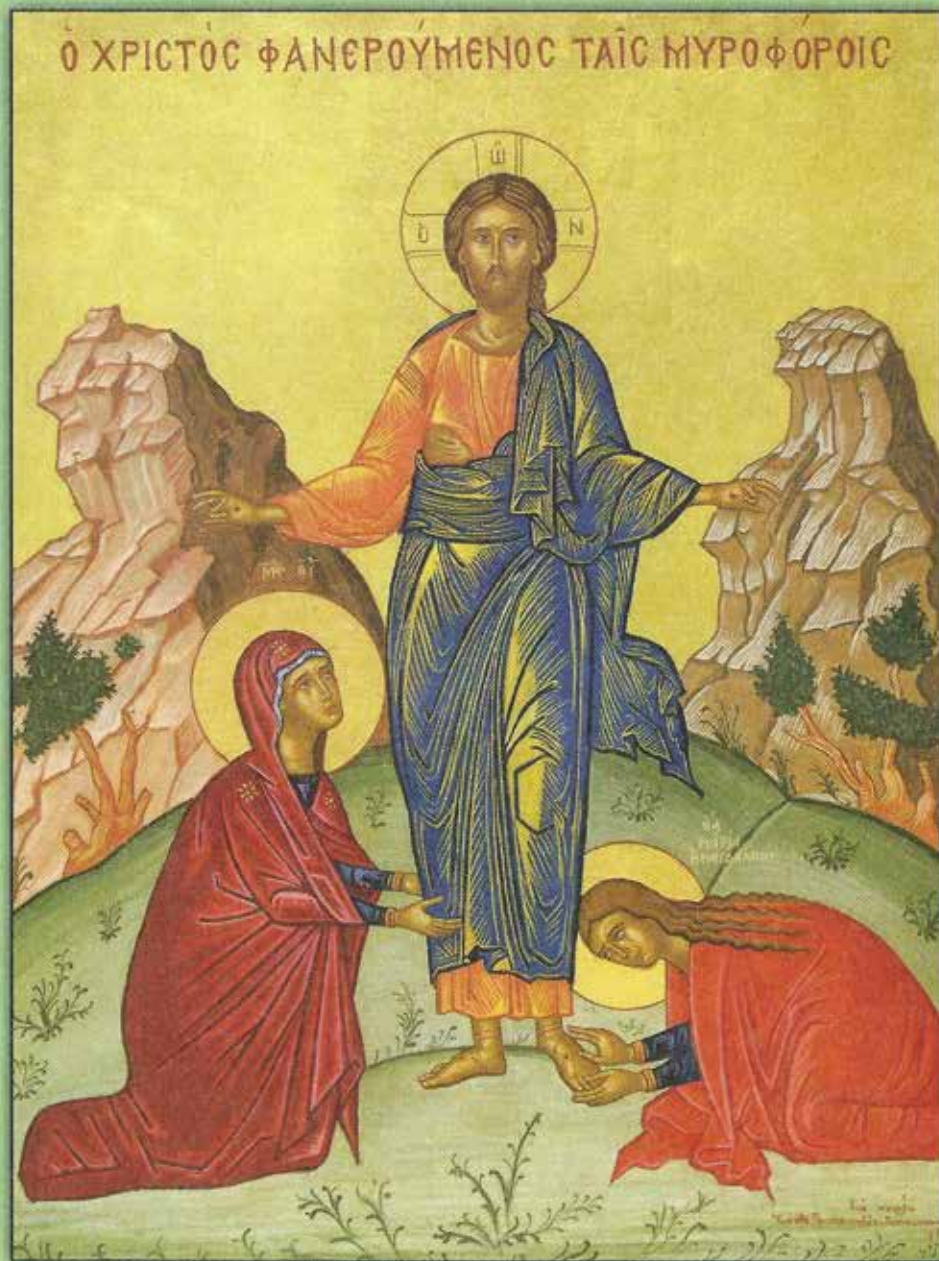


SUNDAY OF THE MYRR-BEARERS



Icon of Our Lord's Appearance to the Myrr-bearing Women

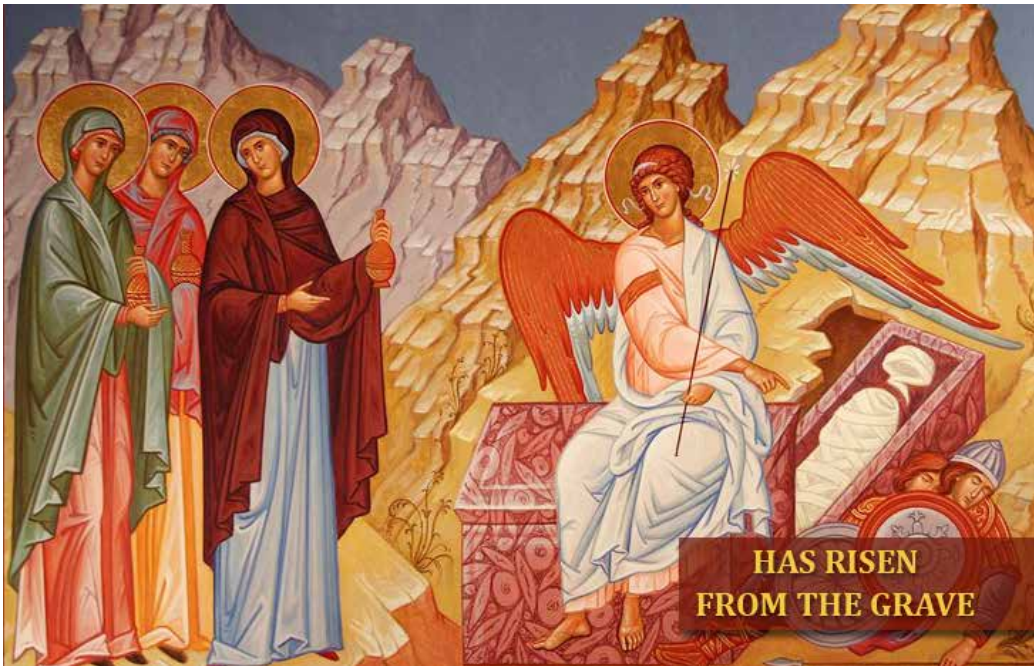
April 26, 2020: Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers		
Epistle: Acts 6: 1-7		Gospel: Mk. 15: 43-16
Mon., April 27	9:00	+ Bill Davis (Michaelene Davis)
Tues., April 28	9:00	+ Dorothy Pompey (Carol Pompey)
Wed., April 29	9:00	+ Jenny Mitchko (Lenny Mitchko)
Thurs. April 30	9:00	+ Dorothy Chezik (Carol Pompey)
Fri., May 1	9:00	+ John Sedlak, Sr. (Family)
Sat., May 2	No Divine Liturgies Today	
Sun., May 3	9:00	For Our Parishioners

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN AND JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA

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, Mary, the mother of James and Joses; 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 (Matt 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 Savior, 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 Savior'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 (Matt. 27:60).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

WHAT IS AN EASTERN CATHOLIC CHURCH?

Many people think of the Catholic Church as a monolithic structure with a clear leadership and traditions. People

also mistakenly refer to the whole as the Roman Catholic Church. But this is not quite accurate.

The Catholic Church actually comprises twenty-two particular Churches in full communion with one another. There are twenty-one Eastern Catholic Churches, and one Latin Catholic Church (i.e., the Church of Rome). Each of these particular Churches is self-governing (the term in Latin is *sui iuris*, “of their own law”), even while being in communion with the Church of Rome.

