



St. Michael's Parish Bee

Fr. James S. Dutko, (607) 725-3672
Cell: 725-3672, frjimd@stny.rr.com
Fr. Deacon Charles Ellis, 785-1435

St. Michael's Orthodox Church
296 Clinton St., Binghamton, NY 13905
(607) 729-0261, frjimd@stny.rr.com

Live-Stream: www.saintmichaels.info, <https://www.facebook.com/StMichaelsBGM/>

St. Michael's Orthodox Church is a parish family serving the Lord since 1904.
American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, www.acrod.org

Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearers, May And Mother's Day!

Paschal Antiphons, p. 193, Tropar & Kondak
Prokimen, Alleluia verses for today, p. 200-01

Schedule for this Week!

Monday:	* Grab & Go Community Meal, 5:30-7 PM
Tuesday:	* Liturgy with prayers for +Fr. Stephen, 8:30 AM On this 80 th anniversary of his ordination * Session 4, The Way, Atrium, 7-8:30 PM
Wednesday:	* Parish Paschal Luncheon, 12 noon (Everyone welcome to this Meatloaf Meal) * Moleben to the Mother of God, 6 PM St. George Orthodox Church, Taylor
Friday:	* Moleben of the Resurrectio, 8:30 AM
Saturday:	* Liturgy w/ prayers for Pani Sally Ellis, 8:30 AM * Confessions, 4 PM, Vespers 5 PM
Sunday	* Sunday of Paralytic, 4 th Paschal Sunday Church School Classes, 10:30-11:30 AM Coffee Shoppe, 10:30-11:30 AM

The Myrrhbearing Women!

The myrrh-bearers had brought funeral spices and ointments to finish committing Christ's body to the grave. They were the first to see the empty tomb and were instructed by the risen Lord to bring the joyful news to the apostles. Sts. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus are also commemorated on this day.

There are eight women who are generally identified as the myrrh-bearers. Each of the four Gospels gives a different aspect of the roles of these eight women at the cross and at the tomb on Easter morning, perhaps since the eight women arrived in different groups and at different times. The eight were:

Mary Magdalene
Mary, the Theotokos (the Virgin Mary)
Joanna
Salome
Mary the wife of Cleopas (mother of James)
Susanna
Mary of Bethany (sister of Lazarus)
Martha of Bethany (sister of Lazarus)

Recovery at Hand from Exposure to COVID-19

Pani Kathy and I would like to thank you for your prayers over the past days as we have been recovering from testing positive to COVID and have spent the past days in basic isolation. (*Pani tested positive a few days after I had the illness.*) We have both received the anti-viral drug, Paxlovid which has helped us in overcoming the potential impact of the virus. My quarantine ended on Thursday and Pani will be out of quarantine tomorrow. We are both doing fine and look forward to seeing you again in the coming days. Please stay well, be aware of the spread of COVID in our area and do all you need to do to be safe. God bless one and all!

Special Parish Meeting on "The Mad Hatter" Building Next Sunday after Liturgy

There will be a special parish meeting on Sunday May 15, 2022 after Liturgy. Since the annual parish meeting in February the church board has been granted a walkthrough of the Mad Hatter that took place on Thursday April 21.

An information package containing the rationale for the two recommendations to be voted on at the May 15 meeting will be available in the church office on Sunday May 8. One of the two recommendations must be decided upon via a majority vote at the special parish meeting. In brief the two recommendations are:

- *Accept the gift of the Mad Hatter building and immediately after closing proceed with demolition. The estimated cost of demolition and creating a green space is \$45,000.*
- *Refuse the gift of the Mad Hatter building, thus making it accessible to another buyer.*

Readings for the week of the Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women

Sunday:	Acts 6: 1-7	St. Mark 15: 43-16:8
Monday:	Acts 6: 8-7:5, 47-60	St. John 4: 46-54
Tuesday:	Acts 8: 5-17	St. John 6: 27-33
Wednesday:	Acts 12: 1-11	St. John 15: 17-16:2
Thursday:	Acts 8: 26-39	St. John 6: 40-44
Friday:	1 John 1: 1-7	St. John 19: 25-27, 21: 24-25
Saturday:	Acts 9: 20-31	St. John 15: 17-16:2
Sunday:	Acts 9: 32-42	St. John 5: 1-15

The daily readings can be found at www.acrod.org

Epistle Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a murmuring against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution.

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.

"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; "but we will give ourselves continually 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 the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them.

And the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great

Gospel Reading: Mark 15:43-16:8

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.

Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time.

And when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph.

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.

And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James observed where He was laid.

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him.

Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.

And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?"

But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away; for it was very large.

