

--: HE IS NOT HERE! HE IS RISEN! --:

At the time of His Passion, our Lord seemingly stood alone against the world. Judas betrayed Him. Peter denied even knowing Him. The other Apostles ran away and hid, fearing for their safety.

Amidst this shameful display of faithlessness, the Gospel tells another tale – a story of unprecedented loyalty and devotion. This is the story of the **MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN**.

The Evangelists relate to us that throughout Christ's earthly ministry, He was accompanied by a small group of women, who cared for His needs and those of His small band of followers. They refused to desert their Master. Even when He endured His terrible Crucifixion, they stood in the shadow of the Cross until the end.

The loyalty of the Myrrh-Bearing Women did not stop there. Risking an encounter with the Roman soldiers assigned to guard the tomb of Christ, they bravely set out to anoint the Body of Jesus. Their sense of obligation to carry out the prescribed customs of their faith was much stronger than their fears. Little did they know that the greatest of rewards awaited them in the early hours of dawn on that first Pascha. The tomb was empty! Christ has risen, and they were the first to know this wonderful news! May the example of the Myrrh-Bearing Women inspire us to live similar lives of **LOVE** and **SERVICE** to our Savior.

The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin Vesal, Cliffwood, New Jersey Litho in U.S.A.

ABOUT COMMUNION

We are happy that you have joined us today. Indeed, we pray for the "unity of the Faith" for the day when all of Christianity are united as ONE and can share a common Chalice. However, this is not the case as yet. Please note that Holy Communion, the actual Body & Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, is only for Members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, and confession, & arrived before the Gospel reading. However, everyone is welcome to partake of the blessed bread and receive a blessing from the pastor at the dismissal. If you are interested, you may inquire with the pastor how you can become a member.

If you are a guest or otherwise not a regular communicant, please give your baptismal name when receiving.



VISITORS TO AN EMPTY TOMB



St. Anthony The Great Antiochian Orthodox Church

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WELCOME TO ST. ANTHONY'S

Where people from around the world come together to serve God and our community. We are glad you are worshipping with us today! This Church is one community of many in the One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. The Church of Antioch belongs to two thousand years of evangelization, teaching, history, and tradition which expresses the continued commitment of its members to the Orthodox Christian faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

St. Anthony Church is a Pan-Orthodox community, under the omophorion of His Beatitude Patriarch JOHN X within the Self-ruled Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America. If you are a first time visitor, please fill out the guest form located on the literature table. We want you to feel at home in prayer and worship. Please submit your names to the ushers and introduce yourself to Fr. Elia at the end of the service so he may welcome you personally.

Following services, please join us for sharing of fellowship, coffee, and food.

DIVINE LITURGY VARIABLES ON SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2023

NEW SUNDAY OR ANTI-PASCHA

SUNDAY OF THOMAS THE APOSTLE, CALLED "THE TWIN"

GREAT-MARTYR GEORGE THE TROPHY-BEARER

VARIOUS ARRANGEMENTS OF "CHRIST IS RISEN"

Arabic ([slow, chant](#)) // English ([slow, chant](#)) // English-Arabic-Greek ([quick, chant](#))

English-Greek ([slow, choral](#)) // Arabic ([slow, choral](#))

The Priest begins Divine Liturgy with "Blessed is the Kingdom" and the choir responds "Amen." Bearing the Paschal Candle, the Priest then leads the singing of the Paschal Apolytikion and censes the west side of the Altar Table.

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

~ The Choir then sings this twice, and the Liturgy continues with the Great Litany.

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

Shout with joy to God, all the earth; sing to His Name, give glory to His praises.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Say to God: How awesome are Thy works; let all the earth worship Thee, and sing to Thee. Let it sing a song to Thy Name, O Most High. (**Refrain**) Glory... Both now... (**Refrain**)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

May God have mercy upon us, and bless us, and may He cause His face to shine upon us, and have mercy upon us.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

That Thy way may be known upon earth, Thy salvation among all nations; let the peoples give thanks to Thee, O God, let all the peoples give thanks to Thee. (**Refrain**) May God bless us, and may all the ends of the earth fear Him. (**Refrain**) Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...

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"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness."

Genesis 1:26



2023 Parish Life Conference

Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

Miami, Florida

June 14-17, 2023

Hosted by St. George Cathedral Coral Gables, Florida at the Embassy Suites

Join us in Miami, Florida - the home of warm weather and beautiful beaches.

