

Greeting: *"Christ is Risen!"* Response: *"Indeed, He is Risen!"*



Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

OCA – Diocese of New York-New Jersey

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce, Rector

Sub-Deacon Edward Dawson

Reader Charles Gallagher

Parish Council President: Trudy Ellmore

Parish Council Vice President: Holly Dawson



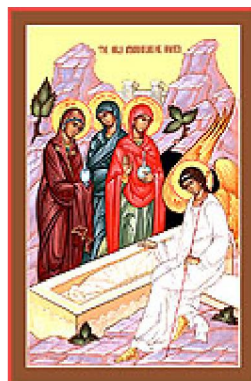
Sunday, April 26, 2015

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

Tone 2

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

3rd Sunday of Pascha; Sunday of the Holy Myrrbearing Women



*Христос
Воскресе!*

*Восстину
Воскресе!*

Sunday of the Holy Myrrbearing Women with the Noble Joseph

The angel came to the myrrbearing women at the tomb and said:

Myrrh is meet for the dead;

But Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption!

So proclaim: the Lord is risen, Granting the world great mercy!

Today the Church Remembers

Sunday of the Holy Myrrbearing Women

- Hieromartyr Basil the Bishop of Amasea • St Stephen the Bishop of Perm • Righteous Virginmartyr Glaphyra • St Joannicius of Devich in Serbia • 6,000 Martyrs of the St David Gareji Monastery, Georgia • Icon of the Mother of God of Mozdok and Dubno-Krasnogorsk

Weekly Bulletin Sponsors

For Health of:

Richard Dantine on his birthday, offered by his family, with love.

Nelly Freed on her birthday, offered by her sister-in-law Lore Stefy.

Linda Jankowski on her birthday, offered by her sons and husband Paul.

Natalia Markevich on her birthday, offered her sister Tatsiana Markevich DaGrosa and her family.

In Eternal Memory of:

Leonid Stefy, M.D. offered his daughter-in-law Lore Stefy.

Liturgical Schedule:

Sunday, April 26th

9:30 am: Church School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, May 2nd

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, May 3rd

9:30 am: Church School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Saturday, May 9th

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, May 10th

9:30 am: Church School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Readings:

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

In Those Days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and

the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in the linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.



Bulletin Sponsor: Use the sign-up sheet at the candle stand for the health of, eternal memory of or a Pannikhida for a loved one or friend, for a donation of \$10. Sponsors will be remembered during Divine Liturgy for the day/week that you signed up for.

Memorial Candles: Candles be purchased at the candle stand, suggested donation of \$10 for a large one and \$2 for a small one.

Private Confessions: Can be heard a half hour before any service. See Father Matthew for other times.

General Confession: Will be at 9:45 am on the first Sunday of the month.

Pannikhida Service: The third Sunday of each month there will be a Pannikhida after Divine Liturgy. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered please give a list of names to Father Matthew before that Sunday for those to be remembered in the month.

Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail:

Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org

Volunteers are needed to clean the church. Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board downstairs or candle stand, to indicate when you can help.

The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy for Coffee hour.



Orthodox Church of the Mother of God: Parish News

His Eminence, Abp. Michael, will be visiting our parish Sunday, May 10th (Mother's Day) and celebrating a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. Please arrive no later than 9:20 a.m. (earlier if possible) to greet him. He will then be vested and tonsuring Reader Charles to the Sub-diaconate.

Choir Rehearsal Will be held Sunday, April 26th and Sunday, May 3rd at 9:30 a.m. to prepare for the Hierarchical Liturgy on Mother's Day.

The Parish Council will be meeting on Today, April 26th downstairs in the community room right after Divine Liturgy and Coffee Hour.

Reader Charles has accepted the call to once again serve with an **OCMC Youth Outreach Mission Team** going to Albania June 15 to July 1, 2015 and to go on a pilgrimage to **Mt. Athos** (the Holy Mountain) in Greece July 1 to July 9, 2015. Please remember him in your prayers in his many preparations. If your heart is moved to support him financially, please speak to him for information on how to do so. Every dollar donated over the cost of the trip will be given to the orphanage (Children's Home of Hope on the grounds of the Shen Vlash Monastery and Resurrection of Christ Theological Academy in Durres, Albania).



Sisterhood of the Protector of the Mother of God News

New section, information and news to follow.



NY/NJ Diocese News

Celebration of Archbishop Michael’s 5th Anniversary of his Consecration on Saturday May 9, 2015. Hierarchical Divine Liturgy 9:30 am, St. John the Baptist Church, 170 Lexington Avenue, Passaic NJ 07055. Followed by a luncheon at 1 pm at The Brownstone, 351 West Broadway, Paterson, NJ 07522. Reservations Required, \$50 Adults, \$10 Children, 5 years & under free. Reserve on-line at

form.jotform.us/form/40903603006139 or contact Father Joseph Lickwar at 201-434-1986 or by email at josephlickwar@gmail.com



Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News

St. Tikhon’s Monastery announces Memorial Day Pilgrimage schedule

The community of Saint Tikhon’s Monastery and Seminary extends a cordial invitation to all to attend the 111th Annual Pilgrimage over Memorial Day weekend, May 22-25, 2015.

