

SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH BEARERS APRIL 26, 2015



STS. RAPHAEL, NICHOLAS AND IRENE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Barnabas Powell, Proistamenos
Jimmy Smith, Psaltis

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We are an intentional Orthodox Christian Community for North Georgia!

WORSHIP

We are so very glad you have joined us today, and we pray you will be inspired and encouraged by your time with us.



The Orthodox worship service is an ancient and timeless expression of how people have loved, served and worshipped God for many centuries, but it may be a bit of a different experience for you. Please feel free to use a service book or not and simply allow the words of the service to wash over you.

The central act of our worship culminates in people receiving communion. This is a very special time for us all and we have some specific beliefs about our communion together. This is why we never impose this service on those who are not prepared or are not baptized Orthodox. This service may raise questions in your mind.

Please feel free to ask Fr. Barnabas anything you wish after the service.

At the end of the service EVERYONE is invited to come forward and receive a portion of the "blessed bread" from Fr. Barnabas. No one should leave church "hungry!"

*Know you are welcome and we are glad you are here.
May God bless you and your family.*

Your Servant,

Father Barnabas

TODAY WE REMEMBER

Tone of the week: Tone Two

Fourth Eothinon

Reading:

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 annoint 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 counselors 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).

EPISTLE READING

Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

Prokeimenon. Mode 2.

Psalm 117.14,18

The Lord is my strength and my song.

Verse: The Lord has chastened me sorely.

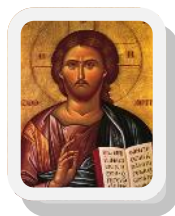


IN THOSE DAYS, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaos, 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 greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Ἐν ταῖς ἡμεραῖς ἐκείναις, πληθυνόντων τῶν μαθητῶν, ἐγένετο γογγυσμὸς τῶν Ἑλληνιστῶν πρὸς τοὺς Ἑβραίους, ὅτι παρεθεωροῦντο ἐν τῇ διακονίᾳ τῇ καθημερινῇ αἱ χήραι αὐτῶν. Προσκαλεσάμενοι δὲ οἱ δώδεκα τὸ πλῆθος τῶν μαθητῶν, εἶπον, Οὐκ ἄρεστόν ἐστιν ἡμᾶς, καταλείψαντας τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ, διακονεῖν τραπέζαις. Ἐπισκέψασθε οὖν, ἀδελφοί, ἄνδρας ἐξ ὑμῶν μαρτυρουμένους ἑπτὰ, πλήρεις πνεύματος ἁγίου καὶ σοφίας, οὓς καταστήσωμεν ἐπὶ τῆς χρείας ταύτης. Ἡμεῖς δὲ τῇ προσευχῇ καὶ τῇ διακονίᾳ τοῦ λόγου προσκαρτερήσομεν. Καὶ ἤρresεν ὁ λόγος ἐνώπιον παντὸς τοῦ πλήθους· καὶ ἐξελέξαντο Στέφανον, ἄνδρα πλήρης πίστεως καὶ πνεύματος ἁγίου, καὶ Φίλιππον, καὶ Πρόχορον, καὶ Νικάνορα, καὶ Τίμωνα, καὶ Παρμενᾶν, καὶ Νικόλαον προσήλυτον Ἀντιοχέα, οὓς ἔστησαν ἐνώπιον τῶν ἀποστόλων· καὶ προσευξάμενοι ἐπέθηκαν αὐτοῖς τὰς χεῖρας. Καὶ ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἠῤῥξανεν, καὶ ἐπληθύνετο ὁ ἀριθμὸς τῶν μαθητῶν ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ σφόδρα, πολὺς τε ὄχλος τῶν ἱερέων ὑπήκουον τῇ πίστει.

GOSPEL READING

The Gospel of Mark 15:43-47; 16:1-8



At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, 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 he 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 Jesus 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 him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. 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; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has 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 and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Father Barnabas is available to hear confession every Wednesday either before or after Vespers and by appointment. Please call or email the church office to request a time to meet with Father and avail yourself to this healing divine mystery of the Church.

