

Holy Assumption Orthodox Church
Celebrating 125 years witnessing to the Apostolic Faith

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Marblehead, OH 43440

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*Holy Assumption Orthodox Church is a parish of the Orthodox Church in America,
Diocese of the Midwest*

MAY 4, 2025

**THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PASCHA
SUNDAY OF THE MYRRHBEARERS**

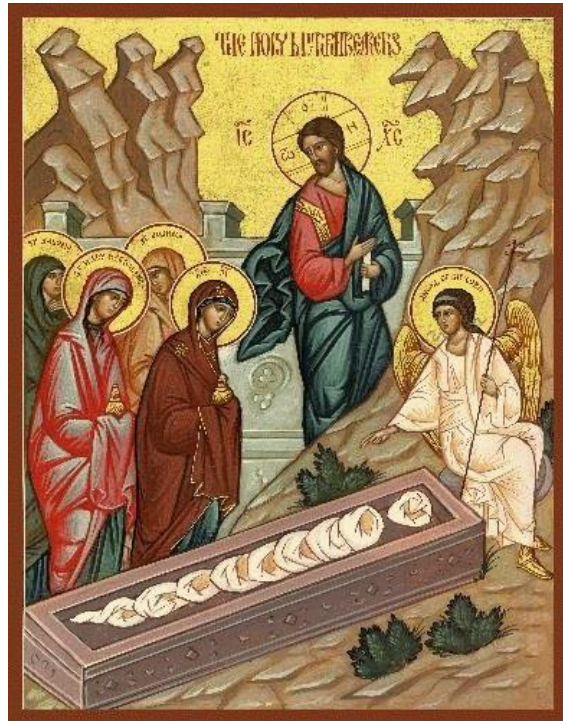
EPISTLE: Acts 6:1-7

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

At that time, 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



The Myrrh-bearing women

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.



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

MON. May 5	Great Martyr Irene; Acts 6:8-7:5,47-60, Jn 4:46-54
TUE. May 6	Righteous Job the Long-Suffering; Acts 8:5-17, Jn 6:27-33
WED. May 7	Saint Alexis Toth; Acts 8:18-25, Jn 6:35-39
THU. May 8	Apostle and Evangelist John, the Theologian; Acts 8:26-39, Jn 6:40-44
FRI. May 9	Prophet Isaiah; Acts 8:40-9:19, Jn 6:48-54
SAT. May 10	Apostle Simon the Zealot; Acts 9:20-31, Jn 15:17-16:2
	4:00 PM VESPERS
SUN. May 11	4th SUNDAY AFTER PASCHA, PARALYTIC, Tone 3
	9:10 AM HOURS
	9:30 AM DIVINE LITURGY Followed by Coffee Hour



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Patti Owens, 311 Woodbridge Road Vermilion, OH 44089; **Tina Rindfleisch**, 524 Woodshire Lane, E-11 Naples, FL 34105; **Basil Glovinsky**, 1007 Glendale Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452; **Irene Vangeloff**, 454 Strouse Lane, Sandusky, OH 44870

PRAYER LIST

Parishioners & Family: Renee Haynal / Tina Rindfleisch / Sharon Shaheen (Patti Owen’s sister) / Norb / Heidi Golob / Ron & Bobbie Royhab / Rodney Clevenger / Jennifer Heffernan / Tom Hileman / Pam / Jim Twarek / Ed Garrity / Patti Owens / Barbara Wroblewski / Michal Tomáš / Helena Tomášová / Ruth Sheller / Basil Glovinsky / Dale / Sophie / Carol / David Martin / Fred Soski / Chris

Hannon / Irene Vangeloff / Sonja Rose / James Bargdill / Carole Conaway/ Gary Conaway / Sharon Dietrich / Michael Glovinsky / Shirley Gresh / Joseph Habegger / Betty Kovach / Child Stella Miller / William Pipenur / Earl Rindfleisch / Helen Jean Rofkar / George Royhab / Marianne Royhab / Kathy Jacob / the child Bodhi Cassell / Gleice, Sophie & Chloe / Carol / Nora.

