



ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, May 15, 2016

Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers

- TROPARION OF THE NOBLE JOSEPH, Tone Two:

The Noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the tree, wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices and placed it in a new tomb; but Thou didst rise on the third day, O Lord, granting the world great mercy.

- TROPARION OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS, Tone Two:

The angel came to the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb and said: Myrrh is meet for the dead; but Christ has shown Himself to be a stranger to corruption, so, proclaim: the Lord is risen! Granting the world great mercy.

- KONTAKION OF THE MYRRH-BEARERS, Tone Two:

Thou didst command the myrrh-bearers to rejoice, O Christ. By Thy resurrection, Thou didst stop the lamentation of Eve, O God. Thou didst command Thine apostles to preach: the Savior is risen.

- KONTAKION OF PASCHA, Tone Eight:

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades. And didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice; and giving peace unto Thine apostles, O Thou who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, May 14: Piroshki production all day
1 PM, Baptism (grandson of Yemani and Letelebanos)
5 PM, Great Vespers and Matins (with confessions)
- Sunday, May 15: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy / 11:45 Church School
Noon, Agape luncheon
1:30 PM, Carmina Chromatica free concert in St. Seraphim
2 PM, Church School Teacher meeting
- Tues., May 17: 7 PM, Glendi organizational meeting
- Thurs., May 19: Noon, Senior and Retired Lunch Fellowship
7 PM, Parish Council Meeting

- SUNDAY USHERS:

George Barsi and Vladimir Baer.

- SUNDAY OF THE HOLY MYRRH-BEARERS:

...The women came to anoint a body, a body that had ALREADY been anointed. What a strange thing to do.

After all, as virtually every American mother assures her child the first time that he or she attends a funeral, the loved one isn't THERE! Only his body! If the seven myrrh-bearing women were to have heard our 21st century dismissal of the human body, they would have been astonished. Perhaps they would have assumed that we are pagans, like the philosophers who declared *soma sema* — “the body is a tomb” — and who cremated their dead to allow the soul to escape that prison. But this was not the philosophy of our beloved myrrh-bearers. Mary Magdalene, when she saw the empty tomb, declared in grief, “They have taken away the LORD” and then asked “where have they taken him?” She didn't ask, “where have they taken his body?” In her mind, and to the mind of the Jewish faithful (except for the confused Sadducees!), a person was embodied: they looked for not mere spiritual continuation after death, but for the reunion of soul with body, a resurrection! And so do we as Christians! “I look for the resurrection of the dead.” Physical things matter to God....

Anointing His body, then, was not such a bizarre thing to do. For this holy Tabernacle of God, this Prophet of prophets, this High Priest forever, this King of Kings, is worthy of every anointing honor that we can give Him—though He has no NEED of our praise! In fact, it is He who anoints us with the Holy Spirit. But there is something for which He is looking—our faith. This ending of Mark summarizes for us many of the stories that are told in more detail in the other gospels. Briefly we hear about the women's astonishment, and the refusal of the apostles to believe, the surprise on the road to Emmaus, the disbelief in the upper room, and how Jesus “upbraided them” because of their disbelief. The One who struggled in the Garden with His chosen path knows what it is to be weak—though He himself was never faithless. And so, He calls to us, as He did to the early disciples, telling us not to be faithless but believing. The evidences of what He has done and is doing are everywhere around us and among us. Like the early disciples, we have confirmed before our very eyes the truth of His word. Anointed by the Spirit on Pentecost, they went out with the message, and braved many dangers, even death! As the last verse of Mark tells us “they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it.” (Mark 16:20) We too, God's little anointed ones, are led by the Spirit, as St. Paul puts it; that leading may take us places we would rather not go. “For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of sonship. When we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us” (Rom 8:14-18). —*an excerpt from an article by Edith Humphreys, Professor of New Testament at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary*

- CARMINA CHROMATICA:

Nicolas Custer's renaissance choral ensemble will present a free concert for the Parish this Sunday at 1:30 PM, in St. Seraphim. The group will sing eight motets, six from the Renaissance, one by C. Saint-Saëns, and one piece, which is a premier performance by a member of the group.

- CHURCH SCHOOL TEACHER MEETING:

The Parish School teachers will meet Sunday at 2 PM, to review curriculum for the Fall. Our thanks to Brendan Schettig and Garrett Hamner for their work in preparing a comprehensive course for all grades.

- FRESCOS:

Next in line, Fr. Patrick and Fr. Moses will be prepping for and painting the *Entrance into Jerusalem*, commonly known as *Palm Sunday*. **This fresco has not yet been commissioned (\$12,000), however, a family has promised to give matching funds up to \$6,000 that are given in the thirty days.** Parishioners who would like to give toward this fresco please see Fr Lawrence. The next in line will be the *Last Supper*, which a family

reserved, then the *Washing of the Feet*, commissioned last year, and the rest of that wall area.

- GLENDI ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

Glendi 2016 will kick off with a brief organizational meeting on Tuesday, May 17 at 7 PM. A number of people will be shifting positions this year, and some changes will be implemented in order to simplify operations. Glendi is scheduled, as always, for the third weekend in September.

