

SUNDAY OF THE OINTMENT-BEARING WOMEN



Icon of the Ointment-Bearing Women

April 23, 2023: Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers

Epistle: Acts 6: 1-7

Gospel: Mk. 15:43 - 16:8

Mon., April 24 9:00 + Joseph Muchisky (Wife & Sons)

Tues., April 25 9:00 + Mickey Klapatch (Bill & Jane Granza)

Wed., April 26 9:00 + Joe Smagula (Gloria Jablonski)

Thurs., April 27 9:00 + Bill Davis (Wife, Michaelene)

Fri. April 28 9:00 + Nancy Trygar (Howard Smith)

Sat., April 29 **No Morning Liturgy**

2:00 pm Confessions

4:00 pm + Marlene Nestor (Lorraine Suche & Family)

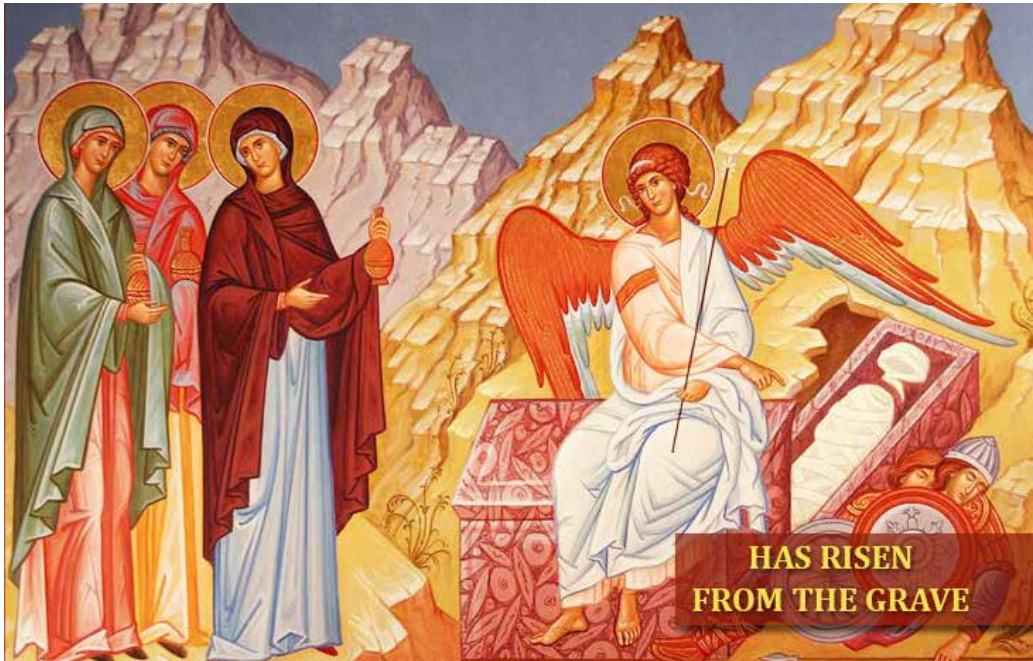
Sun., April 30 10:30 For Our Parishioners

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).

LITURGICAL NOTES ABOUT THE PASCHAL SEASON

This period of great festivity and joy finds its liturgical expression in the following manner:

Easter Greeting - we greet each other with the Paschal salutation, "Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!" for 40 days, until Ascension Day.

No Kneeling - Please remember that here is NO kneeling during the entire

Easter Season. Kneeling has been our position of prayer during the Holy Season of the Great Fast (Lent) as the expression of our humility and our repentance.

The Paschal Troparion - "Christ is risen from the dead" is sung or said at the beginning or end of all prayers until the Eve of Ascension.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations and best wishes to **Stephen Paul Durko**, along with his parents Kyle and Kelly, on the occasion of his initiation into the flock of Jesus Christ. Stephen received the Holy

Mysteries of Initiation during the 10:30 am Divine Liturgy. We welcome Stephen into our Parish Family and pray that God grant him many happy and blessed years. Mnohaya Leeta!

HOW DOES THE CHURCH DEFINE WHO IS A PARISHIONER?

BAPTISM AND MEMBERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

When Jesus had accomplished everything he set out to do, and was about to return to the Father, he commissioned the Disciples, saying:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28: 18-20).

Through baptism, we become members of the body of Christ, that is, the Church.

Through baptism, we are constituted as the people of God.

Through baptism, we participate in the priestly, prophetic, and royal function of Christ.

Through baptism, we are called to exercise the mission which God has entrusted to the Church to fulfill in the world: to tell others the Good News of the Father's love and mercy.

How seriously do we take our baptismal call?

FROM BAPTISM TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

All too often today, we go through the motions of being followers of Christ. We attend Divine Liturgy on occasion. We call upon the pastor for First Holy Communion, a wedding or a funeral. We bless pussy willows, our Easter baskets, and undertake similar activities.

Perhaps influenced by the secular world around us, we have become consumers of the services provided by the parish, adopting an attitude of “What’s in it for me?” or “Go ahead, entertain me.”

Rather, through baptism, our membership in Christ’s Church calls for a commitment on the part of each of us

to develop a personal relationship with Jesus, to foster our prayer life, and to use our God-given gifts of time, talent and treasure in the building up of the Christian community.

In other words, the rights we inherit as members of the Church are balanced by an equal obligation in continuing the mission of Christ entrusted to our care.

Baptism means being a disciple of Christ.

And being a disciple of Christ comes with certain expectations related to my membership in a given parish.

PARISH MEMBERSHIP AND EXPECTATIONS

What then does it mean to be a parishioner? What are the expectations?

