



ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA
BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
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 Served by: Rev. Stephen Casmus



SUNDAY OF THE OINTMENT-BEARERS
Christ is risen!

MAY 05, 2018
Indeed He is risen!

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DIVINE LITURGY

Sunday 10:00 AM Holydays 7:00 PM

Confession: Sunday 9:00-9:30 AM or by appointment

Welcome to all visitors to St. Nicholas Church. If you are new and wish to register as a parishioner, please see Fr. Stephen after the Divine Liturgy.

Parish Membership

The Family of Saint Nicholas of Myra is open to any Catholic, and to anyone:

- Who is interested in seeking the Lord Jesus Christ through His Word and Sacred Mysteries.
- Who accepts the teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Who will help us form a community based on the Lord’s love.
- Who is willing to grow as a Christian within the legitimate traditions of the Byzantine Catholic Church.
- Who acknowledges the authority of the Pope, Bishop and Pastor.
- Who will attend Liturgical Services on Sunday, and on the Great Holydays.
- Who is willing to support the growth of the Church by sharing their Time, Talent and Treasure.
- Who will participate in the yearly Eparchial Appeal

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE

SUN. MAY 05 – Sunday of the Ointment-Bearing Women
 10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy
 Acts 6:1-7, Mark 15:43-16:8

SUN. MAY 12 – Sunday of the Paralytic Man
 Mother's Day
 10:00 AM – Divine Liturgy
 Acts 9:32-42, John 5:1-15

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Χριστός воскрес! Воистину воскрес!

Χριστός ανέστη! Ἀληθῶς ανέστη!

¡Cristo resucitó! ¡En verdad resucitó!

Please join us in the hall after the liturgy for fellowship and light refreshments.

PRAY FOR THE SICK & INFIRMED OF OUR PARISH & PARISHIONERS RELATIVES:
 Paul Bruckler, Robert Gubany, Teresa Sandoval and Gloria Brissette.

04/28/19 Attendance: 32

Parish Income: Tithe -\$425.00, Donations -\$75.00, Candles - \$41.00,
 Fund Raising -\$336.00

Total - \$872.00

Eparchial Appeal – The annual Eparchial Appeal is a significant source of revenue for the Eparchy. Every parish household is expected to participate by contributing \$275.00. If you can't give that much, please give what you can. If you can afford more please be generous. We are currently about 14% of the parish goal of \$4400.00. If you have not

done so, please submit your pledge or payment directly to the Eparchy before the end of May.

The Fontana Breakfast Lion's Club hosts **BINGO** here at St. Nicholas on **Saturday evenings**. The kitchen has become a significant source of income for the parish. Please participate in this fundraising effort. It is a good opportunity to get to know your fellow parishioners. Many hands make light work, but currently there are few that regularly participate. Please sign up in the hall to ensure there are at least three working.

Sunday of the Ointment Bearing Women

Today the Church celebrates the memory of the holy myrrh-bearing women. The holy women were faithful disciples of Christ and always remained near the Lord in His earthly service. They listened to his preaching in Galilean synagogues, walked with Him to Jerusalem, were present at the resurrection of Lazarus, cried with the Mother of God at the foot of the Savior's Cross and followed Joseph and Nicodemus to the tomb. They spent the hours following the Crucifixion in pain and agony with what was left of the Lord's disciples. Undoubtedly, their hearts burnt with the desire to run to the Lord, but they observed the Sabbath with other Jews "for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one" (John 19:31).

Yet the sacred day of the Sabbath of the Great Stillness came to an end, and with the first rays of the rising sun, having gathered all that was necessary for burial, the holy women hurried to Him, whom alone their hearts desired, to their beloved Teacher (Mark 16:2). Did they believe in the resurrection of the Savior? Did they remember the sermons of the Teacher? Did they recall the festive entrance of the King into the Holy City and the children singing, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (John 12:13)? Even if they still had any hope for a miracle, like that of the resurrection of Lazarus, this hope was now lying mocked, spit upon, broken, crucified, pierced with a spear, in the tomb with their beloved Teacher. The holy myrrh-bearers walked to the tomb with perfumes and burial cloths (Luke 24:1), not processional banners, to prepare a dead man for his last journey, not to meet the risen God. The sorrow of the holy women was so great, that even when they saw the wide open tomb they did not understand what had happened (Luke 24:4), even having seen the risen Lord, Mary Magdalene thought that He was the cemetery gardener (John 20:15).

But the faithfulness of the holy myrrh-bearers to the Lord was so great, that they walked to Him in the dark (John 20:1) despite the guards who were ordered to keep the disciples away from the Body (Matthew 27:64), they walked despite the large stone which lay in their way to the Teacher (Matthew 27:66), they walked despite all odds. For their faithfulness the holy women became the apostles to the apostles and brought to them the good news of the resurrection (Luke 24:9). Even before the Evangelists picked up their pens, before the apostles walked to the far reaches of the Empire with the sermon, before Peter proclaimed the good news to thousands on the day of Pentecost, the myrrh-bearers brought to the apostles the first proclamation, and the first sermon, and the first Gospel.

How often in our lives we lose our faith when we must go through illness, inconvenience, suffering, and sorrow. At times it seems to us that our God is dead, that He does not hear us, that some armed people do not let us through, or that there is a large stone in our path and “Who will roll back the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” (Mark 16:3). So we sit shut up in our pain and sorrow, hiding in fear (John 20:19).

Yet the holy myrrh-bearers bring the good news to us as well, “Arise from your sinful slumber! With the first ray of sun, run to the Lord!” And what do we see? We are too late with our tears and burial ointments—the tomb is empty! No, God does not even run out to meet us half-way (Luke 15:20)—He completed everything that is needful for our salvation: he already broke the bonds of hell and defeated death. He already goes ahead of us to Galilee (Matthew 28:7)—His homeland. All that is left for us at the empty tomb is his message: do not be afraid, hurry, tell everyone, the Lord is waiting for you at home (Matthew 28:10).

Through the prayers of the holy myrrh-bearing women, Lord, grant us their all-conquering faithfulness to You! Amen.