

MAY 3, 2020

BULLETIN – SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN, PIOUS JOSEPH OF
ARIMATHAEA & RIGHTEOUS NICODEMUS

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Deadline for Bulletin Submissions – 10:00 am Wednesday ♦ church website: <https://ssppaac.org/>

Christ is risen! Indeed, he is risen!

Kristus vstal zmr'trych! Skutoc ne vstal!

Hristolu unghia! Dalechira unghia!

Many Years – Birthday

Eliana Lewis May 5

Matt Swagerty May 6

Many Years – Anniversary

Fr. Tom & Kh. Maria Lindsay May 4

FATHER NATHAN'S SCHEDULE

Fr. Nathan and family will be out of town May 6-16. If you need to speak with a priest, please contact Fr. George at (831) 359-1051. If you have an administrative issue, please contact the church office.

DIVINE SERVICES ONLINE

To see the list of links for accessing online services, please go here:

<https://www.antiochian.org/dashboard?name=COVID-19>

NEEDS & SURPLUS

If you have a surplus of

- bleach, household cleaners, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, water, canned and jarred food (especially vegetables), frozen foods, diapers, paper towels

and want to share with others in our parish who need these items, please bring them to the parish hall **on Saturdays from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**. If you have a need, please call Marilyn Spurgeon at (831) 345-5448 or email her at mlspurgeon64@gmail.com. The Kindness Ministry Team will then work out a time/ place for items to be distributed to those in need.

MORE ONLINE RESOURCES

The Department of Homeschooling and other Archdiocese ministries are offering learning opportunities, support, and curriculum resources for all ages. Go here for more info: <https://www.antiochian.org/regulararticle/622>

ONLINE DONATING

To donate online, go to <https://ssppaac.org/#>. When the home page comes up, at the top right, you will see “Support Our Parish”. Select “Donate Online” and that will take you to a page with a list of possible donations and a place to pay tithes.

This Week @ Ss. Peter & Paul–May 4-10, 2020

5/2 Sat Great Vespers

5/3 Sun Orthros followed by Divine Liturgy – Myrrh-bearers

Looking Ahead –

Services will be conducted similarly to what is listed above until further notice from the Antiochian Archdiocese and the County of Santa Cruz. When we know more, you will be notified as to any change to this schedule. Please remember to pray at home.

Memory Eternal!

May 3

Lou Perez

May 5

John Woneis

Orthodox Tidbits

*“The Word of God came in His own Person, because it was He alone, the Image of the Father, Who could recreate man made after the Image [of God]. In order to effect this recreation, however, He had first to do away with death and corruption. Therefore, He assumed a human body, in order that in it death might once and for all be destroyed, and that men might be renewed according to the Image [of God].”
Saint Athanasius, On the Incarnation*

This is a very different view than one of the most commonly held Western views of what Christ's work on the Cross entailed. In the Western view, God demands that man pay for his sins through, first of all, the sacrifice of animals in the temple and then ultimately, through the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross. In this view, the primary change that takes place is not in man, changing by being renewed to the image and likeness of God; but in God Himself, changing from being an angry, bloodthirsty God to one who is appeased by the death of His own Son. This is a very serious claim; it essentially states that the God of love that we know in the New Testament is not the same God as the supposedly bloodthirsty God of the Old Testament. This idea was condemned as a heresy at the Council of Nicea, AD 325.

Another point concerns forgiveness. If God truly forgives us, then no payment is necessary. If a payment is necessary, then a debt is not really forgiven completely. A good illustration is someone who cannot pay for their dinner in a restaurant. If their debt is forgiven, then they can just leave. If they, or someone else, has to wash dishes in the back, then the debt is just being paid in a different manner; it is not really forgiven.

Finally, the view of what the goal of the Christian life is is different than a commonly held Western view. The Orthodox Church views our goal as being restored completely to the Image and Likeness of God through union with Christ. We are not being saved from hell; we are saved for a life in which we are partakers of the divine nature, eternally growing in our union with Christ.

These are very important things to consider. There are many views of God that simply do not line up with what we have seen in the Holy Scriptures and in the life of the Church. Our God is Love, willing to sacrifice God the Son, Jesus Christ, in order to destroy the power of sin and death; so that we may be united with Him ever more and more, to the ages of ages. Amen.

In Christ,
Fr. Nathan

May 3

The women went to Christ's tomb on Holy Pascha to anoint His body, only to discover it empty. We know the names of only eight of these women: Mary the Theotokos, the "mother" of James and Joses, who were the sons of Joseph the Betrothed from his previous marriage (Matt. 27:56 and Mark 15:40); Mary Magdalene; Mary, the wife of Cleopas; Joanna the wife of Chuza; Salome the mother of the sons of Zebedee; Susanna; and Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus. Joseph was a rich and noble man, and a member of the Privy Council of Jerusalem. He dared to ask Pilate for the undefiled body of our Savior, which he took and buried in his own new tomb. Accompanying Joseph to the sepulcher was Nicodemus, a Jerusalemite who was one of the leaders of the Pharisees. Nicodemus brought 100 pounds of myrrh and aloes to scent and embalm the body of Christ.

“To know Him and the power of His Resurrection’ (Phil 3:10) consists in this movement by which Christ descends into our very depths to raise us up into the light of Life. This is the movement of baptism, descent and rising up (Rom 6:3-4), with all the spiritual realism that the power of the Spirit will realize within us day after day in our personal lives.”

His Beatitude, Patriarch IGNATIUS IV