

WEEKLY BULLETIN

April 30, 2023 • Vol. 40, No. 16
Myrrhbearing Women Sunday
Holy Apostle James, brother of
St. John the Theologian



SAINT ELIA ORTHODOX CHURCH A Parish of the Orthodox Church in America

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*His Eminence Alexander, Archbishop of Toledo, Bulgarian Diocese, OCA
Very Rev. Mitred Archpriest Father Don Anthony Freude, Parish Rector
Rev. Protodeacon James M. Gresh, Attached*

SAINT ELIA THE PROPHET PARISH

2023 Parish Council

President: Veronica Bilas
V. President: Sandy Graham
Secretary: Subdeacon Aaron Gray
Treasurer: Reader Joshua Wherley
Members: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas,
Bud Graham, Sarah Kostadinova,
COCA Representative: Mary Marcin

Choir Director: Subdeacon Terrence A. Bilas
Assistant Directors: Anastasia Bohush
Deaconisa Heidi Gresh, Reader Michael Luc

Church School: Anastasia Bohush

Sisterhood of St. Juliana:

President: Anastasia Bohush,
V. President: Sandy Graham
Secretary: Katherine Hodge
Treasurer: Mary Magensky

Workers of St. Elizabeth the New Martyr:

Coordinators: Subdeacon Aaron Gray, Veronica Bilas

Scheduled Readers - 2023

Sunday, April 30 Reader Joshua Wherley
Sunday, May 7 Deaconisa Heidi Gresh
Sunday, May 14 Hours: Subdeacon Terrence Bilas
Epistle: Anastasia Bohush
Sunday, May 21 Sue Ellen Turscak

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

3RD SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 2

**Holy Myrrhbearing Women Holy Apostle James,
the brother of Saint John the Theologian**

Saturday, April 29

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, April 30

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Reader Joshua Wherley

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Reader Joshua Wherley

Epistle: Acts: 6:1-7

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

4th SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 3- Paralytic

Response of St. Alexis Toth, Confessor and

Defender of Orthodoxy in America

Saturday, May 6

5:00 pm Great Vespers and Confessions

Sunday, May 7

9:10 am 3rd and 6th Hours: Deaconisa Heidi Gresh

9:30 am Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom

Epistle Reader: Deaconisa Heidi Gesh

Epistle: Acts: 9:32-42

Gospel: John 5:1-15

Christos Voskrese! Al Masseh Qam!

Hristos a Inviat! Krishti U Ngjail!

Christus ist auferstanden! Cristo e' risorto!

Hristos vaskrse! Krisztus feltamadt!

Le Christ est ressucite! Christus resurrexit!

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED, HE IS RISEN

TODAY'S SCRIPTURAL READINGS

MYRRHBEARING WOMEN SUNDAY

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Seven Chosen to Serve

6 Now in those days, when *the number of* the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists,^[a] because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. **2** Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. **3** Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; **4** but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, **6** whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

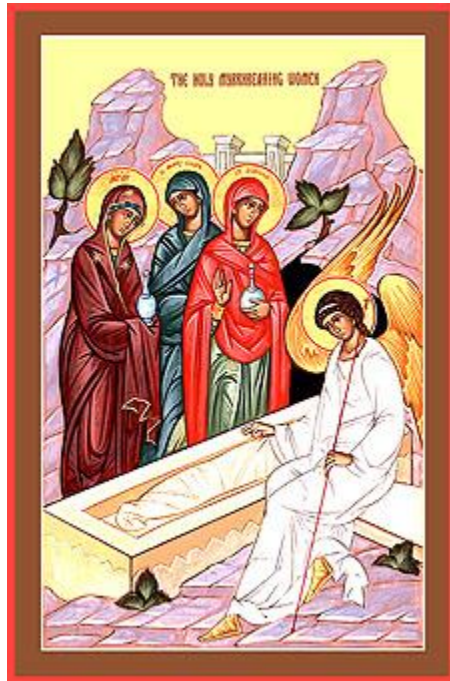
43 Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went into Pilate and asked

for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴ Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. ⁴⁵ So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. ⁴⁷ And Mary Magdalene and Mary *the mother* of Joses observed where He was laid.

