

Holy Apostles Orthodox Church

347 Ridge Rd, Lansing, NY 14882

HolyApostlesLansing.org

Fr Joel Brady, Rector 570 251 1963

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APRIL 30, 2017

THIRD SUNDAY OF PASCHA: MYRRHBEARING WOMEN, JOSEPH, AND NICODEMUS. Tone 2. Holy Apostle James (Jacob), the brother of St. John the Theologian (44 A.D.). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Nikita, Bishop of Novgorod (1558). St. Donatus, Bishop of Euroea in Epirus (ca. 387). Uncovering of the Relics of St. Basil, Bishop of Amasea (4th c.). Martyr Maximus of Ephesus. St. Ignátii (Ignatius) Brianchaninov, Bishop of Stavropol' (1867). The "PASSION" Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos.

EPISTLES: 6:1-7: The seven Deacons are appointed to their ministry.

Acts 12:1-11: James the brother of John is martyred, but Peter is set free.

GOSPELS: Mark 15:43-16:8: Joseph and Nicodemus bury Jesus; the women find Him risen.

Luke 5:1-11: The Apostles are called as "fishers of men."

COFFEE HOUR: This week: Tarallo Next week: Potluck

CORNELL LECTURE SERIES: The Cornell ocf lecture series concludes this week with Mother Magdalena's talk "In Search of Solid Ground: From New Age Hippie to Orthodox Nun" on Wednesday, May 3 at 7:30 PM in the Edwards Room of Anabel Taylor Hall. Please plan to attend! Posters are available in the back of the church to help publicize the lecture series.

FOOD PANTRY HELP: The Lansing Food Pantry would love to have people from our parish come and help distribute food. They are open two days per month; please see Fr Joel for more information.

SMALL PARISH FORUM: A "small parish forum" will be held in New Kensington, PA July 13-15. This is hosted by the Archdiocese of Western Pennsylvania and the Diocese of the Midwest, but people from our diocese are welcome as well. Information is available at <http://www.ocadwpa.org/smallparishforum.html>; please see Fr. Joel if you would be interested in attending.

ST. TIKHON'S SEMINARY COMMENCEMENT AND PILGRIMAGE: St. Tikhon's Monastery will be holding its annual pilgrimage on Memorial Day weekend. The pilgrimage weekend open Friday afternoon, May 26, with the arrival of the Hawaiian Myrrh-streaming Icon at 3:30 PM and close with Vespers and Matins on Monday evening, May 29, at 4 PM. On Saturday, May 27, the St.

Tikhon's Seminary commencement will be held, including the graduation of our own Reader Ivan from the diaconal program. More information is available on the oca website.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND: The oca Dept of Evangelization, along with Abp Michael, announce a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, June 4-17, 2017. For more information or to reserve your spot, please visit the diocesan webpage.

KNOW YOUR FAITH: The next "Know Your Faith" series will be discussing Serge Verhovskoy's *The Light of the World*. (Not to be confused with Fr. Alexander Schmemmann's *For the Life of the World*, the subject of a recent "Know Your Faith" series.) Day and time are still to be determined, but let Fr Joel know if you are interested: a schedule can be worked out with those who'd like to attend.

WELCOME VISITORS! We warmly welcome all of our visitors! Please know that we are glad to have you here praying with us, and we invite you to stay after the service to enjoy a meal and meet everyone in our community.

PRAYER SCROLL

LIVING:

Apr Timothy H
Apr Herman S
Apr Sergius K
Apr Thomas E
Apr Stephen M
Apr John R
Apr Patrick C
Pr Adam S & Angie
Mother Raphaela
Mother Christophora
Mat Joanna B
Mat Katya
Mat Mary G
Kh Lynn
Joshua
Brittany
Gretchen
Marianne
Terrence
Helen
Judy
Mary & Susan
John & Carmine
Nathan

Leah
Helen
Lindsey
Elizabeth
Mary
Joe A
Daniel
Andrew & family
Carol
Wilhelmina
Elizabeth
David
Shirley
Christina
Jim & Kim
Rachel
Constantine & Maria
Gaetan
Christine
Samuel
Lisa
Lyudmila
Nickolay
Anetta
Zachary

Iconographer Helena
Natasha, Lena, Vera,
Sergei
Caleb
Danielle
Larry, Mark, Katie
Ann
Dorothy
Ronald
Sheryl & Lacey
Alexander, Angela,
Anton
Peter
Gregory & Ann
Raymond
Vincent
Photini
Robert
Steven, Stephanie,
and family
Diana
Elizabeth
John
Felicia
Nicholas

Children: Anthony,
Mia, Isabel, Bear,
Victoria, Iva Bell,
Panagiotis, Ada,
Grace, Elias, Jack
Seminarians: Rdrs
Robert & Ivan
Birthdays:
Ronald
Anniversaries:
Namesdays:

REPOSED:
Apr John U
Priest Matthew
Priest John
Apr Alexander
Dn Mark
Rdr Gregory
Daniel
Ada
Lillian
Joseph
Marie
Joseph
Laura

Martha
Stanley
Taissia
Steluța
Theophan
Lynda
Florence
James
James R
Vasily
Mordecai
Alexandr
Ron
John
Eleanor
Harold
Alfred
Edward
Michael
Mat Julianna
Mario
Newly Reposed:
Robert, James

BY THE NUMBERS: Last Collection: \$2587.60. Building Fund: \$1173.00.
Weekly Budget: \$1150. MTD: \$7650.60. Monthly Budget: \$4600

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Confessions are heard before and after Vespers or by appointment.

