



# CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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**BULLETIN OF APRIL 8, 2007**

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

**SUNDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**HOLY PASCHA**

***Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!***

12:00a.m. Matins

Divine Liturgy

Blessing of Baskets

Festal Meal

12:00p.m. Paschal Vespers

**BRIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>**

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

**BRIGHT SATURDAY, APRIL 14<sup>TH</sup>**

6:00p.m. Vespers; Confessions

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

**THOMAS SUNDAY / NEW SUNDAY**

8:40a.m. Hours

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

## **Looking for a Church?**

Christ the Savior is a church for people of all ages, ethnicities, and races, for both families and singles, and for all those who are searching for the anchor of a traditional Christian community in our rootless society. Come and worship with us, as we seek to be conformed to Christ's example of true humanity, so that we can become, as the Apostle Peter says, "partakers of His divine nature." (2 Peter 1:4)



## **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!

## **Bright Week**

is the week immediately following Pascha. During this week, we do not fast, even on Wednesday or Friday, as we celebrate the presence of the Risen Lord among us. During this week, our "normal" morning and evening prayers may be replaced by singing or reading the Paschal Hours. If you would like a copy of the Paschal Hours please pick one up from the back of the church.

## **The Bright Monday Divine Liturgy**

will be celebrated by the Protospresbyter Daniel Hubiak at 9:00am. All are encouraged to continue in the joy of Pascha by worshipping the Risen Lord at this festive Liturgy!

## **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!



## **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!

## 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!

## 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 fund raiser 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 fund raiser 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 fund raiser. For questions, please see Fr. John or Alice.



## DIRECTORY UPDATES

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

Michael & Natalia Kurinij  
10509 Griffin Rd.  
Berlin, MD 21811  
Phone: 410-641-4977

Lydia Zacepilo  
7423 New Hope Rd.  
Williards, MD 21874  
Phone: 410-835-2978

Their birthdays are as follows:

Michael – May 10<sup>th</sup>  
Natalia – October 8<sup>th</sup>  
Lydia – September 30<sup>th</sup>

Please also add the following Namesday:

Alice Peters  
*Martyr Aleksandra – August 23rd*

If you know of any other corrections which need to be made, please do not hesitate to speak with Fr. John. Further corrections will be posted as necessary.



## HOLY PASCHA – THE MIDNIGHT SERVICE

Shortly before Midnight, the Resurrectional Nocturns is sung and all of the lights in the church are extinguished. The faithful wait in silence for the moment when the Priest will come out of the Altar with a lit candle, symbolizing the Light of the Risen Christ and the beginning of the Holy Pascha of the Lord – the Feast of Feasts.

At the stroke of Midnight, the clergy come out of the Holy Altar, all of the candles are lit, and a joyous, festive procession circles the church three times with the singing of the hymn: "Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the angels in heaven sing. Enable us on earth to glorify Thee in purity of heart." Then stopping before the closed outer doors of the church, the Priest reads the Gospel and exclaims the Paschal verses, "Let God arise...", while the Faithful sing the triumphant Paschal hymn, "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life."



Faithful receiving the Paschal Fire at the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.



Distribution of Paschal Fire

The Clergy and Faithful now re-enter the church and the singing of the Paschal Canon, "This is the Day of Resurrection...", with numerous repetitions of the Paschal hymn, "Christ is risen...", begins. At many points during the Service the Clergy exclaim, "Christ is risen!" and the Faithful respond, "Indeed, He is risen!" The church is filled with the Faithful holding lit candles and the Clergy in bright vestments. At the conclusion of the Matins, the catechetical address of St. John Chrysostom is read, summoning all, even those who have come only at the eleventh hour, to the great Paschal Banquet. Matins is then followed by the Paschal Liturgy.



## THE DATE OF PASCHA

According to the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, 325, Pascha is to be celebrated on the first Sunday, following the full moon after the vernal equinox. The significance of this day is as follows.

The vernal equinox not only marks the beginning of spring for us in the northern hemisphere, but it is also the time when every place on earth is directly touched by the light of the sun and there are twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of night. While the sun lightens one half of the earth during the day, the full moon lightens the other half by night. The Sunday following this astronomical phenomenon is the brightest Sunday of the year – the Sunday of Great and Holy Pascha.

This astronomical phenomenon is a cosmic image of how Christ unites both the spiritual and physical worlds in the most resplendent day of His Resurrection. Throughout the hymnology of Pascha, this reality is proclaimed. In the Paschal Canon, we sing:

“Now all is filled with light: heaven and earth and the lower regions. Let all creation celebrate the rising of Christ in Whom we are established!”

“This is the bright and saving night, sacred and supremely festal. It heralds the radiant day of the Resurrection on which the timeless light shone forth from the tomb for all!”

