

Вітаємо Всі до Нашої Парафії! Welcome All to Our Parish! A Place of Prayer, Family and Community for More than 50 Years

Epistle ~ Acts 6: 1-7

Gospel ~ Mark 15: 43 - 16:9

Troparia & special texts are found on **page 6** of the white **Easter Season** booklets

Epistle Readers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Joseph Myslicki
Sunday (10 a.m.): Andrika Warywoda

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday (5 p.m.): Linda Douglas
Sunday (10 a.m.): Murray Salomon

In spite of the difficulty facing them, the myrrh-bearing women “of faith” began their journey toward the stone. It would have been easy for these women to not even begin their journey. They knew a huge stone was standing in their way, and yet they pressed on. Can’t you hear them talking as they walked towards the tomb, “Who is going to move the stone out of our way?”

Just like the stone over the tomb of Jesus was an obstacle to these women, we all have stones which prevent us from reaching out in faith to Jesus Christ. Most of the time, we cannot remove them by ourselves. Like the women on the way to the tomb, we are not strong enough to move these heavy stones. But there is someone who can – God. He rolled away the stone of death and replaced it forever with eternal life with Him and His Son. God can help us roll away our stones too. There is no stone of ours so heavy that God cannot help us remove it from our lives; there is no stone so harmful that God cannot remove it and replace it with a living heart of love.

~ from a sermon by Dr. Julius Soyinka



Unyielding Words of Wisdom

“The Saviour’s atonement was the most important thing that has ever happened. His Resurrection was the crowning achievement of all. And it was first shown to a righteous, believing woman.”

~ Mark E. Petersen

Your Return Gift to God

Let us strive to live as Christian stewards, receive God’s gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them generously and lovingly with others, and return them with increase to the Lord.

COLLECTION FOR APRIL 7/8

Envelopes: \$1,722.²⁵ Candle Offering: \$64.⁰⁰
Mission Collection: \$61.⁹⁰ Special Projects: \$145.⁰⁰

Thank you for your generosity! Щиро Вам дякуємо!

The Mission Collection for the month of April is designated for the **Salvation Army**, a Christian organization that gives hope and support to vulnerable people in 400 communities across Canada and in 128 countries. The Salvation Army exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world. For more information, visit www.salvationarmy.ca.

Liturgical Services for This Week

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

5:00 p.m. ~ **Sunday of the Paralytic**
Epistle Reader: Ann Opaski

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

10:00 a.m. ~ **Sunday of the Paralytic**
Epistle Reader: Alice Watral




Holy Cross Parish News and Events

We extend our best wishes to **George Rusnick** on the occasion of his **90th** birthday on **April 3**. May the Risen Lord continue to bless His servant George with good health and salvation for many more years as he serves Him and his fellow brothers and sisters here on earth. *Христос воскрес!*



The annual **Children of Chornobyl Panakhyda and Reception** will be held at Holy Cross on **Sunday, April 22** beginning at 2:00 p.m. with the candlelight service in the church followed by a gathering/mini-concert in our hall. Door prizes and a light lunch will be provided. Admission is free and everyone is invited to attend this important commemoration!

 Due to the deep frost levels and the cooler weather this spring, the date for the dedication ceremony and tree planting for the **50th Anniversary Legacy Project**, originally scheduled for April 22, will be deferred until June; actual date to be announced in future bulletins. *Thank you for your patience.*

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**. Late or incomplete applications will not be accepted.

Several parishioners have requested that we resume praying the Rosary before the Divine Liturgy. As a result, time will be needed to draw up a schedule of those who are willing to lead or share the task on a rotating basis. The month of May will be our launch point. Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you wish to take on/share this important responsibility.



HOLY CROSS GOLDEN AGERS

Regular activities happen every Thursday afternoon at the usual time (doors open at 12:30 p.m.) when new members are welcome to join. Membership is just \$10 per year and well worth it. Come check us out ~ you'll be glad you did!

Feeling lucky? The next bus to Grand Portage will leave the church parking lot on **Wednesday, April 18** at 3:45 p.m. and return @ 10:00 p.m. Please contact Ann Kozlowski or Ann Opaski (numbers are below) to book your seat. This is a **free** service. Non-members (18 years and up) **with valid passports** are invited also. Join us for the ride and recreation!