And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed.

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.

"But go and tell His disciples; and Peter; that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

And they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.



Seniors Retreat at Camp Nazareth, May 10-12

Our Diocese is pleased to announce its third annual Senior Retreat which will take place at Camp Nazareth Retreat and Conference Center in Mercer, PA from May 10-12, 2022. The Retreat will feature keynote addresses by Very Rev. Protopresbyter Kenneth Bachofsky. His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory is inviting all our Diocesan Seniors, ages 55 and over, to join him for 2 days of fellowship, prayer, and fun. The Theme of the Retreat – “Coping with Change: Staying Faithful No Matter What!” will help our Seniors navigate the many challenges they face all while remaining focused on and committed to our Lord. It will include worship, fellowship, learning, fun, time for reflection and relaxation, and time spent with our Diocesan Hierarchy!

Online Registration is currently open!! Visit [2022 Senior Retreat Registration](#) to register for the event. Participants will also be able to register by mail. Visit [campnazareth.org](#) or [acrod.org](#) for more information. You may also call (724-662-4840) or email the Camp at [campnazareth@acrod.org](#) for more information.

Don't miss out on our third annual Senior Retreat! Register today!
Registration closes Friday, May 6, 2022.

Camp Nazareth Family Camp 2022, Friday, June 3 – Sunday, June 5

Our Diocese is pleased to announce its eighth annual Family Camp at Camp Nazareth this year in conjunction with Family Day. The event is exactly what it sounds like. Families “camping” together in the Camp cabins and participating in weekend of services, games, discussions, activities and challenges that are all designed to help families deepen their relationship with God and with one another.

This year's theme – “*Finding Peace Where it Matters Most: Your Own Home!*” The schedule includes time to pray together, have fun together, as well as learn and talk about the theme. Kids and parents will have their own activities and discussions as well as time together.

Each year we have a wonderful time together and we are looking forward to finally being together again! A variety of events and activities have been planned that will allow families to learn, have fun and pray together, and simply be together in the peaceful environment of the Camp.

Don't miss out on this opportunity for you and your family. Space is limited to the first 10 families, so register soon. Registration is currently open!! Register at: [2022 Family Camp Registration](#). Visit [campnazareth.org](#) for more information. Registration will close on May 27th.



**CAMP NAZARETH
ANNUAL FAMILY DAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2022**

FELLOWSHIP & FUN ALL DAY

GREAT FOOD, MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT, SWIMMING,
CRAFT ACTIVITIES, GAMES AND MORE!

10AM -- DIVINE LITURGY
FR. MICHAEL AND PANI ELEANOR POLANICHKA DEDICATION TO FOLLOW

LUNCH/PICNIC FOLLOWING LITURGY AND DEDICATION

MENU:
ROAST BEEF
BBQ CHICKEN
MASHED POTATOES
SWEET CORN
TOSSED SALAD
DINNER ROLL
HOMEMADE DESSERTS
DRINKS

VEGETARIAN OPTION: GRILLED VEGETABLE WRAP

ADULTS: \$10.00
CHILDREN UNDER 13 : \$6.00
CHILDREN UNDER 5: FREE
FAMILY PRICE: \$30.00 (INCLUDES 2 PARENTS & ALL CHILDREN UNDER AGE 13)

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Windber Hosting 2022 Young Women's Encounter June 26-29!

The Diocesan Young Women's encounter has been in existence since 2014. Established by His Grace, Bishop Gregory, the annual retreat program is designed specifically for our young women to provide them an opportunity to spend time in fellowship with each other, have fun, and pray together. They learn about their faith and to listen for God's call to each of them to use their unique gifts and abilities. Taking place annually during the last week of June at Sts Peter and Paul Church in Windber, PA, the participants are given an opportunity to enjoy each other's company; learn more about the Orthodox Faith and spend some quality time with their Metropolitan and dedicated priests and panis of the Diocese.

The current Director of the Young Women's Encounter Program is Pani Eleni Stagon.

For additional information on the Young Women's Encounter, please contact Pani Eleni Stagon at [acrody-we@gmail.com](#)



Diocesan Altar Boys Retreat Set for Seminary, June 26-29

Please save these dates. Details will be forthcoming in a future edition of The Bee!



Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-bearers

The third Sunday of Holy Pascha is observed by the Orthodox Church as the Sunday of the Holy Myrrh-bearers. The day commemorates the women disciples who were the first witnesses to the Resurrection of Christ and preached the message of salvation to all. They came to the tomb to anoint His body with myrrh-oils but found the tomb empty. *'They found an Angel sitting on the stone who cried out to them and said, "Why do you seek the Living Lord among the dead? Why do you mourn the Incorruptible One as though he were in corruption? Go and proclaim the news to His Disciples."*'[\[1\]](#). Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, who were the witnesses to Christ's burial, are also commemorated on this day.

