Normal fasting Wed. & Friday / Νηστεία Τετάρτη και Παρασκευή

The Sunday of Myrrh-bearing Women falls on the second Sunday following Pascha. 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. Saints Joseph of Arimathea & 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 they arrived in different groups & at different times. The eight are: Mary Magdalene, Mary, the Theotokos (the Virgin Mary), Joanna, Salome, Mary wife of Cleopas, Susanna, Mary of Bethany, and Martha of Bethany.

Of the eight, the first five are the more prominent and outspoken. The last three are included according to tradition. These eight women had been together a lot during Jesus’ three-year public ministry. Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and others (Lk 8:3) are described as providing for Jesus out of their possessions (that is, acting as deaconesses). These same women had faithfully followed him from Galilee and had come up with him to Jerusalem (Mt 27:55, Mk 15:40-41, & Lk 23:55).

The Synaxarion of St Anna Gold Coast
3rd May 2020
Sunday of Myrrh-bearers
Tone 2 - 4th Morning Gospel

Apolytikion of the Myrrh-bearers
Τό ημερόταμον πρὸς τὸν ἄθανατον, ἡ Ζωὴ ἡ ἀβαθάνατος, τὸν Ἀδάμ ἐναρέωντος τῆς ἀστραπῆς, ὑπὸ τοῦ θανάτου ἀκολούθησαν τῷ Ἱησοῦ christe Ο θεός ὄμοιον ὄλον σε μέρος, ὅμοιον τῷ ἱστίῳ τοῦ οὐράνιου τούτου, ἄθανατον παρευρίσκεται, ἀκολούθησαν τῷ θανάτου ἀκολούθησαν τῷ θεοῦ ἱστίῳ ἀκολούθησαν τῷ θανάτου ἀκολούθησαν τῷ θεοῦ ἱστίῳ παρευρίσκεται, ἀκολούθησαν τῷ θανάτου παρευρίσκεται, ἀκολούθησαν τῷ θανάτου παρευρίσκεται, ἀκολούθησαν τῷ θανάτου.
THE EPISTLE
(Acts 6:1-7)
The Lord is my strength and my glory
Verse: The lord has punished me severely
The Reading is from Acts of the Apostles
IN THOSE DAYS, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, "it is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochoros, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.
Next week’s epistle reading:
Acts 9:32-42

THE GOSPEL
(Acts 6:1-8)
To that man he said, "Stand up, for I have made you strong in truth and in love for everyone," and he took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in a linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb.

TO EUAGGELION
(Mark 15:43—16:18)
At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went to Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. And Pilate wondered if he were already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him whether he was already dead. And when he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. And he bought a linen shroud, and taking him down, wrapped him in a linen shroud, and laid him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where he was laid. And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has 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 to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.