

Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

April 30, 2023



**3rd Sunday
of Pascha**

*Holy Apostle James
the brother of St. John the Theologian*

*Myrrhbearing Women
St Joseph of Arimathea
& Nicodemus*

Divine Liturgy

Readings

(Readings on Back)

- ◆ **Acts 6:1-7**
- ◆ **Mark 15:43-16:8**

Announcements:

Visit of Archbishop Daniel

We are blessed today to have His Eminence, Archbishop DANIEL with us, on his first Archpastoral visit to our parish. Following the Divine Liturgy, all are welcome to join us downstairs for a festive coffee hour where we can share fellowship with, and get to know our new hierarch.

We pray that God will grant His Eminence, Archbishop DANIEL many fruitful, healthy years as our Archpastor. *Eis polla eti despota!!*

May Parish Council Meeting

Our May parish council meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 10th at 6:30pm in the parish hall. All are welcome to attend.

Food Festival Committee

With our Annual Food Festival rapidly approaching, we are looking for individuals to volunteer in a variety of roles. This is our largest fundraiser, and everyone is encouraged to help any way they can. If you would like to serve on the Food Festival Committee, please see Sam Jacob.

This Week

Today Following Liturgy

Coffee w/ Archbishop Daniel

Saturday, May 6

6:00pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, May 7

9:00am - 3rd & 6th Hours

9:30am - Divine Liturgy



Welcome Archbishop DANIEL!

Eis polla eti despota!!

Paschal Meditation

Today we remember, and we celebrate, the Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women, as well as Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. And who were these people? When we read the Gospel, it seems like they are hardly mentioned – just a passing note on the way to Christ’s Resurrection. But what faith and what love of Christ did the Myrrh-Bearing women show! What loyalty and devotion! At the darkest hour, when all had abandoned Christ, when all hope seemed to be lost, these women – along with Joseph of Aramathea – went and risked their lives to take Christ from the Cross, to lovingly wrap Him in linen, and to lay Him in a new grave. And when all were hidden away in fear of the Jews and of the powers that be, when all had abandoned Christ, their murdered Messiah, it was this small group of women who risked everything out of love for Christ – to anoint Him with myrrh and sweet spices. And just as it was through a woman, through Eve, that sin came into the world, it was through a woman, the Theotokos, that God came into the world. And it was to these women that the Resurrection was first revealed. It was in this way that their true love, devotion and bravery was rewarded by God. While all were cowering behind locked doors, these women, faithful to Christ and out of love for their friend, were amazed to behold the empty tomb, and to hear the words – for the first time ever – “He is Risen!”

What an awesome mystery! We all know the joy that we feel at Pascha, so how unfathomable must have been their joy in beholding the Resurrection of Christ. Without their bravery, however, they would have not witnessed such an amazing thing. Their friend and teacher was just killed in a brutal, horrifying and very public manner. They themselves were suspects and in danger of arrest at any moment. Their very lives were possibly in danger. Why did they then not flee? Why didn’t they lock themselves behind firmly latched doors? And why would they go to the sepulcher when they knew the entrance was blocked by such a large stone that it would be impossible for them to move? To the rational mind, this is all pure madness. They did not expect anything like the Resurrection. Yet what they did was done out of pure love and devotion – despite the risks. As far as they knew, they had nothing to gain for what they did – and everything to lose.

What an example this is for us! It is easy for us as Christians, living in relative comfort, where we face no real persecution or martyrdom. We know that Christ is risen, and we already know of the empty tomb. All of these things have been revealed to us, and unlike the myrrh-bearing women venturing out into the dark early on that first Pascha morning, we have witnessed two thousand years of saints and sanctity – the proof of the Resurrection,



the spiritual riches of the Church and the fruits of a life in Christ. And how tepid we are in our faith. How often is our own devotion to Christ dry and lackluster – going through the motions and saying our prayers as if it is a chore or an obligation. We lack the burning love, the stoutness of soul and the pure, devotional heart of these brave women. Their faith in God drove away their fear and proved stronger than all else.

And what happened when the myrrh-bearing women got to the tomb? The stone was rolled away, and all obstacles were removed. Something new and wondrous was happening. It was not the myrrh-bearers who anointed Christ, but rather Christ who, in His rising, would bestow myrrh on His people through His Church – the mystical Body of Christ. From then all, every Christian was to be a myrrh-bearer. All the life of the Church and all of Her Sacraments bestow a spiritual myrrh on all those who believe on Him and who strive to die in Christ so that they might rise with Him in His Resurrection.

Let us throw off forever this shameful fear and apathy and truly follow Christ in the example of the Myrrh-bearing women. Let us leave from the fearful shadows and locked rooms and come out to meet Christ. Let us all imitate the bright and brave faith of the Holy Myrrhbearers, never fearing to fulfill the will of Christ and never fearing to be disciples of Christ in this world, for Christ has conquered!

