



ST. MARY ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

A PARISH OF THE ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

PARISH NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR MAY 12, 2019

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN

- We welcome Bishop THOMAS back to our Parish this Mothers Day for His annual Episcopal visit.
- Sayedna met with the Parish Council for an enjoyable dinner on Friday Evening. His Grace then performed the Churching, Baptism and Chrismation of Deacon Joseph and Sh. Rebecca's son Edward at 8:30 am on Saturday morning after which He presided over a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 10:30 am (preceded by Orthros at 9:30 am) during which Sbdiacon George (Marshall) Goodge was ordained to the Holy Deaconate.
- Congratulations and Many Years to Deacon Joseph and Sh. Rebecca's son Edward on Infant Edward's reception into the Church! Many Years !
- Congratulations and Many Years to newly ordained Deacon George and Sh. Mara! We wish them Many Years in their ministry !
- A Happy Mothers Day to the mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, aunts and other special care-givers who have cared for us as mothers would
- Please feel free to take your Pascha Eggs from the Parish "Pascha Tree" that has been taken down to the Parish Hall. The Teens thank you for your donations.
- Please let Father George or any member of the Parish Council know if you have anyone in your family who belongs to the Church who is graduating from high school or college this year.
- Please remember to bring your Food for Hungry People Boxes with you to Church because the time is coming to send the money to the Archdiocese.
- SAVE THE DATE! We are planning a golf outing for Friday August 16, 2019 at the Sand Springs golf course. More details to come.



PLEASE NOTE: Beginning immediately no vehicles are permitted in the Parish Cemetery for any reason. There are no exceptions to this Rule. This prohibition includes Parishioners' vehicles as well as those of privately hired vendors who care for graves. The Parish Council sincerely regrets any inconvenience this may cause but deems it necessary to protect the integrity of the Cemetery and the graves of our loved ones interned in the Cemetery.

TODAY IS SUNDAY OF THE MYRRHBEARERS

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.

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 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 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 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 (Matthew 27:60).

SOME FINAL FOOD FOR THOUGHT ...

Mark how great the women's assiduity [diligence]. They had followed Him, ministering to Him, and were present even to the time of the dangers. This is why they also saw all: how He cried, how He gave up His spirit, how the rocks split, and all the rest. These women were the first to see Jesus; the gender that was most condemned is the first to enjoy the sight of the blessings; this gender shows its courage the most. And when the disciples had fled, these women were present...Do you see their courage? Do you see their affection? Do you see their noble spirit in matters of money? Their noble spirit even unto death?

-St. John Chrysostom