As a result of my baptism, in practicing my Christian discipleship, I am expected as a registered member of my parish to:

- regularly attend and participate in the Sunday Divine Liturgy, together with my family;
- regularly participate in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church;
- develop and practice an ongoing personal/family prayer life;
- witness to the teachings of the Church by the manner of my living life;

- practice stewardship of my time, talent and treasure in service to the mission of the Church;
- acknowledge, as a registered member, that I am to be a participant in serving the mission of the parish rather than being only a spectator; and
- realize the necessary and ongoing importance of love, generosity, faith and family.

Christ comes into the world to tell us of the mercy and love of the Father. Through baptism, we say: “yes, Lord, I choose to follow you by becoming an active disciple and parishioner. Thank

you for the opportunity to serve you and my neighbor. Bless me!"

THE POWER OF PRAYER

Fr. Joe Freedy of the Diocese of Pittsburgh appeared on a new series entitled, "The Rosary Series: Mysteries of the Rosary," to describe a miraculous testimony from Green Tree, Pa. resident John Petrovich about the power of praying one 'Hail Mary.'

Petrovich told the priest that while he "was jogging around a neighborhood he didn't normally jog, he saw an ambulance in someone's driveway."

He thought, "I'm not a doctor. I don't know whose driveway this is."

"I just kept running," he told Fr. Freedy. "I prayed one 'Hail Mary.' I didn't think anything of it."

The following week, Petrovich jogged in the same neighborhood, and heard a woman calling. He continued running, and she "finally got his attention."

She said, "You saved my life."

Petrovich then responded, "We don't know each other...How did I save your life?"

The woman responded, "No, I recognize your face. Last week, I was rushed to the hospital in an ambulance, and I was dying.

"I knew I was dying, and Jesus appeared to me. He held out His hand,

and your face was on the palm of His hand. And Jesus said, 'you were going to die, but because of the prayer of this man, you're going to live.'"

Following this story, Petrovich describes the experience as "a jolt" in his prayer life.

"What a jolt that was for not only my prayer life, but my family's prayer life," he says.

"Our outlook on prayer itself, and especially prayers of intercession. When someone asks you to pray for them, or you volunteer to pray for somebody, you never know—you never expect how it's going to work out, because in the end, it's always God's will," he adds.

"But in a case like this, to have something that dramatic and profound – somebody to come up and tell you something like that—was more than enough to take me back and draw me even that much closer to praying to the Blessed Mother.

"Because as we all know, she is the direct line of intercession to her Son, Jesus Christ, in answering all prayers for everyone."

-- by Jacqueline Burkepile
www.churchpop.com

BOOKS APPÉTIT FUNDRAISING EVENT

Valley Community Library will hold its annual Books Appétit fundraising event on Thursday, April 27, 6:00-9:00 p.m. Featuring food donated by local restaurants, drinks, and raffle baskets. Join us for a fun night at the library! This event is for individuals 21 and older.

Wine will be provided by Case Quattro and beer will be provided by Breaker Brewing Company. Live music will also be performed by John Andreoli.

Event tickets cost \$30 per person in advance or \$35 at the door. All

proceeds from “Books Appétit” benefit the Valley Community Library. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online or in person at the library.

The library will close at 2:00 p.m. on April 27 to prepare for the event.

Valley Community Library, which is a member of the Lackawanna County Library System, is located at 739 River St., Peckville, and serves residents in the Boroughs of Archbald, Blakely, Dickson City, Jessup, Throop, and Olyphant. The library is open Monday through Thursday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

VFW #6082 PASTA & MEATBALL DINNER FUNDRAISER

The fundraiser for the VFW Shop-Davey Post 6082 will be Sunday, April 30, 2023. The “Pasta and Meatball Dinner” for Sitting In or Take-out at The Post House, 123 Electric Street, Peckville, PA., is Open to the public.

Starts at 11:00 a.m. and until 3:00 p.m. or is sold out. Dinner Tickets are \$11.00 each. Peter Puhulla Sr. is the commander, the person to contact if eligible to join the VFW.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team Barkofsky, Steve & Jeannie Cucura. for the month of April 2023: Ron

Sunday Collection for April 15 & 16, 2023: \$

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451 Fax: 570-489-6918

Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com

E-Mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net

Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Following the Risen Lord in All Things

Christ has redeemed us by giving Himself as our ransom; He is the price paid for every soul, and by redeeming us from death and giving us immortality He has made us His own. So now that we belong to the Lord we must follow His will in all things, not living for ourselves anymore but only for Him who has purchased us with His life. We are no longer autonomous but belong to the One who has bought us, and we must be ruled by His will. As long as death had power over us we were ruled by sin, but now that we belong to the Lord of life we must give our allegiance to our new Master. Sin must never again make us disobey Him, for that would bring us once more under the domination of the evil one and of death.

We feel bound to Christ when we know that He is, as Paul tells us, both victim and priest, that He was actually offered for us as our paschal sacrifice, and that He Himself was the priest

who made this offering to God. He gave himself up, says Paul, as a sacrifice to us. Those who realize that Christ gave himself up and became our Passover will in their turn offer themselves to God as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable. They will become spiritual oblations. Refusing to conform to the standards of the world, they will change their whole outlook so as to know the will of God, what is good, pleasing to Him, and best in every way ...

While our minds remain subject to our lower nature we are at enmity with God and refuse to obey His law ... Meditating on Christ's offering of His own blood in atonement for our sins should teach us to imitate Him and to make atonement for our own sins, mortifying our bodies in order to purify our souls.

St. Gregory of Nyssa

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