

Jesus Anointed by Mary of Bethany



This story is in all four gospels, and St. John (cf. 11:1-2) makes it clear that it was Mary of Bethany.* Why does our Lord require such a far- and long-reaching commemoration of her action? For one thing, He was wont to respond in most encounters to the person's thoughts, motivation, state of mind. Unerringly He knew that, despite all His prophecies to His disciples regarding coming events, she was the only one who had really listened, believed, putting her own reactions aside, and acted upon her belief by anointing Him.

The anointing was a most loving and generous gesture, the soothing oil of kindness and sacrifice of which He Himself was in dire need. His own human dread of the imminent suffering (cf. Mt. 26:36-41) and deep grief at the denseness and incomprehension of those around Him made her sensitivity so much the more poignant.

A woman was instrumental at Jesus' birth. A woman, again His mother, initiated the phase of His public ministry at the marriage of Cana. This woman initiated the phase of His final passion. Women stood by Him during His final agony of crucifixion. A woman ushered in the news of the resurrection, the ultimate phase of Christ's life on earth.

During transitional phases of human life, men and women alike return to sound women for strength and support. This can be true not only when facing death, but also in many other things: an uprooting from home, work, location, marriage, health, career; any event signaling an imminent turn to different conditions of life will cause a human being to run to their mother or to a woman of wisdom. (Also Cf. pp. 950, 682). Response to such action is an important function of women, requiring a strong religious foundation and appropriate education.

- Johanna Manley

Easter Troparion

Christ is Risen from the dead!

By death He trampled Death;

And to those in the tombs He granted life.

Kontakion

Although you descended into the grave

O Immortal One,

You destroyed Hades' power.

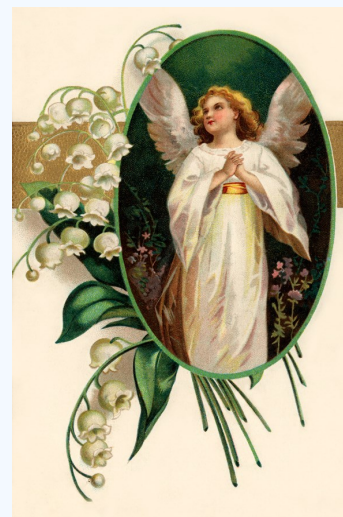
You arose as a victor,

O Christ God.

You exclaimed to the Myrrh Bearing Women:

Rejoice!

You gave peace to your apostles and granted resurrection to the fallen.



*The Sisters of St.
Basil wish you a
Blessed Easter
Season!*

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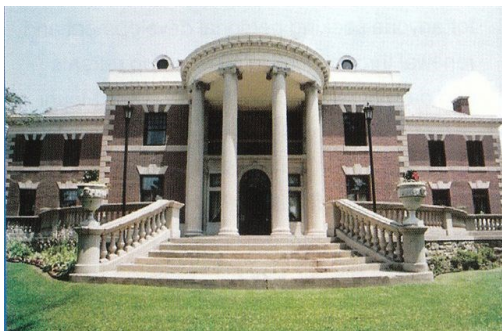
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House of Prayer Program Schedule



April 5-7, 2013

7 pm., Fri. - 1 pm, Sat.

**Women's Discernment
Retreat**

Presented by Sr. Barbara Jean
Mihalchick, OSBM

Registration Due: March 27

April 13

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Healing Retreat

Presented by Rev. William
Kiel

Offering: \$35, includes lunch

Registration due: April 9

**For further information, contact the
House of Prayer at 724-438-7149.**

Prayer to the Theotokos for those in Consecrated Life

Most glorious and ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of God, the Word was made flesh in your womb. Help us to be open to the Word of God so that, having welcomed it, received it, and meditated upon it, it may grow in our hearts. Help us to live, like you, in the spirit of Beatitudes and to dedicate ourselves with unceasing charity to evangelizing all those who seek your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Intercede in behalf of those whom your Son has called to share his gospel as modern day prophets. Be a constant source of strength and protection to our nuns and monks and all those in religious life. Grant that they may serve every person in purity and that, having heard and kept the Word of God, they may be living witnesses to the eternal kingdom. Amen.



Helping Hands Day— Saturday, June 1



The Greek Catholic Union of the U.S.A. (GCU) Helping Hands Day (formerly Join Hands Day) efforts will take place at Mount Saint Macrina this year on Saturday, June 1.

The annual observance combines the strengths of young people and adults to produce meaningful results for the preparation of the 79th

Annual Pilgrimage which will be held, August 31 and September 1.