“It is always a blessing to welcome hierarchs, clergy and faithful from the Orthodox Church in America, other Orthodox jurisdictions and guests from near and far,” said Archimandrite Sergius, the Monastery’s Abbot.

The Pilgrimage will officially open on Friday, May 22 at 3:30 p.m. with the greeting of the Hawaiian Myrrh Streaming Icon of the Mother of God and the celebration of a Moleben, followed by Vespers and Matins, in the Monastery Church of Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk. The icon will be available for veneration throughout the Pilgrimage.

A detailed schedule of divine services for the weekend is available below. Updates will appear on the Monastery’s web site.

Saint Tikhon’s Monastery is the oldest Orthodox Christian monastic community in North America. In related news, Saint Tikhon’s Seminary will hold its 73rd annual Commencement on Saturday, May 23rd. The day will open with the celebration of the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. and continue with graduation ceremonies at 1:00 p.m. Additional information will be posted as it becomes available.

St. Tikhon’s Monastery Memorial Day Pilgrimage

Friday, May 22, 2015

3:30 pm Official Opening of the 111th Pilgrimage Greeting of the Hawaiian Myrrh Streaming Icon with Moleben in the Church.

4:00 pm Vespers and Matins in the Monastery Church. All pilgrims are invited to dinner in the monastery dining hall following the services.

Saturday, May 23, 2015

9:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy A meal for all pilgrims in the Monastery dining hall following services, 1:00 pm 73rd Annual Academic Commencement of Saint Tikhon’s Theological Seminary

4:30 pm Resurrection Vigil in the Monastery Church. Dinner in the monastery dining hall for all pilgrims following the services.

Sunday, May 24, 2015

9:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy. A meal for all pilgrims in the Monastery dining hall following services.

4:00 pm Vespers and Matins in the Monastery Church.

Monday, May 25, 2015

7:30 am Divine Liturgy – Monastery Church

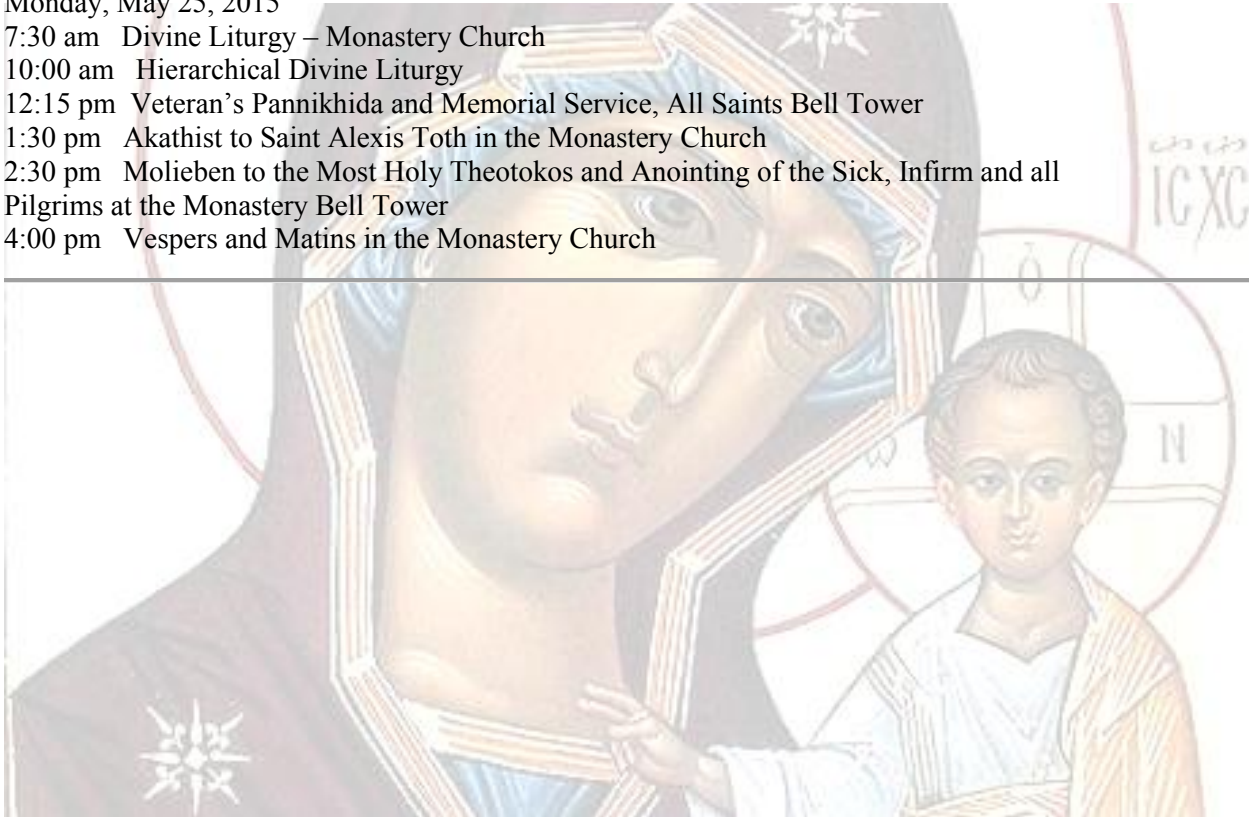
10:00 am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy

