



Christ is risen! Христос Воскрес!

We extend a warm welcome to Holy Cross to all our parishioners and visitors. We pray that your participation in the Divine Liturgy will be enriching for you as well.

April 30, 2017 ~ Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

Troparia and special texts are found in the **white Easter Cycle booklet, page 6**

Many thanks to all parishioners who helped to make the annual Parish Easter Dinner, my first one at Holy Cross, a resounding success. The food was delicious, the help was plenty, and the smiles were many. May our Risen Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ continue to bestow blessings on you all the days of your life. Христос Воскрес! Fr. Stepan Didur

Last week, we saw that, in order for the Apostles to fulfill their commission as not just Apostles, but as disciples of Christ, they had to overcome their fear and they had to have a firm sense of identity of who they were. And they would only have those, and did indeed only gain those, as they fully understood who this man was they had been following for the last three years that just rose from the dead. Specifically, they had to see Him, know Him, as true man and as true God. Hence, the primary importance of Thomas' confession of Jesus as Lord and God.

But what of the Myrrh-bearing Women? They had none of the private teaching on the kingdom of God, nor were they teachers or miracle workers. The Church, however, has always referred to them in her hymnography as the "Women Disciples of the Lord." They were fearless where the Apostles were afraid. Where the Apostles clearly doubted their identity as followers of Christ, the Myrrh-bearers never questioned who they were, or who Christ was; because, unlike the Apostles prior to this time, these women had achieved humility. Humility is the answer to what they had that we, as disciples of Christ, must have if we are going to be disciples of Christ. We tend to look at humility (and meekness) as a kind of weakness, but this couldn't be farther from the truth. Real humility is the truest expression of courage because it is only achieved through voluntary vulnerability. These women had, because of their humility, a courage the Apostles clearly did not yet possess.

So, we have to ask, how then did they come by this? They came by it by accepting the place their culture and their religion consigned them to – based solely on that which they had no control, and which had nothing to do with merit or capability. They had an **inner identity in God** rather than an **external identity in culture** – or even religion. They were not second-class citizens of a subjugated and occupied people, they were disciples of Christ with the Mother of God in their midst as one of them – as their example. They possessed a 'firm belief' St. Gregory speaks of in his sermon on the Myrrh-bearing women. Firm belief is belief that has been established in the heart by good deeds: by action. And this action he very specifically notes, is love and compassion.

Source: www.saintbasil.org

Liturgical Services for This Week

FRIDAY, MAY 5

10:00 a.m. ~ Moleben to the Blessed Virgin Mary

SATURDAY, MAY 6

5:00 p.m. ~ Sunday of the Paralytic

Epistle Reader: Denny Verdenik

SUNDAY, MAY 7

10:00 a.m. ~ Sunday of the Paralytic

Epistle Reader: Susan Soldan



Parish News & Events

The **Children of Chernobyl Memorial Service** will be held at Holy Cross Church on **Sunday, April 30**. The candlelight Panakhya will commence at 2:00 p.m., followed by a short programme in the church hall. Door prizes and lunch will be provided. Everyone is welcome!

Applications for St. George's Scholarship are now available in the narthex. All potential high school graduates, who are parishioners of Holy Cross, are encouraged to apply. The deadline is **Monday, May 1**. Please submit your application to the Parish Office by that date. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Dr. Patrick Opaski at 767-0253.

During the month of May, Father Stepan will celebrate the **Moleben to the Blessed Virgin Mary** every Friday at 10:00 a.m. This beautiful service, originating at the beginning of the 20th century in Western Ukraine, has become a beloved church function in honour of the Mother of God. All parishioners are encouraged to take part. *O Most Holy Mother of God, pray for us!*

On **Sunday, May 14** following the 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy, we invite all mothers of our parish to come to the hall for the annual **Mother's Day Brunch** sponsored by the members of St. George's Society. We ask those who are planning to attend to please sign the list in the narthex, so the appropriate arrangements can be made. *Thank you for your cooperation.* ☺

Don't forget to purchase your tickets early for our 50th Anniversary Dinner and Dance on **September 16, 2017** as prices will rise by \$5 after July 31. Get yours in the narthex after Saturday's or Sunday's Divine Liturgy soon!

There are extra (raw frozen) cabbage rolls (10 one-dozen packages) available. See Michael Watral if you wish to purchase any — first come, first served.

Unyielding Words of Wisdom

*"Women were the first witnesses
to the Resurrection,
and pillars of the early Church."*

~ Joseph Ortberg

Your Return Gift to God

APRIL 22/23

Envelopes: \$1,685.⁰⁰
Initial Offering: \$10.⁰⁰
Easter Flowers: \$10.⁰⁰
Special Projects: \$120.⁰⁰
Mission Collection: \$87.⁴⁰



*Thank you for your generosity!
Щиро Вам дякуємо!*

The Mission Collection for April is designated for the Thunder Bay Chapter of **Children of Chernobyl**. Organized in 1994, its mandate is to assist hospitals and orphanages in Western Ukraine for those affected by the 1986 disaster.