He Is Risen

16 Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother* of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. ² Very early in the morning, on the first *day* of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. ³ And they said among themselves, “Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?” ⁴ But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away—for it was very large. ⁵ And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. ⁶ But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. ⁷ But go, tell His disciples—and Peter—that He is going ^[a]before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.” ⁸ So they went out ^[b]quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women with the Noble Joseph



The Myrrh-bearing women are those women who followed the Lord, along with His Mother. They remained with her during the time of the saving Passion and anointed the Lord's body with myrrh. Joseph and Nikódēmos asked for and received the Lord's body from Pilate. They took it down from the Cross, wrapped it in linen cloths and spices, then they laid it in a tomb, and then they placed a great stone over the entrance of the tomb.

According to the Evangelist Matthew (27:57-61) Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joses (Mark 15:40) were there sitting opposite the sepulcher, and they saw where He had been laid. This other Mary was the Mother of God. Not only were these present, but also many other women, as Saint Luke says (24:10).

Today the Church honors Saints Mary Magdalene (July 22), Mary the wife of Cleopas (May 23), Joanna (June 27), Salome, mother of the sons of Zebedee (August 3), Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus (June 4), and the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, who was the stepmother of her husband Joseph's sons James (October 23) and Joses (October 30). Today we also remember Saint Joseph of Arimathea (July 31), who was a secret disciple (John 19:38), and Saint Nikódēmos, who was a disciple by night (John 3:3; 19:38).

The holy right-believing Queen Tamara of Georgia is honored twice during the year: on May 1, the day of her repose, and on the Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women.

On this day the Church also remembers All Saints of Thessalonica, Saint Seraphim Bishop of Phanar (December 4, 1610), the New Martyr Elias Ardunis (January 31, 1686), and the New Martyr Demetrios of the Peloponnesos (April 13, 1803).

BEYOND HUMAN EXPERIENCE

One feature of Jesus' Pascha appearances is people's inability to recognize Him.

When Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene, "***she did not know***" it was Jesus (John 20:14).

When Jesus appeared to the apostles, they thought it was "***a ghost***" (Luke 24:37).

When He appeared on the seashore, the ***disciples "did not know"*** Him (John 21:4).

This speaks of the nature of resurrection. It is something no human has ever experienced. It is not "resuscitation," or a return to life, but a quantum leap in life – and in body. The body that rose on Pascha Sunday morning was radically different from the body that was buried on Good Friday afternoon.

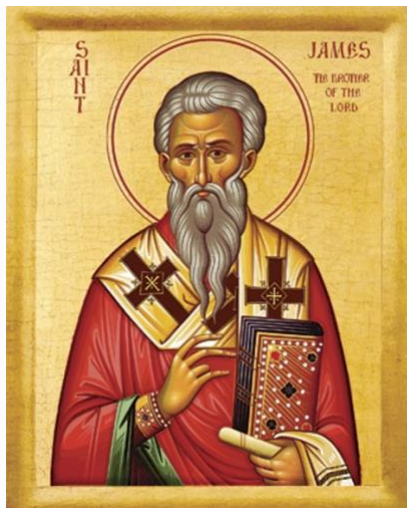
The Apostle Paul compares the body before resurrection to a seed planted on the earth.

***"When you plant a seed in the ground,
it does not sprout to life unless it dies.
And what you plant is a bare seed...
not the full-bodied plant
that will later grow up..."***

***This is how it will be
when the dead are raised to life...
When buried, it is a physical body;
when raised it will be a spiritual body."***

1Corinthians 15:36-37, 42-44

Apostle James the Brother of Saint John the Theologian



The Holy Apostle James, the son of Zebedee, was the brother of Saint John the Theologian, and one of the Twelve Apostles. He and his brother, Saint John, were called to be Apostles by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who called them the “Sons of Thunder” (Mark 3:17). It was this James, with John and Peter, who witnessed the Raising of the daughter of Jairus, the Lord’s Transfiguration on Mount Tabor, and His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Saint James, after the Descent of the Holy Spirit, preached in Spain and in other lands, and then he returned to Jerusalem. He openly and boldly preached Jesus Christ as the Savior of the world, and he denounced the Pharisees and the Scribes with the

words of Holy Scripture, reproaching them for their malice of heart and unbelief.

