

## CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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**BULLETIN OF APRIL 15, 2007**

**CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**



### **The Paschal Greeting**

During the forty days of Pascha, Orthodox Christians greet one another with the words, "Christ is risen!" They likewise respond with the words, "Indeed He is risen!" And to show that the Good News of the Resurrection is for all of mankind, we often exclaim the Paschal Greeting in many different languages. In the back of the church there are papers with this Paschal Greeting in some of the more popular languages. Please feel free to pick one up and learn (if you haven't already) to proclaim Christ's Resurrection to all!

### **The "Day of Joy"**

According to pious custom, a commemoration of the dead is made on Tuesday of Saint Thomas Week (April 17<sup>th</sup>), so that, having celebrated the bright festival of Christ's Resurrection, the joy of the Paschal feast might be shared with those who have departed this life in the hope of their own resurrection. On this day, we will have a special memorial service at 9:00am.

### **Appreciation is Extended to All**

During Great Lent and Holy Week there were many tasks which needed to be done for the Holy Days (cleaning, singing, serving, decorating, cooking, etc). Your labors, time, and offerings did not go unnoticed but rather are greatly appreciated! May God bless you!



### **Attention Parish Council Members**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, following the Divine Liturgy. In the church office there is a schedule for collection counting for the year 2007. There should be two counters for each Sunday. Please sign your name to the schedule for those Sundays in which you will be able to count - preferably no more than two Sundays a month so that we have a good rotation. If you are unable to count on a Sunday that you have signed up for, please find a replacement. Thank you!

### **Last Sunday's Bulletin**

If you haven't yet picked up last Sunday's bulletin, it is available in the back of the church, or can be downloaded from our parish website, [orthodoxdelmarva.org](http://orthodoxdelmarva.org).

**SUNDAY, APRIL 15<sup>TH</sup>**

**THOMAS SUNDAY / NEW SUNDAY**

8:40a.m. Hours

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

Question / Answer

**TUESDAY, APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup>**

**DAY OF JOY**

9:00a.m. Memorial Service

**SATURDAY, APRIL 21<sup>ST</sup>**

6:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

**SUNDAY, APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>**

**MYRRHBEARING WOMEN SUNDAY**

8:40a.m. Hours

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

### **DIRECTORY UPDATES**

Please add the following person to our Directory of Parishioners and Friends:

Valerie Ann Dellas

37986 Eagle Ln. Unit 475

Selbyville, DE 19975

Phone: 302-436-9917

Birthday: July 29<sup>th</sup>

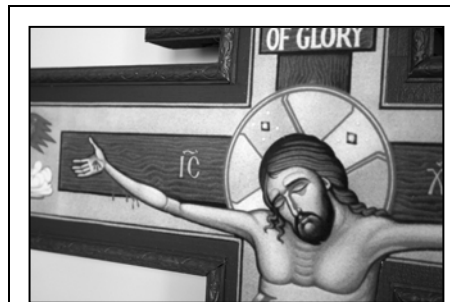
Namesday: *St. Basil* – Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>

If you know of any other additions and/or corrections, please speak with Fr. John.



## A New Fundraiser is Underway

to raise money for our building program. Cookie Lee Jewelry, an affordable high-quality fashion jewelry that has been in business for 15 years, has offered to donate 20% of their sales through our parish to our Mission. The consultant for our fundraiser is Kris DeAngelis and she will be here at our coffee hour on April 15<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup> with a display of some of the Cookie Lee jewelry. The fundraiser will end on April 26<sup>th</sup> when all orders and monies are due. Alice Peters has volunteered to collect orders and money. The orders will be delivered to the church on May 4<sup>th</sup>. There are envelopes with instructions and brochures for the taking in the coffee room. If one does not need as many brochures as are in the envelope please leave them for others who may need more. The consultant has asked that the brochures be returned after the fundraiser. For questions, please see Fr. John or Alice.



### Our Mission's New Cross

was constructed with the help of Father Daniel and Matushka Emily. On one side is the Crucified Lord, and on the other side is the empty Cross and the Risen Lord. This Cross was donated by Isabelle's family for her health. May God bless her, the generous donors, and the hardworking laborers!

## Pictures from Holy Week and Pascha

will soon be posted on our parish website. If you have any pictures which you would like to share please see Fr. John as soon as possible. Thank you!



## CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

*By Saint Nikolai of Zicha*

### The first question: How can it be said that the Risen Lord has conquered death, when men still die?

They who come into this world through their mother's womb will leave it through death and the grave. This is the rule. Only, death for us who die in Christ is no longer a dark abyss, but is birth into new life and a return to our homeland. The grave is, for us, no longer an eternal darkness but a gateway at which God's resplendent angels await us. For all who are filled with love for the beautiful and living Lord, the grave has become only the last obstacle to His presence – and this obstacle is as weak as a spider's web. And so the glorious Apostle Paul cries: "For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain!" (Philippians 1:21)

How has the Lord not conquered death, when death is no more visible in His presence? The grave is no more a deep abyss, because He has filled it with Himself; neither is the grave dark anymore, for it marks, not the end but the beginning; neither is it our eternal homeland, but only the door to that homeland.