Sunday, April 30: 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

Monday, May 1: Rector's Sabbath

Tuesday, May 2: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer with Akathist "The Inexhaustible Cup"

Wednesday, May 3: 8:30 AM Matins

Thursday, May 4: 9 AM Divine Liturgy (St. Vasily Martysz)

Friday, May 5: 8:30 AM Morning Prayer

Saturday, May 6: 6 PM Great Vespers

Sunday, May 7: 9:10 AM Hours, 9:30 AM Divine Liturgy and Social Hour

PRAYER FOR CHURCH GROWTH

Again, we pray to Thee, O Lord our God, that Thou wouldst renew us and this parish by the Power of the Holy Spirit. Fill us with love and longing for Thee. Grant that we would seek not our own will, but to do Thy will in all things and to be willing to lay down our lives out of love for Thee and for our neighbor. Draw thirsty souls to this place and remove their spiritual blindness, granting them through Thy grace to see the beauty of Thy Holy Glory in this place. Fill this community with new life, spiritual vigor, and an insatiable desire to live godly and holy lives. Forgive us all of our sins as we fall down before Thee. Bring us all to a greater repentance and to an amendment of our lives as we look to Thee, the only merciful and loving Lord, Who calls all to salvation. We beg Thee, our merciful Lord, hear us, grant all of these petitions and all of our requests unto salvation: we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

FROM THE PENTECOSTARION

O women disciples,
why do you mingle myrrh with tears?
The stone is gone; the tomb is empty.
Behold, corruption destroyed by life!
The seals witness that the guards of the godless have watched in vain.
Mortal nature has been saved by the flesh of God.
Hell is wailing.
Go with joy, and proclaim to the Apostles:
"Christ has slain death as the first-born of the dead.
He awaits you in Galilee!"

Glory to God for all things!

HOLY APOSTLES ORTHODOX CHURCH LANSING, NEW YORK



SUNDAY, A 30, 2017
MYRRHBEARING WOMEN
JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA AND NICODEMUS

A SERMON ON THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of Sourozh

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

We remember today the Myrrh-bearing women, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, people who in the course of the Gospel are hardly mentioned, yet who, when Christ was seemingly defeated, when death, rejection, betrayal and hatred had conquered, proved to be people of faithfulness and courage, the faithfulness of the heart and the courage that can be born only of love. At the moment of the Crucifixion all the Apostles had fled save one, John, who stood at the foot of the Cross with the Mother of God. Everyone else had abandoned Christ, only a small group of women stood at a short distance from the Cross, and when He had died, they came to anoint His Body which Joseph of Arimathea had sought from Pilate, unafraid of being recognised as a disciple, because in life and in death love and faithfulness had conquered.

Let us reflect on this. It is easy to be Christ's disciples when we are on the crest of the wave, in the security of countries where no persecution, no rejection is endured, no betrayal can lead us to martyrdom, or simply to becoming the victims of mockery and rejection.

Let us think of ourselves not in regard to Christ alone but with regard to one another, because Christ has said that what we have done to any one of us, to the smallest, to the most insignificant, we have done to Him.

Let us ask ourselves how we behave when someone is rejected, mocked, ostracised, condemned by public opinion or by the opinion of those who mean something to us, whether at that moment our heart remains faithful, whether at that moment we find courage to say, "He was, and he remains my friend whether you accept or reject him." There is no greater measure of faithfulness than that faithfulness which is made manifest in defeat. Let us consider this, because we all are defeated, we are defeated in so many ways. We all strive, with whatever energy we have – a little or much, to be what we should be, and we are defeated at every moment. Should we not look at one another not only with compassion, but with the faithfulness of friends who are prepared to stand by a person who falls, falls away from grace, falls away from his own ideal, frustrates all hopes and expectations which we have set on him or her. At that time let us stand by, at that time let us be faithful and prove that our love was not conditioned by the hope of victory but was a wholehearted gift, gratuitous, joyful, wonderful. Amen.