12:15 pm Veteran’s Pannikhida and Memorial Service, All Saints Bell Tower

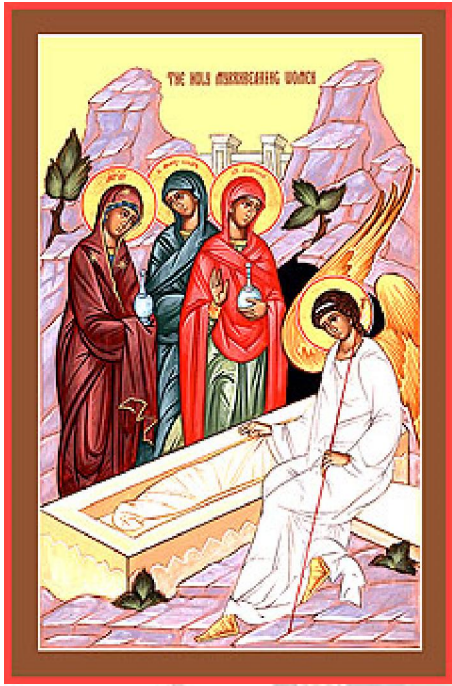
1:30 pm Akathist to Saint Alexis Toth in the Monastery Church

2:30 pm Molieben to the Most Holy Theotokos and Anointing of the Sick, Infirm and all Pilgrims at the Monastery Bell Tower

4:00 pm Vespers and Matins in the Monastery Church



Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women



Today we commemorate the Holy Myrrhbearing women Sts Mary Magdalene (July 22), Mary the wife of Clopas, Joanna (June 27), Salome, mother of the sons of Zebedee (August 3), Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus (June 4). Also St Joseph of Arimathea (July 31), and Nicodemus.

The holy right-believing Queen Tamara of Georgia is commemorated twice during the year: on May 1, the day of her repose, and also on the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women.

Synaxis of all Saints of Thessalonica.

St Seraphim Bishop of Phanar (December 4, 1610)

New Martyr Elias Ardunis (January 31, 1686)

New Martyr Demetrius of the Peolponnesos (April 13, 1803)

Patristic Wisdom for Daily Living with the Church Fathers:

Let all creation remind you of the Creator

Whenever you see a flower or a blade of grass, says St. Basil, remember how transitory their beauty is—and remember that your earthly life isn't much different.

I want creation to penetrate you with so much admiration that everywhere, wherever you may be, the least plant may bring you the clear remembrance of the Creator. If you see the grass of the fields, think of human nature, and remember the comparison of the wise Isaiah: “All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field” (Isaiah 40:6).

Truly the rapid flow of life, the short gratification and pleasure that an instant of happiness gives us, all wonderfully suit the comparison of the prophet. Today you're vigorous in body, fattened by luxury, and in the prime of life, with complexion fair like the flowers, strong and powerful and of irresistible energy; tomorrow you'll be an object of pity, withered by age or exhausted by sickness.

Another shines in all the splendor of a brilliant fortune, and around him are a multitude of flatterers, an escort of false friends on the track of his good graces; a swarm of servants who crowd after him to provide for his food and for all his needs; and in his comings and goings this innumerable retinue he drags after him excites the envy of all he meets. To fortune may be added power in the State, honors bestowed by the imperial throne, the government of a province, or the command of armies. A herald who precedes him is crying in a loud voice. Guards right and left also fill his subjects with awe, blows, confiscations, banishments, imprisonments, and all the means by which he strikes intolerable terror into all whom he has to rule. And what then? One night, a fever, a pleurisy, or an inflammation of the lungs, snatches away this man from the midst of men, stripped in a moment of all his stage accessories, and all this, his glory, is proved a mere dream.

Therefore the Prophet has compared human glory to the weakest flower.

—St. Basil, *Hexameron*, 5.2

In God’s Presence, consider....

If life is so short and transitory, what should I be doing with that short time? Am I doing it?