The Myrrh-bearing Women

About the beginning of His thirty-second year, when the Lord Jesus was going throughout Galilee, preaching and working miracles, many women who had received of His beneficence left their own homeland and from then on followed after Him. They ministered unto Him out of their own possessions, even until His crucifixion and entombment; and afterward, neither losing faith in Him after His death nor fearing the wrath of the Jewish rulers, they came to His sepulchre, bearing the myrrh-oils they had prepared to anoint His body. It is because of the myrrh-oils that these God-loving women brought to the tomb of Jesus that they are called Myrrh-bearers.

Each of the four Gospels describes a different group of the Myrrh-bearing women who came at different times to the sepulchre on the Lord's Resurrection day[\[2\]](#). Amongst the many, there are eight women, including the Theotokos, who are identified by the Evangelists in the Gospels.

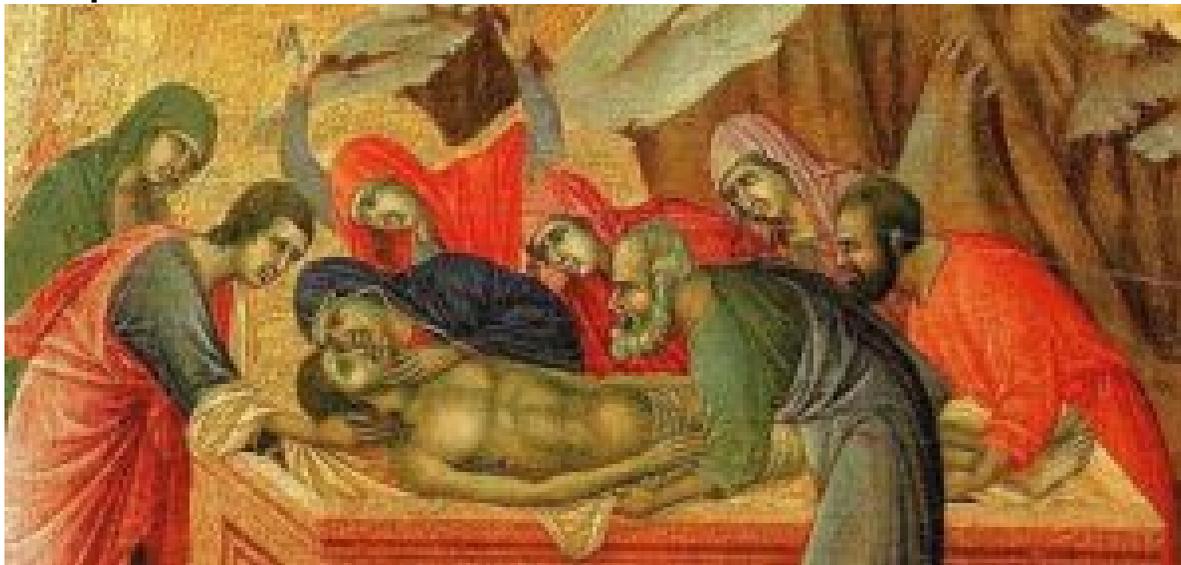
'First of them all was Mary Magdalene, from whom Christ had cast out seven demons; after the Ascension of Christ, she went to Rome, as the story has it, and delivered Pilate and the High Priests to an evil death, after relating to the Emperor Tiberius the events surrounding Christ; she later reposed in Ephesus and was buried by Saint John the Theologian; her holy relics were translated to Constantinople by Emperor Leo the Wise.

The second was Salome, who was a daughter of Saint Joseph the Betrothed and whose husband was Zebedee; she gave birth to Saint John the Evangelist and Saint James. For Joseph had begotten four sons: James, called the Less, Joses, Simon, and Jude; and three daughters: Esther, Thamar, and Salome, the wife of Zebedee. Hence, when you hear in the Gospel about Mary [3], the mother of James the Less and Joses, keep in mind that she is the Theotokos; for the Theotokos was reckoned to be the mother of the sons of Joseph, and, as it turns out, Saint John the Evangelist was a nephew of Christ, since he was the son of a sister.

The third of the Myrrh-bearers was Joanna, the wife of Chuza, the administrator, and steward of King Herod's household.

