

**Russian Orthodox Church of the  
Resurrection of Christ**

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**Schedule for the Week of April 26 - May 2, 2015**

Sunday Apr 26	Sunday of the Myrrhbearers Нед. Свв. Жен Мироносиц
Saturday May 2	5:30 PM Vigil
Sunday May 3	<b>Sunday of the Paralytic</b> Нед. О Разслабленном 8:15 AM Nocturns, Confessions 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy / Литургия

**Жены-Мироносицы**

Во второе воскресенье по Пасхе чествуются женщины, следовавшие за Христом по Крестному пути и послужившие Ему после Его смерти (Мария Магдалина, Мария Иаковлева, Саломия, Иоанна и др.). Послужили Христу при погребении и Его тайные ученики: Иосиф Аримафейский и Никодим.

“Много понадобилось слов и уверений Господу Иисусу Христу, чтобы убедить апостолов в Своем Воскресении. Но достаточно было одного ангельского глагола, чтобы жены-мироносицы поверили в радостную весть. Любовь и верность – вот что отличает жен-мироносиц. Кому первому после Своего Воскресения явился Христос? – Марии Магдалине. Сердце женщины – это любящее сердце матери. Недаром свмч. Киприан Карфагенский называет Церковь Матерью: ‘Кому Церковь не Мать, тому Бог не Отец’.

Иосиф и Никодим были тайными учениками Христа. Но когда Иисуса распяли и Он умер на Кресте, любовь победила страх, и они проявили верность большую, чем ближайшие ученики Христовы. Убеждения ума не спасли

учеников от страха, а любовь, которой были исполнены Никодим и Иосиф и жены-мироносицы, преодолела все” (*Книга священнослужителя, т.5*).

**The Myrrhbearing women, St Joseph of Arimathea  
and St. Nicodemus**

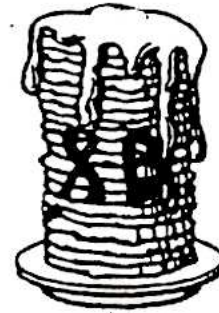
The Myrrh-bearing women, along with St Joseph of Arimathea and St. Nicodemus are commemorated on the third Sunday of Pascha.

Although St. Thomas was commemorated the previous Sunday, it is still right that the descendants of Eve should be the first to behold the Resurrection and to hear the joyful tidings concerning it. Therefore we remember the Myrrh-bearing women on this Sunday because they were the first to truthfully bear witness to the Resurrection; and Joseph and Nicodemus, because they were the first to bear witness to Christ’s burial.

We know both of these facts through the tradition of the Church. Nicodemus was immediately banished from the synagogue by the Jews and was forbidden to rejoin them. And Joseph was thrown into a deep pit by the Jews, but by the grace of God he was delivered from it, and went to his estate in Arimathea. Joseph could not keep silent regarding these events and boldly taught all the people what had taken place regarding Jesus. And also it is said that Nicodemus was the first to proclaim in detail what had occurred at the Passion and the Resurrection of Christ. Since he was one of the foremost in the council of the Jews and a Pharisee, he knew firsthand the councils and plots of the Jewish leaders and all that had come to pass regarding the Lord. Thus we commemorate on this Sunday Saints Joseph and Nicodemus and the Myrrh-bearing women because they are true and authentic witnesses of the burial.

The women are titled “Myrrh-bearers” because they purchased expensive ointments and oils, and came to the tomb while it was still

night, in order to properly anoint Christ's body and to complete all that had to be omitted due to the hurried manner of His burial. The burial was hurried because the Friday on which Christ was buried was the day before the Passover, and Joseph and Nicodemus did not have sufficient time to properly anoint the body according to custom. They were able only to apply some aloes and a bit of myrrh before wrapping It and laying It in the tomb. When the women came after Passover to complete the burial properly, they became the first witnesses to Christ's Resurrection. *(excerpted from the Synaxarion)*



*MAY THE JOY OF PASCHA REMAIN WITH US THROUGHOUT ALL OUR LIVES*