

·THE MYRRHBEARERS·



SUNDAY, MAY 11TH

MYRRHBEARING WOMEN SUNDAY

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

SATURDAY, MAY 17TH

6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MAY 18TH

HEALING OF THE PARALYTIC

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
Parish Council Meeting

Witnessing to the Risen Lord

And the apostles gave witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power. And great grace was on them all. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly...



(Act 4:33; 6:7)

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, May 18th

Jen Alexion

Sunday, May 25th

Jodi McElwee



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF MAY 11, 2008

The Parish Council

will meet next Sunday, May 18th, following the coffee hour.

Pictures and Video from Holy Week and Pascha

have been posted on our parish website. If you have any pictures which you would like to share please let Fr. John know. Thank you!

Please Remember in Prayer

Carol Boris, Nina Gordon, and Jane Koshutko who are recovering from treatment, as well as Constantina and Christos. If you have a prayer request, let Fr. John know.



Congratulations!

to all those who are celebrating the civil holiday of "Mother's Day": mothers, grandmothers, mothers-in-law, godmothers. May God grant you many blessed years!

The Feast of Mid-Pentecost

is celebrated this year on Wednesday, May 21st. On this feast we bless water, recalling how the Lord cried out to all in the midst of the feast, "If anyone thirsts let him come to me and drink!" Great Vespers will be served on Tuesday, May 20th at 7:00pm, and the Lesser Blessing of Water will be served on Wednesday, May 21st at 9:00am. These are the only weekday services this month.



The 104th Annual Pilgrimage to St. Tikhon's Monastery

will take place this year on Memorial Day weekend, May 24-26. On Monday, May 26th, the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy will be served at 10:00am and the healing service will be offered at 2:00pm. Fr. John and family plan on attending. If you would like more information about the pilgrimage, please speak with Fr. John.



About Our New Liturgical Covers

The new white/gold set of liturgical covers which are currently being used in our church were sown by the hands of Diane Evanusa and Alice Peters. The fabric was donated by Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Manville, NJ, who has also donated material for a green set of covers. By virtue of these donations of material and time/talent, we will be able to use the money donated for this project solely for the others colors (white, red, blue, & purple) and possibly for vestments for the altar servers. May the Lord bless the donors and laborers!

About Hospitalization

Federal Privacy Laws (HIPAA) do not allow clergy access to a hospital's census. This means that the only way your priest will know that you are in the hospital is if you tell him, either yourself or through a family member or friend.



A HARMONIZATION OF THE GOSPEL ACCOUNTS OF THE VISITS OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS TO THE TOMB

By St. Theophan the Recluse (+1894)

After examining all the accounts of the movements, visions and testimonies of the Myrrh-bearing women, the following conclusions present themselves:

- 1) The Myrrh-bearers did not go all together to the tomb, but in separate groups and at different times. The first visit was of Mary Magdalene (Gospel of St. John); the second visit was of Joanna with other women (Gospel of St. Luke); the third visit was of Mary, the mother of James and Salome (Gospels of Ss. Matthew and Mark). All of this is evident and clearly apparent from the details of the Gospel accounts.
- 2) The time sequence of the holy women's visits to the tomb unfolds itself as follows: Mary Magdalene, while it was still dark; Joanna, with the others, very early in the morning; Mary the mother of James and Salome, when the sun was rising. This is thus a series of non-simultaneous events. And all these events embrace a time span of several hours – from the dark before the dawn to the rising of the sun.
- 3) **First Visit:** Mary Magdalene alone goes to the tomb while it was yet dark. She saw the stone rolled away, her first thought is, "They have taken the Lord away." She runs to tell the Apostles Peter and John, who set out for the tomb.

Second Visit: While the Apostles Peter and John are on their way to the tomb, Joanna and the other women arrive at the open tomb. Angels explain to them the mystery of the absence of the Lord's body. They leave and go tell the Apostles. Meanwhile, Apostles Peter and John with Mary Magdalene reach the tomb without having met Joanna and her companions. After the Apostles leave, Mary Magdalene remains at the tomb and is blessed with an appearance of the Lord. She then sets out again to the Apostles.

Third Visit: After Mary Magdalene's departure, Mary the mother of James and Salome comes to the tomb, with companions. An angel reassures them that the Lord is risen. They enter the tomb and another angel repeats what the first had told them. The angel tells them to go and tell the Apostles everything related to them. As they were running, the Lord Himself appears to them.

