

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN



Icon of the Myrrh-bearing Women

May 8, 2011
Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women

Festal Tone

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 10 – MAY 15

SATURDAY, MAY 14

No Vespers

SUNDAY, MAY 15 – SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC MAN

9:30 Am Divine Liturgy

For All Parishioners

Cards for sale

Various Greeting Cards are available for sale in the church hall following each Divine Liturgy. See Mary Kitt to purchase.

Вічна Пам'ять! Eternal Memory!

Alice Melnik, long-time parishioner and former housekeeper for Fr. Kurylo fell asleep in the Lord in February. No additional information is available at this time. Let us remember her in our prayers

Mothers Day!



Today we celebrate Mothers Day with a special Luncheon following the Divine Liturgy.

Please join us so that we can all celebrate that essential role in the Christian Family – the Mother.

Last Sunday's Bulletin

If you haven't yet picked up last Sunday's bulletin, it is available in the church hall, or on our website, stjohnthebaptizer.org.



On Charity and Love

"God protects and loves the charitable and philanthropic person."

– St. John Chrysostom

Enlarging Your Circle of Friendship

Often times when we come to church we find ourselves mingling with the same group of people; people with whom we may have a special affinity or perhaps people with whom we may have formed lasting friendships – and this is a great and wonderful thing! Yet, at the same time, we mustn't pass up the opportunity to interact with and get to know people outside our circle of friends. There is nothing better than a unified parish, whose circle of friendship includes everyone. Take a moment each Sunday to get to know someone different – you won't regret it!

Notes for the Paschal Season:

- ❖ We greet each other with the Paschal salutation, "Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!" for 40 days, until Ascension Day.
- ❖ We do **not** kneel or make prostrations either at church services or in our homes until the "Kneeling Prayers" at Pentecost.
- ❖ "Christ is risen" is sung / said at the beginning and end of all prayers until the leave-taking of Pascha on the Eve of Ascension.
- ❖ The prayer, "O Heavenly King" is omitted until Pentecost, being replaced with the Troparion of Pascha and then Ascension.

THE TESTIMONY THAT CHRIST ROSE FROM THE DEAD

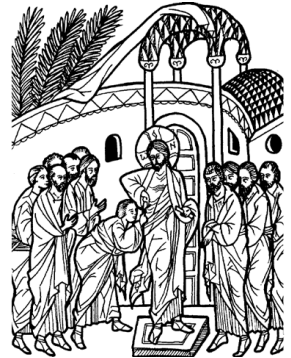
From Mystagogy: johnsanidopoulos.com

It may come as a surprise that one of the most reliable testified events in the ancient world is the resurrection of Christ, recorded in writing within a generation after the event (see 1 Corinthians 15) and fully testified within two generations while the majority of the witnesses were still alive. To understand how rare this is in the ancient world, one need only look at such a historical figure as Alexander the Great, whose earliest biography was not written until about 400 years after his death, after the earliest written testimony for Jesus.

Twelve Resurrection Appearances in the New Testament

There are twelve indisputable resurrection appearances recorded in the New Testament which spanned a time period of forty days following the event of the resurrection. Our Lord appeared to the following people:

- ❖ Mary Magdalene (Mk. 16:9-11; Jn. 20:11-18)
- ❖ The Myrrhbearing women (Mt. 28:9-10)
- ❖ Two disciples on way to Emmaus (Mk. 16:12-13; Lk. 24:13-32)
- ❖ Peter (Lk. 24:34; 1 Cor. 15:4)
- ❖ Ten disciples (Lk. 24:36-43; Jn. 20:19-25)
- ❖ Eleven disciples (Mk. 16:14; Jn. 26-29)
- ❖ Seven disciples (Jn. 21: 1-23)
- ❖ Eleven disciples on the mountain (Mt. 28:16-20)
- ❖ Over five hundred disciples (1 Cor. 15:6)
- ❖ James, the brother of our Lord (1 Cor. 15:7)
- ❖ Disciples in Bethany at Ascension (Lk. 24:50-53; Acts. 1:2-12)
- ❖ Paul (1 Cor. 15:8)



We should mention that Acts 1:3 records that the Lord appeared many times over a forty day period following His resurrection from the dead, so the appearances are not limited to only twelve.

How many saw the resurrected Christ?

Over a period of forty days Christ rarely appeared to only one individual disciple. Usually many were present, and He gave ample evidence that His resurrection was in His physical body (they touched His wounds and saw Him eat). From the testimony in the New Testament, we know that well over five hundred people saw the risen Jesus, usually in groups, and there are no contradictions in the accounts nor recorded disputes about these appearances by those who saw Him.

When did they see the resurrected Christ?

Interestingly, all the resurrection appearances occurred either during the day, afternoon or towards evening. Never is a resurrection appearance recorded at night, lest it be confused with a dream.

Where was the risen Christ seen?

The risen Christ appeared in many different areas, both indoors and outdoors. He was seen:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| ❖ Near His tomb | ❖ Inside a home | ❖ Outdoors |
| ❖ On a well travelled road | ❖ A mountain | ❖ Judea |
| ❖ The seashore | ❖ A city | ❖ Galilee |

How did they see the risen Jesus?

The appearances of Christ were not passing visions, but they lasted over many hours to people of different backgrounds and occupations, where He would eat with those He appeared to and have conversations with them. None of them had previously believed that He would rise from dead, so initially the appearances confirmed the event and clarified teachings they may not have understood.

- ❖ The Apostle John writes in 1 Jn 1:1-4 that they heard, they saw, and they touched the risen Christ.
- ❖ The Apostle Peter says in Acts 10:41 that they ate and drank with the risen Christ.



**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква
Святого Йоана Хрестителя
St. John the Baptizer
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

Святкуємо 50-років!

Celebrating 50 Years!

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The Myrrh-Bearing Women

The Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women ... reminds us that the love and faithfulness of a few individuals shone brightly in the midst of hopeless darkness. It calls us to ensure that in this world love and faithfulness do not disappear or die out. It judges our lack of courage, our fear, our endless and servile rationalizations. The mysterious Joseph and Nicodemus, and these women who go to the grave at dawn, occupy so little space in the gospels. Precisely here, however, is where the eternal fate of each of us is decided.

Today, I think, we are especially in need of recovering this love and basic human loyalty. For we have entered a time when even these are being discredited by harmful concepts of the person and human life now prevailing in this world. For centuries, the world still had the weak, but still

flickering and shining, glow from that faithfulness, love and co-suffering which was silently present at the sufferings of the Man cast aside by all. And we need to cling, as if to a last thread, to everything in our world that still thrives on the warm light of simple, earthly, human love. Love does not ask about theories and ideologies, but speaks to the heart and soul. Human history has rumbled along, kingdoms have risen and fallen, cultures have been built and bloody wars fought, but what has remained unchanging on earth and in this troubled and tragic history is the bright image of the woman. An image of care, self-giving, love, compassion. Without this presence, without this light, our world, regardless of its successes and accomplishments, would be a world of terror.

Father Alexander Schmemann