

Christ The Saviour Orthodox Church
American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese
Ecumenical Patriarchate

10000 State Road
North Royalton, OH 44133

Parish Website: www.christsaviour.weebly.com

Diocesan Website: www.acrod.org

Church Phone: (440) 237-9196

Church Email: christsaviour@live.com



Schedule of Services:

Sunday April 22nd: Obednitsa Service at 10 am

Sunday April 29th: Obednitsa Service at 10 am

Sunday May 6th: Obednitsa Service at 10 am

- Annual Parish Meeting following Obednitsa Service

Sunday May 13th: Obednitsa Service at 10 am

Sunday May 20th: Obednitsa Service at 10 am

For more dates of services check out the parish website's calendar.

The Prayer list was restarted. If you wish to have someone on the list, please contact a member of the Royko family or send an email to:

- christsaviour@live.com

Prayer List:

Living		
Theodore (Bunevich)	Theresa (Popovich)	Frank (Popovich)
Penney (Royko)	Sally (Hubiak)	Ethel (Rusyniak)
Eileen (Bunevich)	Virginia (Shymske)	Rosalie (Strachan)
Kathryn (Royko)	Thomas (Royko)	James (Strachan)
Tiana (Hosta)	Logan (Gatchell)	Doris (Gatchell)
Pani Magdaline (Blaschak)	Emerson (Sirilla)	Fr. Andrew (Harmon)
Dolores (Royko)	Pani Donna (Smoley)	Marsha (Will)
Jane		

Departed		
Matushka Catherine (Jula)	Very Reverend Father Doctor Stephen (Jula)	Vicky (Zabala)
Joey (Jarvis)		

“Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the grave.” +St. John Chrysostom

Birthdays & Anniversaries:

Gloria Zabala- April 22nd

Theodore Bunevich- April 29th



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:

This is the second of three announcements leading up to the Annual All Member Parish Meeting on Sunday May 6th. All parishioners are asked to attend! The meeting will begin immediately following the Obednitsa Service. The church will provide a light lunch. Please submit all nominations for parish council positions to christsvaiour@live.com, Penney Royko, or Kathryn Royko. All questions concerning membership status please see Penney Royko.

The Tamburitzans are coming to Cleveland and having a show on Sunday April 22, 2018 at 3pm at the Breen Center for Performing Arts at 2008 West 30th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44113. Tickets cost \$20 for adults and \$15 for students 18 and under. For more information check out the bulletin board.

Life Line Screening:

As a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, is pleased to offer a preventive health event at Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church on Tuesday May 22, 2018. Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to:

- blocked arteries which is a leading cause of stroke
- abdominal aortic aneurysms which can lead to a ruptured aorta
- hardening of the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease
- atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat which is closely tied to stroke risk
- bone density, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. There are three ways to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call toll-free 1-888-653-6441 or text the word circle to 797979 or visit <http://lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle>.



Epistle Reading: Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7

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.

Gospel Reading: 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 Joses 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.

Saints and Feasts

Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women; Theodore of Sykeon; Nathaniel, Luke, & Clemente the Apostles; Nearchos the Martyr; Gregory Gravanos of Nisyros

∴THE MYRRHBEARERS∴



Sermon for the Sunday of the Myrrh Bearing Women

This Sunday – the second Sunday after Pascha – we remember, and we celebrate, the Holy Myrrh-bearing Women, as well as Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. And who were these people? They were a people that exemplified perfect love, courage and faithfulness towards their friend, Jesus Christ of Nazareth. When we read the Gospel, it seems like they are hardly mentioned – just a passing note on the way to Christ’s Resurrection. But what faith and what love of Christ did the Myrrh-bearing Women show! What loyalty and devotion! At the darkest hour, when all had abandoned Christ, when all hope seemed to be lost, these women – along with Joseph of Arimathea – went and risked their lives to take Christ from the Cross, to lovingly wrap Him in linen, and to lay Him in a new grave. And when all were hidden away in fear of the Jews and of the powers that be, when all had abandoned Christ, their murdered Messiah, it was this small group of women who risked everything out of love for Christ – to anoint Him with myrrh and sweet spices. And just as it was through a woman, through Eve, that sin came into the world, it was through a woman, the Theotokos, that God came into the world. And it was to these women that the Resurrection was first revealed. It was in this way that their true love, devotion and bravery was rewarded by God. While all were cowering behind locked doors, these women, faithful to Christ and out of love for their friend, were amazed to behold the empty tomb, and to hear the words – for the first time ever – “He is Risen!”