The fourth and the fifth were Mary and Martha, the sisters of Lazarus. The sixth was Mary, the wife of Clopas, whom some call Cleopas. The seventh was Susanna.' [4]

Joseph and Nicodemus



Of these, Nicodemus was probably a Jerusalemite, a prominent leader among the Jews and of the order of the Pharisees, learned in the Law and instructed in the Holy Scripture. He had believed in Christ since the beginning of Jesus' preaching of salvation, he came to Him by night. Furthermore, he brought some one hundred pounds of myrrh-oils and an aromatic mixture of aloes and spices out of reverence and love for the Divine Teacher (John 19:39). Joseph, who was from the city of Arimathea, was a wealthy and noble man, and one of the counsellors who were in Jerusalem. He went boldly unto Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and together with Nicodemus he gave Him burial. Since time did not permit the preparation of another tomb, he placed the Lord's Body in his own tomb which was hewn out of rock (Matthew 27:60).

*'Nicodemus was expelled from the synagogue as soon as he decided to part company with the Jews, while Joseph, after burying the Lord's body, was cast by the Jews into a pit, from which he was snatched up by Divine power and brought to Arimathea, his homeland. After arising, Christ appeared to him while he was still in fetters, and gave him greater assurance of the mystery of the Resurrection. Although Joseph suffered greatly at the hands of the Jews, he was no longer able to keep silent about this mystery, but boldly recounted to everyone what had happened. It is said of Nicodemus that, by virtue of his writings, he was the first to explain in detail the events surrounding the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, because, coming from the synagogue, he was better informed about the schemes and deliberations of the Jews, and, in short, he knew everything about them. And because, as we have said, Joseph and Nicodemus were reliable witnesses of the Lord's burial, they were ranked together with the women who beheld the Resurrection.'*⁴

Apolytikion (Dismissal) Hymn – Second Tone

The angel came to the Myrrh-bearing women at the tomb and said: Myrrh is fitting for the dead, but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption! So proclaim: The Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.

A Prayer for Mothers on this Mother's Day Today!

“Most Gracious Heavenly Father,

We thank You for our mothers to whom You have entrusted the care of every precious human life from its very beginning in the womb.

You have given to woman the capacity of participating with You in the creation of new life. Grant that every woman may come to understand the full meaning of that blessing, which gives her an unlimited capacity for selfless love for every child she may be privileged to bear, and for all Your children.

Watch over every mother who is with child, strengthen her faith in Your fatherly care and love for her and for her unborn baby. Give her courage in times of fear or pain, understanding in times of uncertainty and doubt, and hope in times of trouble. Grant her joy in the birth of her child.

To mothers You have given the great privilege and responsibility of being a child’s first teacher and spiritual guide. Grant that all mothers may worthily foster the faith of their children, following the example of Mary, Elizabeth, and other holy women who follow Christ. Help mothers to grow daily in knowledge and understanding of Your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and grant them the wisdom to impart this knowledge faithfully to their children, and to all who depend upon them.

Assist all “spiritual mothers”, those who, though they may have no children of their own, nevertheless selflessly care for the children of others – of every age and state in life. Grant that they may know the joy of fulfilling this motherly calling of women, whether in teaching, nursing, religious life, or in other work which recognizes and fosters the true dignity of every human being created in Your image and likeness.

We beseech You to send Your Holy Spirit, the Comforter, to all mothers who sorrow for children that have died, are ill or estranged from their families, or who are in trouble or danger of any kind. Help grieving mothers to rely on Your tender mercy and fatherly love for all your children.

We ask your blessing on all those to whom You have entrusted motherhood. May Your Holy Spirit constantly inspire and strengthen them. May they ever follow the example of Mary, mother of Our Lord, and imitate her fidelity, her humility, and her self-giving love. May all mothers receive Your Grace abundantly in this earthly life, and may they look forward to eternal joy in Your presence in the life to come.

We ask this through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Amen.”

– Prayer from MothersDayCelebration.com



Springtime Brings New Life to the BU Nature Preserve!



Happy Birthday!

Karen Leiser, May 3
Barbara Knighton, May 8
Sara Trott, May 10
Natasha Fernandez, May 10
Cindy Matyas, May 11
Theresa Koast, May 13
Steve Cruty, May 14
Julia Sedlock, May 27
Alexis Eastman, May 26
Matthew Eastman, May 26
Douglas Fernandez, May 30

God Grant You Many Blessed Years!

Specials of the Day

*"The more we get together the happier we will be,
for your friends are my friends, and my friends are your friends,
the more we get together the happier we will be!"*

You are Invited!
St Michael's Traditional
Meatloaf Luncheon

Wednesday, May 9th
12 Noon

St. Michael's Recreation Center
296 Clinton Street
Binghamton, NY 13905



Christ is Risen!