St. George's Society

Many thanks to all members who helped in any way with the Parish Easter Dinner. May God bless your continued efforts!

Our next monthly meeting is **Sunday, April 30** at 7:00 p.m. All members are requested to attend. Executive members are reminded to meet in the classroom at 5:45 p.m.

The deadline for submissions for the next issue of The Plentiful Harvester is **Friday, May 12**.

Our next bingo at Superior Shores is on **Friday, May 16** in the afternoon. Please see Gerry Bullock if you are available to help out on that day. The next bingo training session will take place on **Tuesday, May 23** at 7 p.m. in our parish hall. Those interested in attending, please inform Gerry B.

Love and Service to God since 1960!

Holy Cross Golden Agers

ATTENTION ALL CURRENT MEMBERS! Due to last week's ice storm, our regular monthly meeting will take place this **Thursday, May 4** at **1:30 p.m.** preceded by a mini-tournament (TBD) starting at 12:30 p.m. Following the meeting, bingo will take place as usual. Refreshments will be available also. Hope to see many present!

The next bus to Grand Portage will be leaving the church parking lot on **Wednesday, May 17** at 3:45 p.m. and returning @ 10:00 p.m. To book your seat, please contact either Ann Kozlowski (622-3006) or Ann Opaski (577-2805). This is a **free** service for everyone. Non-members are cordially invited for the ride as well.

We will be making pyrohy on **Tuesday, May 30**. You are welcome to place an order or spread the word to those in our community who might like to order some as well. Contact Ann Kozlowski at 622-3006 or Ann Opaski at 577-2803 at your earliest convenience. The price is still \$5 per dozen for cooked or raw frozen.

'Special Projects' Funds At Work



We would like to thank all parishioners for their continued financial contributions to the **Special Projects Fund** which was recently accessed to cover the replacement of the kitchen stove obsolete fire protection system at a cost of **\$2,500**. We received a written directive to complete this upgrade by the end of March 2017.

You will also notice the new light fixtures in the side entrance to the parish hall which provide a great deal more illumination in what sometimes is a shadowed area. These lights, which continue to be motion-sensitive, are also more energy-efficient, and thus, have a longer lifespan.

Many thanks again to Property Chairman Maurice Zakrewski and Parish Custodian Calvin Pearson who helped with the installation of these two projects and repaint the walls.

Finally, Beebe Mechanical Systems will be installing the air conditioning unit in the parish kitchen this week and will tentatively be finished by the middle of May.

What's Happening in Our Community...

Job Opportunity - St. Andrew's Cemetery has a full-time job opening. As Senior Cemetery Operator, you will provide interment services to St. Andrew's Cemetery; plan all activities involved in the service and maintenance of cemetery grounds, equipment and buildings; provide group leadership to a cemetery operator and to seasonal summer staff. You will also liaise with the cemetery office and funeral directors to co-ordinate funeral services. A full job description is available at the Cemetery Office at 1222 Reaume St. (behind the police station).



Travel the World in 48 hours! - Thunder Bay Multicultural Association's 44th annual "*Folklore Festival*" on **Saturday, May 6 & Sunday, May 7** at the FW Gardens and Curling Club. Tantalizing international foods, imported wines and beers, incredible entertainment, 'shop-the-world' booths, an activity-packed Children's Area with all free activities, beautiful exhibits and displays, and local artists on site await you. Adults: \$5; Seniors/Students: \$3; Children (4-12): \$1, and those 4 and under: free. Win a fabulous "stay-cation" for 4 courtesy of Victoria Inn Hotel & Convention Centre. Visit the website at www.folklorefestival.ca for more information.

Ukrainian Fantasies - Zorya Ukrainian Dance Association presents its 19th annual concert, **Saturday, May 13** at 7:00 p.m. at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium. Tickets available at the TBCA Box Office or by calling 684-4444. Fantastic family entertainment on Mother's Day weekend!

NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS ONLINE - Donations can now be accepted online through the Holy Cross website (www.holycrossbay.com/donate). Parishioners, family and friends can now donate by setting up automatic weekly donations or by one-time donation. One-time donations can be made by any major credit card, while automatic donations require the use of a Paypal account. Donations are eligible for tax receipts. If you have any questions about online donations contact Andrea Warywoda at 629-6818. *Thank you for your generous contributions to our parish community!*



Christ is Risen: The Faces of Easter

It was early in the morning on the first day of the week when some women went to visit the tomb where their friend Jesus had been buried. He had been crucified on a cross and buried in a borrowed tomb and the women were going to put spices on His body. The women were very sad as they went to the tomb.

