

News from St. Nick's

Sunday, May 16, 2021

***The Third Sunday of Pascha
The Myrrh-bearing Women***

Apostolic Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

Tone 2 • Matins Gospel 4

➔ For COVID Guidelines, [click here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DIVINE LITURGY WILL NOT BE LIVE-STREAMED THIS SUNDAY. It will be back next week.

MASK-WEARING IS STILL REQUIRED. The news reports on the CDC's announcement regarding mask-wearing did not contain all of the details. For the time being, the Commonwealth's protocols regarding masks are still in effect.

THE PARISH COUNCIL WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING this Thursday at 7:00 pm, via ZOOM. PC members, please [inform Chris](#) if you're unable to be present.

LOOKING FOR THIS YEAR'S HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE GRADUATES (*Yes, people are still graduating*) in our Parish so we can recognize them on their accomplishment. If you know of a soon-to-be graduate, please inform [Tim Rucho](#) or [Fr. Nick](#).

METROPOLITAN NICOLAE'S PASTORAL LETTER at Pascha is available for download in [English](#) and [Romanian](#). Please click on the preferred language to read it.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULE. We will now hold it on **Saturday, July 10th** from 9 am to 2 pm. Gerry Belba is coordinating, and we need about 3 people to help with traffic and coordination. Please contact him: vgbelba@msn.com.

MEMORIAL DAY is Monday, May 31st. If the Covid protocols allow, Fr. Nick will be at Hope Cemetery from 10:00 am. If you would like Fr. Nick to visit a grave in another cemetery, [please contact him](#) to make arrangements: 508-335-7378.

THE ASSEMBLY OF BISHOPS NEEDS YOUR INPUT! The **Mental Health Needs Assessment Survey**, designed by experts on the Assembly's Mental Health Task Force, takes only 15 minutes and consists of approximately 30 questions. **All information you provide is completely anonymous**, and the aggregate data will help the Task Force better understand the mental health needs and experiences of the faithful in order to develop resources and programs

for enhanced ministry in your community. [Click here to go directly to the web page](#) to complete the survey.

HOLY TRINITY NEWS

COVID-19 UPDATE - Holy Trinity continues to be Covid-Free at this time.

VISITORS - Holy Trinity families and friends are now able to visit in our designated areas, in resident rooms and outdoors. Per the guidance, visitation may vary based on individual status. Please schedule your visit in advance with the Activities department by calling (508) 852-1000.

NEW ADMISSIONS - Holy Trinity is open for admissions. To inquire about admissions, for either long-term or short-term rehab, please call (508) 852-1000.

VOLUNTEERS – Holy Trinity is once again able to welcome volunteers. Per the guidance, those who have been fully vaccinated may be considered for volunteer opportunities. Please call the Activities department at (508) 852-1000 to see how you can lend a helping hand.

JOB OPENINGS - Holy Trinity is looking to add to its excellent staff. We are seeking a Director of Admissions, and there are also openings for nurses and CNAs for all shifts, including sign on bonuses and great benefits. [Click here](#) for a full listing with detailed job descriptions. If you have questions, please contact the Human Resources Generalist, [Kimberly Hescocock](#). Recent grads and people familiar with the languages and cultures of our Orthodox communities are encouraged to apply.

REHABILITATION – May is Better Hearing and Speech month. Sometimes, the need for short-term rehabilitation isn't as obvious as a loved one having trouble walking or recovering from an injury or surgery. For those with dementia, Alzheimer's, and other diagnoses, their loss of speech, memory, cognition, and ability to swallow may happen gradually over time. At Holy Trinity, our highly skilled in-house speech therapists work with the entire rehab team, as well as the family, to provide individualized treatment to address these issues, vital for residents' quality of life. For more information, please contact our Director of Rehab, [Heather Walsh](#).

ACTIVITIES – In honor of National Skilled Nursing Care Week, May 9-15, we celebrated our staff and residents at Holy Trinity around the theme "Together Through the Seasons." Activities included an ice cream social, pizza party, bingo bonanza, and mocktail party.

DIVINE LITURGY continues to be celebrated in-person for residents each Wednesday mornings.

STAY CONNECTED - Be sure to like our [Facebook page](#) for frequent updates and photos.

Orthodox Links

[Romanian Orthodox Metropolia](#) of the Americas
[Assembly of Canonical Orthodox Bishops of North and Central America](#) (Assembly of Bishops)
[International Orthodox Christian Charities](#) (IOCC)
[Orthodox Christian Mission Center](#) (OCMC)
[Orthodox Christian Radio Network](#) (OCN)
[Council of Eastern Orthodox Churches of Central Mass.](#) (CEOC)

Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing 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 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).

A Prayer of Fr. Laurence

Let us pray to the Lord,

O 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.

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 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

Dates To Remember

Thurs, May 20 Parish Council Meeting, 7:00 pm
Mon, May 31 Memorial Day, Hope Cemetery, noon
Sat, June 5 Staff Orthodox Food Pantry 9am-12pm
Thurs, June 10 The Lord's Ascension
Fri, June 18 Mustard Seed Meal
Sat, June 19 Saturday of Souls, Lit 10 am
Sun, June 20 Pentecost
Sat, July 10 e-Recycling, and more 9am-2pm

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