

ST. NICHOLAS WEEKLY BULLETIN

APRIL 22, 2018

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

THE RELIGIOUS ED FIELD TRIP to the Museum of Russian Icons this past Wednesday was a hit. Thanks to Valarie and Presvytera Eleni for organizing this. Mary Cocaine for underwriting it. The parents who help. And, of course, the kids who enjoyed it all.

THANKS TO THE MUSTARD SEED VOLUNTEERS! Those who cooked and those who served the meal this past Friday! The Mustard Seed is a Catholic Worker home providing dinner to about 150 people in need each day. Also, thanks to **Joanne Prizio** who underwrote the cost of the meal! Our next scheduled meal is **June 15th**. Contact Fr. Nick if you'd like to help prepare the meals or underwrite the costs.

ST. GEORGE ANTIOCHIAN CATHEDRAL on 30 Anna Street will be celebrating its Feastday on **Monday with Divine Liturgy** at 8:00am and a light breakfast following. **Everyone is invited!**

PITAS AND PASTRIES are available for purchase! Talk to **Betty Anderson** or **Chris Toda**.

LOOKING FOR THIS YEAR'S HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE GRADUATES in our Parish so they can be recognized.

GREETERS TEAM 3:
EVANS TSOULES AND TOM FITZPATRICK

COFFEE HOUR CLEAN-UP CREW D:
ILIANA & SEAN FAHEY,
DIMITRI SAFFRON & MACLYNN TROJAN

ALL ALTAR SERVERS INVITED



**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF PASCHA
OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN**
APOSTOLIC READING: ACTS 6:1-7
GOSPEL: MARK 15:43-16:8

TONE 2 ☩ RESURRECTION GOSPEL 4

If you know of a soon-to-be graduate, please inform Fr. Nick or Tim Rucho.

ROYA IS ORGANIZING THE 4TH ANNUAL HERITAGE TRIP TO ROMANIA. The trip sponsored by our Archdiocese's Youth Organization is for youth and young adults who wish to get in touch with their roots and (re)discover their Romanian heritage. Links to all of the details can be found in the on-line eBulletin, or by asking Fr. Nick.

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL DATES HAVE BEEN SET. St. Nicholas along with Sts. Anargyroi will be holding our annual Children's summer retreat, for ages K-8, on August 6-8. **PARENTS!** Please note the dates and plan

your children's summer activities accordingly. Scheduling details will follow. **Questions?** Talk to Valarie Stamoulis.

The latest issue of the Archdiocesan quarterly **CREDINȚA / THE FAITH** is available at the candles. **Pick one up and take it home!**

COFFEE HOUR SPONSORS ARE NEEDED for the next weeks. Please speak with or contact **Presvytera Maria** if you and your family would like to sponsor one.

A MEMORIAL will be celebrated this Sunday for **Grigore Tughin**, fallen asleep seven years, the father of **Nina Galica** and **Eugen Tughin**. **May God rest his soul with the just!**

TODAY'S COFFEE HOUR will be sponsored by the **Galica and Tughin families** in memory of their father **Grigore**.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

ST. MARY ALBANIAN ORTHODOX LADIES will be hosting a coffee social at Holy Trinity on **Thursday, April 26th** at 2:00pm.

THE SPRING ISSUE of the **Holy Trinity Newsletter** is available. Go to the website: www.htnr.net and click on the "DOWNLOAD OUR NEWSLETTER" button.

HOLY TRINITY IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS! Share your talents and experience! While helping others, you ➡

DATES TO REMEMBER

Fri, April 20	Mustard Seed Meal, 5pm
Sat, May 5	Staff Orthodox Food Pantry, 9am-noon
Thurs, May 17	The Lord's Ascension
Sat, May 26	Saturday of Souls
Sun, May 27	Pentecost
Mon, May 28	Memorial Day
Mon, June 4	Apostles' Fast Begins
Aug 6-8	Vacation Church School

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A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Metropolia of the Americas