Each of these particular Churches is self-governing (*sui iuris*) because they have their own hierarchy. In other words, what makes a particular Church self-governing (*sui iuris*) is that each particular Church has its own leaders which govern all the faithful Christians belonging to that particular Church. These hierarchs (whether Patriarchs, Major Archbishops, Metropolitan, Bishops, or otherwise) are in communion with one another, and with the Church of Rome. The correct term is to be in communion with Rome, and not “under the Pope” (as many people will mistakenly say).

Eastern Catholics are the minority in terms of the number of Catholics worldwide. However, they are the vast majority in terms of diversity within the Catholic Church (twenty-one to one!). Eastern Catholics are distinct from the Latin Church in that they

have four distinguishing characteristics. They have their own (1) theology, (2) spirituality, (3) canon law, and (4) liturgy. In other words, the Eastern Churches have their own theological way of understand the mysteries of God, their own spirituality and devotional practices, their own laws and customs, and their own styles of liturgy. This is what distinguishes them from the Latin Church.

People mistakenly refer to the Eastern Catholic Churches as ‘Eastern Rite Roman Catholics’, or simply as ‘The Eastern Rite,’ as if there is only one. There are many rites within the Catholic Church, and what makes an Eastern Church is more than simply its liturgical rite. An Eastern Church also has its own theology, spirituality, and canon law. Even the term ‘The Eastern Church’ is wrong, since there are more than one Eastern Churches.

Almost all Eastern Catholic Churches have counterparts in the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox Churches. In fact, those with counterparts all came from their mother Orthodox Churches throughout the past four hundred years or so. Therefore, many Eastern Catholics choose to identify themselves as ‘Orthodox Christians in communion with Rome,’ since Eastern Catholics are meant to

be an example of how to be fully Eastern, and yet fully in communion with Rome.

Eastern Catholic Churches are traditionally found in Eastern Europe, the Middle East, North Africa, and India. However, nowadays we can find Eastern Churches throughout the world, speaking a multitude of languages, and serving a vast array of people.

ALL of the particular Catholic Churches share “equal dignity, so that none of them is superior to the others as regards rite, and they enjoy the same rights and are under the same obligations, also in respect of preaching the Gospel to the whole world (cf. Mark 16:15)..” (Second Vatican Council, Decree on the Eastern Catholic Churches).

GOD AND THE SPIDER

During World War II, a US marine was separated from his unit on a Pacific island. The fighting had been intense, and in the smoke and the crossfire he had lost touch with his comrades. Alone in the jungle, he could hear enemy soldiers coming in his direction. Scrambling for cover, he found his way up a high ridge to several small caves in the rock. Quickly he crawled inside one of the caves. Although safe for the moment, he realized that once the enemy soldiers looking for him swept up the ridge, they would quickly search all the caves and he would be killed. As he waited, he prayed, “Lord, if it be your will, please protect me. Whatever your will though, I love you and trust you. Amen.”

After praying, he lay quietly listening to the enemy begin to draw close. He thought, “Well, I guess the

Lord isn’t going to help me out of this one.” Then he saw a spider begin to build a web over the front of his cave. As he watched, listening to the enemy searching for him all the while, the spider layered strand after strand of web across the opening of the cave. “Hah, he thought. “What I need is a brick wall and what the Lord has sent me is a spider web. God does have a sense of humor.”

As the enemy drew closer he watched from the darkness of his hideout and could see them searching one cave after another. As they came to his, he got ready to make his last stand. To his amazement, however, after glancing in the direction of his cave, they moved on. Suddenly, he realized that with the spider web over the entrance, his cave looked as if no one had entered for quite a while. “Lord,

forgive me,” prayed the young man. “I had forgotten that in you a spider’s web is stronger than a brick wall.