Register at www.miamiplc.org



Faith, Orthodoxy, Love, Joy
All waves lead to Miami 2023

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire. **(Refrain)** So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad. **(Refrain)** This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein. **(Refrain)**

After the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the following:

THE EISODIKON (ENTRANCE HYMN) OF PASCHA

In the gathering places bless God the Lord, from the springs of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

~ After the Little Entrance (Eisodos), sing these hymns in the following order.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE TWO

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power. And when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

APOLYTIKION OF JOSEPH OF ARIMATHAEA IN TONE TWO

The noble Joseph, taking Thine immaculate Body down from the Tree, and having wrapped It in pure linen and spices, laid It for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day Thou didst arise, O Lord, granting to the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN IN TONE TWO

Unto the myrrh-bearing women did the Angel cry out as he stood by the grave: Myrrh-oils are meet for the dead, but Christ hath proved to be a stranger to corruption. But cry out: The Lord is risen, granting to the world Great Mercy.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT

Thou didst become like the zealous Elijah in his condition, and followed John the Baptist in his upright ways. Becoming a dweller in the wilderness, and an establisher of the universe by thy prayer O Father Anthony. Wherefore intercede thou with Christ our God to save our souls.

THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades, and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

THE EPISTLE

The Lord is my strength and my song. With chastisement has the Lord chastened me.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles. (6:1-7)

In those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily ministry. And the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said: "It is not right that we should forsake the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good report, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. And we will devote ourselves 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 of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Próchoros, and Nikánor, and Tímon, and Parmenás, and Nikólaos a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the

number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem exceedingly, and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark. (15:43-16:8)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathaea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the Kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if He were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that He was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud, and laid Him in a tomb, which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where He was laid. And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb at the rising of the sun. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back – it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a long white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; 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 to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you." And they went out quickly and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

MEGALYNARION FOR PASCHA IN TONE ONE

The Angel cried unto her that is full of grace: O pure Virgin, rejoice, and again I say, rejoice; for thy Son hath arisen from the grave on the third day.

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; dance now and be glad, O Zion, and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

KOINONIKON (COMMUNION HYMN) OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

Receive ye the body of Christ; taste ye the Fountain of immortality.
Instead of "We have seen the true light," sing "Christ is Risen" once.

Announcements



April 30

Epistle Readers

Subdeacon Jean Najjar

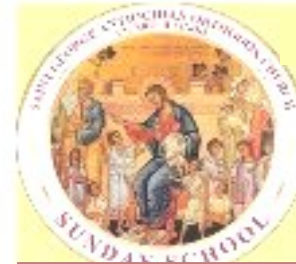
FOOD FOR HUNGRY PEOPLE coin boxes are due today. If you didn't bring it, please remember to do so next week.

*Join us for AWO Meeting Sunday, May 6 after the coffee hour.
All ladies are invited.*

Rada Cutlery Teen SOYO Fundraiser (see flyer in back)



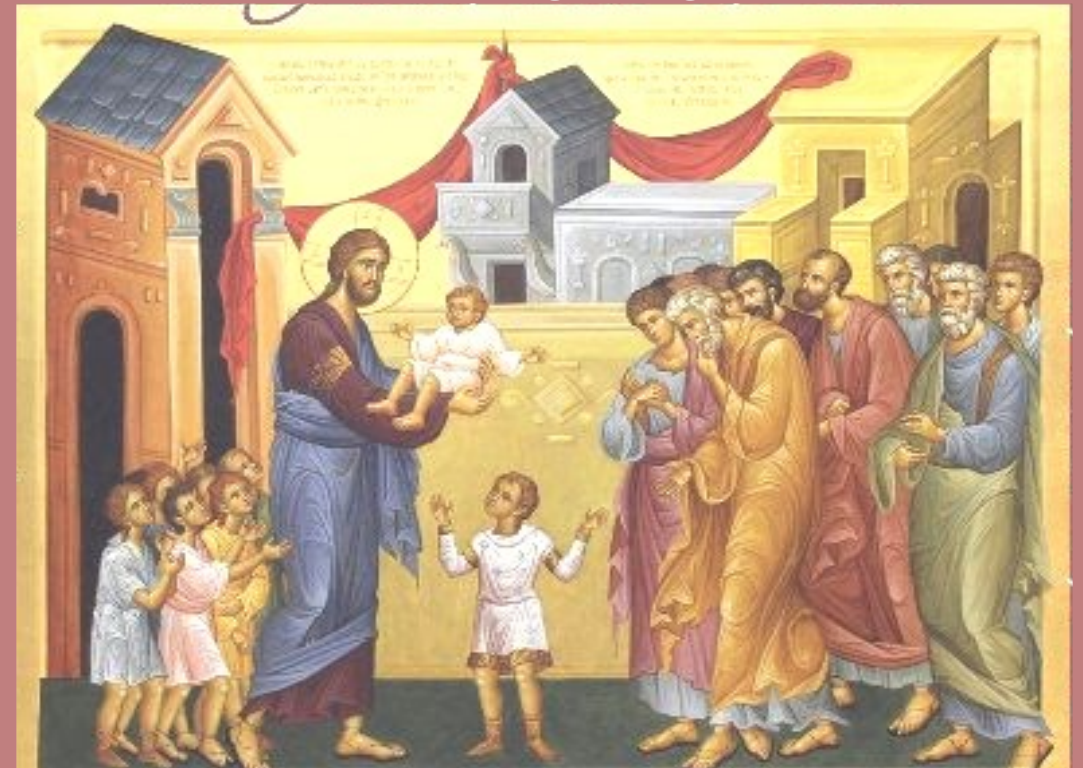
Please pray for the healing of John Thieme, Debbie Thieme, Jennifer Glass, Beverly Delida, Lisa Zolton, Tatiana Jones, Ted Theodoropoulos, Susan Perers, Alix Hall, Nina and Diogo Penas, Beth Manzini, John Archambeau, Alex & Soula.