NAMEDAYS

April 21

The Holy Martyr

Alexandra the Queen

Alexandra Dymek

Alexis George

Alexandra Mentis

Sandra Nedelescu

Casie Soter

April 23

The Holy Great-martyr

George the Wonderworker

George Belba

George M. Bourisk

George Demake

Gjergji Disho

Gheorghe O. Galica

George Grniet

George Krassopoulos

George Symock

George Tonna

George James Trakadas

April 25

The Holy Apostle and

Evangelist Mark

Rev. Fr. Mark Doku

Mark Soter

Mark Stamoulis

April 30

The Holy Apostle James, brother of

John the Evangelist

James Collins

➡ will make new friends, learn new things, have a choice of assignments, and have fun. Holy Trinity will find or create volunteer opportunities to match a person's interest. ***Become a part of the volunteer team and make a difference!***

Contact Serena at: 508-852-1000, ext. 350, or e-mail shields@htnr.net. ***"You cannot change the world, but you can change someone's world."***

Holy Trinity has job openings for **Cooks** (10-20 hrs/wk), **Staff Nurses** (RN/LPN), **CNA's**, and **Unit Manager**. For a full detailed description of job requirements and responsibilities, go to

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRHBEARING WOMEN

About the beginning of His thirty-second year, when the Lord Jesus was going throughout Galilee, preaching and working miracles, many women who had received of His beneficence left their own homeland and from then on followed after Him. They ministered unto Him out of their own possessions, even until His crucifixion and entombment; and afterwards, neither losing faith in Him after His death, nor fearing the wrath of the Jewish rulers, they came to the sepulchre, bearing the myrrh-oils they had prepared to anoint His body. It is because of the myrrh-oils, that these God-loving women brought to the tomb of Jesus that they are called the Myrrh-bearers. Of those whose names are known are the following: first of all, the most holy Virgin Mary, who in Matthew 27:56 and Mark 15:40 is called "the mother of James and Joses" (these are the sons of Joseph by a previous marriage, and she was therefore their step-mother); Mary Magdalene (celebrated July 22); Mary, the wife of Clopas; Joanna, wife of Chouza, a steward of Herod Antipas; Salome, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus; and Susanna. As for the names of the rest of them, the evangelists have kept silence (Matthew 27:55-56; 28:1-10. Mark 15:40-41. Luke 8:1-3; 23:55-24:11, 22-24. John 19:25; 20:11-18. Acts 1:14).

Together with them we celebrate also the secret disciples of the Saviour, Joseph and Nicodemus. Of these, Nicodemus was probably a Jerusalemite, a prominent leader among

the website at: www.htnr.net/employment-opportunities, or contact **Michele Williamson** at: mwilliamson@htnr.net, or call 508-852-1000, ext. 218.

A PRAYER OF FR. LAURENCE

LET US PRAY TO THE LORD,

GOD, OUR FATHER: As a new day is born and the light of early morning fills the world, we come before you once again, ready to anoint your Son with our praises as once the myrrhbearing women hoped to anoint him with their precious herbs and spices. Through your Christ, the great Saviour of all creation, enable us ever to be mindful of the wondrous things you have done for us, that we may bring forth fruit worthy of your benevolence. Teach us how to hold fast to these mysteries we celebrate, and make us fit to join all your saints at the table of the eternal banquet.

For you deserve all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: now and forever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

the Jews and of the order of the Pharisees, learned in the Law and instructed in the Holy Scriptures. He had believed in Christ when, at the beginning of our Saviour's preaching of salvation, he came to Him by night. Furthermore, he brought some one hundred pounds of myrrh-oils and an aromatic mixture of aloes and spices out of reverence and love for the divine Teacher (John 19:39). Joseph, who was from the city of Arimathea, was a wealthy and noble man, and one of the counselors who were in Jerusalem. He went boldly unto Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and together with Nicodemus he gave Him burial. Since time did not permit the preparation of another tomb, he placed the Lord's body in his own tomb which was hewn out of rock, as the Evangelist says (Matthew 27:60).

GO, AND TELL THE DISCIPLES

The third Sunday of Pascha is dedicated to the people who stayed close to the Lord through his sufferings and ministered to him at his death and burial: Joseph of Arimathea and Nikodimos, and especially the women of the group who have become known as the Myrrhbearing women. The Gospel lesson is taken from St. Mark (15:43-16:8) where we read how Joseph obtained Pilate's permission to bury our Lord's body, and also learn of the encounter the women had at the empty tomb.