Other Requests: Martin Vronick / Nicole Williams / John Couture / Don / Ann Turinsky / Marcia / Sarah King / Catechumen Blake Shoemaker / Catechumen Nickolas Dawenport / Catechumen Joshua Paull / Catechumen Danielle Paull / Catechumen Wrenley Paull / Arimus Paull / Linkoln Paull / Catechumen Ryan Stamp / Matushka Melania / Sharyn Osborne / Christine Zahm / Amy / Bill Byrnes / Susanne / Charles Schlett / Kathy Debevits / Maxwell Chaney / Anthony / Archpriest Ján Čižmár / Archpriest David Lis / Archpriest Emilian & Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan / Donald Gresh / Mark Ludvik / Robert Piznar / Mark Masica / Valerie Ritzenthaler / William / Rick Rowe / Chris.

Military: Craig Cassell / Jake Ellithorpe / Jordon Fulton / Justin Issler / Tikhon / Nicholas / & All Military

ATTENDANCE



04/26 Vespers, **8** attending (4 guest); **04/27** Divine Liturgy, **34** attending (16 guests) [13 people more than the previous year]; **05/03** Divine Liturgy with St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir, **33** attending (15 guests)

READERS LIST



Sunday May 4 – Jake
Sunday May 11 – Joe
Sunday May 18 – Tim

MAY REPOSED



Julia Onyock (1921) No date provided; Andrew Onyock (1922) No date provided; Christos Karniotis (1992) No date provided; **1-**Donald Cholcher (2020); **4-** Norman Anthony Glovinsky (2016); **8-** Brad Bauer (2019); **14-** Stanley Lis (2019); **15-**George Glovinsky (1986); **21-** Anna Mazurik (2008); **22-** Mary Opritza (2011); **24-** Helen Greshko (1980); **25-** Anna Mazurak (1966); **25-** Philip Timko (2021); **27-** John Gresko- (2008); **30-** Anna Elchisco (1977)

MAY CANDLE SPONSORS



Altar Candles: Fr. Peter and Mat. Michelle, For Health and God's Blessings for Barbara Wroblewski, and Michal & Helena Tomáš (\$50); **Chandelier:** Natalie Twarek, In loving birthday remembrance of our dads, George (5/3) and John (5/6) (\$50); **Eternal Light & Icon Screen:** Available (\$25); **Candles at the Cross:** Laura Kovach, Birthday blessings to Michael (\$20); **Candles at St. Tikhon Icon:** Available (\$20)

MAY BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES



5 – Joe Schutt; **5** – Sebastian Stamp; **6** – Fred & Teri Cassell Anniversary (44); **8** – Laura Kovach; **16** – David & Sandy Martin Anniversary (45); **17** – Tony & Tina Monastra Anniversary (33); **20** – Joe & Valerie Schutt Anniversary (8); **23** – Dale Bricker *; **26** – Quincy Kowal*

VIGILS FOR APRIL 27



Susan Guzy 1 In memory of Uncle Tony (4/30) Vichnaya Pamyat

Laura Kovach 3 For health and/or healing of Martha B., infant Benny, Nichole W., Alex M., Tina R., Nick S., Mike T., Andrew K., Matushka Melania, Ron R., Betty K., Margaret M.,

Hannah S., Mark M., Dana M., Bodhi C., Kathie J., Jerry P., Irene V, Heidi & Wayne G., Sarah K., and Dan D.

Prayers for Brett & Chris DeOrio

Safe travel for Leah

Sandy Martin 1 Special Intentions

Gabe Mazurik 1 Special Intentions

Efmia Rohweder 4 Christ is Risen! In memory of George & Mary Mazurik

Ron & Bobbie Royhab 2 In memory of recently reposed Dr. William Stamp and Anthony Sudac, Roberta's nephew

Natalie Twarek 8 For the health of Martin Vronick, For health and recovery of Tina, For health and recovery of Nicole Oglesbee Williams, For health and recovery of Peggy, Ann, Laura, Mike, Marcia, For the health & recovery of Matushka Melania, For the health and recovery on Basil, Ron, Rodney, Betty, Carol, Kayla, Pam, Jim, Heidi, Wayne, Health and healing for Father's parents Michal & Helena and Matushka's mom Barbara, and Walter, For the health of Jen, Tony, Father David, Carole, Gary, Sharon, Tina's dad, Earl, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Bodhi, Stella, Jake, Pat



SUNDAY OFFERING

Sunday, April 27, 2025

Tithe	\$1,007.00
Donations	\$ 209.00
Candles	\$ 73.00
Vigils	\$ 90.00
Building Restoration	\$ 100.00
Total:	\$1,479.00

May the Lord reward you for your financial and spiritual support!