In Genesis we read how God on the first day created light and separated the light from the darkness; the light He called day and the darkness He called night. When Christ rose from the dead on Sunday, the first day of the week, He inaugurated a new creation, a new era, in which He would give to the world the never-waning Light of His Resurrection. The Gospel reading for the Pascha Liturgy proclaims this mystery:

“In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God... All things were made by Him... In Him was life; and the life was the light of men... The light shines in darkness and the darkness overcomes it not.” (John 1:1,3-5)

## PASCHA TO PENTECOST: 50 DAYS OF GRACE

We are celebrating the feast of the Bright Resurrection of the Son of God. These 50 days are days of light, joy, grace, and peace. We especially strive to maintain what is known as “Paschal joy.” What is this joy? Our realized happiness that we have spiritually died, been buried, and resurrected with Christ. Christ’s Death and Resurrection is at the same time our own taste of death to sin and genuine resurrection.

Saint Paul teaches us that having died to the “old man” (the ways of sin) we, through Christ, have been born again in the “New Man.” “You have been raised to life with Christ. Set your hearts, then, on the things that are in heaven, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Let your thoughts dwell on things there, not on things here on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Your real life is Christ, and when He appears, then you too will appear with Him in glory.” (Colossians 3:1-4)

Newness of life has been given to us by and in Christ Jesus. It is the greatest gift. Let us hold fast to it and guard it from the devil’s envy. Let us be sure to be completely dead to our old habits of passion and sin; and alive in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Let us continue to celebrate in word and deed, living:

A Pascha worthy of veneration,  
A Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer,  
A blameless Pascha,  
A Pascha of the faithful!

### Liturgical Notes:

This period of great festivity and joy finds its liturgical expression in the following manner:

- ❖ We greet each other with the Paschal salutation, “Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!” for 40 days, until Ascension Day.
- ❖ We do not kneel or make prostrations either at church services or in our homes until the “Kneeling Prayers” at Pentecost.
- ❖ The Paschal Troparion, “Christ is risen from the dead” is sung or said at the beginning or end of all prayers until the Leave-taking of Pascha on the Eve of Ascension.
- ❖ The prayer, “O Heavenly King” is omitted until Pentecost, being replaced with the Troparion of Pascha and then Ascension.

## ARCHPASTORAL MESSAGE OF HIS BEATITUDE, METROPOLITAN HERMAN FOR THE FEAST OF PASCHA

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

“If Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty.... And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!” – 1 Corinthians 15:14, 17

Recently, there have been a number of attempts to “disprove” the central tenet of our faith: that Christ is risen from the dead. Television documentaries claim that Our Lord’s grave – and that of his family – have been discovered. “Scholars” debate whether Christ really died on the cross, or whether He merely fell victim to a condition that mimics death, only to be “revived” while “resting” in the tomb. That which generated tremendous controversy 2000 years ago – even Our Lord’s murderers spread the belief that His disciples had stolen His body! – continues to breed controversy and attempts to prove or disprove the very foundation of our faith as Orthodox Christians.



Scientifically, the Resurrection cannot be proven. Ultimately, it is a Mystery – the greatest Mystery of all time. It is a Mystery that can only be understood through the eyes of faith, through an intense trust in the will of the Creator Who, as we sing in one Vesper hymn, can change the order of nature as He desires. It is a Mystery that simply cannot be understood by those who question or reject the very notion that God so loved the world that He sent His only-begotten Son to renew and restore all creation and its relationship to its Creator. For those who deny God, or who are indifferent to Him, or who refuse to embrace His very existence, the Resurrection is reduced to myth, even as it renders the death of Christ meaningless, just one more senseless death not unlike the countless others perpetrated by the civil authorities of the time.

While indeed we “preach Christ crucified,” as Saint Paul writes elsewhere, it is only through the glorious Resurrection that the Crucifixion holds any real meaning. The cross – that dreaded sign of death and corruption – is transformed into a sign of victory, the ultimate symbol of God’s presence and loving kindness and forgiveness. Hence, while we preach Christ crucified, we look beyond the cross to the empty tomb, in which we discover the Christ Who emptied Himself precisely to ensure that our preaching and faith are not empty or futile, the Christ Who loves us so much that He literally gives His life lest we remain captives to sin, corruption, and ultimately, death itself.

Someone once wrote that, when the Good News of the Resurrection ceases to be controversial, it loses its very power to transform lives. Today, as in centuries past, Our Lord’s Resurrection remains the subject of controversy, doubt, and even blatant denial. But surely we must acknowledge that, despite 2000 years of controversy and scientific enquiry and archeological digs, the light of the risen Christ has not – and cannot - be extinguished.

The Resurrection remains at the heart of our faith and lives as Christians. The eyes of faith can see beyond the Mystery into the deepest reality of all: the very love of God that makes the Resurrection of Our Lord possible and holds for us the promise of our own resurrection and delight in life eternal.

This year, as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior, let us arm ourselves against every temptation to doubt the central Mystery and reality of our faith. Let us be assured of the forgiveness and new life that shines forth from the empty tomb. And let us renew our commitment – and conviction – that only by and through the incomprehensible Mystery of the Resurrection can we discover our true destiny and calling as the People of God, living “in” this world, yet already delighting in the life of the world to come.

May the risen Savior renew, restore, and refresh us during this most joyous season, and every day of our lives, so that in all things, He and He alone may be glorified!

With love in the Risen Lord,



Archbishop of Washington and New York  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada