



St. Vladimir Orthodox Church

812 Grand Street, Trenton, NJ 08610 (609) 393-1234
Rev. Volodymyr Chaikivskyi V. Rev. Paul Shafran, Pastor Emeritus
saintvladimir.org
facebook.com/St-Vladimir-Orthodox-Church-Trenton-NJ-454092552035666

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY MYRRHBEARING WOMEN WITH THE NOBLE JOSEPH MAY 4, 2025

TROPARION, KONTAKION & PROKEIMENON

Troparion – Tone 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out:// “O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!”

Troparion – Tone 2

The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the Tree, wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices, and placed it in a new tomb. But Thou didst arise on the third day, O Lord,// granting the world great mercy.

Troparion – Tone 2

The Angel came to the myrrhbearing 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.’”

Kontakion – Tone 2

Thou didst command the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ God. By Thy Resurrection, Thou didst stop the lamentation of Eve, the first mother. Thou didst command them to preach to Thine Apostles:// “The Savior is risen from the tomb!”

Kontakion – Tone 8

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, Thou didst destroy the power of death. In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women,// granting peace to Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

Prokeimenon – Tone 6

O Lord, save Thy people, / and bless Thine inheritance!
V. *To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!*

LITURGICAL COMMEMORATION

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 sepulchre, 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 also 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).

EPISTLE & GOSPEL READINGS

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint 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. 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

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

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK, CAREGIVERS, AND DECEASED (To add a name, please email daricekeyes@gmail.com)

For the Sick / Caregiver

Michael (4/13)
Charlotte (4/13)
Subdeacon Sergius (4/13)
Melody (4/13)
Betty (4/20)
Liam (4/20)
Kelly (4/20)

For the Deceased

Alexandra (4/20)
Father Paul (4/20)
Deborah (4/20)
Connie (4/27)
Carmine (5/4)
Marianne (5/4)

Michael (4/27)
Lenore (4/27)

SERVICES

Service Schedule for the Week of May 4

Sunday May 4 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by FOCA Club kielbasa/pierogi fundraiser in Daria Hall

Saturday May 10 – 5:00 PM Vespers followed by Confession and Catechumen class in the church basement

Sunday May 11 – 9:45 AM Hours, 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy followed by 40-day Panikhida for Matushka Mary, then Coffee Hour in Daria Hall

DONATIONS

Weekly Giving

April 27 – 77 adults, 28 youth, \$3,519

Please remember to turn in your Stewardship Pledge Card as soon as possible!

ORTHODOXY 101

The Symbol of Faith (The Creed)

I believe in One God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in One Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, begotten of the Father before all ages. Light of Light; true God of true God; Begotten, not made; of One Essence with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead; Whose Kingdom shall have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father; Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; Who spoke by the prophets. In One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church, I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

We begin the Creed with “I believe.” This is because the essence of our religious convictions depends not on external experiences but on our acceptance of God-given truths. Surely one cannot prove truths of the spiritual world by any laboratory experiments. These truths belong to the sphere of personal religious experience. The more a person grows in the spiritual life – the more one prays, thinks about God, does good – the more his inner spiritual experience develops, the clearer the religious truths become to him. In this fashion, faith becomes for him a subject of personal experience.

What do we believe in according to the Creed?

We believe that God is one fullness of perfection; we believe that He is a perfect spirit, timeless, without beginning, all-powerful and all-wise. God is everywhere, sees all, and knows beforehand when something will happen. He is good beyond measure, just and all-holy. He needs nothing and is the reason for everything that exists.

We believe that God is one in Essence and Trinity in Persons (i.e., the one true God has appeared to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the Trinity, one in Essence and indivisible. The Father is not born and does not proceed from the others. The Son pre-eternally was born of the Father, and the Holy Spirit eternally proceeds from the Father.

We believe that all the Persons of the Holy Trinity are equally in divine perfection, greatness, power, and glory. That is, we believe that the Father is true and perfect God, the Son is true and perfect God, and, the Holy Spirit is true and perfect God. Therefore, in prayers, we simultaneously glorify the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as one God.

We believe that the entire visible and invisible world was created by God. In the beginning God created the invisible, great angelic world, otherwise known as Heaven. As stated in the Bible, God created our material or physical world from nothing. This was not done at once, but gradually during periods of time which in the Bible are called “days.” God created the world not out of necessity or need but out of His all-good desire to do so in order that His other creations might enjoy

life. Being Himself endlessly good, God created all things good. Evil appeared in the world from the misuse of free will, with which God has endowed both angels and people. For example, the Devil (Satan) and his demons were at one time angels of God. But they rebelled against their Creator and became demons. They were cast out of Heaven and formed their own kingdom called "hell." From that moment on, they tempted people to sin and became our enemies and the enemies of our salvation.