Closing Prayer:

Father, I know that all earthly beauty passed away, and all things dissipate like smoke. Help me always keep in mind that only your truth is eternal, and that your truth puts eternity within my reach.

Prayers by the Lake, St. Nikolai Velimirovich:

My elders taught me, when I was a youth, to cling to heaven and earth, lest I stumble. For a long time I remained a child, and for a long time I used to lean on the crutch that they gave me.

But once eternity flooded through me and I felt like a stranger in the world, heaven and earth snapped in two in my hands like a frail reed.

O Lord, my strength, how frail are heaven and earth! They look like palaces built of lead, but they evaporate like water in the palm of the hand in Your presence. Only by their bristling do they conceal their frailty, and frighten uneducated children.

Get out of my sight, suns and stars. Sunder yourselves from the earth. Do not entice me, women and friends. What help can I receive from you, who are helplessly growing old and sinking into the grave?

All your gifts are an apple with a worm in its core. All your potions have passed through someone's entrails many times. Your garments are a cobweb that my nakedness mocks. Your smiles are a proclamation of sorrow, in which your feebleness is screaming to mine for help.

O Lord, my strength, how feeble heaven and earth are! And all the evil that men do under heaven is an admission of feebleness and—infirmary.

Only someone strong dares to do good. Only someone who is nourished and watered with You, my strength, is filled with strength for goodness.

Only someone who sleeps in Your heart knows rest. Only someone who plows before Your feet will enjoy the fruit of his labors.

My childhood, nourished with fear and ignorance, came to an end; and my hope in heaven and earth vanished. Now I only gaze at You and cling to Your gaze in return, O my cradle and my resurrection.

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church

God and Us – Truth:

Truth is not a thought, not a word, not a relationship between things, not a law. Truth is a person. It is a Being which exceeds all beings and gives life to all. If you seek truth with love and for the sake of love, she will reveal the light of His face to you inasmuch as you are able to bear it without being burned.

St. Nicholas of Serbia,
Thoughts on Good and Evil.

The Prologue of Ohrid
St. Nikolai Velimirovic

Reflection

The saints are alive and their God-given power does not diminish in time. St. Joannicius of Devich works miracles today even as he did during his life on earth, some five-hundred years ago. A certain Milosh from Hercegovina prepared to travel to Jerusalem on a pilgrimage to the holy shrines. As he was about ready to depart on his way, St. Joannicius appeared to him in a dream and told him not to go to Jerusalem. Rather than go to Jerusalem, it would be better for you to go to Devich, explained the saint, and there, to restore my church and place it in order. Milosh obeyed the saint and arrived

at the neglected Devich, cleaned it, placed it in order and again, made it possible to sing praises to God. At Devich, Milosh was tonsured a monk and remained there until the end of his life. During the First World War and the Austrian occupation, a Hungarian officer with a detachment of soldiers came to Devich. The officer ushered Damaskin, the abbot of the monastery, before the reliquary of St. Joannicius and asked him what was under the slab? "Holiness," replied the abbot. "What kind of holiness?" the officer laughed. "Some things are hidden under there." He then ordered the soldiers to strike the slab with pick axes and to overturn it. While this was being done, the officer was seized with pain around his waist. He lay down in bed and before evening of the same day, he died. The frightened soldiers left there work undone and fled the monastery.

Contemplation

Contemplate the resurrected Lord Jesus:

1. How His Resurrection is a great light which dispels the darkness of our doubt, ignorance and despair relative to life after death;
2. How His Resurrection is a great light, which illuminates the path on which we must travel in this world in order to arrive to the other world.

Homily:

About Christ as the confirmation of all good

"For the son of God, Jesus Christ, Who was proclaimed to you by us, Silvanus and Timothy and me, was not "yes" and "no," but "yes" has been in him"
(2 Corinthians 1:19).

Christ is not light and darkness but only light. Christ is not truth and falsehood, but only truth. Neither is Christ life and death, He is only life. Neither is He strength and weakness. He is only strength. Neither is He love and hate. He is only love. He is the "yes" for every good and in Him there is no vacillating between "yes" and "no." His teaching is all pure, all truth, all light and all loving of mankind. His path is accurately hewn and He does not permit swerving neither to the

left or to the right. Not even a shadow of sin can pause on His teaching nor find a place on His path. His person is the incarnation of good and all that is good is in Him and all that is sin, falsehood, malicious and unjust is outside of Him.

Such teaching, such a path and such a person of Christ, the apostles of God preached: the teaching meant the confirmation of good and the revelation of the infinite treasury of good; the path which leads to the realization and eternal enjoyment of this good; the Person, Who in Himself, contains all good and complete confirmation of good.

Brethren, let us also adhere to this unique Person, this unique path and this unique teaching.

Almighty Lord, help us by the power of Your Holy Spirit, so that our insignificant life on earth would become a confirmation of good and not the denial of good.