Last week we reflected on the need Thomas had for tactile proof of the Lord's rising. And even though he courageously said before the Lord's passion and death that they should go with Jesus to Jerusalem and die with him, we saw that he and the other disciples (except for John) were afraid even to be present at the Crucifixion. And afterward remained in hiding for days. In contrast, the women followed the Lord as he was led to his death, stood by him while he suffered on the cross, and finally washed and wrapped his body for burial.

They continued this same ministry and faithfulness when they went to the tomb, after the Sabbath had passed, so that they could complete the required rites regarding burial of the dead. From all accounts, they gave little regard to their personal safety throughout this time. They seem so preoccupied in the experiences of those days, that as they approach the tomb that morning, they realize they hadn't given any forethought as to whom could help them roll away the large stone from the tomb's entrance.

The reward that these women received for their faithfulness was that they were the first to hear of the Lord's resurrection. Depending on which of

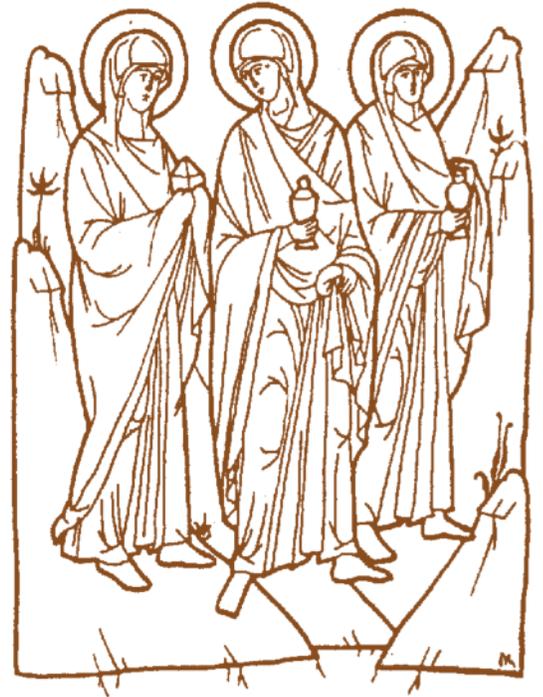
the Evangelists you read, they were the first to actually see and touch the risen Jesus. They were certainly the first apostles of the resurrection (the word 'apostle' means 'to be sent') when they were told to tell the good news to the disciples who were in hiding. Having seen the Lord dead and buried in the tomb, they were the ones who would most clearly understand the significance of it being empty.

Each of the Evangelists speaks of an angelic presence at the tomb telling the women of the Lord's rising from the dead. Mark and Matthew say there was one angel; Luke and John say there were two. We shouldn't be distracted from the importance of the message by such discrepancies in details. Rather than try to "harmonize" the resurrection accounts, the Holy Scripture records each witness's account as it had been received.

We all know that if you ask two eyewitnesses to describe something they have seen, they will never agree on every detail. In fact, most investigators become suspicious if the stories are too similar. What each of the Evangelists does agree on are this: the women found the tomb empty; an angel told them the Lord had risen; and they were directed to go and tell the disciples that the risen Lord had appeared to one or all of them.

St. Mark describes the terror that struck the women because of what they had seen (v. 16:8). He says that they: "Ran out of the tomb and fled, for terror and amazement had seized them." One translation says they were: "Frightened out of their wits." In order to emphasize the point, St. Mark also states that "They said nothing to anyone, for they were

THE MYRRHBEARERS:



afraid." The terror that struck the women was not like that in a horror movie, but rather the overwhelming awe of encountering the living God. It is this fear that all holy people feel when they are in God's presence. Nevertheless, they did what was asked of them; they went and told the disciples what they had seen and experienced.

Their mission did not stop there. Each of them continued to testify to the Lord's resurrection until the day they died. Mary Magdalene, traveled the known world preaching the Good News. Some met a martyr's deaths. Others died peacefully. What is remarkable about their witness is that in a time and place where the roles of men and women were clearly defined, Jesus included these women as disciples in his mission to bring salvation to the world, and it is because of their testimony that we also are filled with joy.

FR. NICHOLAS APOSTOLA

A Day at the Museum

The young people from Sts. Anagroi and St. Nicholas spent this past Wednesday, April 18th, on a field trip to the Museum of Russian Icons in Clinton. They toured the Museum, did a little 'hands-on' craft work, and finished with a visit to St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in Clinton. All in all, a great day!