UP-COMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH – MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 11th Paralytic – Mother's Day (*Sunday*)

May 29th ASCENSION OF OUR LORD (*Thursday*)

May 31st 1st Market Day of the Season (*Saturday*)

June 8th – HOLY PENTECOST (*Sunday*)

June 15th – All Saints Sunday – Father's Day (*Sunday*)



CLEANING SCHEDULE

May 5, Bobbie

May 12, Natalie

May 19, Basil & Tim

May 26, Susan



CHARITY OF THE MONTH

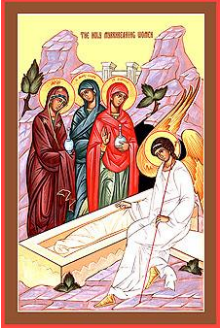
“Joyful Connections” is the charity we donate to for the month of May.



COFFEE HOUR SPONSOR LIST

May 4 - Laura
 May 11 - Bobbie and Mat. Michelle
 May 18 - Natalia

Please sign up to host coffee hour. Signup sheet is located in the Social Hall



Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-bearing Women with the Noble Joseph

Commemorated on May 4

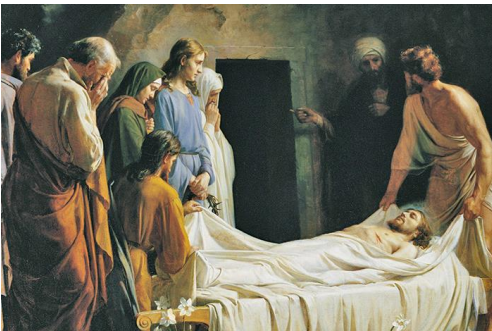
The Myrrh-bearing women are those women who followed the Lord, along with His Mother. They remained with her during the time of the saving Passion, and anointed the Lord's body with myrrh. Joseph and Nikódēmos asked for and received the Lord's body from Pilate. They took it down from the Cross, wrapped it in linen cloths and spices, then they laid it in a tomb, and then they placed a great stone over the entrance of the tomb.

According to the Evangelist Matthew (27:57-61) Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses (Mark 15:40) were there sitting opposite the sepulcher, and they saw where He had been laid. This other Mary was the Mother of God. Not only were these present, but also many other women, as Saint Luke says (24:10).

Today the Church honors Saints Mary Magdalene (July 22), Mary the wife of Cleopas (May 23), Joanna (June 27), Salome, mother of the sons of Zebedee (August 3), Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus (June 4), and the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who was the stepmother of her husband Joseph's sons James (October 23) and Joses (October 30). Today we also remember Saint Joseph of Arimathea (July 31), who was a secret disciple (John 19:38), and Saint Nikódēmos, who was a disciple by night (John 3:3; 19:38).

The holy right-believing Queen Tamara of Georgia is honored twice during the year: on May 1, the day of her repose, and also on the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women.

On this day the Church also remembers All Saints of Thessalonica, Saint Seraphim Bishop of Phanar (December 4, 1610), the New Martyr Elias Ardunis (January 31, 1686), and the New Martyr Demetrios of the Peloponnesos (April 13, 1803).



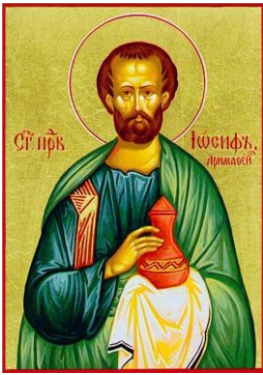
Saint Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemos, and the Holy Myrrhbearing Women by Fr. Bill Olnhansen

Christ is risen! Truly he is risen!

The Church Fathers did nothing haphazardly. During Pascha, as our lectionary takes us through the Gospel of John, the Fathers selected particular Sunday readings for a reason. This week we get a very clear moral lesson from these holy men and women who ministered to the Lord after his death. In the following weeks we will hear, in symbol, how Christ works with us for our salvation.

Do you know the stories of these wonderful saints?

Saint Joseph of Arimathea



Arimathea was a suburb of Jerusalem. Matthew 27:58 says that Joseph bravely went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus and laid it in a tomb which he had intended for his family – as Jesus possibly was; read on. It was a cave, since there isn't much soil for burial around there. Note the double symbolism: Both at Christ's Birth and at his Resurrection new Life for the world came forth from the darkness of a cave.

