



# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH



A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor*  
Very Reverend Father John Branco, *Pastor Emeritus*  
Subdeacon Ryan Ferko  
Timothy Martin, *Reader*  
Subdeacon Ryan Ferko, Stephen Branco, & John Radick, *Cantors*  
Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*

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FEAST OF FEASTS!  
**APRIL 16th**  
NO FASTING!



BRIGHT WEEK

**HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)**

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17

Greet everyone with  
"CHRIST IS RISEN!"  
& say it before  
good morning and goodnight!

## A WARM WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!

**Christ is risen!** (*responded with: Indeed He is risen!*) Christos voskrese! (*Voistinu voskrese!*)

We are happy that you have joined us today! It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop again soon! Please see Fr. Dave if you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy.

## UPCOMING SERVICES

**BRIGHT WEEK:** A FAST FREE Week! Let us Imitate Christ & the Saints & Feast (*in moderation*) as they did!  
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### BRIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 17

9:30 am Paschal Liturgy with outdoor  
Gospel Procession

### BRIGHT THURSDAY, APRIL 20

6:30 pm Akathist to the Resurrection of our Lord

### BRIGHT FRIDAY, APRIL 21

~~9:30 am Paschal Liturgy~~ CANCELLED

### BRIGHT SATURDAY, APRIL 22

9:30-4:00 Parish Council Leadership Seminar  
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*There is no kneeling in prayer for 50 days  
(until Pentecost) and omit the prayer*

*"O Heavenly King" as we anticipate the Holy Spirit*

## PASCHAL GREETING:

(use instead of 'hello', before 'good morning', etc.)

**Christ is risen!**

(*responded with: Indeed He is risen!*)

## Paschal Greeting in Church Slavonic:

Christos voskrese! (*Voistinu voskrese!*)

If greeted in a language you are unfamiliar with,  
translate, respond in English, then learn the response

### ST. THOMAS SUNDAY, APRIL 23

9:20 am Paschal Canon

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Liturgical Color: **White**

Breaking of the Artos Bread

Blessing of Cemetery Graves  
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**\*Mystery of Confession** – Father is available to hear  
Confessions after every service or by appointment.  
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**\*Calendar** - Future Services are updated online at:  
[www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar)  
(Please see Fr. Dave if you want a printed copy)  
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**\*Live-Broadcast** – If you are unable to attend church  
services, please pray along with our Cathedral online:  
[www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/](http://www.acrod.org/directories/cathedral/live/)

## "THE VOICE" Our Parish Monthly Newsletter

John the Baptist said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' (Jn 1:23)



# CHRIST IS RISEN!

*Christ is Risen From The Dead, Trampling  
Down Death By Death and To Those In The  
Tombs Bestowing Life!*

# INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Dear St. John the Baptist Family -

We arrive today at the empty Tomb, but Christ is risen and with all of us no matter where we are! He brings us joy! Let us run to one another and greet each other with the joy that the Apostles had! Be strong in your Faith and know that God is with us! Hristos a inviat! (*Adevărat a inviat!*)

With love in the risen Lord,

Fr. Dave, Paňi Alexandra, Maria, Sophia, and Snoopy

## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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\*\*\* **Upstairs** – Through the Grace of God and people's hard work, we will temporarily be upstairs in the nave of the church probably until **Mother's Day** (and when the contractor is ready to start on lowering the sanctuary floor).

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\*\*\* **Bookstore** – Would you be interested in leading our bookstore? We are looking for someone to handle the display cases. Please contact Fr. Dave to help.

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\*\*\* **Selling Used Items** – Do you have a knack for selling things on-line (such as on Craigslist)? We have a growing number of items that we would like to sell. If interested in tackling this project, please contact Fr. Dave or Larry.

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\*\*\* **Landscape Ministry Crew** – Please contact Fr. Dave or Kathy Schrmack if you are interested in being added to the *Landscape Ministry Crew*. There will be a PLANNING MEETING soon to share our ideas.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Christ is Risen! *Indeed He is Risen!*

What a Lenten journey we have been on this year! I would like to personally thank you for the tremendous outpouring of support and stewardship that made the transition to our new building location in Allison Park a huge success. Amazingly, within a week after closure, we were able to have our first Divine Liturgy in the hall, much like the emotional experience our ancestors may have felt when having Liturgy at Eckerd Hall for the first time so many decades ago. Now, at a location where we are able to grow Orthodoxy in the North Hills, I look forward to building a lasting future together with you and strengthening our community outreach in the area.

Wishing you Many Years and a Blessed Pascha!

Larry Martin, *SJB Parish Council President*

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\*\*\* **THANK YOU** to everyone who brought something in for our Pot-Luck Paschal Meal!

\*\*\* **New VP** – In mid-January the Parish Council VP position became open. After much prayer and discussion, Larry Martin (*President*) has appointed Subdeacon Ryan Ferko as the interim Parish Council Vice-President. Congratulations and Many Years!

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\*\*\* **Parish Council Seminar / Help with luncheon** – On **Bright Saturday, April 22**, we will be hosting parishes from our deanery and surrounding deaneries for a Parish Council seminar. If anyone would like to assist with the luncheon, please let Larry or Fr. Dave know ASAP.

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\* **Blessing of Graves** – Our annual grave blessings at the cemeteries will be on **Thomas Sunday, April 23**. We will celebrate a Panachida after Liturgy and then head to the cemeteries after the coffee social. \*\*\* *If your loved ones are not at one of the two cemeteries on the North Side, please schedule a time with Fr. Dave to meet before the Feast of Ascension.*

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\*\*\* **Clergy Convocation** - Fr. Dave will be at Camp Nazareth from **Tuesday thru Friday, April 25-28** for our Diocesan Clergy Convocation. In case of a pastoral emergency, since cell reception is poor at the camp, either call the camp (724-662-4840), Fr. John Touloumes (412-366-8700), or Fr. John Mikita (412-366-4647). For general questions or ideas, please call and leave me a voicemail, text, or email.