In the meantime, the following events took place among the Apostles: After Peter and John returned from the tomb, Joanna with some other women came and told them what they had experienced at the tomb. Mary Magdalene came back from her second visit to the tomb and related her joy. Finally, Mary the mother of James and Salome arrived and confirmed what the others had seen. By now, all the Myrrh-bearing women had gathered with their glad tidings: Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome, Joanna and the others whose names are not mentioned.

Yet to the Apostles, "their words seem to them as idle talk and they believed them not" (Luke 24:11). Apostle Peter again goes to the tomb, seeking for some decisive evidence. He found none. Most probably he was very dejected spiritually. Was it not, then, at this moment, that the Lord appeared to him, to comfort and pacify his heart? Any vision must have taken place between this time and the return of Luke and Cleopas from Emmaus. Because, when they came back to the other Apostles, they were met with the joyful tidings: "The Lord is risen, indeed! He has appeared to Simon (Peter)" (Luke 24:34).

In this way, all the accounts of the Gospel turn out to be in full harmony with one another and all the individual events and details find a proper place.



NOW UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, VERY EARLY IN THE MORNING, THEY CAME UNTO THE SEPULCHRE, BRINGING THE SPICES WHICH THEY HAD PREPARED, AND CERTAIN OTHERS WITH THEM.



THE MINISTER AND THE TAXI DRIVER

A minister has just died and is standing in line waiting to be judged and admitted to Heaven. While waiting he asks the man in front of him about himself. The man says, "I am a taxi driver from New York City."



The angel standing at the gate calls out next, and the taxi driver steps up. The angel hands him a golden staff and a cornucopia of fruits, cheeses, and wine and lets him pass. The taxi driver is quite pleased, and proceeds through the gates.

Next, the minister steps up to the angel who hands him a wooden staff and some bread and water.

The minister is very concerned and asks the angel, "That guy is a taxi driver and gets a golden staff and a cornucopia! I spend my entire life as a minister and get nothing! How can that be?"

The angel replies, "Up here we judge on results – all of your people sleep through your sermons – in his taxi, they pray."

From Belief Net.



ABOUT THE TESTIMONY OF RELIABLE WITNESSES

A Homily By St. Nikolai Velimirovich

"But we have been eyewitnesses of His mighty glory"

– 2 Peter 1:16

When the apostles speak about the glorious resurrection of the Lord, they speak in plurality. For each one of them gives his testimony and the testimony of other companions. Thus, the Apostle Peter writes: "We do not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty" (2 Peter 1:16).

Nathaniel did not want to believe only by hearing. That is why the Apostle Philip invited Nathaniel to "Come and see!" (St. John 1:46). Nathaniel came, saw and believed. So it was with the other apostles, until they approached Christ, until they heard, and until they saw, they did not want to believe. Cleverly devised myths did not attract the apostles. Their common sense sought visual facts and not myths.

O my brethren, our Faith is well established and proved. The trail of God is well blazoned in the world. No one has need to doubt. Christ's resurrection is well witnessed. No one need to despair. Doubt and despair are two worms that are born of sin. He who does not sin, clearly sees the blazoned trail of God in the world and clearly recognizes the resurrection of Christ.

O resurrected Lord, strengthen us by the power of Thy Holy Spirit so that we sin no more and that we do not become blinded to Thy trail in the world and to Thy glorious resurrection. To Thee be glory and thanks always. Amen.



MAY CONGRATULATIONS!

Anniversaries:

- 5/6 Stanley & Jennifer Alexion
- 5/12 Donna Anderson

Birthdays:

- 5/10 Michael Kurinij
- 5/26 Elisabeth Parsells
- 5/29 Irene Clenney
- 5/30 J. Michael McFarland

Namesdays:

- 5/5 *St. Irene the Great Martyr*
Irene McKee
Irene Clenney
- 5/8 *St. Emilia*
Mat. Emily Parsells
Jodi McElwee
- 5/11 *Third Sunday of Pascha*
Diane Evanusa
Susan Pappas
- 5/18 *Fourth Sunday of Pascha*
Fr. Christian (Lesinsky)
- 5/21 *St. Helen*
Ellen Gunderson
- 5/23 *St. Alexander Nevsky*
Alexander Royal
Robert Dodge

If your name is not on this list and it should be, please see Fr. John!