- MEN'S GROUP MEETING:

I would like to invite the men of the parish to gather for a ***short meeting on Sunday, May 22***, at the tail end of our Agape Meal, to make plans for the next few months. Looking ahead: Twenty-five tickets to a SF Giants game were purchased (much better seats than last year) for the Sunday, July 31 game against the Washington Nationals. The tentative plan is to go to the 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy at Holy Trinity Cathedral on Van Ness and Green St. and then to the game. We have a suggestion also to return to, on a different Sunday, St. Tikhon's Church for Divine Liturgy and lunch, without having to rush off to a ballgame. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- PARISH MINISTRIES:

In the next few months this column will describe all the various Parish Ministries. To begin, below is a list of ministries as it appeared in the Annual Report Booklet in February, and a description of three:

Parish Council (elected positions), Church Readers, Altar Servers, Choir, Sacristan and Assistants, Prospora baking, Sunday offerings, Candle Desk Attendants, Greeters, Ushers, Church Cleaning, Temple Floral Decorations, Vestment Sewing & Ironing, Lawn, Garden, Vineyard, Facilities Repair and Maintenance, Duplex Rental Manager, Sisterhood, Sunday Lunches, Senior/Retired Lunch Fellowship, Kitchen organization, Youth Coordinator, High School Coordinator, Young Adult Group (18–24), Mercy Meals for the Sick, Parish Hall Event Coordinator and Manager, Ride Ministry, Funeral Arrangements / Care for the Reposed, Photography (events, retreats, etc), Bookstore, Web Archivist (photos and sermons), Parish Photo-directory phone list, Church School, Catechists, Women's Book Group, Library, Scrip Director, Catholic Charities "St. Philaret Room" Liaison, Nomadic Shelter (Winter ministry), Redwood Empire Food Bank Distribution, Auditors (elected position), Church Office assistants, Glendi, Special Projects (such as Brendan Schettig and Ray Basch are involved with the building of the porch/repair of siding on the Protection Church).

- PROSPHORA BAKING:

Matushka Xenia heads up a team of men and women who prepare the dough for the bread that will be used for the Eucharist and for prospora. Generally baking takes place twice a month, on Tuesday morning, and is done in a spiritual atmosphere of quiet and prayer. Those who are interested in participating in this holy endeavor, please see Matushka Xenia.

- RIDE MINISTRY:

The members of this ministry (we have none yet) would provide rides for those unable to drive to and from Church for the Sunday Divine Liturgy. Deanna Panages is the coordinator and is eager to get this ministry rolling (pun intended). If you know of someone in need of a ride, or would like to be on the team to provide rides, please speak with Deanna at 544-6028.

- FACILITIES REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE:

Tito Vincente Ramirez, one of our Parish Council Members, coordinates the maintenance and minor repairs around the church and property. He needs to have a list of men and women who are capable of doing the repairs themselves, or seeing it done by a contractor. Our parish has an abundance of folks who are capable of making

minor repairs, and we hope they will step forward to let Tito know to call upon them when needed.

- CON -"GRAD"- ULATIONS:

May God bless those in our parish graduating from High School, College and Graduate School: Aleksandra Ivanova Clark, Connor Carr and Moses Anderson from High School; Dominic Nicholson from SSU, BS with honors and on Dean's List, in Computer Science; Kate Willens, with Masters of Clinical Pastoral Education (for hospital chaplaincy); Adriel Magdalen Scarborough, with Masters in Library Science. Please let the office know if there are others graduating this year.

- FEAST OF SAINTS CONSTANTINE AND HELEN IN VALLEJO:

Father Nebojsa Pentic from Sts. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Vallejo, invites our faithful to join him and the Parish for their feast day on May 21. Vespers the evening before will be served at 6:30 PM, and the Divine Liturgy on Saturday, May 21 at 9 AM. Those who would like to join me will be most welcome. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- A REMINDER and REQUEST:

When you approach the Holy Chalice to receive the Mysteries, please **say your name** to the priest, open your mouth, slightly tilt your head back (*bowing your head forward does not work, considering the nature of gravity*), close your mouth around the spoon *rather than pulling away* with your lips or teeth, and allow the priest giving Holy Communion to remove the spoon. Please excuse the seeming crassness of the request, but when dealing with the All Holy Mysteries, we do not want to have an accident. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- GIVING THANKS:

The Widow's Offering: And Jesus sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which make a penny. And he called his disciples to him, and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living." —*Mark 12: 41-44*

Our basic understanding as Orthodox Christians is that everything comes from God. All that we have or hope to possess, beginning with life itself, is His gift. With regard to our material blessings, we confess that He is their true source by returning a portion to Him, to be used for His purposes in this world. These works include the maintenance of worship, the support of those called to His special service, and aid for the poor. By thus giving a portion of what we have for His purposes, we sanctify the remainder. No matter how poor or rich we are, we can all give a portion, a percentage, of what He sends to us. The woman who offered her penny at the Temple is an illustration of this. Through offering a part, we bring the whole of our lives into harmony with God's will.

From the beginning, however, we must adopt the idea that we give a percentage of what He has given us; we cannot base our offering on impulse, giving "a little something" from what we "have left over." Our offering should proceed out of gratitude to Him for His blessings.

What is done with those funds? Are they all used for salary, utilities and repairs? A good deal of it, yes, but not all. Offerings are used for Church School and catechism materials, internship (which turns out to be good for evangelism too), the Young Adult Group, frescos and icons, wine for Holy Communion, charity, support for retreats, support of Missions in the Diocese, support for the work of the Metropolitan nationally, cleaning the Hall, and other items. Offerings are confidential, however, the use of the dollars is managed by the Rector, the Treasurer, the Parish Council, and the elected Auditors. Monthly financial statements are reviewed at each Parish Council meeting and are available for review upon request.