

Christ is Risen!
Χριστός Воскресе!
Χριστός ἀνέστη!

St. Mary ~ Holy Protection
Byzantine Catholic Church
4480 Route 981 Latrobe, PA 15650

Indeed He is Risen!
Воистину Воскресе!
Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!

Administrator: Fr. Paul-Alexander Shutt, OSB
Confession Schedule: *Saturday* 16:00 – 16:30,
Parish email: st.marytrauger@gmail.com

Parish Office: 724-423-3 673 **Hall:** 724-423-8838
Sunday 9:00 – 9:30, or by appointment
Website: www.stmarybyzantinecatholic.org

26 APRIL 2020 / 7528
SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN



Epistle: Acts 6: 1 – 7
GOSPEL: MARK 15:43 – 16:8

04 / 19 / 2020
COLLECTION

Adults: \$845

Children: \$21

Flowers: \$5

Candles: \$15

Mid-Pentecost: \$5

Holy Week: \$85

PASCHA: \$1420

TOTAL: \$2396

The Passover is our present feast: a mystical Passover, the Passover of God; a Passover of salvation, a Passover leading us to immortal life; this Passover drives all sorrow away. This Passover is the disciples' gift of joy. Therefore, Thomas cried: You are the Lord and my God, Who has conquered the kingdom of Hades.

Why do you sprinkle your myrrh with tears, O women disciples? The stone is rolled away and the tomb is empty; behold, Life has triumphed over Death. The seals give brilliant witness: that the guards of the godless have watched in vain, that mortal nature has been saved by the flesh of God, and that Hades is in mourning. Hasten in joy, proclaiming to the apostles, that Christ, the conqueror of Death, is the first-born of the dead. He shall go before you into Galilee.

Women, be the heralds of good news and tell what you saw; tell of the vision and say to Zion: Accept this good news of joy from us, the news that Christ has risen. Exalt and celebrate and rejoice, O Jerusalem, seeing Christ the King coming from the tomb like a bridegroom.

The women prepared myrrh to anoint You, and secretly came to Your tomb early in the morning. They feared the boldness of the Jews, and they expected the soldiers to be keeping guard. But their weakness triumphed over manly strength for tenderness finds favor with God. And so they cry out: Arise o Lord, protect us and save us for the love of Your Name.

Myrrh is a red-brown resinous material, the dried sap of the tree *Commiphora myrrha*. It is native to Somalia and the eastern parts of Ethiopia. Its name entered English through the Ancient Greek, **μύρρα**, which is probably of Semitic origin. Myrrh is a component of **perfumes** and **incense** that was highly prized in ancient times. Myrrh was widely used in the ancient world as **incense**, in **cosmetics**, in **medicine**, and as an agent during **embalming** and funerals. It was expensive, often worth more than its weight in gold.

In the Old Testament, myrrh is depicted as a valuable commodity in trade and in the religious setting as an ingredient in oil for anointing: Exodus 30:23. Its use as a perfume and as an agent for purification of women is mentioned in: Esther 2:12, Psalms 45:8, and Proverbs 7:17.

In the New Testament, Matthew 2:11 mentions myrrh as one of the gifts presented by the Magi to the infant Jesus at his birth. In Mark 15:23, myrrh is mentioned as an ingredient in the mixture of "wine mingled with myrrh" as a drug to produce insensibility for those condemned to death.

"Myrrh-streaming," "Myrrh-gushing" or "Myroblete" refers to relics or icons that exude the holy and sweet-smelling oil. The oil is often miraculous. «This wonder of myrrh has been given to the holy relics in order to indicate that Christians are truly 'a sweet-savior of Christ unto God' (II Corinthians 2:15), sweet-smelling to God and to heaven. The truth of the Gospel is that the sin of man is a foul odor before God and every sin pleases the devil. **Through the holy mysteries and holy virtues, Christians become 'a sweet-savor of Christ unto God.'** For this reason, then, the holy relics of the Saints pour forth myrrh.»