Orders for our pyrohy making session on **Tuesday, May 29** can be placed anytime. Contact Ann Kozlowski at 622-3006 or Ann (G) Opaski at 577-2805 to get your name on the list. The price is now \$6 per dozen for **cooked or raw frozen**. Don't wait until the last minute or you'll be disappointed. Thank you for your support and cooperation!

"Do not regret growing older: it's a privilege denied to many."

Readings for the Sunday of the Paralytic

(to help prepare for the nourishment of the Word of God at Liturgy)



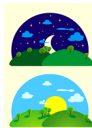
Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 9: 32-42
Gospel: John 5: 1-15

As you read each passage, ask yourself these questions,
"What thoughts, ideas, words or images come to mind?"
and "What are the connections between them?"

This will help make them easier to follow and understand.

EVENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sprinkle of Spring Tea - sponsored by St. Dominic Church CWL, **Sunday, April 15** from **12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.** in St. Dominic Parish Hall, 130 W. Redwood Ave. featuring draws, Bake Table, Penny Auction, Sewing Table, sandwiches & dainties. Ticket prices: Adults: \$6.⁰⁰/person; children (5-12): \$4.⁰⁰; (4 and under): free. Everyone is invited!



Night and Day - Now in its 62nd year, the Lakehead Choral Group is pleased to present its annual Spring Concert on **Wednesday, April 25** at **7:30 p.m.** at St. Agnes Church (Mary at Brown St). All the selections will be on the theme "Night and Day." As a special treat, one of the pieces will be performed with an ethereal accompaniment of tuned water glasses. Tickets are \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door. Speak with Susan Soldan today to get your tickets for this special show!

Spring Yard Sale - **Saturday, April 28** from **9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** sponsored by St. Agnes Church Youth. Have anything to offer? Donations are gratefully being accepted and can be dropped off at the rectory (1019 Brown St.) during office hours (Tuesday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.).



An Evening of Colour & Energy! - Chaban Ukrainian Dance Group presents its annual concert "Beauty and the Beets Beats", **Saturday, April 28** at **7:00 p.m.** at the Thunder Bay Community Auditorium. To get tickets, visit the TBCA box office, call 684-4444, or order online at www.tbca.com.

This is a fun, family-friendly evening you won't want to miss. Help support Ukrainian culture in Thunder Bay!



ST. GEORGE'S SOCIETY

Thank you to the many members who helped with the Parish Easter Dinner last Sunday especially with clean up. The job was done quickly due to the large amount of volunteers.

The next bingo training session for new volunteers will take place on **Sunday, April 15** from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Superior Shores at which we need more members (and parishioners) to attend. Your help is gratefully appreciated. The next refresher training session is **Sunday, April 22** from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. as well. Current volunteers are required to attend if you have not already done so. May and June dates will be published soon.

The annual Ontario Volunteer Service Awards ceremony is on **Sunday, April 29** starting at 2:00 p.m. at the Valhalla Inn Ballroom. Our monthly meeting follows at 7:00 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend. Hope to see many in attendance!

Love and Service to God since 1960!

Today's Gospel reading is dedicated to the Myrrh-Bearing Women; to the simple women, who on the day following the burial of Christ the Saviour early in the morning hastened to His tomb to anoint the lifeless body of their Teacher with sweet spices.

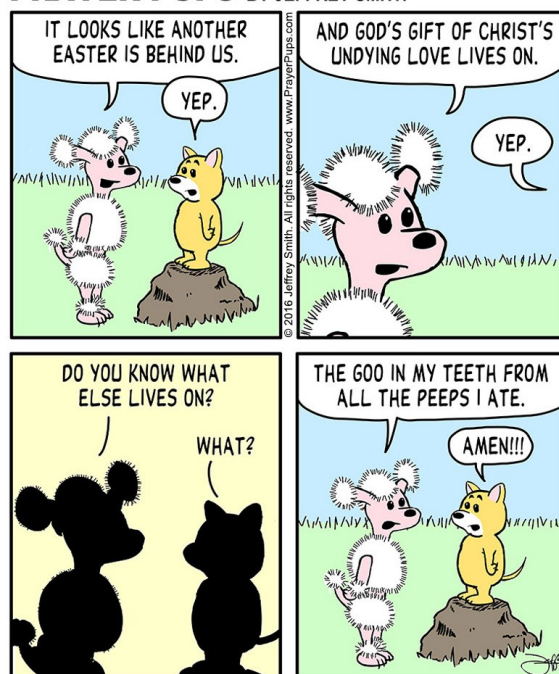
Why are the Myrrh-Bearing women the first to be honoured with such news? Feminine nature itself presupposes that love and sacrifice are its main quality and its fundamental value. Any woman is by her very nature a mother, whether she is married or not. And a mother is someone who can and ought to take to her heart every single person who is next to her regardless of their gender or age, whether they be virtuous or sinful. And this feminine love with a disregard for deliberations and perplexities triumphs over the gloom and depression that took hold of the disciples and drives the women to act without deliberating.

