



## Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church

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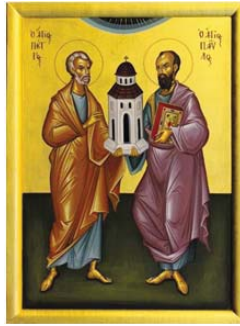
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**April 22, 2018**  
**Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women**

**Do not touch Me (Jn. 20, 17)**



Given the time and place where Christ spoke these words to her, Saint Mary Magdalene might be viewed as a symbol of those 'Church' people who, on a spiritual level, have enjoyed many heart-warming and fruitful encounters with the Lord in His Church, but who, in the course of their relations with Him, at some time lose both contact (Christ having been crucified and buried) and the religious interaction. They then see that they've gained nothing. As a result, they stumble between hope and desolation, though at the same time retaining, after a fashion, all the feelings of worship and devotion to Him Who is no longer to be seen. They continue to go to church, just as Mary Magdalene went and waited at the empty tomb. They greatly desire a rekindled and profitable relationship with Christ, hearing Him preach the divine word, mingling with the saints and the faithful, just as Mary met with the angels next to the empty tomb. They're helped in this effort to experience their grief over their lost relationship and to express it ('Woman, why are you crying? Who are you looking for?' 'They've taken my Lord from the tomb and I don't know where they've put Him'). It's at precisely this time, when we're grieving through lack of comprehension and sobbing over the loss of the One Whom we desire, that Jesus judges that He can inaugurate a different relationship with us, though without the... **(Continued on the back)**



### **EPISTLE READING :**

#### **Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7**

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 Nicolaos, 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.



### **GOSPEL READING :**

#### **The Gospel According to John 20:19-31**

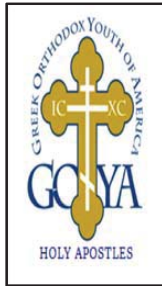
At that time, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself looking for the kingdom of God, took courage and went

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 the 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... **(Continued on the back)**

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Today is Stewardship Sunday

After Liturgy, Hear an update on our Stewardship program particularly as it relates to the land we land we are pursuing in Ashburn. Don't forget to turn in your 2018 pledge card. Cards are on the wall in the fellowship hall and on our website. Thank you for being a Steward of our church!



### GOYA Meeting, Today after Liturgy

Many great events coming up! Join us upstairs to discuss.

### GOYA Socratic Seminar, April 29<sup>th</sup> After Liturgy, Holy Apostles Church

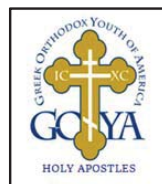
Roundtable discussion with Fr. George about GOYA topics of interest.

OCMC Benefit Dinner, St. Katherine Church  
**TODAY, 4:30pm Vespers followed by dinner and music.** \$60 per ticket. Contact Antonia Chelpon (achelpon@aol.com)



### PAREA (Our Company of Friends) Lunch, May 1<sup>st</sup> 11:30am at Cafesano

RSVP to Marina (703-349-1842)



### GOYA "Come and See Sunday" May 6<sup>th</sup>, Holy Apostles Church

Invite a friend to church to learn about and witness our faith, followed by lunch at the Dulles Town Center. Contact Zoe Skuce.



### Philoptochos Meeting Sun. May 6<sup>th</sup>, after Liturgy at Pomodoro, Dulles Eastern Plaza in Sterling



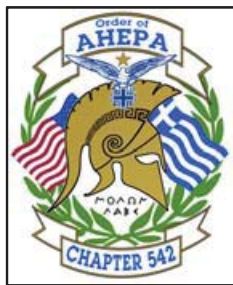
### HAGOC Mother-Daughter Tea; Sun. May 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:30pm Blooming Hill Lavendar Farm in Purcellville

\$15 per person

RSVP by April 28 to Julie Burke of the Stewardship

Committee (julieacburke@yahoo.com)

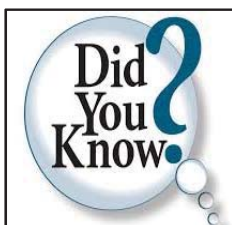
# UPCOMING EVENTS



## AHEPA Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup>, after Liturgy Holy Apostles Church

AHEPA Chapter 542 will have a memorial for deceased AHEPAns, make a presentation, and sponsor coffee hour.