*Please call the Church office for more information:
(770) 781-5250.*

TODAY, April 26

8:45 a.m. Orthos
10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy
Ten-Yr Memorial Service for
our beloved Archbishop Iakovos

Wed., April 29

5:00 p.m. Vespers
Followed by Adult Education

Note:

General Assembly on May 17
After Divine Liturgy

Please see Events Calendar and Announcements at the front desk for more information on church activities.



Parish Council of 2015:

*John Patrick, President; Harald Hagen, Vice President;
David Chapman, Secretary; Chris Foxhall, Treasurer;
Anthony Birozes, Kosta Bozzuto, Marie Chapman, Helen McCart, Johnny Melts, Greg Pappas, Plutarch Vamvakias, Len Vanerstrom*

For Today:

*Ushers: Members of Parish Council
Welcoming Ministry: Florence Lytle
Fellowship Ministry: Diane Walters*

Acolytes:

Jacob and Jimmy Atkinson, David Druffner, Mike & Peter Jordanopolos, Spiro Kefalas, Christos Kaloudis, Thomas Miller, Jacob Sparks, Mike Trainor, Alex & Niko Tzevelekos, Christos Zourzoukis — Senior Acolytes: Johnny Melts, Mike Manos, Dean Pryles



Singers and Chanters: Anthony Birozes, David Boyd, Marie Chapman, Emily Christy, Maria Hagen, Lynn Lucher, Jimmy Smith

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Second Tone

When You descended unto death, O Lord who yourself are immortal Life, then did You mortify Hades by the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the nether-world, all the Powers of the heavens were crying out: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory be to You.

Apolytikion for Joseph of Arimathea in the Second Tone

When he took down Your immaculate Body from the Cross, the honorable Joseph wrapped it in a clean linen shroud with spices and laid it for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day You arose, O Lord, and granted the world Your great mercy.

Apolytikion for the Myrrhbearers in the Second Tone

The Angel standing at the sepulcher cried out and said to the ointment-bearing women: The ointments are appropriate for mortal men, but Christ has been shown to be a stranger to decay. So go and cry aloud, The Lord has risen and granted the world His great mercy.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal of the Fourth Tone

Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.

Please Pray for the following individuals:

S and K Wilson, L. Pappas, P. Vamvakias,
D. Sarandis

(If you would like to add somebody to the prayer list, please send an email to officeadmin@stsrni.org)





Julie & Sandy Athenson for Catherin Moutevellis

Mabel Birozes for Christ Birozes

Renee Birozes – Thanking God for the many blessings for the living of Antigone, Renee, Anthony, Mary, Christopher, Catherine Anne, Michael, Anthony, Maria & Peter

Deborah Bowen In Memory of Lewis Bowen, Lois Bowen and Patsy Bowen Morrison

Mary Jane Czik for someone special – Glenn Czik, Michelle Czik, Benjamine Spitz, Abbey Spitz and Stan Czik

Jim Kanellos for Phia Kanellos

The Kefalas Family In Memory of Spiros Kefalas

Archie & Florence Lytle in gratitude for God's blessings

Tina Maheras In Memory of Gus & Georgia Maheras and George & Georgia Diamaduros

Riley & Ann Marvos for Matha Marvos

The Miller Family for John Vlahos

Nick & Teddie Panos in honor of grandchildren Peyton, Lauren, Nicole and Paige Panos

The Popa Family for Gelu & Areti Popa

Pam Powers for Georgia, Tom & Johnny

Presvytera Connie In Memory of mother Alexandra Demas, Yiayia Staikoula Bikas, father Efthymios Demas and Papou Aristenis Bikas

Mary Samaltanos for parents Spiros & Helen and sister Kally

Estelle Sofikitis for Ioanny Sofikitis, Panagiotis Caravolias, Erini Caravolias and Catherine Stephanopoulos

John & Jennie Statham for Wayne Ray

George & Talia Zazanis for Vasiliki Koumendea

Thank You Also to:

Mabel Birozes
Lisa & Jordan Boston
Athena Catapano
Marie & David Chapman
Russell & Chyrisse Chason

***FOREVER IN OUR
HEARTS!***