Unlike the disciples who, following Christ's death upon the cross, went home depressed, despondent, and perplexed as to how they would go on living, the women simply act. They take spices, and as soon as the sun rises they run to the tomb of the Saviour, and – a miracle! They see that the tomb is empty; an Angel meets them and announces to them the joyous news of Christ's resurrection.

~ Archpriest Pavel Velikanov

Smile Pups

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH





An Easter Surprise: The Stone Was Rolled Away

On the Sunday after Jesus was crucified, Mary Magdalene and another woman named Mary went to visit the tomb where Jesus had been buried. When they arrived, the stone that had covered the tomb had been rolled away, and an angel was sitting on it. The two women were shocked and a bit afraid.



"Don't be afraid," the angel said to them. "I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, He has risen, just as He said He would. Come, see the place where He lay. Then go quickly and tell His disciples."

The two Marys looked in and saw that the tomb was empty and hurried away. They were surprised and afraid, but they were filled with joy. As they ran to tell

the disciples, they met Jesus. They ran to Him and grasped Him and worshipped Him.

Jesus said to them, "Don't be afraid! Go tell My brothers to leave for Galilee, and they will see Me there."

Now, that is what I call a real Easter Surprise. They went to see Jesus in the tomb, but He was not there. He was risen! That is why when we see our friends on Easter we greet them by saying, "He is risen!" and our friends reply, "Indeed He is risen!"

Heavenly Father, how we thank you for this glorious celebration of the resurrection of Jesus, our Lord. We are not surprised that the tomb was empty. He has risen just as He said He would. In His name we pray. Amen.

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Source: www.sermons4kids.com

Why did the women bring spices to anoint the body of Jesus after His burial?



"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" (Mark 16:1). The women's visit to the tomb is also mentioned in Matthew 28:1, Luke 24:1, and John 20:1, though Luke is the only other gospel writer to mention the spices they brought with them.

Luke 23:56 adds that, on the day of Jesus' crucifixion, the women "went home and prepared spices and perfumes. But they rested on the Sabbath in obedience to the commandment." John 19:39 reveals that Nicodemus had already used spices on the body of Jesus: "Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds."

The main reason a dead body was anointed with spices was to control the smell of decomposition. Jews did not practice embalming, and the funeral spices were a way to help minimize unpleasant odours. At the tomb of Lazarus, when Jesus asked for the stone to be rolled away from the mouth of the tomb, Martha objected: "By this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days" (John 11:39). The spices the women brought to Jesus' tomb were intended to eliminate such an odour and honour the body of Christ.

The fact that the women brought spices to anoint Jesus' dead body showed they did not expect Jesus to literally rise from the dead. After resting on the Sabbath (Saturday) according to Jewish custom, the women traveled to Jesus' tomb early Sunday morning with plans to provide the traditional spices used on a dead body. This group of women included Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Salome, Joanna, and possibly others (Luke 24:10). Their primary concern was over how the stone would be moved to allow them entrance to the tomb. When they arrived at the tomb, they were surprised to see the stone already rolled away and no body inside.

In their act of devotion, these faithful and reverent followers of Jesus became the first witnesses of the empty tomb and the first to see Jesus alive again. The spices they brought were unneeded, since Jesus was alive forevermore, but their zealous loyalty to the Saviour was rewarded with the honour of becoming the first eyewitnesses of the resurrected Lord.

*Мироносиці жени ранком до гроба ідуть,
Мира на святі рани плачучи з собов несуть.
Христос воскрес із мертвих!
Воскрес, воскрес, воскрес із мертвих!
Смертю, смертю смерть подолав,
Смертю, смертю смерть подолав,
І тим, що в гробах,
Життя, життя дарував!*

*Women came that early morn bearing ointment to adorn
Jesus' body in the grave for the world He came to save.
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!*