We all face times of great trouble. When we do, it is so easy to forget the victories that God would work in our lives, sometimes in the most surprising ways. As the great leader, Nehemiah reminded the people of Israel when they faced the task of rebuilding Jerusalem, “In God we will have success!” [Nehemiah 2:20]

Remember: Whatever is happening in your life, with God, a mere spider’s web can become a brick wall of protection. Believe He is with you always. Just speak His name through Jesus, His Son, and you will see His great power and love for you.

Keep believing in yourself. There may be days when you get up in the morning and things aren’t the way you had hoped they would be. That’s when

you have to tell yourself that things will get better. There are times when people disappoint you and let you down, but those are the times when you must remind yourself to trust your own judgments and opinions, to keep your life focused on believing in yourself and all that you are capable of.

There will be challenges to face and changes to make in your life, and it is up to you to accept them. Constantly keep yourself headed in the right direction for you. It may not be easy at times, but in those times of struggle you will find a stronger sense of who you are. So when the days come that are filled with frustration and unexpected responsibilities, remember to believe in yourself and all you want your life to be, because the challenges and changes will only help you to find the goals that you know are meant to come true for you.

LITURGICAL SERVICES ONLINE

Thank you for your prayerful presence to all Parishioners who are able to join us at our Lenten and Easter services online. The responses to our streaming services have been positive and continue to grow each week. I continue to pray and offer services for you every day. Please remember, that while we cannot be filling our

beautiful Church together, we can still worship together, by you joining our live-streaming services on Facebook or through a link on our website <https://stcyrils.weconnect.com> on YouTube.

- To make your online worship experience an expression of our “Church of the Home,” please consider the following:

- Watch the services in a special place, such as in your icon corner or the prayer space of your home.
- Prepare yourself as if you were going to Church, perhaps even dressing as you usually do for a service at the Church.
- Turn off distractions such as other media and your phone.
- Most importantly, tune in spiritually as participants, not just observers. This is still your Church!

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR PARISH

These days are challenging for us all on many levels, including financially. A heartfelt “**THANK YOU**” goes out to all who have continued to make donations to our parish either by mail, or by dropping envelopes off over the past few weeks. Any small way you can contribute is very

much appreciated. With your sacrificial giving we will be able to pay our bills. If sending multiple donations, one check is fine, and a note indicating what the donation is for. If you prefer to drop them off, there is a mail box outside the Rectory office door. Thanks for your generosity!

ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion which is a source of grace. Spiritual Communion means uniting one’s self in prayer with Christ’s sacrifice and worshipping Him in His Body and Blood. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend the Divine Liturgy. Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive

Holy Communion worthily. When unable to receive Holy Communion, pray the following prayer:

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.”

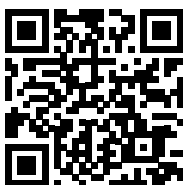
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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

The Best Role of All

The church school was getting ready for the annual Easter pageant and all the children were asked to choose which part they wanted to play. One child chose to play Mary Magdalene, other children chose to play Saint Peter, or Joseph of Arimathea, and so forth. But, when it came time for Johnny's tum to choose, he happily wanted to be the angel who rolls away the stone that sealed the tomb of Our Lord.

After the pageant was over and Johnny was going home with his parents, his mother expressed how disappointed they were that he didn't choose a larger, more prominent role in the play. Johnny, however, was bouncing excitedly all over the back seat, obviously thrilled with his performance in the pageant. Finally, his mother turned to him and asked, "Tell me,

Johnny, why are you so happy about just being the angel who rolls away the stone from the tomb? Wouldn't you have liked to have had a bigger part to play?" Johnny replied quite innocently, "Oh, no, mom, just think! I'm the one who gets to let Jesus out! What role could be better than that?"

"The myrrh-bearing women arrived just before the dawn at the tomb of the Giver of Life and found an angel seated on the stone who spoke these words to them: 'Why do you seek the living among the dead? Why do you mourn the Incorruptible among those subject to decay? Go announce the good news to His disciples!'" (From Resurrection Matins) Let us continue to announce the good news and joyfully sing out: "Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!"