We believe that all things are under God's control; that is, he provides for every creature and guides everything to a good goal. God loves and looks after us as a mother looks after her child. For this reason, nothing bad can befall a person who trusts in God.

We believe that the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, came down from heaven for our salvation. He came to earth and took on our flesh by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary. Being God from all eternity, He in the time of King Herod took on our human nature, both soul and body, and is therefore truly God and truly man, or the God-man. In one divine Person He combined two natures, divine and human. These two natures will remain with Him always without change, neither blending nor changing from one into the other.

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ, while living on earth, enlightened the world by His teaching, His example, and miracles. He taught people what they should believe and how they should live so that they may inherit eternal life. By His prayers to His Father, His complete obedience to the Father's Will, His sufferings and death, He defeated the devil and redeemed the world from sin and death. By His Resurrection from the dead, He laid the foundation for our resurrection. After His Ascension in the flesh to Heaven, which took place forty days after His Resurrection from the dead, our Lord Jesus Christ sat at the right hand of God the Father; that is to say, He received equal power with God the Father and since then together with Him governs the face of the world.

We believe that the Holy Spirit, proceeding from God the Father from the beginning of the world, together with the Father and the Son gives existence to all creation, gives life, and governs all. He is the source of a grace-filled spiritual life, both for angels as well as people, and equally with the Father and the Son is worthy of all glory and worship. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament spoke through the prophets. Then in the beginning of the New Testament, He spoke through the Apostles and now lives in the Church of Christ, guiding her pastors and people in the truth.

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ founded the Church on earth for the salvation of all who believe in Him. He sent the Holy Spirit to the Apostles on Pentecost. Since that time the Holy Spirit abides in the Church, that grace-filled community or union of believing Orthodox Christians, and preserves her in the purity of Christ's teaching. The grace of the Holy Spirit abides in the Church, cleanses those who repent of sins, helps the believers grow in good deeds, and sanctifies them.

We believe that the Church is One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic. She is One because all Orthodox Christians, although belonging to different national, local churches, are one family together with the angels and saints in Heaven. The oneness of the Church depends on oneness of Faith and Grace. The Church is Holy because her faithful children are sanctified by the word of God, prayer, and the Sacraments. The Church is Catholic because what we believe is the same teaching held to be true by all Orthodox Christians, always and everywhere. The Church is called Apostolic because it preserves Apostolic teaching and the Apostolic succession. From ancient times, this Apostolic succession passes on without interruption from Bishop to Bishop in the sacrament of Ordination. The Church will remain of our Lord and Savior until the end of time.

We believe that in the sacrament of Baptism the believer is forgiven all sins. The believer becomes a member of the Church. Access to the other sacraments of salvation becomes available to him at this time. In the sacrament of Chrismation the believer receives the grace of the Holy Spirit. In Confession or Repentance, sins are forgiven. In Holy Communion, offered at the Divine Liturgy, the believer receives the very Body and Blood of Christ. In the sacrament of Matrimony, an inseparable union is created between a man and a woman. In the sacrament of Ordination Deacons, Priests, and Bishops are ordained to serve the Church. In Holy Unction, the healing of physical and spiritual illness is offered.

We believe that before the end of the world Jesus Christ, accompanied by angels, will again come to the earth in glory. Every person, according to His Word, will resurrect from the dead. A miracle will occur in which the souls of people who have died will return into the bodies which they possessed during their earthly life. All the dead will come to life. During

the General Resurrection, the bodies of the saints, both those resurrecting and those still living will be renewed and become spiritualized in the image of the Resurrected Body of Christ. After the resurrection, everyone will appear before the Judgment of Christ, to receive what he is due, according to what he has done when he lived in his body, good or evil. After the Judgment, unrepentant sinners will enter into eternal torments and the righteous into eternal life. This will begin the Kingdom of Christ, which will have no end.

With the one word “Amen” we witness to the fact that we accept and acknowledge with our whole heart this Creed which we confess to be true.

The Creed is read by a Catechumen (one about to receive Baptism) during the Mystery of Baptism. During the Baptism of an infant, the Creed is read by the Sponsor. The Creed is sung at the Liturgy and should be read daily at Morning Prayers. An attentive reading of the Creed greatly strengthens our faith. This happens because the Creed is not just a formal statement of belief but a prayer. When we say “I believe” in a spirit of prayer, along with the other words of the Creed, we enliven and strengthen our Faith in God and in all those truths which are contained in the Creed. This is why it is so important for the Orthodox Christian to recite the Creed daily or at least regularly.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today the FOCA Club is hosting a fundraiser for Coffee Hour. \$10 a plate – kielbasa, pierogies, salad, roll, and dessert. Children age 12 and under are half price. Thank you for your support!