St. Anthony the Great Antiochian Church, Melbourne, FL

Sunday School *Godparents' Day*

Saturday, May 6



— All GODPARENTS and GODCHILDREN —

Please sit together during Liturgy, recite the Baptismal Vows together, and join us for refreshments, short program, and photo opportunity after Liturgy!



Be prepared for upcoming weddings, graduations, and other occasions as you support **St. Anthony Teen Soyo**, through this Rada Cutlery fundraiser!

Pick up a catalog in the entry or visit <https://radafundraising.com?rfsn=7285515.5337bb> to start shopping.




Thank you!
Shop Now through May 21st!!

2023 BIBLE BOWL

The Book of Genesis



English	<i>Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!</i>
Arabic	<i>AL MASEEH QAM! HAQQAN QAM!</i>
Greek	<i>Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!</i>
Ethiopian	<i>Yasous Taustwal! Aown Tasous Tanastwal!</i>
French	<i>Christ est ressuscite! En verite il est ressuscite!</i>
Hebrew	<i>Ha Mashiyach qam! Ken hoo qam!</i>
Swahili	<i>Christos ma fa-fuka! Qualey ma fa-fuka</i>
Romanian	<i>Christos a Inviat! Adeverat a Inviat!</i>
Eritrean-Tigre	<i>Christos tensiou! Bahake tensiou!</i>
Russian	<i>Khristos voskres! - Voistinu voskres!</i>
Spanish	<i>Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad ha resucitado!</i>

Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women

CHRIST IS RISEN!
 The Third Sunday of Pascha is dedicated to the Myrrhbearing Women, as well as the remembrance of the Pious Joseph of Arimathaea and the Righteous Nicodemus. The Church remembers in particular the Myrrhbearing Women for it was they who became the first to proclaim the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Gospel lessons for both Matins (Luke 24:1-12) and the Divine Liturgy (Mark 15:43-16:8) on this Sunday give the account of the women going to the tomb of Christ to anoint His body. As they went to the tomb, they knew nothing about the resurrection. They knew their Lord had been crucified and that the authorities were threatening anyone who followed Jesus. Their early morning journey to the tomb was one of courage, duty and love under the threat of being punished.
 The act of love of the 'Women Disciples of the Lord' is something all of us should strive for. As we meditate on their act of love, we should ask ourselves; Do we possess the same courage, love and commitment when it comes to living the Gospel in today's world?

