

Saint Nicholas Serbian Orthodox Church
971 St. Clair Rd, Johnstown, PA 15905
Rev. Presbyter Dragan Vukovic
(814) 244-4063

The Sunday of the Myrrhbearers
(05.19.2024.)

Mark 15:43-16:8

Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus. And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead. And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph. And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre? And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great. And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. And they went out quickly, and fled from the sepulchre; for they trembled and were amazed: neither said they any thing to any man; for they were afraid. **(KJV)**

Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese!
Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

God's Holy Church continues to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ with great joy. The present Gospel reading verifies Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. The women going to the tomb learned Jesus had arisen from the dead.

Jesus' Resurrection is the foundation and center of Christian belief. Jesus Christ triumphed over death. His defeat of death is reason for believers to maintain joy that cannot be conquered.

Jesus' defeat of death is the antidote to depression in earthly life. The defeat of death is the basis for believing in eternal life. Jesus' triumph over death gives hope for the general resurrection of the dead.

Gloom and darkness abound in today's world. Depression is very common in the United States. Psychologists, psychiatrists and various types of counsellors struggle with treating widespread depression.

The Lord Jesus Christ knocked down the door to death. The Lord Jesus Christ established the Light that cannot be extinguished. The Risen Christ is the joy of all joys.

Believers centering their lives in Jesus Christ travel the path to the Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life. Believers embracing the Resurrection in their hearts, minds and souls journey the pathway to peace and joy in life.

Joseph of Arimathea was a man of great faith. He acted on his faith in seeking possession of Jesus' body. The women who went to the tomb had great faith. They acted courageously and purposely in going to the tomb.

Christians from every century draw inspiration from Joseph of Arimathea and the Myrrhbearing women, Courage is necessary among Christians in every century. Faith in Jesus Christ is to be put into practice.

The journey to Pascha is a journey of enrichment for believers. Believers are to arrive at Pascha living in ways more pleasing to Jesus Christ than when the journey began.

Jesus Christ's Resurrection is the basis for joy to guide believers through the difficulties of life and toward the Heavenly Kingdom. The fasting and prayer of the journey to Pascha yields benefits for the participating believer.

In this period between Pascha and the Feast of the Ascension, Jesus Christ's Resurrection continues to be the primary focus. Now is a time to assess the value of the Resurrection in personal life and in God's Holy Church.

Now is the time for joy to dominate the heart, mind and soul. Now is the time to give total and unconditional thanks to the Resurrected Christ. Partake of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ and be united with Christ with great joy!

God's Holy Church has withstood the trials and challenges through the centuries. God's Holy Church continues to endure, grow and spread across the earth.

Parishes are transformed when Resurrection joy fills the hearts, minds and souls of parishioners. Peace, hope and joy abound when believers embrace the Risen Christ and make Him central to daily life.

This period between Pascha and the Feast of Ascension is a time of great celebration in God's Holy Church. Jesus Christ's Resurrection merits continuous celebration.

The services of the Church between Pascha and Ascension focus on the meaning and joy of the Resurrection. Jesus Christ's Resurrection has a lasting and transforming influence on the hearts, minds and souls of attentive believers.

The Church emphasizes the Resurrection during this time. The Church wants believers to make the Resurrection a governing part of daily life. Pascha is called the Feast of Feasts for good reason. Jesus' defeat of death is to be celebrated!

Evaluate the place Christ's Resurrection has in the conduct of daily life. Be serious in assessing life's goals guided by Jesus Christ's Resurrection. Be as courageous as Joseph of Arimathea and the Myrrhbearing Women!

The Sunday of the Myrrhbearers. Righteous Job the Longsuffering.

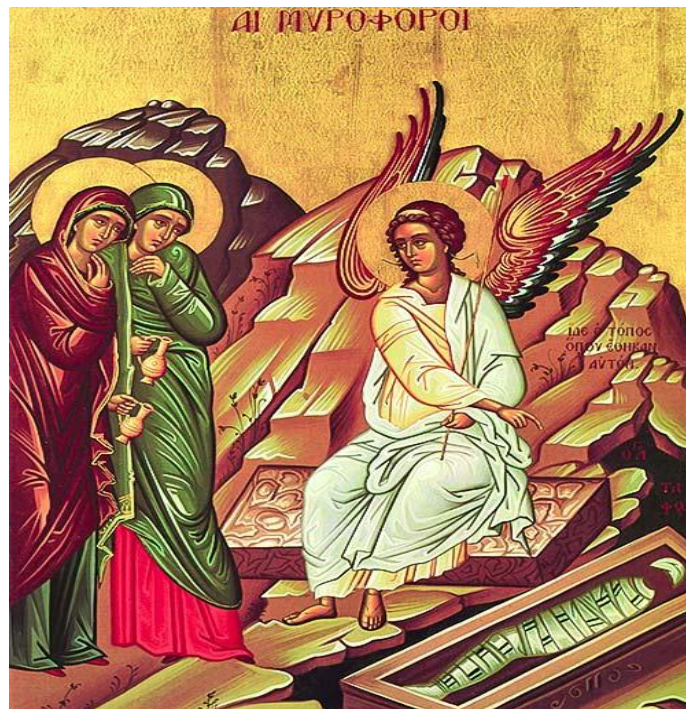
Translation of the Relics of St. Sara. May 6/19, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic

Sunday Of The Myrrhbearers Introduction

The third Sunday of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers. The day commemorates when the women disciples of our Lord came to the tomb to anoint his body with myrrh-oils but found the tomb empty. As the woman wondered what this meant, angels appeared proclaiming that Christ had risen from the dead.