What an awesome mystery! We all know the joy that we feel at Pascha, so how unfathomable must have been their joy in beholding the Resurrection of Christ. Without their bravery, however, they would have not witnessed such an amazing thing. What they did, if you think about it, was absolutely amazing. Their friend and teacher was just killed in a brutal, horrifying and very public manner. They themselves were suspects and in danger of arrest at any moment. Their very lives were possibly in danger. Why did they then not flee? Why didn’t they lock themselves behind firmly latched doors? And why would they go to the sepulcher when they knew the entrance was blocked by such a large stone that it would be impossible for

them to move? To the rational mind, this is all pure madness. They did not expect anything like the Resurrection. Yet what they did was done out of pure love and devotion – despite the risks. As far as they knew, they had nothing to gain for what they did – and everything to lose. They went to the tomb out of a pure love and devotion for Christ.

What an example this is for us! If we really reflect on the actions of these brave women, couldn't we say that their bravery and devotion can often put us to shame. It is easy for us as Christians, living in relative comfort here in the West, in the United States, where we face no real persecution or martyrdom. We know that Christ is risen, and we already know of the empty tomb. All of these things have been revealed to us, and unlike the Myrrh-bearing Women venturing out into the dark early on that first Pascha morning, we have witnessed two thousand years of saints and sanctity – the proof of the Resurrection, the spiritual riches of the Church and the fruits of a life in Christ. And how tepid we are in our faith. How often is our own devotion to Christ dry and lackluster – going through the motions and saying our prayers as if it is a chore or an obligation. We often – and I certainly speak for myself as well – lack the burning love, the stoutness of soul and the pure, devotional heart of these brave women. Their faith in God drove away their fear and proved stronger than all else.

And what happened when the Myrrh-bearing Women got to the tomb? The stone was rolled away, and all obstacles were removed. Something new and wondrous was happening. It was not the myrrh-bearers who anointed Christ, but rather Christ who, in His rising, would bestow myrrh on His people through His Church – the mystical Body of Christ. From then all, every Christian was to be a myrrh-bearer. All the life of the Church and all of Her Sacraments bestow a spiritual myrrh on all those who believe on Him and who strive to die in Christ so that they might rise with Him in His Resurrection.

This spiritual myrrh is not only in the sense of acquiring the spiritual perfumes of the Holy Spirit – charity, humility, peace, meekness and so on. But even the very relics of our saints and the icons in our churches exude a

heavenly and sweet-smelling myrrh. This is a very real and tangible reminder of God's grace active in this world.

And yet, in the words of Fr. Alexander Elchaninov: "As Orthodox, we have a great treasure of things and yet we vegetate in mediocrity." And that is, spiritual mediocrity. A listlessness. Discomfort. Coldness of heart. Blinding egoism. Boredom. Even at times we may be afraid to witness and express ourselves openly as Christ's disciples. And what a terrible shame. Christ said, Let your light so shine before men, (Matt. 5:16) and whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words, of him shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory, and in his Father's, and of the holy angels (Luke 9:16).

Let us throw off forever this shameful fear and apathy and truly follow Christ in the example of the Myrrh-bearing Women. Let us leave from the fearful shadows and locked rooms and come out to meet Christ. If we do, we will find, like the Myrrh-bearing Women did, all of our fears banished, the stone rolled away and we will behold the bright and wondrous sepulcher of Christ. All gloom and doubts, fear and hopelessness vanish like mist in the light of the rising sun on that first Pascha morning, and we will know that there is nothing to fear, for Christ has arisen, and Christ has conquered the world.

Let us all imitate the bright and brave faith of the Holy Myrrhbearers, never fearing to fulfill the will of Christ and never fearing to be disciples of Christ in this world, for Christ has conquered!

By the intercessions of the Holy Myrrhbearers, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

Hermitage of the Holy Cross