Joseph was a wealthy member of the Jewish high council the Sanhedrin which had condemned Jesus to death on Holy Friday morning – “a good and righteous man, who had not consented to their decision or action.” He was from the Judean town of Arimathea, “and was waiting for the kingdom of God.” *Luke 23:50-51* – “a rich man ...who had himself become a disciple of Jesus.” *Matthew 27:57*. That's all the Scriptures tell about him.

Tradition in both East and West says that after the Resurrection Joseph was expelled from the Sanhedrin, fled Jerusalem and went to England. A British story goes on to say that Joseph was uncle of the Virgin Mary, that he had made his money trading tin between the mines of Cornwall and the Middle East, and that on one voyage to England he had taken the boy Jesus along with him.

This was the inspiration for the hymn above, by William Blake (d. 1827), a mystic who thought the industrial revolution with its “dark Satanic mills” was destroying England, and maybe it did. It is sung at almost every national event – a lovely hymn, but I wonder how many Brits today, in their post-Christian era, have any idea what it's all about.

British tradition says Joseph had trouble with a druid chieftain and so fled to southwest England to a place called Glastonbury, which became the first Christian settlement in Britain. An ancient thorn bush grew there (Matushka Danna and I saw it) said to be descended from the crown of thorns which Joseph removed from the Lord's head. The Glastonbury bush died in 1991. I wonder if it was because by then Glastonbury had become a New Age center. The French, however, say the real crown of thorns is in Notre Dame Cathedral and escaped the recent fire. A later and dubious legend says Joseph also brought the Holy Grail (the cup from the Last Supper) to England, the quest for which was the principle occupation of King Arthur and his knights. But who knows?

Joseph died in England far from homeland and family, and his relics were venerated at Glastonbury, apparently till Henry VIII destroyed them.

Nicodemus



All we know about his background is that John says he was a Pharisee and a “ruler of the Jews,” presumably a member of the Sanhedrin. It was he who early in Jesus' ministry went to him by night (obviously afraid of being seen) seeking truth. It was to Nicodemus that Christ said “You must be born again of water and the Spirit” – that is, Baptism and Chrismation. *John 3* * When the Pharisees condemned Jesus, Nicodemus objected: “Does our law condemn a man without first hearing him to find out what he has been doing?” *John 7:51* After he assisted with Christ's burial, it is said he was martyred by the Jews. We have no details, but John writes as if Nicodemus was someone known to his readers.

In the New Testament, being born again – “new birth,” “rebirth,” “regeneration” – consistently refers not to a religious experience but to Baptism. We can also have later moments of spiritual renewal which are a very good thing, but we are born into eternal life once – in Holy Baptism.

The Holy Myrrh bearing Women

Mark names only three: Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of Joses, and Salome. Luke adds Joanna. Both accounts say there were others. Tradition adds Mary, Martha and Susanna to make seven. Many accounts add an eighth, Mary the wife of Cleopas.

1 Mary Magdalene (from Magdala near the sea of Galilee) is best known. She had followed Jesus since early in his ministry. Christ had healed her of seven demons, which was a way of saying she had had big problems. Western Christians claim she had been a prostitute, but nothing in the Bible or ancient tradition says this. John says she was first to arrive at the tomb and meet the risen Lord. This is one of our eleven Matins Resurrection Gospels – read on a rotating cycle, one each Sunday.

Mary remained in Gethsemane and through her tears saw someone she took to be the gardener, till he turned and said to her “Mary.” Mary ran and told the Apostles, “I have seen the Lord!” Every time we read this story I get the holy chills- it is so full of wonder and joy.

Orthodox title Mary “Isapostolos”, ισαπόστολος, “Equal to the Apostles,” the first to proclaim the Resurrection. Legend says she later went to Rome and gave Tiberius Caesar a red egg, saying “Christ is risen!” – presumably the origin of our distributing red eggs at Pascha – and that later she lived in Ephesus near John the Theologian and the Lord’s Mother. Some French say she later went to France, but I don’t think so. She has her own feast day, July 22. *The Davinci Code* has long blown over now, but just in case: She was **not** married to Jesus! Honestly, where do these off-the-wall notions come from?!

2 Salome wife of Zebedee the fisherman, mother of the apostles James and John. Tradition says she was cousin of the Virgin Mary, making young John the Beloved Disciple Jesus’ second cousin (I think?), which would explain why they were so close.

3 Joanna wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward. It was she who rescued the head of John the Baptist and later assisted the apostles in Jerusalem

4 Susanna, known only as a friend of Mary Magdalene.

5 and 6 Mary and Martha whom you know – sisters of Lazarus, friends of the Lord Jesus, at whose home in Bethany he stayed when he was in the Jerusalem area – especially during Holy Week.