When they arrived at the tomb, the women discovered that the stone that had covered the entrance had been rolled away. Can you imagine the look of surprise on their faces when they saw the open tomb? When they looked inside the tomb, they had the biggest surprise of all. The tomb was empty!

Suddenly, surprise turned to fear as two men in bright shining clothes came and stood beside the women. In their fright, they bowed down with their faces to the ground. The men spoke to the women and said, "Jesus is not here; He has risen! Don't you remember what He told you when He was in Galilee?"

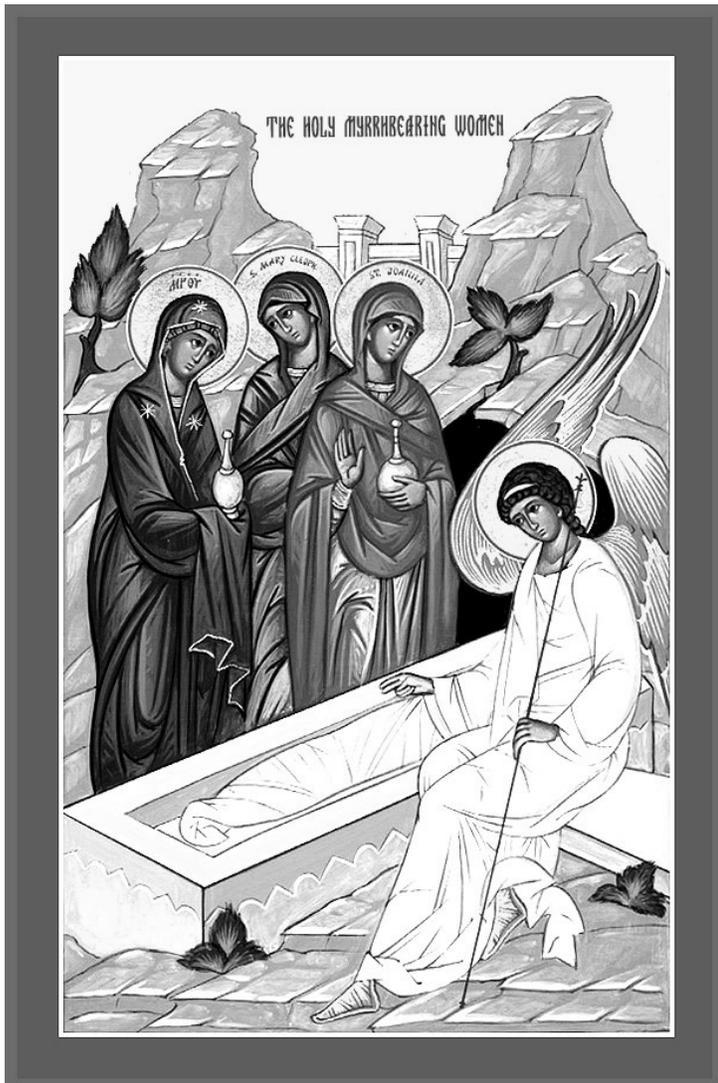
Then the women remembered what Jesus had told them and they were no longer afraid. Their fear turned to happiness and they went back and told Jesus' disciples what they had seen and that Jesus had risen, just as He had told them He would. What a happy day!

We have reason to be happy today, don't we? We are happy because we know that Jesus rose from the grave and that He lives forever. But we are also happy because we know that the Bible tells us that "Whoever believes in Him will not perish, but will have everlasting life." Now that is something to be happy about, isn't it?

Let us pray: Dear Father, we are happy today because Jesus is risen from the grave and lives forever. We are also happy because we know that those who believe in Him will also have everlasting life. Amen.

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Source: www.sermons4kids.com



*Let us joyfully all sing
Praises to our Lord and King,
Jesus Christ we glorify,
God our Saviour from on high:
Christ our Lord from death is risen!*

*Women came that early morn
Bearing ointments to adorn
Jesus' body in the grave
For the world He came to save.
Christ our Lord from death is risen!*

*"Who will roll the stone away?"
Cried the women in dismay,
From the tomb they heard a voice:
"He is risen; go, rejoice!"
Christ our Lord from death is risen!*

*Let us sing rejoicingly
And proclaim the victory;
Christ arisen from the tomb
Casts away all earthy gloom.
Christ our Lord from death is risen!*

*He is risen! Truly risen!
Christ our Lord is risen!
Through His passion, death is gone!
From the tomb new life has shone!
Christ, for our redemption,
Everlasting life has won!*