



## Welcome!

Whether you are searching for a new church home or just visiting, we are glad you're with us today. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr Thomas, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the offering basket as your offering today. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

## Schedule This Week

- Sunday, May 8**  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
- Tuesday, May 10**  
9:00 am Daily Matins  
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
- Wednesday, May 11**  
6:30 pm Daily Vespers  
7:00 pm Bible Study (Letter to the Hebrews)
- Thursday, May 12**  
9:00 am Daily Matins  
9:30 am-12:00 pm Office Hours
- Saturday, May 14**  
5:00 pm Vespers with Cathedral Vigil
- Sunday, May 15**  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School

**To our Visitors: Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.**

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*  
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*  
Deacon John Skowron, *Attached*

### Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA  
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org  
May 8, 2022

## Announcements

➤ Everyone is warmly invited downstairs for a **luncheon in honor of all the women of our parish, remembering especially our mothers and caregivers who have nurtured us.** We love you and are grateful for you! This luncheon is sponsored by the men of the parish, with very special thanks to Tom Hoffman for leading the preparation of the food. All the men are reminded to donate a minimum of \$10 to defray expenses. Please give to Fr Thomas.

➤ A reminder that on Palm Sunday we kicked off our new **Pro-Life Ministry** led by Matushka Joni Soroka and Mary Hoffman. We are thrilled that all the gift bags for new moms and babies have been spoken for! **Please remember that your returned gift bag are due on Sunday, May 15.** Your donations will help clients of the Women's Choice Network of Pittsburgh. God bless you for your generosity and love!

➤ Thank you to a **generous anonymous donor** who has covered the cost of our yearly subscription which enables us to livestream our Sunday Divine Liturgies to the public. May God bless them for their generosity, love for God, and desire to support our outreach efforts!



## Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none) *Home:* George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the departed servants, Ann Polny and cousin, Susan Wasilko; for the health of Marsha and Fr. Tom on their birthdays. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, Ann Polny and Susan Lynn Wasilko; for the health of Marsha & Fr. Tom on their birthdays-Many Years! From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servants, Ann Polny and cousin, Susan Wasilko; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Fr. Tom! From **Alexandria Tirpak** for the health of my family; special intentions. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton and Rowyn Scott. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the newly departed servants, Edna George and Jack Kabazie; for the health of my uncle, George Corey. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilkova and Dana Emma Kowalcheck & child to be born.

## Thank You

➤ to our May donors: **Fr Thomas and Matushka Joni Soroka** (Incense \$10) for the health and salvation of daughter, Jacqueline, on the occasion of her birthday.

Remember that you can sponsor many monthly categories including bulletin, holy bread, wine, candles, and incense. See the candle desk for info.



## This Week in Church School

**Today's lesson:** The Myrrh Bearing Women  
**Questions to ask/review:**

- Why were women going to the tomb? Why on Sunday? (could not be done on the Jewish Sabbath)
- What is myrrh? What did they find? What did they do? (the tomb was empty, then went to tell the disciples)
- What were the Jewish burial customs? (rub the body with myrrh)
- What customs do we hold today? (funeral service, we do not destroy the body through cremation, "Memory Eternal", eating boiled wheat)
- Where was Jesus' body put after He died? Can you remember whose tomb it was? (Joseph of Arimathea put His body in a new tomb)
- We usually bury people in the ground and fill the grave with dirt. How was the tomb of Jesus sealed? (stone)
- How did the women feel when the stone was rolled away? How would you feel if the grave of a loved one were found dug up? (at first, they thought someone may have stolen the body but Jesus's body wasn't stolen; He had risen from the dead!) How did they feel now? What did they do?
- What is the meaning of death? Why does God allow death? How did death enter the world? (Adam and Eve sinned, our world is fallen and broken)
- Are you afraid of dying? Why or why not? (it is normal to be afraid, but Christians must trust in God's power to save us)

### Suggested activities at home:

- Read the scripture before bed: Luke 23:55-24:9, Mark 16: 1-11
- Plant herbs in egg carton or planter.
- Make sweet-smelling bags of potpourri or spices for your child's drawers or the icon corner.

**Prayer:** Dear Lord Jesus, like the myrrh-bearing women, let us draw near to you each day. Amen.

# Hymns and Readings for Sunday, May 8

## **Tone 2 Troparion** (Resurrection)

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,  
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead.  
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

## **Tone 2 Troparion** (Pentecostarion)

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

## **Tone 2 Troparion** (St. John)

Beloved Apostle of Christ our God,  
hasten to deliver a defenseless people!  
He Who allowed thee to recline on His breast,  
receives thee as thou dost bow before Him.  
Implore Him, O John the Theologian,  
to disperse the persistent threat from the heathens, //  
entreating for us peace and great mercy!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

## **Tone 2 Kontakion** (Pentecostarion)

Thou didst command the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ God.  
By Thy Resurrection, Thou didst stop the lamentation of Eve, the first mother.

Thou didst command them to preach to Thine Apostles://  
“The Savior is risen from the tomb!”

## **Tone 6 Prokeimenon**

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)

## **Epistle of the Sunday** (Acts 6:1-7)

Now 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 of the Sunday** (Mark 15:43-16:8)

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 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 Josés 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.

## **Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast**

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:  
“Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: ‘Rejoice, your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!  
With Himself He has raised all the dead.’”  
Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now, and be glad,

O Zion! Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

## **Communion Hymn of the Sunday**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! (Ps. 148:1) Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe. (Ps. 18:4) Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

**The Gospels imply that Joseph’s deed was big-hearted and courageous.** That is truly what it was. In the presence of the Sanhedrin which had committed deicide, in the very Jerusalem that had participated in that deicide, a member of the Sanhedrin takes the body of the God-man killed by men down from the tree and carries it to the garden located near the city gates and walls. There, in quiet and solitude, under shady trees, he places the body by which the bodies and souls of all mankind are redeemed in a new tomb hewn from a solid rock, with an abundance of fragrances and oils, and wraps it like a precious treasure in fine, clean linen. Another member of the Sanhedrin also took part in the Lord’s burial. This was Nicodemus, who came to the Lord by night and acknowledged that the Lord was sent from God. Having rolled a great stone to the door of the grave—doors which Gospels call a low opening to the cave—Joseph has satisfactorily finished his service and so he departs. The Sanhedrin followed Joseph’s movements. Seeing him gone, it took care to set a guard at the grave and place a seal on the stone which covered the entrance. The Lord’s burial was witnessed by both His friends and His enemies. Although some members of the Sanhedrin in their frenzy and rage committed a great evil, they unconsciously brought a great sacrifice (cf. Acts 17:18): through the slaughter of the all-pure Sacrifice they redeemed the whole human race, ended the fruitless number of transformative sacrifices, and made these sacrifices and their very institution superfluous. Other members of the Sanhedrin, representatives of all the righteous people of the Old Testament, served with a God-pleasing intention and disposition of soul in the burial of the Redeemer of mankind, and by this action ended and placed a seal upon the pious works of the sons of the Old Testament. From this point begins the exceptional service of those of the New Testament.