

SUNDAY OF THE OINTMENT-BEARING WOMEN



Icon of the Ointment-Bearing Women



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

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Next Liturgy: Saturday, May 6th, at 10am

DIVINE LITURGY - PATRONAGE CHURCH

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday of Myrrh-Bearers 4.23.2023	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	Intention: in Memory of the +Kakalec Family – Eugene, Sr., Eugene, Jr., Elizabeth, & Paul Requested by: Michael Kakalec
Sunday of the Paralytic Man 4.30.2023	11:00am 11:15am	Matins Divine Liturgy	Intention: For Living and Deceased Members of our Parish

This is **Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers**.

The *Divine Liturgy During Pascha* booklets, with Propers, are located in the pews.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Christós Voskrése! Voístinnu Voskrése!

CONFESSION: Fr. Serhii is available 20 minutes before or immediately after Divine Liturgy. 1

SPAM EMAILS: Once again, we are reminding parishioners to be aware of any email they receive signed by “Reverend Serhii Deiak,” either asking for money, or inquiring about a confidential conversation with him. ***Please be aware that these emails are scams.*** Do not click on them or reply. If you have any questions, please let Fr. Serhii know.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY: Theosis in Action & the Eparchy of Passaic Present **“Poustini: An Evening of Encounter and Hospitality,”** in the light of the Byzantine East at St. Mary’s Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, NJ. The next event will take place this Saturday, **April 29th, from 7-10pm. Additional monthly “Poustinia” dates at St. Mary’s Church have just been added – Saturday, May 20th, from 7-10pm, and Saturday, June 10th, from 7-10pm. It is not too late to register for this event.** These events are open to all young adults ages 18-35 – *we encourage everyone in this age group to attend.* For more information, contact: FatherTomByz@gmail.com or on facebook.com/theosisinaction.

2023 BYZANTEEN EPARCHIAL YOUTH RALLY: This year’s rally will take place on **Thursday, June 22nd – Sunday, June 25th** at the Carpathian Village in Cresco, PA. We are waiting on more details, but ByzantTeen Rally 2023 participants must be age 13 by November 1, 2023, and not have reached the age of 18 by June 27, 2023. You can find both the rally’s Teen and Chaperone Registration forms on the Eparchy’s website at eparchyofpassaic.com, click on “Youth and Young Adult Ministries,” then “Byzanteens Youth Ministry.” If you are interested in attending this rally, please let Fr. Serhii know so he can make sure you receive any updates that he receives. If you are enrolled in ECF, our church will cover the registration fee.

2023 EPARCHIAL ALTAR SERVER CONGRESS: Registration for this year’s Altar Server Congress, is now open! It will take place at the Carpathian Village, 802 Snow Hill Road, Cresco, PA, from Sunday, **July 16th - Thursday, July 20th.** Please visit eparchyofpassaic.com, click on “Youth and Young Adult Ministries,” then “Altar Server Congress,” for camper registration forms and further information. You can also contact Fr. Michael Salnicky at 570-595-3265, if you have any further questions. Please let Fr. Serhii know as soon as possible, if you are interested in attending. If you are enrolled in ECF, our church will cover the registration fee.

METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY: Most Rev. William Skurla, Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh, has invited all clergy and faithful to the Assembly of the Byzantine (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsboro, NJ, **November 2-5, 2023.** The theme of this Assembly is *“Living Our Faith, Moving Forward, Appreciating Our Past.”* More details forthcoming. You can sign up for email updates at www.eparchyofpassaic.com.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND & JORDAN: Don’t miss this trip of a lifetime. Hosted by Fr. Ed Cimbala. Visit Haifa, Tiberias, Nazareth, Mt. Nebo, Madaba, Amman, Petra, Jericho, Bethlehem, and Jerusalem, **January 21-31, 2024.** If you are interested, or need more information, please contact Fr. Ed at 908-872-2928 or fredcimbala@gmail.com.



The icon of the Holy Myrrh-Bearers 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.

Sunday Myrrh-Bearing Women

Dear Brothers and Sisters! Christ is Risen!

I heartily congratulate all the women present here on the great holiday - Sunday of Myrrh-Bearing Women. Because, today, we celebrate the holiday of loyalty, and, first of all, the loyalty of women. Because the Mother of God, Myrrh-Bearing Women, and the Apostle John were standing near the Cross of the Lord, all the other disciples and apostles fled.

