

Orthodox Church in America + Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church Williamsport, PA.



Holy Myrrhbearing Women

The Noble Joseph

April 30th, 2023

Elevation of the Holy Cross Orthodox Church

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Today's Scripture Readings:

Epistle: Acts 12:1-11; Acts 6:1-7
Gospel: St. Luke 5:1-11; St. Mark 15:43-16:8

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!
Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!
Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!

A festive welcome to everyone, and especially to our visitors and guests this joyous morning! Please join us for some fellowship after in the Parish Hall!

Services, Events & Announcements

- + *Compline / Bible Study*** – Wednesday May 3rd at 5:30
- + *Great Vespers*** – Saturday May 6th at 5
- + *Hours & Divine Liturgy*** – Sunday May 7th at 9:40 - Fellowship following in the Hall / Church School & Orthodoxy 101
- + *Minutes and financials from the last Council meeting are posted on the bulletin board in the Hall.***

Our Giving – April 23rd, 2023

Tithes/Offerings - \$2,192.00 / Online Giving - \$200.00

Candle Offerings – \$131.00 / PASCHA Gifts - \$100.00

Thank you all for your giving for the work of Church!

Regarding Holy Communion: Only those faithful who are Orthodox Christians and have **properly prepared themselves** by **fasting, prayer** [i.e., *Prayers Before Communion*], **recent confession**, and who were at *least present for the reading of the Epistle and Gospel* should approach to receive the Holy Eucharist. *We should all be at peace with everyone too.* If you have any questions about Communion, please see Fr. Seraphim. 😊

† ***Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women with the Noble Joseph***

The third Sunday after Pascha is a very special feast day in the Orthodox Church. On this day, we commemorate those brave women that were with Christ after His death and were the first ones to receive the joyous news about His resurrection. We call these women the Myrrhbearers.

Who are the Myrrhbearers?

The Holy Myrrh-bearers, Saints Maria of Cleopa, Martha of Bethany, Mary of Bethany, Joanna of Chuza, Salome, Mary Magdalene, and Susanna. The Gospel tells us about the women who followed Christ when He was preaching, stayed with Him during the time of His Passion, and anointed His body with myrrh after His death. The Apostle Luke names some of the Myrrhbearers' names: "It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them." (Luke 24:10)

The other Gospels also mention Salome, Susanna, Martha and Mary of Bethany and some of the other women that we know as the Myrrhbearers. Saint Matthew also points out that when Christ's body was placed in the tomb, "Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb." (Matthew 27:61)

This shows that those women loved Christ with all their hearts and did not want to leave Him even after His death. We know that Christ has risen from the dead on the third day, but on that Saturday after Christ's Passion, no one was sure. Of course, Christ told His followers that this would happen, but people are people, and even the apostles had doubts. They saw Jesus perform countless miracles, and now He was lying dead in a tomb. Why couldn't He stop it? why did He have to die?

But the Myrrhbearers, regardless of their sorrow and grief, came to His tomb on a Sunday to anoint the body of their beloved Teacher. They could not perform a proper embalming on a Saturday because the law forbade

people to do any work on Sabbath day. The love and dedication of the Myrrhbearers was greatly paid off because they were the first to hear the news of Christ's resurrection.

When they approached the tomb, they saw an Angel who sat on the stone. He said to them, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay." (Matthew 28:5-6) The tomb was in fact empty and there was only a shroud lying inside. The Angel added, "Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you." (Matthew 28:7)

After they heard the news they felt mixed emotions - they were "afraid yet filled with joy" (Matthew 28:8) as they ran to the disciples. All of a sudden they saw Christ who greeted them and said: "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." (Matthew 28:10) And just like these brave women, we should not be afraid. As Christians, we must learn to love Christ with all our hearts and follow Him no matter how hard it might get. (www.obitel-minsk.org/en/the-sunday-of-the-myrrhbearers)

"I realized that we all worry about ourselves too much and that only he who leaves everything to the will of God can feel truly joyous, light, and peaceful."
Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

[Our Thoughts Determine Our Lives: The Life and Teachings of Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica p.37](#)

Prayers For the Health and Salvation of those in need: Many Years!

Priestmonk Ambrose (Young), Abbot Tryphon, Mitred-Archpriest Nicholas (Harris), Mitred-Archpriest Daniel & Mat. Myra (Kovalak), Archpriest Moses (Berry), Pres. Eva (Koutroulelis), Pres. Rosy (Tanveer), Mat. Mary Lynn Henry, Mat. Deborah Belonick, Paul Beard, Evelyn Chabal, Phoebe Davis, Michael Kuzmiak, Juliana Matusiak, Elias Ciaccio, Elizabeth Wadsworth, Sebastian Fillar, Infant John, Infant Wyatt, Isaac Bannister, Barbara Cain, Vera Christopher, Paisios Sundin, Christine Perrin, Agnes Andreanoff, Michael Juran & those suffering in Ukraine.

Prayers for the Newly Departed: Memory Eternal!

Mat. Carol Steffaro +4/14, John Fravel +4/5, Barbara Shatto +4/14 & Those who have lost their lives in Ukraine.