

HOPE EMERGES WHEN YOU ROLL AWAY THE STONE

On that early morning, following the death and burial of Our Lord, the Myrrh Bearing Women approached the tomb. They were seeking to anoint the Body of their beloved Master with spices. But fear led them to think "Who will roll away the stone?" (Mark 16:3) They were obviously not strong enough. This stone represented a BARRIER to their goal. They were alone, beset by grief, but still they pressed on. They were shocked yet pleased when they saw that the stone was moved by "an angel of the Lord." (Matt 28:2)

We have all felt anxiety and wondered "Who will roll away MY stone?" It is a nagging feeling that some obstacles seem too big for us to handle. They stand in the way of our progress. What stone are YOU dealing with in your life?"

It may be the stone of unemployment. You are not sure how you will support your family or if you will have to move. Some may face the stone of illness, having been laid low by disease. You may have had to cope with the stone of separation, that sense of loss over missing a loved one. This may affect how you approach other relationships. These things can easily become obstacles, hindering us from future love or success.

As believing Christians, our hope lies in the realization that our Lord is alive, having rolled back the stone of death. Both the Myrrh Bearing Women and the Apostles moved past their stone, the loss of their leader. They needed to do this in order to spread His Word. Christ's disciples were able to alter the course of their lives and go forth, testifying the truth of Jesus' Resurrection. By doing so, they were able to endure many things! If we allow our faith to roll away the stones blocking our path, we too can experience joy and freedom through Jesus.



WEEKLY PARISH BULLETIN

May 15, 2016.

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TODAY'S READINGS

GOSPEL: Mark 15, 43-47; 16, 1-8;

EPISTLE: Acts. 6, 1-7;

TODAY WE COMMEMORATE:

SAINT ATHANASIUS THE GREAT, ARCHBISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA

Athanasius was born in Alexandria in the year 296 A.D. and from his early childhood had an inclination to the spiritual life. He was a deacon to Archbishop Alexander and accompanied him to the First Ecumenical Council [Nicaea, 325 A.D.]. It was at this Council that Athanasius became renowned for his learning, devotion to and zeal for Orthodoxy. He contributed greatly to destroy the heresy of Arius and to strengthen Orthodoxy. He wrote the Symbol of Faith [The Creed] which was adopted at the Council. Following the death of Alexander, Athanasius was elected Archbishop of Alexandria. In his calling as Archbishop of Alexandria, he remained for forty years, although not for the entire time on the archepiscopal throne of the archbishopric. With few exceptions, throughout his life he was persecuted by heretics. Of the emperors, he was persecuted mostly by Constantius, Julian and Valens; of the bishops, by Eusebius of Nicomedia and many others; and by the heretic Arius and his followers. Athanasius was forced to hide from his persecutors, even in a well, in a grave, in private homes and in the deserts. Twice he was forced to flee to Rome. Only before his death, did he live peacefully for a while as the good shepherd among his good flock who truly loved him. Few are the saints who were so mercilessly slandered and so criminally persecuted as St. Athanasius. His great soul patiently endured all for the love of Christ and, in the end, emerged victorious from this entire, terrible and long-lasting struggle. For counsel, for comfort and for moral support, Athanasius often visited St. Anthony, whom he respected as his spiritual father. For a man who formulated the greatest truth, Athanasius had much to suffer for that truth until in the year 373 A.D., the Lord gave him repose in His kingdom as His faithful servant.

HOMILY

About the source of living water and the dry cistern

"Be amazed at this, O heavens, and shudder with sheer horror, says the Lord. Two evils have my people done: they have forsaken Me, the source of living waters. They have dug, themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that hold no water (Jeremiah 2: 12-13)."

Is this spoken only for then or also for us today? Certainly for us today. Is this spoken only for the Jewish people or also for our people? Certainly for our people also. As it is said: Do not kill, do not steal, do not bear false witness. It was said not only for that time but also for all times and not only for the Jewish people but for all peoples. And so this also. This is valid today and always, for all peoples and for every man who turns his back on the source of living water in his own backyard and digs a cistern and drinks rain water from it.

The source of living water is the Lord Himself; inexhaustible, copious and sweet. The cistern is the work of every man which is performed in opposition to God and God's law and from which men expect progress, happiness and satisfaction for their hunger and thirst. Such a cistern is godless, avaricious, gluttonous, immoral, power-hungry, vain, idolatrous, soothing and everything else which has the devil as an advisor, sin as a digger and false hope for a water-carrier. "Be amazed at this O heavens, and shudder with sheer horror" says the Lord as to how man became senseless and began to forsake the living water and to dig a cistern in hot live coals which inflames his thirst even more!

O brethren, our people have also committed two evils for they forgot the Lord as the source of every good and because they went to seek, for themselves, good in evil and good

DON'T PUT QUESTION MARK WHERE GOD PUT A PERIOD.

through evil. Can water be found in fire? Or wheat in sand? It cannot; cannot, brethren. Even less can peace, happiness, joy and life or any other good be found in the cisterns of sin and godlessness.

O Lord, immortal source of every good which the heart of man can desire and which the mind of man can imagine, have mercy on us sinners and unworthy ones. With Your powerful right hand, turn us away from our godless and vain works and quench us with Your sweet and living water.

To You be glory and thanks always. Amen.



**MAY LUNCHEON
HOSTED BY THE BRDAR FAMILY
SUNDAY, MAY 22, 2016
FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY**



**MENU
PORK LOIN
RICE PILAF
SERBIAN GREEN BEANS
ROLLS
CAKE
COFFEE, ICED TEA
DONATION \$12**



SAVE THE DATES:

- TEA and TREASURE BASKETS fundraiser Sunday, June 26th from 1pm-3:30 pm
- St. Elijah Cornerstone Men's Club Picnic Saturday, June 11, 2016 2:00 p.m.
- FYI -Dues are to be paid by June 1st in order to be a member in good standing. As voted on at the Annual Assembly on Sunday, December 20, 2015 the Non-member fee is now \$1500.

VISITS:

May 11th - Beaver Medical Center - Mary Belich

May 12th - Cambridge Village - Mary Ulinski

May 12th - Franciscan Manor - Millie (Rebich) Winlow, Nell Semick, Rudy Kosanovich

May 13th - Beaver Medows - Mike Kozlina, Jennie Zakovich, Bob Sparcie, Mary "Cookie" Loverich, Sara Pesich, Smilja Milosh

May 14th - Trinity Oaks - Martha Jackson

