

ST. ELIAS THE PROPHET CHURCH BULLETIN

29 April 2012

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Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday

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, 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 (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 Saviour, 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 Saviour'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 counsellors 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).

GOSPEL AND EPISTLE READINGS

EPISTLE READING

The Lord is my strength and my glory.

The Lord has punished me severely, but he has not delivered me to death.

Lesson from the Acts of the Apostles(6:1-7)

Now in these 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 Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon,

and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, 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 READING

Mark (15:43-47. 16:1-8)

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.

Apolytikion

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash

of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You.

Joseph Arimathea

When he took down Your immaculate Body from the Cross, the honorable Joseph* wrapped it in a clean linen shroud with spices* and laid it for burial in a new tomb.* But on the third day You arose, O Lord,* and granted the world Your great mercy.

Myrrh bearing women

The Angel standing at the sepulcher cried out and said to the ointment bearing women:* The ointments are appropriate for mortal men, but Christ has been shown to be a stranger to decay.* So go and cry aloud, The Lord has risen* and granted the world His great mercy.

Church Apolytikion

Incarnate Angel and summit of the Prophets, second forerunner of the coming of Christ glorious Elijah sent down grace from on high to the Prophet Elisha. He heals diseases and cleanses the leprous. He pours healings on all who honour him.

Kontakion

Though You went down into the tomb, You destroyed Hades' power, and You rose the victor, Christ God, saying to the myrrh-bearing women, "Hail!" and granting peace to Your disciples, You who raise up the fallen.

PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

FOOD DRIVE

Please do not forget to bring non-perishable food for the needy, and place it downstairs the Church Hall, under the table that have been provided for that purpose.

Memorials

40 days for Fr. Demetrios Demopulos by Presbytera Meredith .
May his memory be eternal.

40 days for Mrs. Alexis mother of Dean Alexis. May her memory be eternal.

40 days for Mrs. Stamo Kokalis koumbara of Dr. Alex and Niki Constantaras. May her memory be eternal.

Greek Festival 2012

We need volunteers for this year's Greek Festival 2012. If you like to voluntary please contact Kerry Tramountanas. We are also selling our Festival raffle tickets after church. Please see Kerry Tramountanas after church.

SERVICES AND INFORMATION

This Week's Liturgical Schedule

Saturday, 5 May: St. Irene

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

No Great Vespers

Sunday 6, May Paralytic

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Tuesday, 8 May St. John the Theologos

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 12 May Great Vespers 5:00pm

Sunday, 13 May Samaritan Women/ MOTHER'S DAY

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 19 May Great Vespers 5:00pm

Sunday, 20 May Blind Men

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Monday, 21 May St. Constantine and Helen

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Thursday, 24 May Ascension

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 26 May Great Vespers 5:00pm

Sunday, 27 May Holy Father's 1st Council

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 3 June Saturday of the Souls

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Sunday, 4 June Pentecost

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 9 June No Great Vespers

Sunday, 10 June

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Friday, 15 June Greek Festival

11:00am - 9:00pm

Saturday, 16 June Greek Festival

11:00am - 9:00pm

No Great Vespers

Sunday, 17 June FATHER'S DAY

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 23 June Great Vespers 5:00pm

Sunday, 24 June St. John the Prodromos

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Friday, 29 June SS. Peter and Paul

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, 30 June

No Great Vesper

Sunday, 1 July

Orthros 9:00am Divine Liturgy 10:00am