Biblical Story



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 His sepulcher, 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 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 21:55-56; 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 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 bodily 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).

Icon of the Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers

The icon of the Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers depicts the biblical story of the women arriving at the tomb to anoint the body of Christ. The angel is seated upon the stone that covered the tomb, and he is pointing to the empty garments showing that Christ has risen from the dead.

Orthodox Christian Celebration of the Feast of the Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers

The Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom. On this Sunday and throughout the Paschal period until the Apodosis or leave-taking of Pascha, the

day before the Feast of the Ascension, the services begin with the chanting of the troparion of Pascha, "Christ is risen..."

Scripture readings for the feast are the following: At Orthros: Luke 24:1-12; At the Divine Liturgy: [Acts 6:1-7](#) and [Mark 15:43-16:8](#).

Hymns of The Feast

Apolytikia (Second Tone)

When You did descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then did You slay Hades with the lightening of Your Divinity. And when You did also raise the dead out of the nethermost depths, all the power in the Heavens cried out: O Life-giver, Christ our God, glory be to You. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. The noble Joseph, taking Your immaculate body down from the Tree, and having wrapped it in pure linen and spices, laid it for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day You did arise, O Lord, granting great mercy to the world. Now and forever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen. Unto the myrrh-bearing women did the Angel cry out as he stood by the grave: Myrrh-oils are meet for the dead, but Christ has proved to be a stranger to corruption. But cry out: The Lord is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

Kontakion (Second Tone)

When You did cry, Rejoice, unto the Myrrh-bearers, You did make the lamentation of Eve the first mother to cease by Your Resurrection, O Christ God. And You did bid Your Apostles to preach: The Savior is risen from the grave.

Services this Week

- **Tuesday (05.21.024.)**
Holy Ap. and Evangelist John The
- Theologian; *St. Hierom. Nedeljko of Rakovica*
- 9:30 AM –Divine Liturgy
- **Wednesday (05.22.2024.)**
- Transfer of the Relics of St Nicholas
the Wonderworker; Prophet Isaiah
- 9:30 AM –Divine Liturgy
- **4th Sunday of Pacha – pf the Paralytic (05.26.2024.)**
- Holy Martyr Glyceria
Divine Liturgy starts at 10:00 AM

Donations May 12, 2024

Offering - \$ 1,075.00 Candles - \$88.00

Easter Donations

Men's Club - \$200

Large Candles

For Health of Olga Lucas from Sharon & Jim Urban
(2) IMO Devich & Lovrich Families from Tom & Carole McAllister
IMO Christine Bulich, Louis & Mary Daley from Olga Bulich
IMO Charles Bulich from Olga Bulich
IMO of Bartis & Pavich Families from Joe Bartis

Please join us Sunday, May 19th, in celebration of our 118th Anniversary of The Transfer of the Relics of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. Father Dragan Vukovic will celebrate Divine Liturgy beginning at 9:30 AM which will include the blessing of the Slavski Kolac followed by a banquet in the church hall with our honored Kum, Sylvester Gjurich.

Please see Suzette Gardenhour for the sign-up sheet to work for the upcoming Polka-Fest May 31st to June 2nd.

Don't forget!!!

Beginning Sunday June 2nd Divine Liturgy begins at

9:30 AM

UPCOMING EVENTS

ST. NICHOLAS SLAVA ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION SUNDAY, MAY 19, 2024 - Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

Change in church time - Beginning Sunday, June 2, 2024. Divine Liturgy will begin at 9:30 AM and continue at that time until Sunday, September 8, 2024, when it will then again begin at 10:00 AM.

MEMORIAL SERVICES IN 2024

Memorial services at the Church cemeteries will be held as follows:

BENSHOF HILL CEMETERY on Saturday, June 8, 2024 – 9:30 AM (Begin at Top)

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY on Saturday, June 8, 2024 – Beginning at 1:00 PM

OLD ST. NICHOLAS CEMETERY on Saturday, June 15, 2024 – 9:30 AM

ST. PETKA CEMETERY Saturday, June 15, 2024 – 10:30 AM – (Begin at Top)

Polka-Fest – Friday May 31st to Sunday, June 2nd

Band of Brothers – July 11-13th and 17 – 20th



SATURDAY, AUGUST 10TH 2024

Johnstown Slavic Festival – September 20-21st