrator: Reverend Michael D Kunitz

Holy Spirit Rectory

4815 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15213

(412) 687-1220

FrMichaelKunitz@gmail.com

Email: holyspiritinformation@gmail.com

Website – holyspiritbyzcath.com

Cantor: Julia Revilak and Family

Altar Servers: Sdn . Raphael Ruggiero

Angelino and Emanuel Revilak

**SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2022**

## **SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS**

### SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

**Sunday, May 1:** 9am, Divine Liturgy for +George Carr by the Revilak family

**Monday, May 2:** 5:30pm, Vespers (Reader's Service)

**Saturday, May 7:** 9am, Divine Liturgy for Msgr. Russell A. Duker, by Ms. Mary Dzurichko

**Sunday, May 8:** 11am, Divine Liturgy for all Mothers, Living and Deceased

Note: Father Michael will be out of town visiting his family April 27 through Wednesday, May 4.

Confessions are available before Saturday Divine Liturgy.

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

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!

### The Easter Sunday Gospel Goes Forth Into the Entire World -

The holy Gospel lesson for Easter Sunday's Resurrectional Divine Liturgy was taken from the prologue of the Holy Evangelist John's scriptural narrative, and it was divided into twelve specific verses, which are symbolic of the twelve holy apostles who were to preach Jesus' message of salvation to all nations. The diverse languages employed and the ringing of the church bells after each verse vividly typify how this gospel account about Jesus, the Son of God, resounds throughout the whole world as the establishment of His Church continues at all places on earth. This "Good News" is being preached everywhere down to this very day. Therefore on the Sunday of the Holy Resurrection, the Byzantine Catholic Church desires to reiterate this great salvific message of hope. Thus this passage from the gospel is proclaimed figuratively to all peoples in the world as it is being reechoed through the use of the various languages. Redemption is now available to all peoples everywhere! On the Feast of the Holy Pasch, each verse of the holy gospel was read in three languages: first, in a variable language; then in Ruthenian, the vernacular language of the forebears of our parish church; and lastly in our own English language. The twelve variable languages used were: Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Slavonic, Italian, Hungarian, Russian, German, French, Ukrainian, Romanian, and Spanish.

### 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 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!

**PRAYER REQUEST LINE** – Please send prayer requests to HolySpiritPrays@gmail.com

**PEROGI SALE** – Perogi are available in the hall after Liturgy until 2pm.

**FLEA MARKET** – Our next sale will be in the parish hall on Saturday, May 14 from 9am-12pm. Volunteers are welcome.

**ADULT EASTERN CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITY** – Saturday, May 21, 1pm, Holy Spirit Parish Hall. Join us for a discussion of the Divine Office and how we can pray the Hours in our daily lives.

**PARISH ANNIVERSARY** – Don't forget! The parish will be celebrating its 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Pentecost Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Fr. Michael if you're interested in helping, and stay tuned for more information.

**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*

**MOUNT SAINT MACRINA HOUSE OF PRAYER**

510 West Main Street, P.O. Box 878, Uniontown, PA 15401 - Phone 724 - 438- 7149 email: hpmsm@verizon.net

Prayer requests or donations can be sent to this address.

**May 12, 6:30-8:30pm:** Thursday Evening Reflection In-House Program: “*Treasuring God’s Creation: Responses to Our Worldwide Challenge*” With Sr. Caryn Crook, OSF. Registration Due May 5. Offering \$30. Proof of full vaccination and masks are required.

**May 13-15, Friday 3pm – Sunday 4pm:** Weekend Icon Writing Workshop In-House Program: “*Archangel Michael or Archangel Gabriel*” With Marylyn Barone. Registration due May 6. Materials included. Offering \$230, commuters \$210. Limited to 15 persons. Proof of full vaccination and masks are required.

**BCA Annual Lecture to be presented on May 12:** Fr. Radu Bordeianu is on deck to present “*The Church as a Family*” for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lecture of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. The public is welcome to register for and attend this lecture on **Thursday, May 12, at 7pm at the St. John Cathedral in Munhall, PA.** The lecture will also be livestreamed via the Seminary website ([www.bcs.edu](http://www.bcs.edu)) and YouTube channel. St. John Chrysostom wrote that “the house is a little Church.” Indeed, Christian upbringing begins in the family, where the spouses are priests for each other, and they dedicate their children to God. Come and hear more about the diverse family which is the Church.