

# ICHC NTKRA SAINTS PETER AND PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America  
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**CHRIST IS RISEN! ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕС! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!**

قيام لمسيح! **KHRISTA AMAFOOFOOKA!** ქრისტე აღსდგა!

**KRISTUS ER OPPSTANDEN! ΠΙΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΒΤΟΝΦ ΕΒΟΛ!**

그리스도께서 부활하셨습니다! **KRISTUS NOUSI KUOLLEISTA!** ἮΑ CRIOST AR EIRI!

May 8, 2011	Sunday of Myrrhbearing Women. Saint John the Evangelist	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am
May 14	Saturday	Great Vespers	4:00 pm
May 15	Sunday of the Paralytic	Divine Liturgy	9:30 am

**Grant, Lord, Peaceful and Prosperous Life, Health and Salvation to  
His Grace, the Right Reverend MICHAEL  
Bishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey  
On the anniversary of his consecration to the Episcopacy,  
And Grant Him Many Blessed Years!**

**Saints of the Day:** Holy Myrrhbearers: Mary Magdalene, Mary the wife of Cleopas, Salome, Susanna, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and Joses, Saint Joseph of Arimathea, Saint Nicodemus. Holy Apostle Evangelist John the Theologian (117). Venerable Arsenius the Great of Scetis (448). Venerables Arsenius, Lover of Labor (14 c) and Pimen the Ascetic (12 c), of Kiev Caves. Venerable Arsenius of Novgorod, Fool-for-Christ (1570). Venerable Hierax of Egypt (5 c). Monks Zosima and Adrian of Volokolamsk (16 c). Saint Emilia (375), mother of Saints Macrina, Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa. Venerable Cassian, Recluse and Faster of Kiev Caves (14 c). Saint Macarius of Ghent, Archbishop (1012). Saint Iduberga, Foundress of Nijvel (652). Hiermartyrs Indract and Companions at Shapwick. Saint Wiro, Bishop of Utrecht. Saint Odger, Hierodeacon of Odilienberg. Saint Monk Milles the Melode. Saint Gibrian, Hermit in Ireland (515). Saint Catald of Taranto, Bishop (7 c).

**God Grant Many Years!** To all our Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers, Aunts and Sisters.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Ester Hladysz were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Cheryl Foss.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of cousin Spencer Williams, Masami Fuseki, Archpriest Mark and Matushka Sheila Shinn, Mary DeMayo and Archimandrite Isidore were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Hilda Berezniak were offered today at Liturgy and Moleben at the request of Father John Udics and Katherine Kavalkovich.

**God Grant Many Years!** Prayers for the health of Archpriest John Udics were offered today on his nameday at Liturgy and Moleben by Archimandrite Isidore (Brittain).

**Christ is Risen.** In memory of all our Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers, Aunts and Sisters.

**Christ is Risen.** Prayers for the repose of the souls of Metropolitan THEODOSIUS (Nagashima) and Metropolitan LEONTY were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of Father John Udics.

**Christ is Risen.** Prayers for the repose of the soul of Frank Prawlocki were offered today at Liturgy and Litiya at the request of family.

**Please remember in your prayers:** Hilda, Reader Matthew, Ada, Don, Rea, Daniel, Aaron, Archpriest Jason, Mark, Jennifer, Nina, Priest Sergius, Nadine, Helen, Anna, Thomas, Archpriest Vincent, Mother Raphaela, John, Catherine, Ron, Albert, Michael, Gregory, Emma, Cathy, John, Mykola, Dan, Wayne, Nina, Dan, Isaiah, Robert, Robert, Kevin, Andrew, David, Warren, Archimandrites Athanasy, Isidore, Nectarios, Pachomy.

## REMINDERS FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

- May 14: Saturday: HOLY MYRRHBEARERS MONASTERY 34<sup>th</sup> Patronal Pilgrimage: 10:00 am
- **May 15: Sunday: Archpastoral Visitation of Bishop MICHAEL. Paschal Dinner, Egg Hunt**
- June 11: 5-7 pm. Pin-O-Rama in Utica for our young people. 2 games, shoe rental, pizza and soda: \$12 each
- June 12: Pentecost: Potluck Lunch after Liturgy, before going to the Cemetery
- July 4: Monday: Saints Peter and Paul will host the Deanery Clergy: 10 children, 30 adults + us.

**A word from Saint Alexis Toth** [Sermon (September 1908)]. I think now that it was historically made possible and was in the Lord's plan, that we had to leave the Old Country, to return to Orthodoxy and now take part in the historical return of the English-speaking people to Orthodoxy.... How wonderful that will be for us here in America, when we will be able to find in every town, every village, people who share the same faith? Therefore

we should turn our faces to the Holy Virgin, pray to the Holy Spirit to come as He did on Pentecost over the Apostles and unite in love our people and the English-speaking peoples.