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\*\*\* **Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup** – The Orthodox Clergy Brotherhood has organized to have four parishes simultaneously have the Akathist to the Inexhaustible Cup – a prayer service for all those suffering from addiction of any kind. On **Friday, May 5** at 6:30 pm we will host for the North of Pittsburgh. (The other locations are St. Nicholas in Monroeville, Sts. Peter and Paul in Carnegie, and St. John the Baptist in Beaver Falls.) Come and pray for your afflicted loved ones and friends!

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\*\*\* **Special Meeting about New Roof** – We are going to have a Special Meeting on **Sunday, May 7** during the Coffee Social to discuss the roof bids that we have received and vote on which one we will be going with. *This is the first official announcement.*

*Paschal Greeting in Romanian:  
Hristos a înviat! (Adevărat a înviat!)*

\*\*\* **Tree Update** – The health of the trees has been evaluated and a few of them will be coming down. Glory to God, through a grant, the non-profit *Tree Pittsburgh* will be supplying us with new trees!

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\*\*\* **THANK YOU** to the anonymous donor of \$10,000 to cover the cost of the tree removal! Many years!

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**Please share questions about our relocation** with Fr Dave or a Parish Council member as they come up! (*If you are thinking it, someone else might be as well and the answer would be good to share...*)

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\* **Window Company** – If anyone works with windows or has a good connection with someone who does or has a recommended company, please let Larry or Fr. Dave know. Thank you!

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\*\* **Calling All Graduates** – Please notify Fr. Dave of your graduation information by **May 15**.

High School Students: *your High School, any academic and/or athletic awards, and where you will attend in the Fall with your intended major in college (or undecided at this time).* Trade School, College, Graduate and Post-Graduate Students: *where you went, your field of study, and degree you will earn.*

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\*\*\* **Annual Church Picnic** – “The Cabin” in North Park is booked for **Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>** for our summer picnic. Please save the date!

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**Speaking With Your Priest** - Please know you can call me anytime if there is something troubling you. It is not a sign of weakness to share something that may be heavy on your heart or mind. As a priest and Father to our parish, I am here for you. Please call if you need someone to listen or to pray with you. Every heart has a cross and you do not need to carry it alone. Please also call if you have an idea for the growth of our parish. I am praying for you and am grateful for your prayers. With love in Christ, Fr. Dave

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### SENIOR ACRY NEWS

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\*\*\* **Sr. ACRY Reorganization** – Many changes have occurred over the past months – the ACRY is included in this. A reorganization meeting will be scheduled soon! In the meantime, please pay dues to Kathy Schrmack ASAP.

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### PARISH STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

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\*\*\* **Eternal Lamp** – We have graciously received a gently used Eternal Lamp from a diocesan parish that has closed. It is in good shape, but could use a bit of a cleaning. If you would like to give it a shot – please let Fr. Dave know.

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\*\*\* **Garbage and Recycling** – Did you ever notice that we do not have a dumpster at the church? Being non-residential without pick up in Allison Park, all of our garbage and recycling heads to stewards’ houses. If you would be willing to stick around at the end of coffee social and take a bag, please let Larry know.

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\*\*\* **Third Hour** – Prior to upcoming Liturgies, we will be chanting the Paschal Canon. After Ascension, we will return to chanting (or reading) the Third Hour. If you would like to be in the rotation for this, please let Fr. Dave know.

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\*\*\* **Grass Cutting** – Spring is in the air and it is becoming grass cutting season. If you would like to be in the rotation for this, please let Fr. Dave know.

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\*\*\* **Ride Share** – We have received a couple requests from people who are interested in getting a ride to the church. Please contact Fr. Dave or Larry if you would be willing to pick someone up on your way.

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\*\*\* **Additional** – See page 1 for 3 other opportunities (bookstore, selling things, and landscape)

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### AND Looking *FURTHER* Ahead...

#### Some 2023 dates of interest at St. John’s:

- **Apr. 16** – Pascha, the Feast of Feasts
- **Apr. 16-22** – Fast Free Week
- **Apr. 23** – Cemetery Grave Blessings
- **May 1-3** – Sts. Joachim and Anna Seniors Retreat at Camp Nazareth
- **May 10** – Feast of Mid-Pentecost
- **May 25** – Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord
- **???** – Graduate Sunday
- **Jun. 3** – 4<sup>th</sup> All Souls Saturday
- **Jun. 4** – Feast of Pentecost
- **Jun. 4-10** – Fast Free Week
- **Jun. 5** – Pentecost Monday (Gospel Procession)
- **Jun. 7** – 3<sup>rd</sup> Finding of the Head of St. John
- **Jun. 9-11** – Family Camp at Camp Nazareth
- **Jun. 11** – Family Day at Camp Nazareth
- **Jun. 12** – Apostles’ Fast begins
- **Jun. 17** – 5<sup>th</sup> All Souls Saturday (*rescheduled*)
- **Jul. 7** – Feast of the Nativity of St John
- **Jul. 12** – Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
- **Jul. 23** – Divine Liturgy and our Parish Picnic at “The Cabin” in North Park
- **Jul. 23-29** – Pittsburgh Deanery Camping Week at Camp Nazareth
- **Jul. 30** – Blessing of Chariots (*in anticipation*)
- **Aug. 2** – Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias
- **Aug. 6-12** – Science & Nature Camp (ages 8-18) at Camp Nazareth
- **Aug. 14** – Dormition Fast Begins, Lesser Blessing of Water, and Home Blessings Begin
- **Aug. 19** – Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord and Blessing of Fruit and Vegetables
- **Aug. 20** – Blessing of Fruit and Vegetables
- **Aug. 27** – Blessing of Students and Teachers
- **Aug. 28** – Feast of the Dormition and Blessing of Flowers and Herbs
- **Sep. 3** – Blessing of Flowers and Herbs
- **Oct. 27-29** – Young Adult Retreat at CN
- **Nov. 10-12** – ACRY Encounter at CN

***Please, Save the Dates!***

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*Paschal Greeting in Greek:  
Khristós anésti! (Alithós anésti!)*

### OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 603
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 130.10
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 722
Community Outreach:	\$ 25

**Total Collections: \$ 1480.10**

**Capital Improvement Fund: \$ 115**

*In faith that God provides:* "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.'" – 2 Cor. 9:8-9