In the Risen Lord
Fr. Elia Shalhoub
 Very Rev. Fr. Elia Shalhoub, Pastor

"It seems that we do not understand one thing: it is not good when we return the love of those who love us, yet hate those who hate us. We are not on the right path if we do this. We are the sons of light and love, the sons of God, his children. As such we must have His qualities and His attributes of love, peace, and kindness towards all." - The Elder Thaddeus



**TODAY'S FEAST
SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN**

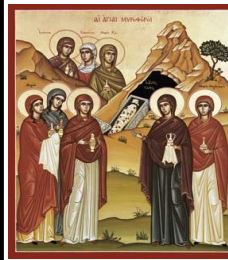
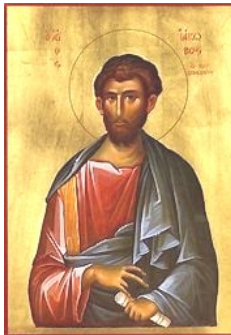
About the beginning of His thirty-second year, when the Lord Jesus was going throughout Galilee, preaching and working miracles, many women who had received of His beneficence left their own homeland and from then on followed after Him. They ministered unto Him out of their own possessions, even until His crucifixion and entombment; and afterwards, neither losing faith in Him after His death, nor fearing the wrath of the Jewish rulers, they came to the sepulchre, bearing the myrrh-oils they had prepared to anoint His body. It is because of the myrrh-oils, that these God-loving women brought to the tomb of Jesus that they are called the Myrrh-

bearers. Of those whose names are known are the following: first of all, the most holy Virgin Mary, who in Matthew 27:56 and Mark 15:40 is called "the mother of James and Joses" (these are the sons of Joseph by a previous marriage, and she was therefore their step-mother); Mary Magdalene (celebrated July 22); Mary, the wife of Clopas; Joanna, wife of Chouza, a steward of Herod Antipas; Salome, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus; and Susanna. As for the names of the rest of them, the evangelists have kept silence (Matt 27:55-56; 28:1-10. Mark 15:40-41. Luke 8:1-3; 23:55-24:11, 22-24. John 19:25; 20:11-18. Acts 1:14).

Together with them we celebrate also the secret disciples of the Saviour, Joseph and Nicodemus. Of these, Nicodemus was probably a Jerusalemite, a prominent leader among the Jews and of the order of the Pharisees, learned in the Law and instructed in the Holy Scriptures. He had believed in Christ when, at the beginning of our Saviour's preaching of salvation, he came to Him by night. Furthermore, he brought some one hundred pounds of myrrh-oils and an aromatic mixture of aloes and spices out of reverence and love for the divine Teacher (John 19:39). Joseph, who was from the city of Arimathea, was a wealthy and noble man, and one of the counsellors who were in Jerusalem. He went boldly unto Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and together with Nicodemus he gave Him burial. Since time did not permit the preparation of another tomb, he placed the Lord's body in his own tomb which was hewn out of rock, as the Evangelist says (Matt. 27:60).

JAMES THE APOSTLE AND BROTHER OF ST. JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN

James was one of the Twelve, like his brother John (celebrated on Sept. 26), whom the Lord called "Sons of Thunder," because they became great preachers and because of their profound theology. It was the Saint's boldness in preaching the Gospel that Herod Agrippa, the son of Aristobulus and grandson of Herod the Great, could not endure, and so he took him into custody during the days of the Passover, and slew him with the sword (Acts 12: 1-2); and thus he drank the cup of which the Saviour had spoken to him prophetically (Matt. 20:23). As for Herod, the following year he went down to Caesarea, and, as the Acts of the Apostles records: "Upon a set day, Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration" to the elders of Tyre and Sidon; and the flatterers that surrounded him "gave a shout, saying, 'it is the voice of a god, and not of a man.' And immediately an Angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory; and like his grandfather (see Dec. 29) "he was eaten of worms and gave up the spirit" (Acts 12:21-23)



MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN

There are eight women who are generally identified as the myrrh-bearers. Each of the four [Gospels](#) gives a different aspect of the roles of these eight women at the cross and at the tomb on [Easter](#) morning, perhaps since the eight women arrived in different groups and at different times. The eight are:

- **Mary Magdalene**
- **Mary, the Theotokos (the Virgin Mary)**
- **Salome**
- **Mary, Wife of Cleopas (or Alphaeus)**
- **Mary of Bethany**
- **Joanna**
- **Susanna**
- **Martha of Bethany**

Of the eight, the first five are the more prominent and outspoken. The last three are included according to tradition. Five of these women were also very wealthy; the women of means were Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and Mary and Martha of Bethany.



Kid's Corner
Coloring Page



The Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women

The news that Jesus was alive and had risen from the dead was first heard by holy women. It was a custom to take spices (called "myrrh") to the graves of departed loved ones. On

Sunday morning, the third day after Jesus died, several women were at the tomb of Christ and were greeted by an angel with the news of His resurrection. See Saint Luke 24:1-12