The Ladies Altar Society will be selling chances today for a lovely Mother's Day basket. Chances are \$2 each, or 3 for \$5. Winner will be announced today during Coffee Hour.

A Panikhida will be served for Matushka Mary Shafran on Sunday, May 11 following the Divine Liturgy. May her memory be eternal!

Check out the Bookstore Sale in Daria Hall! There are many new items for sale – new books, items from Mt. Athos, and discounts on certain items. Please see Manny Montiel with any questions.

Thank you to Logan Berck, Alan Berck, and Logan's Eagle Scout Troop for cleaning up the area between our smaller cemetery and the adjoining Jewish cemetery. Last fall they removed all old fencing, debris, and shrubbery/weeds. Last Saturday they planted a long row of bushes. We sincerely appreciate the time they devoted to this project. God Bless!



The Ladies Altar Society will have a meeting on Sunday, June 1 during Coffee Hour. Please plan on attending.

Please remember to turn in your 2025 Stewardship Pledge Card – there are still many outstanding. They can be turned in at the Candle Desk or to Alexander Brasowski. Thank you!

Catechumen classes will be held every Saturday after Vespers. Everyone is invited to attend the classes, but those who wish to convert to the Orthodox faith must attend.

BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Manuel Montiel – May 6

Father Bohdan Chaikivskyi – May 9

Have a blessed birthday and may God grant you many years!

COFFEE HOUR

** If you are unable to accommodate your hosting date, please advise Darice as soon as possible so changes can be made.*

Hosts are responsible for providing and setting up the refreshments in Daria Hall at 9:00 AM and after Holy Communion, cleaning up after Coffee Hour including washing, drying and putting away dishes, taking out the trash, wiping down the tables, and cleaning up the Coffee Room including turning off and cleaning the coffee and tea pots. Hosts will be informed in advance if cream cheese, butter, or milk is needed. PLEASE NOTE: Your assigned Coffee Hour Support Person will provide guidance, however, the Support Person will leave Daria Hall at 9:55 AM to attend church services. If you have arrived late or are not finished, you will be provided the key to lock the Hall when you are leaving for church services. If you have any questions, please contact Alla Strauss.

SUGGESTED MENU:

Bagels / Breads

Donuts / Pastries

Desserts - let Alla know ahead of time if you will need desserts so they can be thawed on Saturday

Fruit

Salad

Tortilla Chips & Salsa

Hummus & Pita

Sugar-free dessert

Oreos (they are all non-dairy)

If serving pork, please provide an alternative for those who do not eat pork.

NOTE: Hosts may provide a luncheon for a specific event or holiday (Panikhida, birthday, anniversary, holiday) with advance notice to reserve the specific date to host the event. The hosts will be responsible for all food preparation for such a luncheon.

- May 4 **FOCA Club, Kielbasa & Pierogi luncheon fundraiser**
- May 11 Nina Schmidt, Monia & Jim Pitra
- May 18 Anne Cheslock, Darice Keyes
- May 25 Inna Lebedeva, Mihaela & Tiberiu Milosav
- June 1 Blake & Jessica Kilgore, Alex & Rebeca Medina
- June 8 Alex Godun, Virgiliu & Gabriela Plesa
- June 15 Sami Bachir, Tyler Burger, FOCA Club
- June 22 **FAST** Matthew Anderson, Ramazi & Kahtuna Shubitidze
- June 29 Nancy Mitsos, Ekaterina & Stanislav Uritsky
- July 6 Fiyori Habtesilasse, Lemlem Woldearegay
- July 13 **St. Vladimir Feast Day Celebration**
- July 20 Helene Hopkins, Mary Ellen Jones
- July 27 Amber Touch, Fr. Volodymyr & Matushka Oksana
- Aug. 3 **FAST** Trudy Ellmore, Eleni Athanatos & Tom Sowanick
- Aug. 10 **FAST** Karina Kotelnicki, Awet Tesfa
- Aug. 17 **Ladies Assumption Altar Society**
- Aug. 24 Olga & James Bates, Walter & Tanya Tribbey
- Aug. 31 Melody Stavisky, Guy Radcliffe
- Sept. 7 Luwam Tesfa, Nebiat Tesfa
- Sept. 14 **FAST** Svetlana Sosedov, Natalia Kolomatskaia
- Sept. 21 **Annual Church Picnic**
- Sept. 28 Germain & Tahara Ortiz, Hannah Dougherty
- Oct. 5 Ludwin Lopez, Nana & Matthew Barrett
- Oct. 12 Melissa Braun, Sophie Dumas
- Oct. 19 **110th Parish Anniversary**

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Have a Blessed Week!