7 Mary mother of James and Joses. Some say she was wife of Cleopas. Others says she was not, which would make:

8 Mary the wife of Cleopas, who along with Luke walked unknowing with the risen Lord on the road to Emmaus on Pascha night.

Why did these Blessed Ones perform this act of charity?

For us who know Christ is risen, it is hard to remember how utterly despairing and despondent all these people felt as they cared for the Body of Jesus. Remember the sweet but mournful hymn from Holy Friday: “Noble Joseph, taking down Thy most pure Body from the Tree, wrapped it in clean linen, anointed it with spices, and laid it in a new tomb.” And that, they thought, was the end of the song.

But on this Third Sunday, we sing it again, now adding a verse: “But on the third day thou didst arise, O Lord, granting great mercy to the world.”

However, when Joseph asked for the Lord’s Body there was nothing he could possibly expect out of this act of mercy except trouble. There could be no reward from a corpse. He had lost hope, now, that this Man had been the Messiah. His fellow members of the Sanhedrin were already greatly suspicious of Joseph for his disloyalty – why had he not adhered to the party line? why had he not voted to condemn Jesus? Joseph had much to lose by claiming the Body of this Man whom the Romans had executed for treason and whom the Jews had condemned to death for blasphemy.

So why did he do it? The Gospel account doesn't tell us – but my guess is that it was more than simply an act of charity. I suspect Joseph was also trying to redeem his virtue. Though he had quietly not voted to condemn Jesus, surely, he was now saying to himself: If only I had spoken up, tried harder to stop this. He knew firsthand how unjustly the Sanhedrin had condemned this innocent Man, and how utterly blasphemous (*they* were the blasphemers!) when they sold out to Rome, crying to Pilate “We have no king but Caesar”. Those frauds. Likewise, Pilate knew Jesus was innocent. “But what wrong has he done?” he had cried. “I find no fault in him” – and then how Pilate had literally washed his hands of the matter, and sacrificed his conscience and condemned this innocent Man to death – all in order to save his career. It was enough to make Joseph want to wash *himself* in lye soap. So my guess is that Joseph's conscience said to him: That's it. That's as far as I go! I may lose it all, but I've got to do something to prove that I'm not one of “them”, those hypocrites pretending to be holy religious leaders, that self-seeking politician who cares only for himself. And so in order to try to become an honest man, to redeem his “character”, Joseph acted now in a way the whole world would see. He went and asked for the Body of Jesus.

Never imagining what would come of it: Christ risen from the dead! And that twenty centuries later it would be from *Joseph's own tomb* that the Holy Fire miraculously appears every Pascha. And that every Pascha in 100,000 Orthodox churches and monasteries all around the world, priests would come out from the altar as if from *Joseph's tomb* chanting, “Come, take light from the Light that is never overtaken by night”. And that an image of *Joseph himself* would lie upon the altar of every Orthodox Church in the world. All from this one act of repentance and charity.

Why did the Holy Myrr bearers anoint the Body of Jesus? This is simpler: Duty. They likewise had no expectation of what was about to happen to them. But women anointing the bodies of the dead in those days, and they hadn't completed it on the eve of the Sabbath when such things couldn't be done. But it had to be done, so as soon as they could they went to do it. Duty. And so they met Christ risen from the dead.

Nor could they ever have imagined that 2000 years later the image of them ministering to a dead Man also would lie on the altars of every Orthodox church and monastery in the world, whereon has been celebrated every Divine Liturgy, millions of them by now, honoring their place in the life-giving Death and Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Moral of the Story

This is simple:

- 1** Like Joseph, do what is right, not counting the cost. Don't cooperate with the rats. Keep your conscience clear.
- 2** Like the Myrrh bearers, do your duty. Do what you ought to do, even when it's hard – hard to be faithful to your Lord, to your Church, to your spouse, to your family, to your principles, to your Faith.
- 3** Like all of them, never fail to practice charity, especially towards the poor and abandoned. Jesus was once one of these, wasn't he? In fact, he told us that he still is, and when we minister to them, we minister to him.

That's it. It's simple. But not easy.

For when you do these things, you never know what wonderful, life-giving, world-shaking things might come of it!

However, you do know something quieter that will definitely come of it: You will know the living Christ for yourself. “He who has my commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him... and we will come to him and make our home with him.” *John 23:21,23*