### March Financial Report:

**General Stewardship = \$ 5897.18**

*(includes \$ 424.13 from online stewardship)*

**\*Expenses = \$ 6384.02**

**Net Deficit = \$ 487.84**

**Relocation Fund = \$ 2080**

**Capital Improvement Fund = \$ 125**

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 37

*\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

### Fiscal Year-to-Date Financial Report:

*(September through last month)*

**General Stewardship = \$ 43,148**

**\*Expenses = \$ 43,638**

**Net Deficit = \$ 490**

*\*details listed on the church hall bulletin board*

Average at Sunday Divine Liturgies: 27

\*\*\* **Giving at the Church** – The "flow of traffic" is a little different in Allison Park, but the ways to give your stewardship treasures has not changed. One can:

- ✘ hand their offering to the curator who sits at the desk in the vestibule (to the right after you enter from the parking lot),
- ✘ there are multiple baskets around the church for you to drop your offering in, or
- ✘ put your donation in the candle box in the candle stand when you light your candles before entering the nave.

We will continue to not "pass the basket" which interrupts our focus on our prayers.

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### PASCHAL COMMEMORATIONS

**Processional Candles (At Vespers & Matins) –**

For The Health Of Our Parish Community

**Censer (Kadilo) Incense –**

For The Health Of The Pavilonis Family

**Censer (Kadilo) Charcoal –**

In Memory Of The Peifer And Radick Families

**Graveside Candles –** In Thanksgiving For God's

Blessings To The Anton Family

**Vesperal Loaves –**

For The Health Of Our Donors And Benefactors

**Priest's Triple Paschal Candle –**

IMO The Nimick And Pitto Families

**Prosporan (Eucharistic Bread) –**

For The Health Of Our Youth

**Sacramental Wine –** IMO +Katherine Pasikoski

**Pascha Bulletin –**

IMO The Silon And Schrmack Families

**Altar 7-Candle Candelabra –**

IMO The Founders Of St John The Baptist Church

**2 Altar Candles –**

For The Health Of The Hudak Family

**Flowers –** IMO The Kailyar And Gados Families

**Altar Server Candles –**

IMO +Anastasia And +Lawrence Martin

**Preparation Table Candles –**

IMO Monsignor +Michael And Pañi +Anna Hanas

**Iconostasis Candles -** In Thanksgiving For God's

Blessings To The Lorenzi Family

**Tetrapod Candles –**

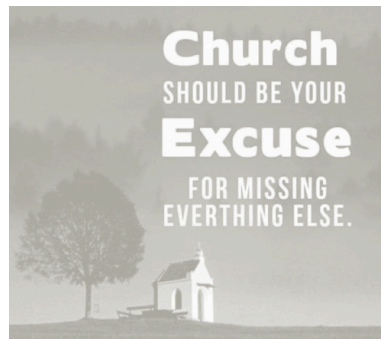
For The Health Of The Ramich Family

**Tetrapod Flowers –** IMO +Clifford Enslin

**Festive Oil -** In Thanksgiving For God's Blessings To

The Paieski Family

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*Paschal Greeting in Swahili:*  
Kristo amefufukka! (Kweli amefufukka!)

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Tim Martin; Fred and Juliana Anton; Thomas and Carol Lorenzi ; Mary Gido ; Cindy Pavilonis

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**Eternal Lamp** was offered last week in memory of +Joanne and +Alex Scripp. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!

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**Christ Cross Candles** were offered last week anonymously in memory of departed family and friends of St. John the Baptist Church. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!

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**Theotokos Cross Candles** were offered last week anonymously for the health of our parish community of St. John the Baptist Church.



**On-Line Giving** is available from our parish website to donate to the: *General Stewardship Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and/or Relocation Fund.* The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple (2<sup>nd</sup> best is to mail it in to Tim Martin, 2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143). If you miss coming to church for a week, online giving allows you another option to "catch up" on your weekly stewardship. You can also set up a recurring donation online. For our parish to continue it's ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

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**Bulletin Sponsor** – If you wish to sponsor a bulletin In Honor of (nameday, birthday, anniversary, etc.) or In Memory of someone, please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested. *Remember, sponsoring a bulletin in memory of someone does not replace having a Panachida (short Memorial Service) for them.*

*Paschal Greeting in Italian:*  
Cristo è risorto! (È veramente risorto!)

### SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Epistle: Acts 1:1-8*

**The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

1 In the first book, O The-oph'ilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

**The Ascension of Jesus**

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samar'ia and to the end of the earth."

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*Gospel: John 1:1-17*

**The Word Became Flesh**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God; <sup>3</sup>all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not.

<sup>11</sup>He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. <sup>15</sup>(John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") <sup>16</sup>And from his fulness have we all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

### The Icon Of The Most Holy Mother Of God, "Unfading Blossom"

Commemorated on April 16/3



On this icon the Most Holy Mother of God holds Her Divine Son upon Her right arm, and in Her left hand – is a bouquet of white lilies. This bouquet symbolically signifies the unfading flower of virginity and immaculateness of the All-Pure Virgin, to Whom thus also Holy Church turns: "Thou art the Root of virginity and the Unfading Blossom of purity".

## ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

\*\*\* **The Saint Constantine School** is excited to be introducing their new Headmaster and offering more information from some of the administration from the Houston campus about **the Orthodox School soon to open in the Pittsburgh area**. Parents - please try and attend this Friday evening, **April 21**, at 7:00 pm for this event at St. Nicholas Cathedral (419 S. Dithridge St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213). Bring your enthusiasm and questions. If you have questions beforehand, contact Fr. Dave or Fr. John Charest at 847-910-7120 or [frjohn.charest@aol.com](mailto:frjohn.charest@aol.com).

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\*\*\* **"The "Rusyns" who founded a "Russian" Church** – On Tuesday, May 9, as part of the "Light From The Church On The Hill Lecture Series", St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church (601 Boone Ave., Canonsburg, PA) will offer Vespers at 6pm and a Presentation (*titled above*) led by John Righetti (National President of the Carpatho-Rusyn Society) at

7pm. For more information, see the flyer on the bulletin board or contact Fr. Dave.