On this day, at Mount Saint Macrina, the youth and faithful of the Byzantine Catholic Archeparchy of Pittsburgh, the GCU (a fraternal benefit society serving Byzantine Catholics since 1892), and the many friends of the Sisters of Saint Basil join together for a common cause—to prepare the grounds for the Annual Pilgrimage. Volunteers will clear floral gardens, shrines, urns and other planting areas throughout the grounds, and then plant annuals. Other work centers will be the pavilions, which will be cleared of a winter's worth of leaves and other debris.

The GCU is pleased to partner with the Sisters of St. Basil the Great and interested youth and

adults for Helping Hands Day. If you are able to participate, here are a few notes:

The group will meet in the Trinity Center for coffee and donuts at 9:30 a.m. A brief prayer service will follow, and work will begin at 10:00 a.m.

Bring lawn tools (including brooms, rakes, weed whackers, etc.) for outside work.

Bring brooms, mops, dust pans, etc., for any indoor cleaning.

Lunch will be served.

To register or for additional information, please call Sister Carol Petrasovich at 724-438-7149 or Christie Petty at GCU at 1-800-722-4428 extension 209.

Christ Is Risen!

*Let us become like Christ, since Christ became
like us. Let us become gods for His sake, since
He became Man for our sake.*

*He assumed the worse that he might give us
the better, He became poor that we through
His poverty might be rich;*

*He took upon Himself the form of a servant
that we might receive back our liberty;*

He came down that we might be exalted;

He was tempted that we might conquer;

He was dishonored that He might glorify us;

He died that he might save us.

- St. Gregory the Theologian



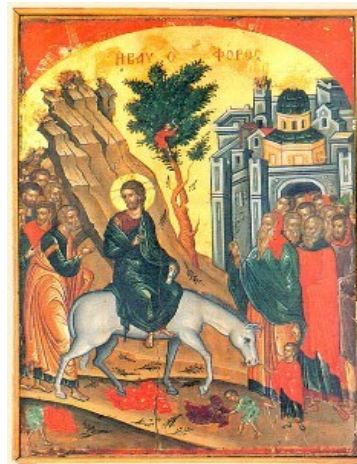
Indeed He Is Risen!

We extend sincere greetings
to you on this bright and joyous holy day
of Christ's Resurrection.

On this Feast of Feasts
we celebrate the triumph of justice
And the victory of light
over darkness, good over evil, life over
death.

May the Risen Lord fill us with a never-
ending joy, deep peace, spiritual strength,
an unshakeable faith and a strong hope in
the Lord's mercy and love.

The Entry of Christ Into Jerusalem



Let us hasten, O believers, moving from one divine festival to another; from palms and branches to the fulfillment of the august and saving sufferings of Christ. Let us watch Him, bearing His sufferings voluntarily for our sake; and let us sing unto Him with worthy praise, crying, O Fountain of mercy, O Haven of Salvation, O Lord, glory to You.

SISTERS OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

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Solemnities

March 29

Good Friday

Is 52:13-54:1; 1 Cor 1:18-2:2
Mt 27:1-38; Lk 23:39-44; Mt 27:39-54
Jn 19:31-37; Mt 27:55-61

March 30

Holy Saturday

Rom 6:3-11
Mt 28:1-20

March 31

Resurrection of Our Lord—Pascha

Acts 1:1-8
Jn 1:1-17

April 1

Bright Monday

Acts 1:12-17 & 21-26

April 2

Bright Tuesday

Acts 2:14-21; Lk 24:12-35

April 7

Thomas Sunday

Acts 5:12-20
Jn 20:19-31

April 14

Sunday of the Ointment Bearers

John

Apostle and Evangelist

Acts 6:1-7; Mk 15:43-16:8

April 21

Sunday of the Paralytic Man

Acts 9:32-42
Jn 5:1-15

Emergency Numbers

When you worry - call Matthew 6:19-34

When in sorrow - call John 14

When men tail you - call Psalm 27

If you want to be fruitful - call John 15

When you have sinned - call Psalm 51

When you are in danger - call Psalm 91

When God seems far away - call Psalm 139

When your faith needs stirring - call Hebrews 11

When you are lonely and fearful - call Psalm 23

When you grow bitter and critical - call I Corinthians 13

For Paul's secret to happiness - call Colossians 3:12-17

For understanding of Christianity - call 1 Corinthians 5:15-19

When you feel down and out - call Romans 8:31

When you want peace and rest - call Matthew 11:25-30

When the world seems bigger than God - call Psalm 90

When you want Christian assurance - call Romans 8:1-30

If you are depressed - call Psalm 27