For two weeks, the joyful Easter greeting "Christ is Risen" has been heard among Christians. This greeting announces to the world the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and life over death. Myrrh-Bearing Women were the first to spread the good news about Christ's Resurrection.

Their feat attracted other women to Christ's faith. The Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women, who showed their love for the Savior by caring for the dignified burial of His Most Pure Body, initiated the service of women in the Holy Church. The possibility of this service was opened as a result of God-given equality for all people regardless of gender, nationality, and social differences.

The service of a woman already in the Ancient Church acquired its special form. It was expressed in caring for the good upbringing of children, orphans, and the sick. Women deaconesses, known for their righteous lives, helped presbyters to prepare people to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

This example of the earthly life of the Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women teaches us, believers, that faith and sincerity do not go unrewarded. The Lord Savior, rewarding the selfless love of the Myrrh-Bearers, appeared to them first after His Resurrection and said, "Rejoice."

The Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women, by their example, show us what love for the Lord God should be like. True love is not a short-term impulse of our heart. It is constant and never diminishes, it is unchanged both in joy and in moments of sorrow. Myrrh-Bearing Women, with their feat, remind us that our love for God must be deeply devoted and sincere.

Dear believers! For all of us, the path of salvation is open - the path of truth, Christian love, and the acquisition of eternal life. May the example of active faith, love, and life of the Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women strengthen and increase our strength on the road to salvation. We will always glorify the Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women, who announced the good news of the Resurrection of Christ to the world, saying the joyful words: "Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!"

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Who were the Myrrh-Bearing Women?

Mary Magdalene purchased myrrh and spices to anoint the body of the buried Christ, and to accord Him, following Jewish custom as much honor as possible. This role is fitting for her since two of the Evangelists place her among the several women, and third identifies her as performing this noble deed herself.

Mary the Theotokos (Mother of God) is the Mother of the Word and God Jesus Christ. It is assumed by the Church that she was present with the other women bearing myrrh.

Joanna is the wife of Chouza, the steward-administrator of King Herod Antipas and was also one of the women who first witnessed the Resurrection.

Mary was the wife of Cleopas (the brother of Joseph), the making this Mary the aunt of Jesus and sister-in-law to the Theotokos.

Susannah is the wealthy woman of the group who provided material means of support to the ministry of Jesus Christ during his three-year public ministry.

Salome is the generally considered to be the wife of Zebedee, and mother of the Apostles James and John. She who asked the Lord to have her sons sit one on His right, and the other on His left.

Mary of Bethany is the sister of Lazarus. She was a believer even before Jesus raised her brother from the dead and continued to be a faithful servant of God long after the Ascension of Jesus into heaven.

Martha of Bethany is the other sister of Lazarus. She was also a believer in Jesus Christ before He raised her brother Lazarus from the dead. It is generally assumed that both she and her sister were present as the news of the Resurrection of Christ was announced to the world.

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MOTHER'S DAY COMMEMORATION: On *May 14th*, we will be remembering living and deceased mothers during Divine Liturgy. If you would like to include names for this commemoration, please complete the enclosed form, in this bulletin, and you can either place it in the offertory basket in the back of church, or mail it to the rectory.

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CHILDREN'S CORNER

The Myrrh-Bearing Women

(find the hidden words from the list below)

O A N G E L M S D I T E M J O H N Z P Y
 Q D Y Y B N F M Z G V Z H U J I X R E H
 H U I V P G O S P E L S P H H V Q L T F
 X R L Q X H H V P L H K R X N R Z U E J
 D P J D M T C V V B Q X D E A C S K R B
 A T U V R Q R O C K V X B A T N M E H S
 S Q X K A N G E L F D O G I F F U B S Q
 U D X M X C C O R R U P T I O N D J P P
 D R E S U R R E C T I O N M E P I G J I
 V H Y P T F C E S M F Z Q M A R K S G L
 P Y P E B V D P M Y S T E R Y N P X A A
 U B W S N K R E I Q W S H B N Z Z Z H T
 S I R J N V O T C K L B O U L D E R L E
 E Q V B M I Q E Q G F I K H L U V V R P
 X T W F N U V R G U I L T Y C C V B Y E
 X Q O R P L C D W P N I C O D E M U S R
 F D N I C H K B A Y O M A T T H E W X F
 M Y A R L L G S A E U X G S T H H A V U
 M R H J O S E P H R L H J B S C U X L M
 V T O T O M B J R H F P E E T F N R V E