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\*\*\* **Senior Retreat at Camp Nazareth** – Did you notice that the "senior" retreat actually starts at age 55! From **May 1-3** plan to relax for a few days in among the mountains! For more information, please contact Fr. Dave.

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\*\*\* **Family Camp at Camp Nazareth** – Cabins are still available for this year's Family Camp from **Friday, June 9 to Sunday, June 11** (prior to Family Day). For more information, please contact Fr. Dave.

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\*\*\* **Family Day at Camp Nazareth** will be on **Sunday, June 11**. Divine Liturgy will be at 10am. There will be great food, music entertainment, swimming, craft activities, games, and more! The pricing for lunch is as follows: Adults: \$10; Children 5-13: \$6; Children Under 5: Free; Family Price: \$30 (*Includes 2 Parents & All Children Under Age 13*)

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\*\*\* **Pittsburgh Deanery Week at Camp Nazareth** is **July 23-29**. Registration for all campers, ages 8-18 begins soon. Information is available on the Camp's Website: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org).

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**Pittsburgh Deanery Picnic** will return this year on **Sunday, September 17** at The Veterans Shelter in Schenley Park. Mark your calendars and save the date!

### VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)  
Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddioecese](https://www.facebook.com/acroddioecese)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](https://twitter.com/acrodnews)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioecese](https://youtube.com/acroddioecese)

## LIVING ORTHODOXY

### Holy Pascha!

\* **Resurrection Matins:** Now we gather again to be ready to meet the Risen Lord. But before we make our triumphal Paschal Procession, quietly, the Lord's body (Holy Shroud) is taken from the "Tomb" and placed in victory on the Holy Altar Table. All lights in the church are put out and we wait patiently for the

first strains of the Paschal song, "Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior..." The paschal light is lit, the priest begins to chant the hymn and the light is passed from person to person and we exit the church and make our Paschal Procession (*to the Vestibule*). We now enter completely into the joy of Pascha. Christ bursts the gates of death and the gates of Paradise are opened. Coming back into the church, we celebrate the Resurrection Matins.

\* **Paschal Divine Liturgy:** The morning matins service flows directly into the Divine Liturgy. Certain hymns are replaced with "Christ is risen" as we celebrate Our Lord's Resurrection.

\* **The Blessing of Baskets:** After Liturgy, the priest will bless the Artos Bread and the Paschal baskets of food.

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### Bright Monday

\* **Paschal Liturgy with Gospel Procession:** After the Liturgy is just about completed, another procession takes place where the Gospel Good News is read on the four sides of the church. In the brightness of the Resurrection, there is no fasting this week!

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## SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

*Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 3:00pm or by appointment.*

**Online Community:** Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.

**Parish Phone Tree** - Please call Fr. Dave to be added.  
**Emergency Sick Calls** – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery of Holy Anointing (Unction) to be fully prepared.

**Mystery of Confession** – Opportunities are available after every service, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.

**Holy Communion/Eucharist** – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged for all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not Orthodox may receive a *blessing* from the chalice.

**Lapsed Members** – You are always welcome home and we want you back! Generally speaking, sincere

participation in the Mysteries of Confession, Communion, and regular attendance at the divine services are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.

**Parishioners in "good standing"** are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John's Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular attendance of services, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (*and receive these Mysteries no less than once a year*); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and share their stewardship of their time, talents, and treasures which includes financially supporting the parish.

**Baptisms** – Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Fr. Dave for more details.

**Adult Chrismation** – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.

**Marriages** – are only solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays in the church. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Fr. Dave ASAP for more details (*before arrangements are made for the hall*). It is critical that marriages are blessed in the church.

**Church Funerals** – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual responsibilities and their stewardship. Otherwise, burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.

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*"The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times. The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning."* - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

## PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for  
Special Intentions and Other Needs\**

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### **A Prayer For The Sick:**

O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *name(s)*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her/them* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her/them* so that *he/she/they* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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**For the Health of...** Nicole, Kellie, Carlene, Marjorie, Karen, David, Donna, George, Beverly, Kelly, Marie, Barbara, Brian, Kristina, Sean, Julia, Susan, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, and Michael *...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

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### **For the Special Intentions of...** His All Holiness

Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. David S., Fr. Myron, Dcn. Dean, Michael L., Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Ameer, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our diocesan seminarians: Nicholas, Dylan, Thomas, Samuel, Timothy, Nicholas, Aydin, Subdeacon Seamus, Nicholas, and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee: Lawrence, Matthew, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Mary Jane, Katherine, Kenneth, John, Wendy, Margaret, John, Patricia, John, Todd and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

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### **April Namedays:**

*Pañi's brother Florin Popescu and Pañi's mother Liliana Popescu – Palm (Flowery) Sunday  
Subdeacon Ryan Ferko – St. Thomas Sunday  
...May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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### **April Birthdays:**

Sonia Kretchek (4/1), Tristan Bowser (4/5), Milena Petrovich (4/5), Bryce James Blobner (4/10), Jenelle

Christine Specca (Petrovich) (4/10), Rich Mirilovich (4/13), Melanie Paieski (4/14), *Father's Uncle Dan Urban (4/15), Father's Father Dave Urban (4/15),*

John Kirish (4/18), *Father's Brother-In-Law Christopher Ditmore (4/19), Susan Waugh (4/19), Dr. Lawrence Martin (4/20), Max Anton (4/22), Donald J. Gavulich (4/23), Fred Anton (4/24), Fr Peter Paproski (4/24), Donna Tongel (4/24), Jaxson Maruscak (4/25), Fr Jonathan Bannon (4/29), Maryhelen Hoffman (4/29), Sharon Peifer (4/29) ...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!*

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**For our Catechumens & Inquirers...** Tyler, Susan *...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*

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**For those preparing for Marriage...** Francis & Alexandra, Nicole & Dustin *...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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### **April Anniversaries:**

John & Theresa Sharpless (4/21) *...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas*

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**For Pregnant Mothers...** Lindsay, Nicole (*due in June*) *...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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**For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities...** Thomas R. Dzadovsky *...through the prayers of St. George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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**For the souls of the newly departed...** Joanne Scripp, Alex Scripp *...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning.  
May they be Eternal in God's Memory.*