The difference between death before Christ's Resurrection and after it is like the difference between a terrible conflagration and the flame of a candle. Christ's victory is fundamental and therefore, through Him, "death is swallowed up in victory." (1 Corinthians 15:54)

### The second question: How can it be said that the Risen Lord has conquered sin, when men still sin?

The Lord has indeed conquered sin. He conquered it by His sinless conception and birth; then by His pure and sinless life on earth; then by His suffering on the Cross, being righteous; and finally He crowned this conquest by His glorious Resurrection. He became the medicine, the appropriate and infallible medicine against sin. He who is infected by sin can only be healed by Christ. He who wants to sin no more can only with Christ's help make this desire a reality. When men found a cure for smallpox, they said: we have conquered this disease. They said the same thing when they found a cure for tonsillitis,

*continued on page 3...*

**Concerning the Resurrection of Christ** continued from page 2...

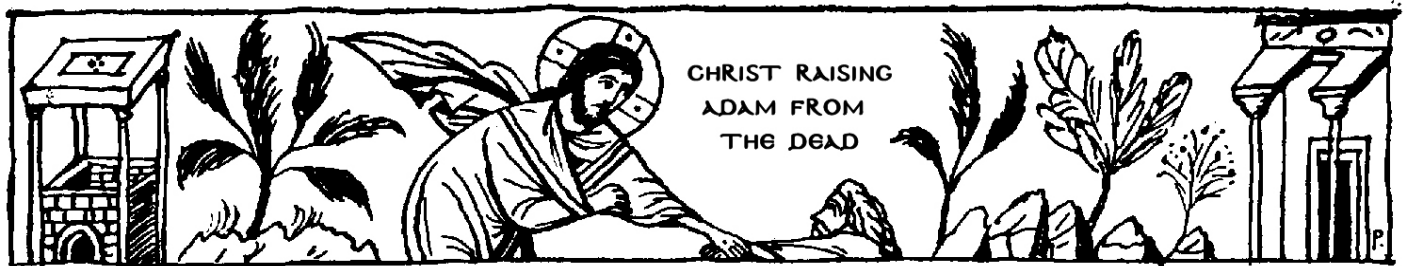
toothache, gout, and other similar illnesses: we have conquered them! The finding of a cure for an illness, then, means the conquering of it.

Christ is by far the greatest Physician in human history, for He brought men the cure for the sickness beyond all sicknesses – for sin, from which all other sicknesses and all man's other sufferings, both physical and spiritual are born. This medicine is He Himself, the Risen and Living Lord. He is the one and only effective Medicine for sin. If men, even today, sin and by sinning come to ruin, this does not mean that Christ did not conquer sin, but only that the men in question have not taken the one and only medicine against their mortal sickness; it means either that they do not sufficiently know Christ as the Medicine or if they know the Lord, they do not make use of Him for one reason or another. But history testifies, with thousands upon thousands of voices, that those who make use of this medicine for their souls and bodies, are healed and made whole. Knowing the weakness of our being, the Lord Christ intended it for the faithful, for them to take Him as food and drink under the visible forms of bread and wine. This, the Lover of Mankind did out of His immeasurable love for men, simply in order to facilitate their approach to the life-giving medicine for sin and for the corruption brought about by sin. "He that eats My flesh and drinks My blood, dwells in Me and I in him... and he shall live by Me." (John 6:56-57)



Those who feed on sin gradually lose the life that is in them. However, those who feed on the living Lord, feed on life itself and the life within them increases more and more, thereby diminishing death. And to the measure that life is increased, so too is death destroyed. The insipid and gloomy sweetness of sin is replaced in them by the joyful and life-giving sweetness of Christ the Victor.

Blessed are they who have tested and experienced this mystery in their lives. They can be called the sons of light and children of grace. When they pass from this life, they will, as it were, leave the hospital, no longer being sick men, but men healed by the Medicine of Immortality.