The Jews could not prevail against Saint James, and so they hired the sorcerer Hermogenes to dispute with the apostle and refute his arguments that Christ was the promised Messiah Who had come into the world. The sorcerer sent to the apostle his pupil Philip, who was converted to belief in Christ. Then Hermogenes himself became persuaded of the power of God, he burned his books of magic, accepted holy Baptism and became a true follower of Christ.

The Jews persuaded Herod Agrippa (40-44) to arrest the Apostle James and sentence him to death (Acts 12:1-2). Eusebius provides some of the details of the saint's execution (CHURCH HISTORY II, 9). Saint James calmly heard the death sentence and continued to bear witness to Christ. One of the false witnesses, whose name was Josiah, was struck by the courage of Saint James. He came to believe in Jesus Christ as the Messiah. When they led the apostle forth to execution, Josiah fell at his feet, repenting of his sin and asking forgiveness. The apostle embraced him, gave him a kiss and said, "Peace and forgiveness to you." Then Josiah confessed his faith in Christ before everyone, and he was beheaded with Saint James in the year 44 at Jerusalem.

Saint James was the first of the Apostles to die as a martyr.

SISTERHOOD OF ST. JULIANA MEETING

Sunday, May 7, following the Divine Liturgy

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

May 23, 2023, at 7:00 pm

TEMPLE FEAST OF ST. ELIA THE PROPHET

The Feast Day of St. Elia is on July 20 and will be celebrated with a Vespereal Divine Liturgy on **Wednesday, July 19 at 6:00 pm**

Continuing our Feast Day celebration, we will welcome His Eminence, our Father, and Archbishop Alexander, on the following **Sunday, July 23**, to celebrate the Pontifical Divine Liturgy followed by a picnic style luncheon. **Please mark your calendars.**

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OUR STEWARDHIP – April 23, 2023

Candles: \$ 26.00

Bookstore: 10.00

Sunday Offering: 1,655.00

TOTAL: \$ 1,692.00

Tithely Donations: \$ 334.91

PayPal Donations: 25.00

TOTAL: \$ 359.91

TOTAL OFFERINGS: \$2,051.91

Gladsome Light

A blue sky and the sun's bright and warming rays cause many of us to be happy. Conversely, when the sun is hidden by a mass of clouds, the subdued light can easily repress our happy mood. In regions where the sun is not visible for weeks on end, many suffer from sadness and depression.

What the sun's light is for the body, that is what Christ is for our souls. When Christ is in our lives day after day, there is joy in our hearts. When we put a cover of our sins over us, the rays of His Light cannot warm us and our hearts are cool. And when the Light of Christ is never permitted to illumine us, our souls subsist in a sickly condition.

Whereas it may not be possible to have blue skies and the warmth of the sun all the time, it does us good to have Christ, the *Gladsome Light*, illumine and warm us always.

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Visit the St. Elia Shop

If you haven't visited the little St. Elia "shop" downstairs in the parish hall lately, we are carrying several new items including coffee mugs with quotes from the saints, and St. Elia T-shirts and baseball caps. If you are interested in a piece of St. Elia "spirit wear" in a certain size or style that's not currently available, please see Aaron Gray about a special order. All proceeds go toward the life and ministry of our parish. Thank you for your support.

REMEMBERING THOSE SERVING IN THE

ARMED FORCES

Subdeacon Anthony Freude, son of Fr Don and
Popadia Donna Freude
Egor Cravcenco, son of Serghei and Ludmila
Cravcenco

REMEMBERING OUR SICK AND SHUTINS

Archbishop Benjamin
Archbishop Nathaniel
Joseph Boyle (brother of Kathy Gray)
Phyllis (sister of Rose Marie Vronick)
Florence Lambo
Martin Vronick
Nicoletta (Nikki) Bober
Pani Dolores Zuder
Matushka Myra Kovalak
Mitered Archpriest Daniel Kovalak
Matushka Christine Zebren
Matushka Laryssa Hutnyan
Subdeacon Martin Paluch
Barbara (sister of Veronica Bilas)
Ted Theodore
Sarah Costadinova
Melissa Trace
Gerald Gray (father of Subdeacon Aaron Gray)
Kalie Obeng Fiorg
Louis Hakim