

POINTS OF INTEREST

New Lot. On March 31, we were able to purchase parcel # 302 on 21st street across the street from our church. Congratulations to our parish and thank you for all those who helped in purchasing it.

Congratulations. We congratulate Alexander Naim NAMMOUR, who was baptized at St Ann Maronite Church on Easter Sunday April 5th.

Easter Luncheon. After the Divine Liturgy on Sunday April 12 you are all invited to our Easter Luncheon Pot Luck. During our luncheon we will be having our first Talent show starting 11.00 AM.

Discussion Group. Our discussion groups will continue to meet each 3rd Friday of the month at 6.30 PM. Our next meeting will be on **Friday April 17** to study the Gospel of Mark.

The Daughters of St Ann. The Daughters meeting scheduled for April 16 has been **changed** to **April 23** at 6:30 p.m. Thank you!

First Communion. Join us to celebrate the First Communion of two of our children at St Ann's on Sunday May 3rd at 10.00 AM

Bus Trip to Yankee Stadium on July 18th to attend the New York Yankees v/s Seattle Mariners game. The cost is \$100 per person. For more info, contact Mike Rezey 339-9468; Al Patnode 225-3335 or Richard Peters 272-2934.

Memorials & Liturgy Intentions. If you would like to offer a Memorial or Divine Liturgy intention for your loved ones, write or call Fr. Elias. In preparing your will, you might wish to arrange for the celebration of Divine Liturgies for yourself and your family.

Verse Of The Week

"Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."
(Cf. Jn 20:29)

St. Faustina Kowalska 1905-1938

Born in Poland, Helena Kowalska was the third of 10 children. She worked as a housekeeper in three cities before joining the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in 1925. She worked as a cook, gardener and porter in three of their houses. In addition to carrying out her work faithfully, generously serving the needs of the sisters and the local people, she also had a deep interior life. This included receiving revelations from the Lord Jesus, messages that she recorded in her diary at the request of Christ and of her confessors.

At a time when some Catholics had an image of God as such a strict judge that they might be tempted to despair about the possibility of being forgiven, Jesus chose to emphasize his mercy and forgiveness for sins acknowledged and confessed. "I do not want to punish aching mankind," he once told St. Faustina, "but I desire to heal it, pressing it to my merciful heart" (Diary 1588). The two rays emanating from Christ's heart, she said, represent the blood and water poured out after Jesus' death (John 19:34)

Sister Maria Faustina died of tuberculosis in Krakow, Poland, on October 5, 1938. Pope John Paul II beatified her in 1993 and canonized her seven years later. Her name is forever linked to the Divine Mercy Feast, chaplet and prayer recited each day at 3 p.m. by many people.

Saint's Quote

"The things that we love tell us what we are."

Saint Thomas Aquinas

The Shroud: Not a Painting, Not a Scorch, Not a Photograph

This June, Pope Francis will be making a pilgrimage to Turin, Italy, home of the famous Shroud of Turin, which many believe is the 2,000-year-old burial cloth of Jesus Christ. The pope's June 21-22 visit will include time venerating the Shroud at the Cathedral of Saint John the Baptist.

The Shroud, a 14.5' by 3.5' linen cloth bearing the image of the front and back of a man who has been scourged and crucified, has been kept in Turin since 1578. Barrie Schwartz is one of the world's leading experts on the Shroud. In 1978, Schwartz, a technical photographer, was invited to participate in the first ever in-depth scientific examination of the cloth, known as the Shroud of Turin Research Project. A non-practicing Jew at the time, he reluctantly agreed to be part of STRUP, fully expecting the team to prove that the Shroud was a painted image from the Middle Ages. But after many years of study and reflection he came to believe in its authenticity.

For 17 years he refused to accept that the Shroud was authentic. The last argument holding him back was related to the blood. The blood on the Shroud is reddish, but blood on a cloth, even after just a few hours, should turn brown or black. He spoke with a blood chemist about bilirubin. It makes the blood stay red forever. It was the last piece of the puzzle. One of his favorite testimonials as to the authenticity of the Shroud actually came from his Jewish mother. She said, "Barrie, of course it's authentic. They wouldn't have kept it for 2,000 years if it wasn't."

The Shroud is literally a document of the Passion and the torture Jesus suffered. His face was severely beaten, and was particularly swollen around the eyes. The man had been severely scourged. Not only do we observe the wounds on the back, but the thongs wrapped around the body and hit the front as well. Forensically speaking, the image on the Shroud is more accurate than common depictions we see in art. He has a spear wound on his side. His legs are not broken, as was typically the case with men who are crucified. His head and scalp are covered in wounds. The soldiers actually took a thorn bush and smashed it down on his head.

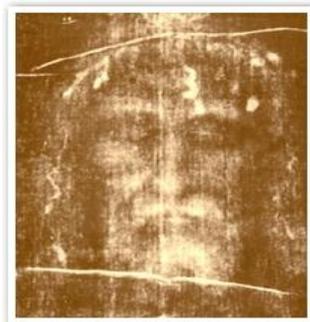
We see the back of one hand, which indicates that the nails were driven closer to the wrist, the perfect place to drive a nail that will hold. He was a well-built man; strong upper body, a deep chest and good-sized shoulders. This makes sense, as he was a carpenter, which required a lot of physical strength.

The cloth was high quality, probably made in Syria. Since it was imported, it would have been expensive. This is consistent with the Gospel account, which indicated that Joseph of Arimathea was a wealthy man. When Christ died he gave him his own shroud. In 1978, the STRUP team arrived with 80 crates of equipment and a limited time to implement a 67 page test plan. The Catholic Church had very little involvement. At that time, King Umberto, Duke of Savoy, whose family had owned the Shroud for six centuries, gave permission for the study. The Church in Turin was merely the custodian of the artifact.

They were allowed 120 hours to collect data, not draw conclusions, and answer one simple question: how was the image formed? By the end, they could only say how it did not get there. It was not a painting, it was not a scorch, and it was not a photograph. The team was composed of experts from a variety of faiths including total skeptics. One's religious belief was not a criterion for being on the team. In fact, as a Jew, Barrie felt uncomfortable and tried to quit twice. One of his friends, a good Catholic, said, "Have you forgotten that Jesus was a Jew? Don't you think he'd want one of the Chosen People on our team?" He told Barrie to go to Turin and do the best job he could.

There are no other objects in the world that compare to the Shroud. Those who view it have a broad range of response. Some have no reaction, but for many others it revives their faltering faith. In the end, faith is not based on a piece of cloth, but is a gift from God stirred in the hearts of those who look upon it.

Source: catholicworldreport.com



The Pope Tweets

"Lord, help us to live the virtue of generosity, to love without limits."

@ Pontifex / Apr 6, 2015