

SS. PETER & PAUL

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Gospel Reading ~ Matthew 14:14-22

Epistle Reading ~ 1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Holy Myrrhbearer and Equal-to-the-Apostles Mary Magdalene

This Week at a Glance

Sat, July 28th

3:00 pm - Church Clean-up
No Vespers

Sun, July 29th

9:00 pm - 3rd & 6th Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy



Jesus Feeding the 5,000

Gospel Meditation

What this Gospel says to us today, is, 'look around'; at every person who is hungry, homeless, in need, and remember that each of these persons is your own responsibility, that all their hunger, homelessness, misery is ultimately the result of you opulence, your comfort, your richness and your refusal to share, to give. Not to give beyond your means — just to give.

Elder Arsenius says, that whenever he eats a morsel which is not a necessity, whenever he acquires or possesses anything beyond his strict needs, he has stolen it from the hungry, stolen it from the homeless, stolen it from the one who has no cloths — he is a thief. Isn't that addressed to us much more sharply than to this ascetic?

We must reflect on this, because we are behaving like bad, unworthy stewards. You remember probably the story of the unworthy steward who had cheated his master, stolen from him, and when he was to be dismissed by his master who had discovered his dishonesty, he called the people who owed money to his master, and reduced their debt. This is something which we could learn. He turned to people, and gave whatever help he could; we do not. Let us reflect on these words of Christ: "They need not depart from My presence to order to eat; give them what they need"... And if we looked round us, not far beyond but just round us at the needs of people who are hungry, who are homeless, who are deprived of rights, or simply our neighbours who are at times so lonely, need a word of comfort, need friendship, solidarity, we would begin to fulfil this commandment of Christ.

But let us not deceive ourselves; it is not by words of consolation, by kind gestures that we will have fulfilled it. Christ said: Give all you have... and to us perhaps, taking into account the little faith which we have, and the narrowness and hardness of our heart, He will say: Give what is superfluous in your life — but give true thought to what is superfluous, to what you spend on yourself unnecessarily, without even deriving true joy and pleasure, an advantage from it — give it, and then, leave it to God to fulfil the gift, to do the rest. -*Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh*

Car Blessings

In honor of St. Elijah day, we will be blessing cars in the parking lot immediately following Divine Liturgy.

Thank You

A special thank you to Donna Eikleberry for sprucing up our basement side-entrance. Our guests at the festival will now have a great first impression!

All American Council

The 19th All American Council is being held this week in St. Louis, MO. Sam & Kathy Jacob are attending as parish lay delegates. Please keep them in your prayers as they travel. Also pray for everyone participating in the council, and that the Holy Spirit will continue guiding our American Church.

Church Clean Up

On Saturday, July 28th at 3:00pm, we will be having a church clean-up day in preparation for our Russian Food Festival. Cleaning needs to be done inside and outside. If we have enough volunteers the work shouldn't take too long. We will have cleaning supplies for indoors cleaning. If you can work outside please bring some tools: rakes, clippers, brooms, etc. Vespers that evening will be cancelled.

Holy Myrrhbearer and Equal-to-the-Apostles Mary Magdalene

On the banks of Lake Genesareth (Galilee), between the cities of Capharnum and Tiberias, was the small city of Magdala, the remains of which have survived to our day. Now only the small village of Mejhdel stands on the site.



A woman whose name has entered forever into the Gospel account was born and grew up in Magdala. The Gospel tells us nothing of Mary's younger years, but Tradition informs us that Mary of Magdala was young and pretty, and led a sinful life. It says in the Gospels that the Lord expelled seven devils from Mary (Luke. 8:2). From the moment of her healing Mary led a new life, and became a true disciple of the Savior.

The Gospel relates that Mary followed after the Lord, when He went with the Apostles through the cities and villages of Judea and Galilee preaching about the Kingdom of God. Together with the pious women Joanna, wife of Choza (steward of Herod), Susanna and others, she served Him from her own possessions (Luke 8:1-3) and undoubtedly shared with the Apostles the evangelic tasks in common with the other women. The Evangelist Luke, evidently, has her in view together with the other women, stating that at the moment of the Procession of Christ onto Golgotha, when after the Scourging He took on Himself the heavy Cross, collapsing under its weight, the women followed after Him weeping and wailing, but He consoled them. The Gospel relates that Mary Magdalene was present on Golgotha at the moment of the Lord's Crucifixion. While all the disciples of the Savior ran away, she remained fearlessly at the Cross together with the Mother of God and the Apostle John.

Holy Scripture does not tell us about the life of Mary Magdalene after the Resurrection of Christ. When many did not believe that Christ is risen, she repeated to them what she had said to the Apostles on the radiant morning of the Resurrection: "I have seen the Lord!" With this message she went all over Italy. Tradition relates that in Italy Mary Magdalene visited Emperor Tiberias (14-37 A.D.) and proclaimed to him Christ's Resurrection. According to Tradition, she brought him a red egg as a symbol of the Resurrection, a symbol of new life with the words: "Christ is Risen!"