About our Archbishop

Archbishop Daniel [Brum] was born in 1954 the eldest of three children born to Orville Antonio and Marjory Brum. He was raised in Riverdale, CA where he graduated from high school in 1973.

Raised in the Roman Catholic tradition, he enrolled at St Patrick's College Seminary, Mountain View, CA, where, during his freshman year, he first encountered the history of the Orthodox Church and frequently attended services at St Nicholas Church, Saratoga, CA. In the early 1970s, he began reading the Church Fathers and tried to integrate what he was learning of Orthodoxy into his regular courses of study.

He received a BA in Humanities, with specialization in history, philosophy and English literature, from St Patrick's College Seminary in 1977, after which he entered St Patrick's Seminary, Menlo Park, CA, where he continued the study of Church history. In 1981, he received his Masters of Divinity degree and was ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood.

In 1992, he was asked by his bishop to pursue further studies and, in 1995, he completed the academic work and received a degree in canon law (JCL) from the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. His relationship with Orthodoxy continued as he continued research within the context of the Orthodox Church councils. During this time, he seriously contemplated conversion to Orthodox Christianity—a difficult decision given his background and ties. Ultimately, it was his study of canon law that impelled him to respond to the call to embrace Orthodox Christianity.

After completing his course of studies in canon law, he returned to his diocese and was assigned to the Diocesan Tribunal, as well as to a small mission parish in a rural setting. During this period, his feelings and perceptions about Catholicism, based upon years of personal experience and reinforced through informal and formal study, were confirmed, while his growing love and appreciation for the Orthodox Church were increasingly confirmed and strengthened.

He petitioned to be received into the Orthodox Church in America in 1997 and was vested as an Orthodox priest by His Grace, Bishop Tikhon of San Francisco and the West at the Monastery of St John of Shanghai and San Francisco, after which he served briefly at St Nicholas Church, Saratoga, CA before his assignment to St Paul the Apostle

Prayers Appreciated for:

Living:

Archpriest Emil
Dn. Doug, Mat. Kathy
Katherine, Sam,
Lisa, Paula, Marianne
Suleiman, Holley,
Molly, Steve

Departed:

Tall Candles

Are available to be
sponsoer at the cost of \$15
each. Please see Fr Joseph
to reserve in memory or for
the health of your friends &
family.

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday, May 1

Prophet Jeremiah
Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60
John 4:46-54

Tuesday, May 2

St. Matrona of Moscow
Acts 8:5-17
John 6:27-33

Wed, May 3

*Martyrs Timothy and his wife
Maura of Antinoë in Egypt*
Acts 8:18-25
John 6:35-39

Thurs, May 4

New Martyr Vasily (1945)
Acts 8:26-39
John 6:40-44

Friday, May 5

Great Martyr Irene
Acts 8:40-9:19
John 6:48-54

Saturday, May 6

Righteous Job the Long-suffering
Acts 9:20-31
John 15:17-16:2

Church, Las Vegas, NV. In August 1998, he was transferred to the Diocese of New York and New Jersey and assigned Rector of St Gregory Palamas Mission, Flemington, NJ, where he gained a new appreciation for the hard work and special challenges faced by mission priests. In 2000, he was appointed Secretary to Metropolitan Theodosius and, later, to Metropolitan Herman. He also served on several Church committees and commissions, including the Canons and Statute Commission, the Statute Revision Task Force, the Legal Advisory Board, and the Canonization Commission, and in numerous other capacities.

In December 2005, he expressed his desire to return to parish ministry and, in July of the following year, he was transferred to the Diocese of the West and appointed Rector of Ss Peter and Paul Church, Phoenix, AZ.

On October 21, 2014, the Holy Synod elected him to serve as auxiliary bishop to Archbishop Benjamin of the diocese of the West, and appointed as Bishop of Santa Rosa, CA. He was consecrated to the episcopacy on January 24, 2015.

On July 18, 2022, he was canonically elected by the Holy Synod of Bishops as Bishop of Chicago and the Diocese of the Midwest.

Today's Scripture Readings

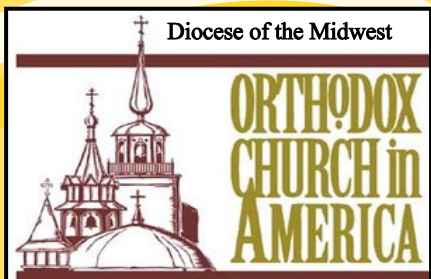
Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is 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 into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee!



Ss Peter & Paul Orthodox Church

2238 E. 32nd St

Lorain, OH 44055

www.OrthodoxLorain.org

Rev. Joseph McCartney, Rector

440-668-2209 (cell)

FrJosephMcCartney@gmail.com