



PARISH BULLETIN

HOLY ARCHANGHEL MICHAEL'S ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women

Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode 2.

When Thou didst descend unto death, O Life Immortal, then didst Thou slay Hades with the lightning of Thy Divinity. And when Thou didst also raise the dead out of the

netherworld, all the powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

Kontakion of Pascha. Mode Pl. 4.

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.

Prokeimenon. Mode 2.

Psalm 117.

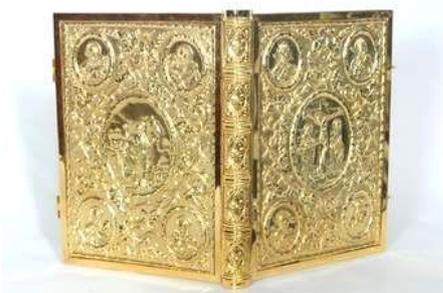
The Lord is my strength and my song, and He became my salvation.

Verse: The Lord chastened and corrected me, but He did not give me up to death.

The reading is from the
Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

In those 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 Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, 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.



The Gospel According to 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 Joses 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.

Word of the week – Reflection
On the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers

... "Who shall roll the stone from the tomb for us?" These words of the holy women have their own mysterious meaning...

The tomb is our heart. The heart was once a temple, but it became a tomb. Christ enters it by means of the sacrament of Baptism, in order to dwell in us and work in us. Then the heart is consecrated as a temple to God. We steal from Christ the possibility to work in us and enliven our "old man", which ever follows its attraction to our fallen will, our reason poisoned by falsehood. Brought in by Baptism, Christ continues to abide in us, but He is as if wounded and mortified by our behavior. The temple of God not made by hands is turned into a cramped, dark tomb. A very great stone is rolled over its entrance...

The stone is the soul's illness by which all the other spiritual illnesses are guarded incurably and which the holy fathers call insensibility... According to the fathers, insensibility is the deadening of spiritual feelings, the unseen death of the human soul with respect to spiritual things in a life that is flourishing with respect to material things. From a long-term physical sickness all strength can become exhausted and the body's abilities withered... The same thing happens to the human soul. Long-term slackness of life amidst continuous

distractions, constant voluntary sins, forgetfulness of God and eternity, inattention or only superficial attention to the Gospel teachings removes from our spirit any inclination toward spiritual things, and deadens it to them...

"Who shall roll the stone from the tomb for us?" This is a question filled with anguish, sadness, and perplexity. Those souls feel this anguish, sadness, and perplexity that have directed themselves toward the Lord, leaving behind service to the world and sin. Before their gaze is revealed the sickness of insensibility in all its horrifying enormity and gravity...

According to the teachings of the holy fathers, in order to conquer insensibility a person must have constant, patient, uninterrupted action against that insensibility; he must have a constant, pious, and attentive life. Such a life beleaguers the life of insensibility; however this death of the human spirit cannot be put to death through human efforts alone—insensibility is destroyed by the action of divine grace...

Our dedication of our life and all our strength and abilities to the service of God are not needed by God for Himself—they are needed by us. We bring them like myrrh to the Lord's tomb. We shall timely buy myrrh—our good intentions...

Christ is resurrected in the person who is prepared for it, and the tomb—the heart—again becomes a temple of God. "Arise, O Lord, save, O my God" (Ps. 3:7); in Thy mysterious and yet essential Resurrection is my salvation. Amen.

- *St. Ignatius Brianchaninov*



Liturgical Schedule for this week

Wednesday <i>May 15</i>	6:00 pm	Paraklesis
Friday <i>May 17</i>	5:30 pm	Akathist
Saturday <i>May 18</i>	9:00 am 5:00 pm	Divine Liturgy Vespers
Sunday <i>May 19</i>	9:00 am 10:00 am	Matins Divine Liturgy – Sunday of the Paralytic



Announcements:

- **Happy name day** to Theodora and Theodore Yanka (St. Theodore – May 16th).
- **Happy birthday** to Yannis Mironidis (May 12th), Paul Yanka (May 15th), and Kim Yanka and Alexis Collazo (May 17th).
- **Spring Chicken BBQ** – Saturday, May 18th, 5pm to 7pm. Please see Spiro for tickets.
- **Morris Street Yard Sale** – Saturday, June 22, 9am. Please see Sandra Nasto.
- **Altar candles** were donated in loving memory of Nicholas Giavara.
- **Coffee hour** is sponsored by Gloria Giavara in honor of Nicholas Giavara



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