

April 22, 2018: THE 3RD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER (Of the Myrrh-bearing women)

Epistle: 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: Mark, 15:43-47:



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 Joseph observed where He was laid.

Christ is Risen!

The Scripture readings of this Sunday present to us events from two different times: The Epistle reading (from the Acts of the Apostles) allows us to catch a glimpse into the liturgical life of the first Christian community. It talks about

the agapae, the fellowship meals that used to follow the Divine Liturgy (the Breaking of Bread) and also about the ordination of the first 7 deacons (*whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them*), by the Apostles, who were assigned to organize and oversee this charitable work of the primitive Church.

On this, the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing women, the Gospel reading takes us back, to the event of Christ's burial, to which they were eyewitnesses.

In order to dispel any doubt about the reality of Christ's death, St. Mark tells us that, before he released the body of Jesus to Joseph of Arimathea, Pilate summoned *the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time*. Only after he was convinced that Christ had died did Pilate gave the body of Jesus to Joseph: *So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph*.

It is also worth noting the special care and piety with which Joseph handled the body of Jesus in spite of the fact that things had to be done quickly: *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*.

Both of these Scripture readings are about the ministry of serving, which our Lord and Savior emphasized when he washed the feet of His disciples at the Last Supper.

May the risen Lord bless us with wisdom and humility so that we can serve one another and together, our loving God, as liturgical beings!

Fr. George Bazgan

Sunday Fellowship

The following families are scheduled to look after
this Sunday's fellowship:

**Apostol Alexandru & Georgeta
Bacivan Milan & Cornelia
Stoica Emilian & Simona**

Thank you all very much!

Altar boys for this Sunday:

**Matthew Cotfasa
Arsenie Gavriş**

PEROGY SUPPER

On Friday, April 27, 2018, the Ladies Auxiliary will organize a Perogy Supper at the Romanian Center, between 4:30 – 7:30 PM.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

On May the 20th we celebrate our Church Anniversary and 70 years since the parish was established (1948).

10:00 AM: Divine Liturgy.

11:45 AM: Memorial service for church founders.

12:30 PM: ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

1:30: Special Cultural Program.

Tickets: \$40/adults. Children up to 14, free.

**Contact Mariana Diaconu la 780-473-6711
or 780-660-4748 (texting only).**

SEE YOU THEN!

MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish, asking them to pay their membership as soon as possible.

This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our financial obligations during the Summer months and for the rest of the year as well.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!