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\* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (*in the case of answered prayers*) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: **it is good to pray for one another.** Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is NOT limited to only Orthodox Christians.*

## DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS FOR BRIGHT WEEK

The Paschal Hours is sung for all the Hours, Compline, Midnight Office, Prayers after Communion, and Private Devotions (*Morning and Evening Prayers*) for all of Bright (*Renewal*) Week. (It is also sung on the leave-taking of Pascha, the eve of Ascension)

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**PASCHAL HOURS** *When said privately at home* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life. *(3 times)*

**The Resurrection Prayer (Kievan Tone 6 samohlasen)** Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, \* let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, \* the only sinless one. \* We venerate your Cross, O Christ, \* and we praise and glorify your holy Resurrection, \* for You are our God, \* and we know no other than You: \* we call on your Name. \* Come, all you faithful, \* let us venerate Christ's holy Resurrection. \* For behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. \* Let us ever bless the Lord, \* praising his Resurrection, \* for by enduring the Cross for us, \*\*\* He has destroyed death by death. *(3 times)*

**Hypakoe (Ipakoje) of Pascha (Tone 4 Samopodoben)** Before the dawn Mary came with the women \* and found the stone rolled away from the tomb.\* And they heard from the angel: \* "He abides in life everlasting. \* Why seek Him among the dead as if He were a man? \* Behold the burial shroud! \* Go and proclaim to the world: \* "That the Lord is risen and has conquered death." \* For He is the Son of God, \*\*\* and He is the Savior of mankind!"

### **Kondak of Pascha (Tone 8)**

You descended into the grave, O Immortal One; \* yet You destroyed the power of death. \* As Conqueror, You arose, O Christ God, \* saying to the myrrh-bearing women: "Rejoice," \* granting peace to your apostles \*\*\* and offering resurrection to the fallen.

### **Tropar of the Paschal Office (Tone 8)**

When your Body was in the tomb and your Soul was in hell, \* when You were in paradise with the thief, \* You were at the same time, O Christ, as God upon your throne \*\*\* with the Father and the Spirit, infinite and filling all things.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit: O Christ, your tomb, the fount of our resurrection \* is indeed a giver of life more splendid than Paradise \*\*\* and more radiant than any royal chamber.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Hail, holy and divine dwelling of the Most High, \* for through you, O Theotokos, \* joy has been given to those who cry out: \*\*\* "Blessed are you among women, O Lady most pure!"

Lord, have mercy. *(40 times)*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O shine, O shine, O new Jerusalem: \* for the Glory of the Lord is risen upon you. \* O Zion, sing with joy and rejoice. \* And you, pure Mother of God, \*\*\* rejoice in the Resurrection of your Son.

Lord, have mercy. *(3 times)* O Lord, bless us!

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

*[When the Paschal Hours is said in place of Compline or Evening Prayers, we insert the following Prayer of St. Basil the Great prior to the last "Christ is risen"*

*Blessed are you Lord, Master almighty, who made the day light with the light of the sun and the night radiant with the rays of fire; who have granted us to pass through the length of the day and to draw near the beginnings of the night. Hear our supplication and that of all your people. And pardoning all of us our offences, voluntary and involuntary, accept our evening entreaties and send down the multitude of your rich mercy and acts of compassion on your inheritance. Wall us about with your holy Angels; arm us with the arms of justice; fence us with the rampart of your truth; guard us by your power; deliver us from every misfortune and from every trick of the adversary. Grant us also that both the present day with the coming night and all the days of our life may be perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, without stumbling, without dreams, through the intercessions of the All-holy Theotokos and of all the Saints who have been well-pleasing to you since time began. For Yours it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.]*

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life. *(3 times)*

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### A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop (*name*), and our spiritual father (*name*), and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

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### A Prayer for Peace

Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth. Guide, I pray, all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and praise. Amen.

*Paschal Greeting in Arabic:*  
El Messieh kahm! (*Hakken kahm!*)

### A prayer for our Neighborhoods

*by Archbishop Demetrios of America*

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life's problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.

### The Jesus Prayer

*(Inhale)* O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
*(Exhale)* have mercy on me, a sinner!

*(Repeat until your heart is calm...)*

**CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING  
DOWN DEATH BY DEATH AND UPON THOSE IN  
THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE!**

**THE ANGEL EXCLAIMED TO HER, "FULL OF  
GRACE, REJOICE O PURE VIRGIN. AGAIN I SAY  
REJOICE, YOUR SON IS RISEN FROM HIS THREE  
DAYS IN THE TOMB, AND HE HAS RAISED ALL  
THE DEAD. LET ALL PEOPLE REJOICE!"**

**O SHINE, O SHINE, O NEW JERUSALEM: FOR THE  
GLORY OF THE LORD IS RISEN UPON YOU. O  
ZION, SING WITH JOY AND REJOICE. AND YOU,  
PURE MOTHER OF GOD, REJOICE IN THE  
RESURRECTION OF YOUR SON.**

*Paschal Greeting in Spanish:*  
¡Cristo ha resucitado!  
*(¡En verdad ha resucitado!)*

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### ONLINE BULLETIN BONUSES

Patriarchal Encyclical for Holy Pascha 2023

**+ BARTHOLOMEW**

**By God's Mercy**

**Archbishop of Constantinople-New**

**Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch**

**To the Plenitude of the Church:**

**May the Grace, Peace and Mercy of**

**Christ Risen in Glory be with you All**

\* \* \*

Dearly beloved children,  
Having arrived with God's grace at the all-saving Resurrection of the Lord, through which the power of death was abolished and the gates of paradise were opened to the entire human race, we address to all of you our paschal greetings and heartfelt wishes, as we proclaim the cry "Christ is Risen" that gives joy to the world.

In all of its dimensions, the life of the Church is invigorated by the ineffable joy of the Resurrection. The "experience of resurrection" is witnessed in the labors of the Saints and Martyrs of our faith, as well as in the liturgical and sacramental life, the proclamation of the Gospel "to the ends of the earth", the devotion and spirituality of the faithful, their sacrificial love and Christian conduct, but also in their expectation of a world where "death will no longer exist, nor will there be mourning, wailing or suffering" (Rev. 21,4).

