

St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church

A Parish of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada

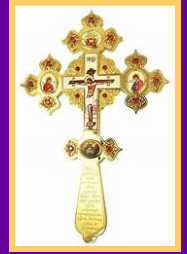
The "Priest's Page"

The Very Rev. Fr. Mircea Panciuk

Tel. 780-456-7737

Cell: 780-722-5438

E-mail: mpanciuk@yahoo.com



Volume 2, Issue 5

Sunday, May 3, 2020

Gospel Reading for 3rd Sunday of Pascha

Mark 15:43-16:8



Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. As

they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.

On the Third Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate The Myrrh Bearing Women. They were the faithful and courageous followers of Christ who came to anoint the body of Jesus for permanent burial as was custom to the Jews. The Women were the first disciples in that they were the first to proclaim Christ's Resurrection to the Disciples, and therefore to the world.

May we take their example of courage, faith and godliness in the church and continue to proclaim, **Christ Is Risen!**



Sunday, May 10, 2020 — Happy Mother's Day!

On this special day and all days, let us not forget those who brought us into this world. God Bless all of the mothers who love us and sacrifice so much for us!

Some thoughts on our world today.

Without a doubt, we are living in some of the most challenging times many of us have ever faced in our lifetimes. Some would say the most difficult. Our lives until now have been a constant hustle and bustle and suddenly we have been forced to forego all this activity, self-isolating in our own homes.

Many of us have become frightened and anxious because we are not accustomed to this new routine and now we find ourselves alone with only our thoughts. Throughout this time, many have and are suffering both physically and spiritually. We have closed our churches fearing the transmitting of the dreaded virus. Palm Sunday and The Resurrection of Jesus Christ have been celebrated in our homes turned into little churches. There are signs that the pandemic may be easing and yet there is indecision and some confusion as to what we should do. Out of love for each other, we all want to do what is right. We can comfort each other with words, deeds and prayers, but the certainty we need comes only in the *love* God has for each one of us. At this trying time, we need to summon our trust in Him.

My prayer is that we all come out of this with a realization that, “ *All things are lawful for me, but not all things are helpful; all things are lawful for me, but not all things edify*”. 1 Corinthians 10:23

We need to pray for the passing of this pandemic, for those front line people who serve in all capacities and for those who are ill. In addition, pray for the repose of those fallen asleep in the Lord because of the virus, the tragic events in Nova Scotia and the devastating Canadian military helicopter crash in Greece. Lord Have Mercy!

Schedule of Services

Please Note: Due to the continuing danger to the public of the pandemic and the need to be prudent, services will continue to be restricted to our homes.

The Blessing of the Graves will be completed by Fr. Mircea, **without public attendance**, at the Boian and Hairy Hill cemeteries on Sunday, May 24th, the Sunday before Ascension of Christ.

Prearrangements for private prayers at the grave site of your loved one(s) for any day or evening before May 28th, can be made by calling Fr. Mircea at 780 456-7737 or 780 722-5438 . Please be aware the largest number allowed to gather is 15 and you must keep the 2 metres physical distance from one another.

Here are some **Orthodox Links** which might be of interest to you;

The Romanian Orthodox Metropolis of the Americas **www.metropolia.us**

The Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada **www.episcopia.ca**

The Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada **ww.uocc.ca**