W Lord, You Who clothe Yourself with light as with a garment, Joseph and Nicodemus took You down from the cross, and seeing You without life, without a garment, and without a grave, in their compassion they wept and lamented: Woe is me, most sweet Jesus. The sun was covered with darkness when it saw You suspended upon the Cross. The earth quaked with fear, and the veil in the Temple was torn in two. I see that You willingly endured death for my sake. How then shall I bury You, O my God? With what linens shall I cover You? With what hands shall I touch Your most pure body? What hymns shall I sing at Your death? Therefore, O compassionate Lord, I glorify Your Passion, and I praise Your burial and Your resurrection, crying out: O Lord, glory be to You.



~ ANNOUNCEMENTS ~

- The **EASTER FLOWERS** that have run their course may be found along the sidewalk between the rectory and the church. Help yourself if in the area.

- **ERRATUM:** The total collection listed in last week's bulletin should have read \$2,475.
- **THEOSIS INSERTS:** By sending the bulletin electronically, I am not able to include the weekly *Theosis* insert. It's a shame to have them go to waste. If you would like to receive them, let me know and I will mail you all that are in our current shipment of weekly bulletin covers. The company that prints them has announced that due to COVID-19 the *Theosis* insert will not be printed until things return to «normal».
- **SEMINARY COLLECTION:** The annual collection for our **Saints Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary** will be taken the weekend of **16 – 17 May**. Please be generous in your support of our men in priestly and diaconal formation!
- **PURIFICATION OF THE HEART: The First Stage of the Spiritual Life** The purification of the heart is the essential starting point of the Christian life. How do we identify the presence of the passions in our own lives, and what are the means, the medicine, that the Church gives us to overcome them?
 This live webinar will take place on the following dates: **May 6, 13 & 20 @ 8 - 9 pm EDT**. All courses are free of charge, but you must register at **EasternCatholic.org/Events**. Rev. Deacon Thomas Moses, the presenter for this series, serves as a deacon at Our Lady of the Cedars Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Manchester, NH, where he lives with his wife and daughter. He is a graduate of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Byzantine Catholic Seminary and now works as a full time high school theology teacher at Bishop Guertin High School and a per diem chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital, both in nearby Nashua, NH. Some of his written work can be found on Catholic Exchange.
- **20th ANNUAL SAINTS CYRIL AND METHODIUS LECTURE** sponsored by the Byzantine Catholic Seminary to be delivered through Live Stream on **May 7**. The Byzantine Christian tradition reads the Gospel of the Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian throughout the paschal season. This is no accident. The annual celebration of the Resurrection seems to have originated in the circles around John. Looking again at this gospel in the light of Pascha, Fr. John Behr of St. Vladimir Seminary, in a live-stream on the 7th of May, will consider what is meant by Christ's last word from the cross "It is finished" - and show how the mystery of the incarnation includes us today. The public is welcome to tune in to this lecture on **Thursday, May 7 at 7:00 PM** via the Seminary website at www.bcs.edu. The same website will also archive the recorded lecture for future access by the public. *Fr. John Behr is the former Dean of St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, where he is currently the Director of the Master of Theology Program and the Father Georges Florovsky Distinguished Professor of Patristics. He has published numerous monographs with Oxford University Press and St. Vladimir's Seminary Press (S.V.S.P.), most recently a new critical edition and translation of Origen's On First Principles. He has also published various works aimed for more general audiences, such as his more poetic and meditative work entitled Becoming Human: Theological Anthropology in Word and Image (S.V.S.P., 2013).*
- The **ORIENTALE LUMEN XXIV CONFERENCE** will be held as a "virtual" conference in **June 2020** on the theme of "**Liturgy and Icons: Worshiping through Images.**" Speakers will pre-record their lectures for viewing on YouTube in June, and a **2-hour live, interactive panel discussion will be held on Tuesday, June 23 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm**. Registration details for viewing the panel will be posted in the future. Speakers will include:
 - **Archbishop Elpidophoros** (confirmed) Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
 - **Metropolitan Borys Gudziak** (invited) Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia
 - **Bishop Daniel Findikyan** (invited) Armenian Orthodox Church; St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary, Yonkers, NY

- **Bishop John Michael Botean** (confirmed), Moderator Romanian Catholic Diocese of St. George, Canton, OH
- **Father Mark Morozowich** (confirmed) Dean, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC
- **Father Thomas Loya** (confirmed) Annunciation Byzantine Catholic Church, Homer Glen, IL
“Light of the East” Radio
- **Father John Perich** (confirmed) St. Herman of Alaska Orthodox Church, Philadelphia, PA