Word List:

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|------------|--------|-----------|--------------|
| Angel | Guilty | Matthew | Peter |
| Boulder | John | Mystery | Pilate |
| Corruption | Joseph | Nicodemus | Resurrection |
| Gospels | Luke | Perfume | Rock |
| Mark | Peter | Tomb | |

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER: The people of Ukraine, that peace may be soon be restored to their land, our parishioners, the founders of our parish, our benefactors, those who are sick, and those who cannot make it to church. Also, Fr. Serhii, and his family, Marge Dulina, Mike Skovran, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Nancy Erdek, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Anne Gupman, Anna Martin, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Georgianna Kostak, Sandra Suseck, Howard Guba, Lisa Guba, our first responders, and all military service men and women throughout the world.

*May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician and Healer of souls and bodies,
 grant them peace and good health for many blessed years!*

STEWARDSHIP: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733> – the link is also on our website)

Patronage Church (April 9, 2023):

Offertory: \$1,536.00
 Tithe.ly: \$175.00
 Easter: \$675.00

Patronage Church (April 16, 2023):

Offertory: \$810.00
 Tithe.ly: \$175.00
 Easter: \$50.00
 Candles: \$128.01

Hagerstown Mission (April 9, 2023):

Tithe.ly: \$19.00

Hagerstown Mission (April 15, 2023):

Offertory: \$252.00
 Tithe.ly: \$19.00

CONGRATULATIONS: Olivia Marie Venzen received the Mystery (Sacrament) of Repentance on March 19th. A cake and refreshments will be provided in the social hall, after Divine Liturgy today, to celebrate Olivia. Please join us. God grant Olivia many Blessed years! **Mnohaja i Blajaha Lita!**

“COME AND SEE:” Produced by the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic Diocese, this is a resource, which aims to share the Good News – the transforming message of the Gospel within the context of the Byzantine Catholic Tradition, and was designed with a two-fold goal in mind: 1) to be beneficial to all the existing Byzantine Catholics and serve them as the ABCs about our Church and Tradition, 2) it is also an invitation to all those who are in search of a new spiritual home, who want to learn more about God and build lasting personal friendship with Him. It is an introduction about who we are and what we believe and it aims to grow awareness and participation in the great Christian richness of our Byzantine Tradition and speak about its practices. It is an invitation to a journey to experience the Mystery of God. The cost of this book is \$5.00, and is located in the book rack in the Narthex.

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH: We welcome all new visitors, to our parish family, and are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and hope you will become an active part of our parish community. If you would like to be added to our parish email list, send us an email at patronage.church@gmail.com.

“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples” (Isaiah 56:7).

Following the Risen Lord in All Things

Christ has redeemed us by giving Himself as our ransom; He is the price paid for every soul, and by redeeming us from death and giving us immortality He has made us His own. So now that we belong to the Lord we must follow His will in all things, not living for ourselves anymore but only for Him who has purchased us with His life. We are no longer autonomous but belong to the One who has bought us, and we must be ruled by His will. As long as death had power over us we were ruled by sin, but now that we belong to the Lord of life we must give our allegiance to our new Master. Sin must never again make us disobey Him, for that would bring us once more under the domination of the evil one and of death.

We feel bound to Christ when we know that He is, as Paul tells us, both victim and priest, that He was actually offered for us as our paschal sacrifice, and that He Himself was the priest

who made this offering to God. He gave himself up, says Paul, as a sacrifice to us. Those who realize that Christ gave himself up and became our Passover will in their turn offer themselves to God as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable. They will become spiritual oblations. Refusing to conform to the standards of the world, they will change their whole outlook so as to know the will of God, what is good, pleasing to Him, and best in every way ...

While our minds remain subject to our lower nature we are at enmity with God and refuse to obey His law ... Meditating on Christ's offering of His own blood in atonement for our sins should teach us to imitate Him and to make atonement for our own sins, mortifying our bodies in order to purify our souls.

St. Gregory of Nyssa

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com**