**ABOUT THE PASCHAL TROPARION – CHRIST IS RISEN!**

*Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!*

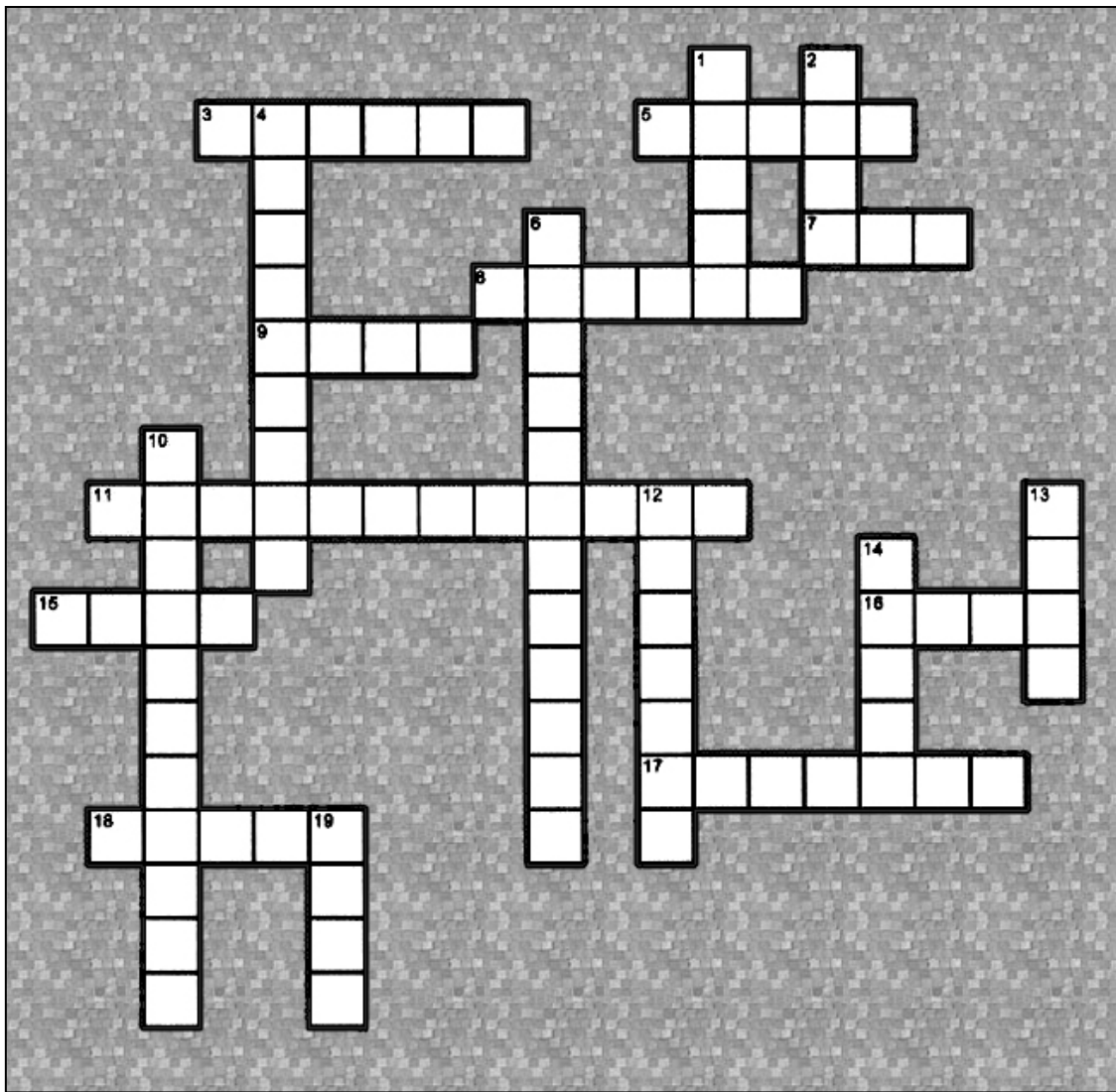
Upon those in the tombs... has at the very same time two meanings, for the Resurrection of Christ destroys both sin and death. If we be in the tombs of sin, we are brought out; if we be in the tomb of death, we will be brought out.

This is made manifest in the Gospel of John (5:25) when the Lord says, "the hour is coming and now is, when the dead (those in sin) will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live." This is a reference to the "first resurrection", which is the resurrection of the soul from sin. "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all those who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth..." (verses 28-29). This refers to the future or "second resurrection," which is that of the body.

The immediate resurrection we experience, and the first benefit of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, is that of the soul being raised from the deadness of sin. The nature of the "second resurrection", whether it will be for "the resurrection of life" or "the resurrection of condemnation" (5:29), is dependent upon whether or not we experience our rising from the deadness of sin, now in this life.

So, when we sing the hymn, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!" – we acknowledge that the living are being raised from sin and the biologically dead, will be raised; the fruitfulness of the Resurrection of Christ is beneficial for both the living and the dead; and for the present age and the age to come.

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP



### Across

3. A Roman currency often associated with stewardship.
5. At his home the woman anointed Christ's feet.
7. First female steward.
8. Human love.
9. First steward.
11. Stewardship frees us from this sin.
15. First person to offer a non-flesh offering.
16. It is more blessed to \_\_\_\_\_ than to receive (Acts 20:35).
17. An unfaithful steward is guilty of this sin (Mal. 3:8).
18. God requires of us the \_\_\_\_\_ fruits.

### Down

1. 10% of our increase.
2. Patient, kind, not jealous.
4. Made of soft stone and held the oil that anointed Christ's feet.
6. Often confused with stewardship.
10. Paul wrote a book on their generosity.
12. A manager of God's property.
13. He made the first animal offering.
14. Godly love.
19. By-product of creation.



### Answers

1. Tithe
2. Love
3. Talent
4. Alabaster
5. Simon
6. Philanthropy
7. Eve
8. Phileo
9. Adam
10. Corinthians
11. Covetousness
12. Steward
13. Abel
14. Agape
15. Cain
16. Give
17. Robbery
18. First
19. Time