A HYMN OF PRAISE

St Joseph of Arimathea, by St. Nikolai of Žiča

Joseph, a wealthy and noble man,
Was not tempted concerning Christ the Crucified,
But when the sun darkened and the earth shook,
He went to Pilate and brought him news
That the Lord had died, the Giver of life;
And so the secret disciple became public.
And when the Revealed One was concealed, the concealed one came out into the
open;
Thus the wise Joseph became famous in a day.
With Nicodemus, he took Christ's body,
And laid it in his garden, in a new tomb.
The Jewish spies heard and reported it,
and they put the righteous Joseph in chains.
In the dark prison, Joseph languished,
While his Lord shone forth in Hades.
Joseph pondered his memories of Christ,
Recalling His wondrous works,
And His many miracles, sayings and prophecies.
While near Him, he had stood in God's presence:
But now all was dark, without and within.
Dark days, nights, evenings and mornings,
After the brilliant radiance of the shining sun!
Oh, desparate darkness, darker than hades!
But lo, suddenly it is dawn in the dungeon
The Risen One appears to the fettered servant.
O Joseph, brave and noble,
Neither were you tempted concerning the Risen One.
You informed Pilate of the death of Christ,
And you recognized and glorified the Risen One.
Let the land of Britain honorably glorify you,
For you sowed her first seed of salvation.

According to tradition, Joseph of Arimathea was thrown in prison by the Pharisees after burying Christ's body, but the Risen Christ appeared to him in prison. He was eventually freed, and went as far as Britain preaching the Gospel.

WEEKLY HYMNS FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 30

Troparion, Tone 2 (*Resurrection*)

When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,
You destroyed hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.
And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!”

Troparion, Tone 2 (*Joseph of Arimathea*)

The noble Joseph,
when he had taken down Your most pure Body from the Tree,
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices,
and placed it in a new tomb.
But You rose on the third day, O Lord,//
granting the world great mercy.

Troparion, Tone 2 (*from the Pentecostarion*)

The Angel came to the Myrrhbearing Women at the tomb and said:
“Myrrh is fitting for the dead;
but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption!
So proclaim: ‘The Lord is risen,//
granting the world great mercy.’”

Troparion, Tone 3 (*Apostle James*)

O holy Apostle James,
entreat the merciful God//
to grant our souls forgiveness of transgressions!

Kontakion, Tone 2 (*Apostle James*)

O James, when you heard the voice of the Word calling you,
you abandoned your father’s love and ran to Christ, together with your brother John.
With him you were accounted worthy//
to behold the divine Transfiguration of Christ.

Kontakion, Tone 2 (*Myrrhbearers*)

You commanded the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ God.
By Your Resurrection, You stopped the lamentation of Eve, the first mother.
You commanded them to preach to Your Apostles://
“The Savior is risen from the tomb!”

Prokeimenon, tone 6 (*Resurrection*)

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance!

v: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Another, Tone 8: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

Alleluia, Tone 8

v: O Lord, You have been gracious to Your land; You have turned back the captivity of Jacob.

v: Mercy and truth have met, righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Tone 1 v: The heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord; and Your truth in the congregation of the saints.

From *The Year of Grace of the Lord* by “A Monk of the Eastern Church” (Fr. Lev Gillet)

The women do not know how they will be able to get to the body of Jesus: “Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?” The Gospel makes clear that “it was very great.” Many of us might feel that the women’s question applies to ourselves. For, in many souls, Jesus seems to be buried as if in a sepulchre. He seems to be paralyzed, immobilized – even dead. He is covered by a heavy stone; the stone of sin, of ignorance, of indifference, the stone of bad habits that have accumulated over the years. Perhaps we may desire to take away this stone and reach the living Lord, but we do not have the strength. “Who shall roll us away this stone?”

The women’s undertaking – humanly speaking – seems to have no hope of success. And yet, they have set out. Without knowing how they will be able to get in to the sepulchre, they walk towards him. In the same way, without knowing how the obstacle which may prevent us from reaching the Saviour can be removed, let us trust. We can make a first move: we can get up; we can set out. Let us walk towards Jesus who is separated from us by the heavy stone, and allow faith and hope to guide us...

And, behold, a miracle has taken place. “They saw that the stone was rolled away.” The women would never have been able to move such an obstacle. But God himself has provided for this. The gospel that we read this Sunday does not tell us exactly how the stone was rolled away from the entrance to the sepulchre. Another gospel is more explicit: “And behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door...” This verse is rich with meaning. When the angel of the Lord comes to take away the stone from the sepulchre, he does not roll it gently away. It is not an operation which can be accomplished without effort, without a deep and violent upheaval. An earthquake is necessary. In the same way, the removal of whatever obstacle separated us from Jesus cannot be thought of as a partial adjustment. It is not a matter of taking off or rearranging some loose stones, of modifying some details and leaving the whole as unchanged as possible. In this case too, an earthquake is needed. It is to say that the change must be total, reaching into every aspect of our being. Conversion is a spiritual “earthquake.”