In and through the Resurrection, everything lies in a state of motion toward perfection in the Kingdom of God. This eschatological drive has always provided Orthodox Christians in the world with dynamism and perspective. Despite the claims of the opposite, as a result of the eschatological orientation of its life, the Church never compromised with the presence of evil in all its expressions in the world. Nor did it deny the reality of pain and death. Nor again did it ignore the ambiguity of human affairs. And finally, it never

considered the struggle for a more just world as something foreign to its mission. Still though, the Church always knew that pain and the cross are not the ultimate reality. The experiential quintessence of the Christian life is the conviction that, through the Cross and through the "narrow gate", we are led to the Resurrection. This faith is reflected in the fact that the core of church life, the Divine Eucharist, is essentially linked with the Resurrection of Christ. In the Orthodox tradition, as the late Metropolitan John of Pergamon emphasizes, the Divine Eucharist "is filled with joy and light ... because it is not grounded in the Cross and an idealization of passion, but in the Resurrection as the transcendence of the passion of the Cross"\*.

The Holy Eucharist transports us to Golgotha not so that we may remain there, but so that we may be led through the Cross to the ever-radiant glory of the Kingdom of God. The Orthodox faith is the overcoming of the utopian salvation "without the Cross" and of the existential shipwreck of the Cross "without the Resurrection".

Our participation in the Resurrection of Christ through the sacrament of the Church is on the one hand a tangible abolition of every utopianism and of the false paradise promising unimpeded self-indulgence, while at the same time a definitive transcendence of hopeless self-enslavement in supposed unsurpassable negativity, because the Cross of Christ gives birth to the Resurrection, to the "endless delight", to "the enjoyment of eternal glory". The annihilation of death through the Cross and Resurrection of our Savior elevates our life to its divine-human essence and its heavenly destiny.

In Christ, we know and live that the present life is not our entire life, that our biological death does not constitute an end or obliteration of our existence. The biological boundaries of life do not define its truth. After all, the sense that life is an irreversible "journey toward death" leads to existential impasses, to depression and nihilism, to indifference for what truly matters in life. Science, and financial or social progress are unable to offer an essential solution or outlet. Christians are "those who have hope" (1Thess. 4,13), who expect the coming Kingdom of the Father and Son and Holy Spirit as a final reality, as the fullness of life and knowledge, as the fulfilment of joy, not only for the coming generations but for the entire human race from the beginning to the end of the ages.

This vision of history and eternity, the resurrectional nature of Orthodox faith, ethos and culture—namely, the unquestionable fact that the great miracle of Truth is only revealed "to those who venerate the mystery in

faith”—is what we are called to witness today within a civilization that rejects the Transcendent and in the context of manifold reductions of the spiritual identity of human existence.

We give glory in chant, hymn and spiritual song to the Lord who rose from the dead and shines eternal life upon all. We participate with joy in “the feast that is common to all”. And we beseech the all-powerful, all-wise and all-merciful Maker and Redeemer of all to bring peace to the world and grant all His saving gifts to humankind, so that His all-honorable and majestic name may be glorified and blessed, now and always and to the ages of ages. Amen!

At the Phanar, Holy Pascha 2023  
+ Bartholomew of Constantinople  
Fervent supplicant for you all  
to the Risen Lord

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## Paschal Greetings from Around the World

The **Paschal greeting** is a custom among Orthodox Christians, consisting of a greeting and response. Instead of "hello" or its equivalent, one is to greet another person with "Christ is Risen!". The response is "Truly, He is risen!" (or "Indeed, He is risen!"). This greeting is used during liturgical services and informally at other times, starting with the [feast of Pascha](#) and lasting until [Ascension](#) – the period known as the *Paschal season* or *Paschaltide*.

In practice, this greeting is typically used only with people that one already knows are Orthodox. In some cultures (for example in Russia), it was also customary to exchange a triple kiss after the greeting. Orthodox Christians often compile lists of the greeting in various languages, as it is used around the world, and these are sometimes recited in church or in other formal settings as an act of Orthodox unity across languages and cultures.

Language	Greeting	Response
Aleut:	Khristus anahgrecum!	Alhecum anahgrecum!
Aleut:	Khristus tusax aglagikux!	Agangu-lakan aglagikux!
Albanian:	Krishti U Ngjall!	Vertet U Ngjall!
Alutuq:	Khristus tusaq unguixtuq!	Pijii-nuq unguixtuq!
Amharic:	Kristos tenestwal!	Bergit tenestwal!
Anglo-Saxon:	Crist aras!	Crist sodhlice aras!

Language	Greeting	Response
Arabic:	El Messieh kahm!	Hakken kahm!
Armenian:	Kristos haryav ee merelotz!	Orhnia eh harootyunuh kristosee!
Athabaskan:	Xristosi banuytashtch'ey!	Gheli banuytashtch'ey!
Bulgarian:	Hristos voskrese!	Vo istina voskrese!
Byelorussian:	Khrystos uvaskros!	Saprawdy uvaskros!
Chinese:	Helisituosi fuhuole!	Queshi fuhuole!
Coptic:	Pehristos aftooun!	Alethos aftooun!
Czech:	Vstal z mrtvých Kristus!	Vpravdě vstal z mrtvých!
Danish:	Kristus er opstanden!	Ja, sandelig opstanden!
Dutch:	Christus is opgestaan!	Ja, hij is waarlijk opgestaan!
English:	Christ is risen!	Indeed He is risen!
Eritrean-Tigre:	Christos tensiou!	Bahake tensiou!
Esperanto:	Kristo levigis!	Vere levigis!
Estonian:	Kristus on üles tõusnud!	Ta on tõesti üles tõusnud!
Ethiopian:	Christos t'ensah em' muhtan!	Exai' ab-her eokala!
Finnish:	Kristus nousi kuolleista!	Totisesti nousi!
French:	Le Christ est réssuscité!	En verite il est réssuscité!
Gaelic:	Taw creest ereen!	Taw shay ereen guhdyne!
Georgian:	Kriste aghsdga!	Cheshmaritad aghsdga!
German:	Christus ist auferstanden!	Wahrlich Er ist auferstanden!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Hawaiian:	Ua ala hou 'o Kristo!	Ua ala 'I 'o no 'oia!
Hebrew:	Ha Masheeha houh quam!	Be emet quam!
Hungarian:	Krisztus	Valoban feltamadt!

