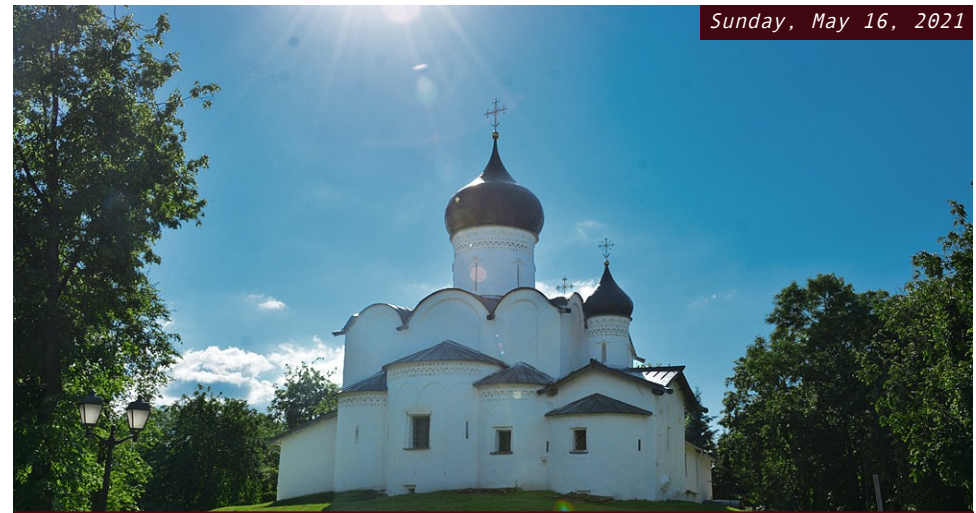


Parish Announcements

- **Service Streaming:** To view livestreams of our services, please visit https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGp9uDgdYDw_sqUBWP_8zeQ.
- **Vacation Church School:** This year's VCS will take place from August 16-20, with programming for both children and adults. Please contact Gaye B. if you are interested in helping out.



Sunday, May 16, 2021



HOLY ASCENSION

Orthodox Christian Church

**Antiochian Orthodox Christian Diocese of
Charleston, Oakland, and the Mid-Atlantic**

**Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch
and All the East**

Primate

His Eminence, the Most Rev. Metropolitan Joseph
(Al-Zehlaoui)

Diocesan Hierarch

His Grace, the Right Rev. Bishop Thomas (Joseph)

Pastor

Rev. Fr. Christopher Eid

Subdeacon

Vladimir Moses

Saturday Vespers - 5:00 PM

Sunday Orthros - 8:25 AM

Sunday Liturgy - 9:30 AM

Confessions - Saturday evenings,
following most divine services,
and by appointment

*For an updated service and event
schedule, visit our online calendar:*

HolyAscension.net/calendar

Divine Liturgy Variables

Resurrectional Apolytikion in Tone Two

When Thou didst submit Thyself unto death, O Thou deathless and immortal One, then Thou didst destroy hell with Thy Godly power – and when Thou didst raise the dead from beneath the earth, all the powers of Heaven did cry aloud unto Thee: O Christ, Thou giver of life, glory to Thee.

Apolytikion of Joseph of Arimathea in Tone Two

The noble Joseph, taking Thine immaculate Body down from the Tree, and having wrapped it in pure linen and spices, laid it for burial in a new tomb. But on the third day Thou didst arise, O Lord, granting to the world Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of the Myrrh-Bearing Women in Tone Two

Unto the myrrh-bearing women did the Angel cry out as he stood by the grave: Myrrh-oils are meet for the dead, but Christ hath proved to be a stranger to corruption. But cry out: The Lord is risen, granting to the world Great Mercy.

Apolytikion of Holy Ascension in Tone Four

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit – and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

Kontakion of Pascha in Tone Eight

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of Hades and didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women, Rejoice, and giving peace unto Thine Apostles, O Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

Prayer Requests

LIVING:

Catechumen John R.; Catechumen Dan S.; David K. (Vicki M.'s nephew); Carol (Vicki M.'s sister, recent hospitalization); Maggie (Fran H.'s sister-in-law, health); Thomas (Fran H.'s husband, health); Jean (Lisa K.'s friend, cancer); Sophia (infant granddaughter of Lisa K.'s coworker, leukemia); Marlan A.; Mitri, Tina, and family; Courtney M. (health); Maggie W. (health); Ariel (Barbara H.'s daughter-in-law) and baby; Barbara H. (shoulder); Bp. Alexander (health); Met. Hilarion (cancer); Jeanne K. (health); Dorothy (Fran's mother); Elizabeth G. (heart); Fiona (Jane S.'s family friend); Elias (Lisa K.'s cousin, tumor); Mary (Jeff K.'s cousin, cancer); Christina (Lisa K.'s mother); Suad and Nasri (ill); Jack (Coleen's dad, for continued healing); Daniel (Mark R.'s son); Orthodox suffering from persecution; those suffering from war, illness, and disasters

DEPARTED:

Casandra K. (Vicki M.'s sister-in-law)

Dennis K. (Vicki M.'s brother)

Those lost to illness or natural disasters

Orthodox Christians and others recently murdered and killed during the fighting in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere in the world



Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women,
Pious Joseph of Arimathea, & Righteous Nicodemus

Today's Scripture Readings

THE EPISTLE

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostles (6:1-7)

In those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily ministry. And the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said: "It is not right that we should forsake the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good report, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. And we will devote ourselves 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 of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Próchoros, and Nikánor, and Tímon, and Parmenás, and Nikólaos a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem exceedingly, and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark (15:43-16:8)

At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the Kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if He were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether Jesus was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that He was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking Him down, wrapped Him in the linen shroud, and laid Him in a tomb, which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where He was laid. And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb at the rising of the sun. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back – it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a long white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He is risen; He is not here; see the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you to Galilee; there you will see Him, as He told you." And they went out quickly and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Words from the Saints

Like Nicodemus, he [Joseph] was a secret admirer and disciple of the Lord Jesus. But, even though these two men were secret followers of Christ's teaching, they were nevertheless ready to lay themselves open to danger by standing together with Christ... That what Joseph was doing was dangerous is indicated by the Evangelist by the word "boldly." He needed, then, more than courage; he needed daring to go to Caesar's representative and ask for the body of a crucified felon. But Joseph, as Nicephorus says, "in his greatness of soul, threw off his fear and shook off all subservience, showing himself to be a disciple of Jesus Christ."

St. Nicholas Velimirovich