**From Saint John Chrysostom's *Homily 88 on Matthew 27*. – Mark 15:43-16:8**

“Mark how great the women's assiduity. 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 the ghost; how the rocks were rent and all the rest. These women were the first to see Jesus; and the sex that was most condemned first enjoys the sight of the blessings; this sex shows its courage the most. And when the disciples had fled, these were present...His mother and the others..., and Joseph, who had been concealing his discipleship of late, now became very bold after the death of Christ. He was by no means an obscure person ...but one of the council and highly distinguished; from which circumstance especially one may see his courage. For he exposed himself to death, taking great enmity upon him from all by his affection for Jesus, both having dared to beg the body, and not having desisted until he obtained it. But not by taking it only, nor by burying it in a costly manner, but also by laying it in his own new tomb, he shows his love and his courage ...

“Do you see the women's courage? Do you see their affection? Do you see their noble spirit in matters of money? their noble spirit even unto death? Let us men imitate the women; let us not forsake Jesus in temptations. For the women, even when He was dead, spent so much and exposed their lives for him, but we neither feed Him when hungry, nor clothe Him when naked, but seeing Him go begging, we pass Him by. And yet if we saw Him in fact, everyone would strip himself of all his goods...

“But perhaps some one will say, “You are every day discoursing to us of almsgiving and humanity.” Neither will I cease to speak of this ... For who from these discourses has become more forward in the giving of alms? Who has cast down his money? Who has given half of his substance? Who even a third? No one. How then should it be other than absurd, when you do not learn, to require us to desist from teaching? You ought to do the contrary. ...For indeed you do the same in blaming me as a little child, hearing often of the letter ‘a’ and not learning it, were to blame his teacher because he is continually and for ever reminding him about it...”

### **Feast of the Myrrh-Bearing Women, Saint Joseph of Arimathea and Saint Nicodemus**

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

11th May 1997

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

We keep today the feast of a number of the followers of Christ of whom we think seldom, because they are mentioned very little in the Scriptures. And each of them could be a lesson for us.

Saint Joseph of Arimathea was a rich man who listened to Christ with an open mind and did not commit himself. Neither did Nicodemus, but Nicodemus was a learned man, part of the Sanhedrin. He had been listening to Christ, he had been asking questions from Him, he wanted to understand, he wanted to be sure. But neither of them had committed themselves to follow Christ, to declare themselves as His disciples.

And yet, when Christ in the eyes of everyone was defeated, when victory had come to His enemies, when He was dead, about to be buried, their faithfulness to Him who had taught them words of life came to the fore. And they joined the Mother of God to bring down the body of Christ and to bury him. Daringly they went to Pontius Pilate and asked for this body so that they could bury Him with veneration. In the course of Christ's life they had been listening to Him with a hesitant yet open mind. When death came their faithfulness sprang to the fore. And seeing the pain of the Mother of God and Saint John the Apostle there was no doubt left in them: they must declare themselves, because they could not accept that He should be rejected through defeat after having been their teacher, their guide and their friend.

And then there is another group of people, the myrrh-bearing women, a group of women who had been following Christ and supporting Him and His disciples in their need. When Christ was crucified all the apostles fled, with the exception of Saint John and with the exception of these women. It was not an intellectual conviction that held them as disciples of Christ. It was something which perhaps could be defined in the words of the pilgrims to Emmaus: 'was not our heart burning within us when He was speaking to us on the way'. All the way from Galilee to Jerusalem, from the peace of the land to the tragedy of Jerusalem, all this time they had been listening and their hearts had come to life - not with personal love but with a deep sense of life eternal. These are the words which also Saint Peter had said earlier, when most people who surrounded them had left, and Christ turned to his disciples and said: are you also going to go? And Peter said: where should we go? You have the words of eternal life. And these words were not simply syllogisms, or proofs, or ways of conveying things. When Christ spoke it was life eternal that was awoken in them - the door into eternal life that came to life. And they knew these words were true because there was new life in them. So was it also for these women.

So today we keep the feast of people who proved faithful, the ones who in their frailty had not fled, and the ones who in the face of defeat and tragedy had suddenly become disciples and faithful. Let us remember them, not only seeing their glory as we have done today in the service, but also asking ourselves: do we belong, to any extent, to the example given by one or another of them? Can we say that in the face of the defeat of Christ we would come out and say: I am one of His disciples, although in the time when there was no danger around I kept out, hesitant, unsure, asking myself questions, indeed asking Him questions? Is any one of us Joseph of Arimathea, is any one Nicodemus, and can we say that we are like these myrrh-bearing women, whom neither the needs nor the defeat nor the death of Christ had been able to alienate from Him?

None of us is any of it to the full, but let us learn from them and try to grow into that faithfulness which they have shown, - the ones throughout the life of Christ, and the other ones in the face of His defeat. Amen.

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**The List of Parishioner information** is being updated. This new list includes email addresses, web pages etc. Forms for each parishioner to fill out are at the candle desk. Please fill out your update form and leave it at the candle desk as soon as you can. Thank you!