Language	Greeting	Response
	feltamadt!	
Ibo ( Nigeria):	Jesu Kristi ebiliwo!	Ezia o' biliwo!
Indian (Malayalam):	Christu uyirthezhunnettu!	Theerchayayum uyirthezhunnettu!
Indonesian:	Kristus telah bangkit!	Benar dia telah bangkit!
Italian:	Cristo e' risorto!	Veramente e' risorto!
Japanese:	Harisutos Fukkatsu!	Jitsu ni Fukkatsu!
Javanese:	Kristus sampun wungu!	Tuhu sampun wungu!
Korean:	Kristo gesso!	Buhar ha sho nay!
Latin:	Christus resurrexit!	Vere resurrexit!
Latvian:	Kristus ir augsham sales!	Teyasham ir augsham sales vinsch!
Lugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Amajim ajukkide!
Norwegian:	Christus er oppstanden!	Sandelig han er oppstanden!
Polish:	Khristus zmartwyckwstal!	Zaprawde zmartwyckwstal!
Portuguese:	Cristo ressuscitou!	Em verdade ressuscitou!
Romanian:	Hristos a inviat!	Adevărat a învîat!
Russian:	Khristos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Sanskrit:	Kristo'pastitaha!	Satvam upastitaha!
Serbian:	Hristos vaskrse!	Vaistunu vaskrse!
Slovak:	Christos vstal z mŕtvych!	Vpravde vstal z mŕtvych!
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!
Swahili:	Kristo amefufukka!	Kweli amefufukka!
Swedish:	Kristus är uppstånden!	Han är sannerligen uppstånden!
Syriac:	M'shee ho dkom!	Ha koo qam!
Tlingit:	Krisdos kuᵶ wudigút!	X'éiga kuᵶ wudigút!
Turkish:	Hristos diril - di!	Hakikaten diril - di!

Language	Greeting	Response
Ugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Kweli ajukkide!
Ukrainian:	Khristos voskres!	Voistinu voskres!
Welsh:	Atgyfododd Crist!	Atgyfododd yn wir!
Yupik:	Xris-tusaq Ung-uixtuq!	Iluumun Ung-uixtuq!
Zulu:	UKristu uvukile!	Ngempela uvukile!

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### APRIL SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

<b>SATURDAY, APRIL 1</b> # <i>TheGreatFast</i> 10 am Diocesan Retreat at St. Nicholas
<b>SUNDAY, APRIL 2</b> # <i>TheGreatFast</i> Holy Martyress Photini (Svetlana) 4:00 pm Deanery Lenten Mission in Allison Park
<b>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5</b> # <i>TheGreatFast</i> 6:00 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with community meal following
<b>FRIDAY, APRIL 7</b> # <i>TheGreatFast</i> FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION 9:30am Vesperal Liturgy
<b>SATURDAY, APRIL 8</b> # <i>LAZARUS SATURDAY</i> 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Palm Cross Making following 11 am – 1 pm Confessions heard +++
<b>SUNDAY, APRIL 9</b> # <i>PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY</i> FEAST OF THE ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM St. Matrona (4 <sup>th</sup> c.) 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Blessing of Branches (Palms and Willows) Tone 2; Liturgical Color: <b>Gold</b> +++
<b>GREAT AND HOLY PASSION WEEK</b>
<b>MONDAY, APRIL 10</b> # <i>HOLY WEEK</i> 6:30 pm Bridegroom Matins and confessions
<b>TUESDAY, APRIL 11</b> # <i>HOLY WEEK</i> 6:30 pm Bridegroom Matins and confessions
<b>WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12</b> # <i>HOLY WEEK</i> 6:30 pm Mystery ( <i>Sacrament</i> ) of the Anointing of the Sick ( <i>Unction</i> ) * <i>Last opportunity for Confession until after Pascha</i>
<b>THURSDAY, APRIL 13</b> # <i>HOLY WEEK</i>

9:30 am St. Basil's Vespertal Liturgy of the Mystical Supper (*Institution of the Eucharist*)  
6:30 pm Matins with the 12 Passion Gospels followed by setting of the Lord's Tomb



**FRIDAY, APRIL 14 #HOLY WEEK**

A DAY OF STRICT FASTING

9:30 am Royal Hours  
followed by decorating the Tomb  
6:30 pm Vespers and outdoor Burial Procession with the Holy Shroud (*Plašcanitsa*)

**SATURDAY, APRIL 15 #HOLY WEEK**

A DAY OF STRICT FASTING

9:30 am Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil  
(*Harrowing of Hades*)  
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**SUNDAY, APRIL 16 #PASCHA**

THE FEAST OF FEASTS

**9:00 am** Resurrection Matins  
~9:40 am Paschal Divine Liturgy  
Blessing of Baskets (*upstairs in the church*)  
Paschal Potluck Meal  
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**BRIGHT WEEK: A FAST FREE WEEK**

**MONDAY, APRIL 17 #BRIGHTWEEK**

9:30 am Paschal Liturgy with Gospel Procession

**THURSDAY, APRIL 20 #BRIGHTWEEK**

6:30 pm Akathist to the Resurrection of our Lord

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22 #BRIGHTWEEK**

9:30-4:00 Parish Council Leadership Seminar  
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**ST. THOMAS SUNDAY, APRIL 23**

9:20 am Paschal Canon; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
Breaking of the Artos Bread  
Blessing of Cemetery Graves

**SUNDAY, APRIL 30**

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Pascha; Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women; Joseph of Arimathea, & Nicodemus  
9:20 am Paschal Canon; 9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
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**FEAST DAY FEATURES OF THE MONTH**

**The Annunciation Of Our Most Blessed Lady Mother Of God And Ever-Virgin Mary**

*Commemorated on April 7 / March 25*

**Introduction**

The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on March 25 each year. The Feast commemorates the announcement by the Archangel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would become incarnate and enter into this world through her womb.

