April 15, 2018
SUNDAY OF THE OINTMENT-BEARERS

Liturgical Schedule

Apr 14 (Sat) Divine Liturgy **5:00pm**
+Ann Frendzel req by Al & Helen Ferencz

Apr 15 (Sun) Sunday of the Ointment-Bearers
Divine Liturgy **10:30am**
Total Parish ECF **12:00noon**

Apr 21 (Sat) Divine Liturgy **5:00pm**

Apr 22 (Sun) Sunday of the Paralytic Man
Divine Liturgy **10:30am**

April 8, 2018
Our Tithe to our Parish—$1,887.00

The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of April 15 thru April 21 for the health and well-being of Fr. John .

Get well cards may be sent to the Rectory and will be delivered to Fr. John as he continues his therapy.

We greet each other during the next forty days with our Paschal greeting:

Christ is Risen!	(English)	Indeed He is Risen!
Christos Voskrese!	(Slavonic)	Voistinnu Voskrese!
Christos Anesti!	(Greek)	Alithos Anesti!

Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.

James Abraham, Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, Rosella Busko, Marion Campbell, John Fekete, Carl Magdic, Fr. John Petro, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Rose Marie Rupnik, Joseph Rusinko, Sue Sabol, Ed Suzina, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Margaret Weber, John Voron Sr.

PROGRAMS AT MOUNT MACRINA HOUSE OF PRAYER

All programs are held at the House of Prayer unless otherwise specified. Please call 724-438-7149 to register.

CANDLELIGHT DINNER FOR MARRIED COUPLES

Thursday, April 26, 2018, 6:30 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
Offering: $70. per couple
Registration Due: April 20.

Experience a lovely evening of music, dining, a silent auction and a heartwarming presentation in the atmosphere of a former 1903 Coal Baron's home.

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION
Becky Johnen
WORKING TOWARD A CALMER YOU"
Saturday, April 28, 2018, 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Includes Lunch
Offering: $35. Registration Due: April 24

Managing stress is all about taking charge: of your thoughts, emotions, schedule and the way you deal with problems.

This presentation is designed to help you spot stressors and stay in control when the pressure builds by helping you understand what stress is, how to recognize when you are in "stress overload" mode, and how to unwind, relax and become a calmer you.

From Pope Francis' Easter homily.

"The women who had gone to anoint the Lord's body found themselves before a surprise" when they reached the empty tomb, he said. "God's announcements are always a surprise, because our God is a God of surprises."

"We Christians believe and know that Christ's resurrection is the true hope of the world, the hope that does not disappoint.. It is the power of the grain of wheat, the power of that love which humbles itself and gives itself to the very end, and thus truly renews the world."

PARISH BRUNCH

Once again we would like to gather together as a parish family after the feast of Pascha. We would like to invite all of our parish to celebrate the recent accomplishments in our parish at a brunch after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 29. This would be a great time to look at the newly renovated kitchen in our church social hall if you have not had an opportunity to see it.

The Pirohy Project wrapped up a very successful year and it continues to be our major fund-raiser. Many thanks to all those involved. The ECF year is coming to a close and the Ham Bingo was once again a great success. So many people are involved to make these projects such wonderful events in our parish.

In addition, there are so many folks who quietly help out behind the scenes, many of whom work diligently but look for no public acknowledgement. We also remember those who attentively assist with our liturgical services, making them the spiritually uplifting times that they are. Our parish is so richly blessed to have such wonderful people as all those mentioned above.

The brunch is a way to thank everyone for all the little and big things they do to make our parish great. We have so much to be thankful for in our vibrant faith community. Please join us for this catered meal to engage in fellowship and to recognize what makes St. Stephen so special. Please note the sign-up sheet so we know how many to plan for.

THE SUNDAY OF THE OINTMENT-BEARING WOMEN

Have you noticed how much of the Resurrection account revolves around women?

This is striking … especially when we consider the status of women in society in Bible times. Far from having equal rights, we know that the wife was considered as 'belonging' to her husband; at the time of birth, a son was preferred to a daughter; only a husband could seek a divorce; only a man could own property or work outside the home. This is simply the way it was in society at that time.

Against this background, it is quite astonishing to read the biblical accounts of the Resurrection.

The women were the first to discover the empty tomb … and thus they became the first witnesses to the Resurrection. The risen Christ first appeared to Mary Magdalene who is called a *woman disciple*.

It is the women who were told the message of the Resurrection by the angel. It is the women who then told the disciples the news. The disciples (who had earlier been personally called by Jesus) receive the news of the Resurrection second-handedly.

Thus the Ointment–Bearing Women are specially honored on this third Sunday of Pascha. We can see their faith, their acceptance of the news of the angel … quite in stark contract to the doubt of Thomas that we heard last week.

The Liturgy calls them "*women-disciples*" because they were indeed faithful followers of the Lord Jesus during the time of his ministry. They were with Him right up to the moment of his death on the Cross. And they were the first ones to come to the tomb and hear of his glorious Resurrection.

As we seek today to gain a fuller appreciation of the role of women in society and in the church, we remember these "*first disciples*".

They remind us that God works through his faithful ones … and perhaps He doesn't even notice what gender they are!