***Fireside chats have begun!*** Sign up for a 1 hour session at church to discuss the land opportunity, answer your questions and concerns, and provide your feedback. Sign up sheets are available today in the hall. Be a part of this momentous decision for YOUR and OUR future. Contact Lia with questions (liaecon@comcast.net).



Our Capital Campaign to pursue 7.5 acres in Ashburn is so big it has its own movie trailer? Check it out on our website under “Support” and “Capital Campaign, in our parish email, and on YouTube (search Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church).  
**SHARE IT!**



## HAGOC Vacation Church Camp June 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>; 9:30am-12:30pm

Our theme is *Stepping Stones in the Divine Liturgy*. Open to ages 4-11. Limited to the first 40 students. Cost is \$45 (1 child), \$85 (2 siblings), \$115 (3 siblings). Discount if you Teach!

Registration and t-shirt order deadline is June 1. The registration form is on our website. Contact Denise Lansdell or Asha Ioanou.

**Palm Sunday Fish Dinner** - Our Sunday School Fundraiser prepared 30 meals for the needy and raised \$480 for our Building Fund! Thanks to our Holy Apostles wonderful parishioners.



Thank you to our **Hope and Joy** youth group for sponsoring today's coffee hour! Contact Lia (liaecon@comcast.net) if you would like to sponsor coffee hour.

# ANNOUNCEMENT



The **Easter Flowers/Altar Fund Committee** thanks wholeheartedly all of our Parishioners for their

generous donations of paper goods, lovely fresh flowers during the Lenten season, and help with the Annual Spring Cleaning, participation in the Salutations services, and decoration of the Epitaphio. Our Church is blessed and truly thankful for the donations from three of our Parishioners for the purchase of three wooden Chanters Chairs. A special thank you to all our beautiful flower girls! God Bless you all. Xristos Anesti!

## **Weekly Feature: What is Stewardship?**

### **What is a Steward?**

According to the Bible, a steward is one who responsibly manages the gifts entrusted to them for the perpetuation of the Lord's work. A steward honors and glorifies God.

Stewardship supports the Orthodox Christian practice of consistent, cheerful and purposeful giving of **time**, **talent** and **treasure** in support of our Church and its ministries to help further the word and teachings of Jesus Christ.

- 1) Give your **TIME** to a Ministry and the Church; Sign up to help! Volunteer today!
- 2) Give your God given **TALENT** to a Ministry and the Church: We need your valuable skills and experience!
- 3) Give your money to a Ministry and the Church: We cannot operate without your financial support! Pledge today!

A church cannot survive spiritually or monetarily without these 3 components of your Stewardship. Stewardship is a your personal responsibility and prayerful commitment to support the Church. God is the true owner of our possessions, and each of us is accountable to God for the acceptable care and use of those possessions.



**(Cover Message Cont...)** the possibility of any renewal of contact as it has been in the past ('Do not touch me'). Instead He challenges us to proclaim the truth of the Resurrection to the others, to His fearful and troubled disciples, while we await our elevation to a new spiritual – at least more spiritual- level in the Upper Room at Pentecost, with the descent of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, when we'll understand the words: 'God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth'. Then we'll be able to understand and wish to experience the words: '...let him deny himself and take up his cross'. We'll be able to work towards uniting their own person with the Person of Christ. We'll want to be like Christ rather than to enjoy some selfish religious trade-off.

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**(Gospel Reading Cont...)** 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.

**April Weekday Liturgical Schedule**

**Mon. April 23** St. George 8:15 AM Orthros,  
9:30 AM Divine Liturgy  
All services for May are on our website.

**Easter Cards For The Two Greek Orthodox Soldiers who are still in Turkish prisons:** THANK YOU to all Sunday School families and friends who prepared beautiful cards for the two innocent young individuals and their families. Our Sunday School is now collecting notes of support for the families still waiting for their sons to return home. Contact Ergini for further details and to help. Thank you!