**Biblical Story**

The biblical story of the Feast of the Annunciation is found in the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke (1:26-39). The Archangel Gabriel appeared to the Virgin Mary, who was living in Nazareth, and said to her, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you." Mary was perplexed and wondered what kind of greeting this was.

The angel told her not to be afraid, for she had found favor with God. He said, "You will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary responded to the angel by asking how this could happen since she had no husband. The angel told her that the Holy Spirit and the power of God would come upon her, and that the child to be born of her would be called holy, the "Son of God."

The angel then proceeded to tell the Virgin Mary that her cousin Elizabeth had conceived a son in her old age (John the Baptist), and affirmed that with God nothing is impossible.

In faith and obedience to the will of God, Mary replied to the angel, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be according to your word." Upon her response, the angel departed.

It is on the Feast of the Annunciation, that Orthodox Christians commemorate both the divine initiative of God, whereby He took on flesh from the Virgin for our salvation, and the human response, whereby Mary

freely accepted the vocation offered to her. He elected to become man, and He desired to do this with the willing agreement of her whom He chose as His mother. Mary could have refused, for she was not a passive instrument, but an active participant with a free and positive part to play in God's plan for our salvation. Thus, when on this and other feasts the Orthodox Church honors the Theotokos, the Mother of God, it is not just because God chose her but also because she herself chose to follow His will.

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**The Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday / Flowery Sunday)**

*April 9*

**Introduction**

On the Sunday before the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha and at the beginning of Holy Week, the Orthodox Church celebrates one of its most joyous feasts of the year. Palm Sunday is the commemoration of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem following His glorious miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. Having anticipated His arrival and having heard of the miracle, the people went out to meet the Lord and welcomed Him with displays of honor and shouts of praise. On this day, we receive and worship Christ in this same manner, acknowledging Him as our King and Lord.

**Biblical Story**

The biblical story of Palm Sunday is recorded in all four of the Gospels (Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28-38; and John 12:12-18). Five days before the Passover, Jesus came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Having sent two of His disciples to bring Him a colt of a donkey, Jesus sat upon it and entered the city.

People had gathered in Jerusalem for the Passover and were looking for Jesus, both because of His great works and teaching and because they had heard of the miracle of the resurrection of Lazarus. When they heard that Christ was entering the city, they went out to meet Him with palm branches, laying their garments on the ground before Him, and shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he that comes in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!"

At the outset of His public ministry Jesus proclaimed the kingdom of God and announced that the powers of the age to come were already active in the present

age (Luke 7:18-22). His words and mighty works were performed "to produce repentance as the response to His call, a call to an inward change of mind and heart which would result in concrete changes in one's life, a call to follow Him and accept His messianic destiny. The triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is a messianic event, through which His divine authority was declared.

Palm Sunday summons us to behold our king: the Word of God made flesh. We are called to behold Him not simply as the One who came to us once riding on a colt, but as the One who is always present in His Church, coming ceaselessly to us in power and glory at every Eucharist, in every prayer and sacrament, and in every act of love, kindness and mercy. He comes to free us from all our fears and insecurities, "to take solemn possession of our soul, and to be enthroned in our heart," as someone has said. He comes not only to deliver us from our deaths by His death and Resurrection, but also to make us capable of attaining the most perfect fellowship or union with Him. He is the King, who liberates us from the darkness of sin and the bondage of death. Palm Sunday summons us to behold our King: the vanquisher of death and the giver of life.

Palm Sunday summons us to accept both the rule and the kingdom of God as the goal and content of our Christian life. We draw our identity from Christ and His kingdom. The kingdom is Christ - His indescribable power, boundless mercy and incomprehensible abundance given freely to man. The kingdom does not lie at some point or place in the distant future. In the words of the Scripture, the kingdom of God is not only at hand (Matthew 3:2; 4:17), it is within us (Luke 17:21). The kingdom is a present reality as well as a future realization (Matthew 6:10). Theophan the Recluse wrote the following words about the inward rule of Christ the King:

"The Kingdom of God is within us when God reigns in us, when the soul in its depths confesses God as its Master, and is obedient to Him in all its powers. Then God acts within it as master 'both to will and to do of his good pleasure' (Philippians 2:13). This reign begins as soon as we resolve to serve God in our Lord Jesus Christ, by the grace of the Holy Spirit. Then the Christian hands over to God his consciousness and



freedom, which comprises the essential substance of our human life, and God accepts the sacrifice; and in this way the alliance of man with God and God with man is achieved, and the covenant with God, which was severed by the Fall and continues to be severed by our willful sins, is re-established.”

The kingdom of God is the life of the Holy Trinity in the world. It is the kingdom of holiness, goodness, truth, beauty, love, peace and joy. These qualities are not works of the human spirit. They proceed from the life of God and reveal God. Christ Himself is the kingdom. He is the God-Man, Who brought God down to earth (John 1:1,14). “He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not” (John 1:10-11). He was reviled and hated.

Palm Sunday summons us to behold our king - the Suffering Servant. We cannot understand Jesus' kingship apart from the Passion. Filled with infinite love for the Father and the Holy Spirit, and for creation, in His inexpressible humility Jesus accepted the infinite abasement of the Cross. He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows; He was wounded for our transgressions and made Himself an offering for sin (Isaiah 53). His glorification, which was accomplished by the resurrection and the ascension, was achieved through the Cross.

In the fleeting moments of exuberance that marked Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the world received its King, the king who was on His way to death. His Passion, however, was no morbid desire for martyrdom. Jesus' purpose was to accomplish the mission for which the Father sent Him.

“The Son and Word of the Father, like Him without beginning and eternal, has come today to the city of Jerusalem, seated on a dumb beast, on a foal. From fear the cherubim dare not gaze upon Him; yet the children honor Him with palms and branches, and mystically they sing a hymn of praise: ‘Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to the Son of David, who has come to save from error all mankind.’” (A hymn of the Light.)

“With our souls cleansed and in spirit carrying branches, with faith let us sing Christ's praises like the children, crying with a loud voice to the Master:

Blessed art Thou, O Savior, who hast come into the world to save Adam from the ancient curse; and in Thy love for mankind Thou hast been pleased to become spiritually the new Adam. O Word, who hast ordered all things for our good, glory to Thee.” (A Sessional hymn of the Orthros)

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