



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

30838 Vines Creek Rd.; Dagsboro, DE 19939
302-537-6055 (church) / 302-988-1138 (rectory)
orthodoxdelmarva.org / frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org

BULLETIN OF APRIL 19, 2009

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Please Remember in Prayer

Carole Boris (newly-departed), Archpriest Michael, Monk Christian, Nadia, Kathy & Bill Parrish, Diane Evanusa, Marie, Thomas, Judith Kocinski, Jane Koshutko, Robert Evanusa, Nicholas & Linda, Nicholas, Anna, Yvonne, Katherine, Michael, Gregory, Todd & Olga Leisure, Nina Gordon, Constantina & Christos. Requests? Let Fr. John know.

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!

You're Invited!

to continue celebrating Pascha with us following the Midnight Service, when we share in a festal meal together. All are invited! The meal will begin immediately following the blessing of the Paschal Baskets.



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.

Egg Hunt

Next Sunday, April 26th, there will be an egg hunt for the children of the parish during the coffee hour. The rain date is the following Sunday, May 3rd. Please bring a basket with a handle for your children.



May the Lord Bless!

those who during Great Lent and Holy Week assisted with the many things which needed to be done (cleaning, singing, serving, decorating, cooking, etc). Your labors, time, and offerings are greatly appreciated!



Fr. John will be away

from Pascha evening through Bright Thursday. If you need to reach him for anything, please do so by phone (302-537-6055) or email (frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org).

HOLY PASCHA, APRIL 19TH

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

12:00a.m. Matins

Divine Liturgy

Blsg. of Baskets & Meal

12:00p.m. Paschal Vespers

BRIGHT SATURDAY, APRIL 25TH

5:50p.m. Paschal Hours

6:00p.m. Great Vespers

THOMAS SUNDAY, APRIL 26TH

8:40a.m. Hours

9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy

Coffee Hour

Egg Hunt

Today all of the Heavenly Powers rejoice, elated because of the salvation of mankind. If because of the repentance of a single person there is joy in Heaven and earth, moreso is this true because of the salvation of the world. Today Christ liberated the nature of man from the tyranny of the devil and restored it to its previous nobility.

St. John Chrysostom

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 26th

Kathy Parrish

Sunday, May 3rd

Jen Alexion



ANCIENT FAITH RADIO LAUNCHES PODCAST FEATURING METROPOLITAN JONAH

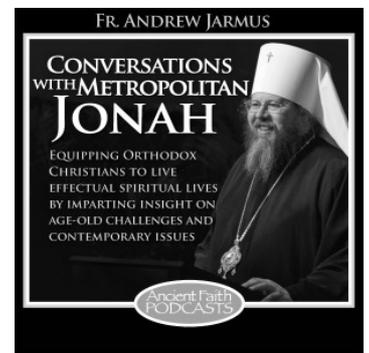
SYOSSET, NY [OCA Communications] -- Ancient Faith Radio has launched a new podcast featuring His Beatitude, Metropolitan Jonah, titled, "Conversations with Metropolitan Jonah."

In "Conversations with Metropolitan Jonah," OCA Director of Ministries and Communications, Archpriest Andrew Jarmus, engages in an ongoing dialogue with the primate of the Orthodox Church in America, discussing age-old challenges and contemporary issues facing Orthodox Christians.

"We are very happy to continue our media partnership with Ancient Faith Radio," Fr. Andrew said. "Our work together at the OCA's 15th All-American Council last November was very positive for both the OCA and AFR. We are hoping that this new podcast with His Beatitude, as well as other projects in the future, will also bear fruit for the Church."

In the first installment of "Conversations," Metropolitan Jonah discusses the vision of a united North American Orthodox Church, the principle that the local church is identified as a diocese gathered around its hierarch, and the idea of conciliarity in which all members of the Church have a voice in Church life.

"Conversations with Metropolitan Jonah" may be found on the web at: <http://ancientfaithradio.com>



FOCUS NORTH AMERICA LAUNCHES ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN DOMESTIC SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK

KANSAS CITY, KS [FOCUS North America] -- In early 2009, FOCUS North America [Fellowship of Orthodox Christians United to Serve] launched as a network of Orthodox Christian social action ministries that express Christ's love in North America for those who are hungry, thirsty, strangers, naked, sick or in prison [Matt. 25:35-5]. In its first 60 days of operation, FOCUS North America has partnered with dozens of Orthodox agencies and parish initiatives and awarded more than \$30,000 in grants.

FOCUS grew out of the need for an Orthodox Christian effort to address the persistent and pervasive needs of the suffering, impoverished or vulnerable in North America. It is a staggering reality that over 40 million people live below the poverty line and the unemployed rate exceeds 11 million people in North America and is increasing. While there are a variety of Orthodox Christian agencies within all jurisdictions effectively engaged in addressing these needs, a coordinated effort with national support and encouragement could be much more effective.

In January 2009, an historic meeting of twenty leaders, staff, academics and patrons of leading Orthodox Christian domestic social action agencies, with members representing a variety of Orthodox jurisdictions in North America, was sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Marilee Ajalat and the Orthodox Vision Foundation. That meeting was the catalyst for the creation of FOCUS

North America and the refining of its vision, which is to make a significant and sustainable impact through Orthodox Christian social action initiatives in the lives of suffering, impoverished or vulnerable persons of any age, race, creed or color in North America, especially in, but not limited to, ministries providing immediate relief in the areas of Food, Occupation, Clothing, Understanding and Shelter.

FOCUS is compelled by Christ's mandate to serve those in need through:

Education in faith communities of the Scriptural

mandate, historical precedence and urgency for living out the Christian faith and witness through personal involvement in social service

Support of existing social action agencies through training, coordination and funding from significant private and public sources

Initiating the creation, and nurturing the healthy growth and funding, of new locally-based social outreaches and their leaders

Collaboration with individuals who want to support social ministry through volunteerism or funding of these initiatives

Orthodox agencies and parishes with social service initiatives or plans for future projects are encouraged to become part of the FOCUS North America network. For more info, go to FocusNorthAmerica.org or contact Fr. Justin Mathews at 816.399.0909 or via email at FrJustin@focusna.org.





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)

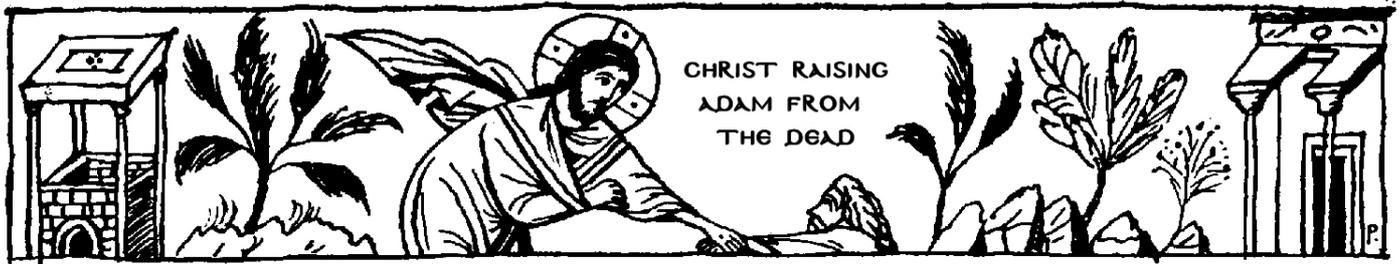
Newness of life has been given to us by and in Christ Jesus. It is the greatest gift. Let us hold fast to it and guard it from the devil’s envy. Let us be sure to be completely dead to our old habits of passion and sin; and alive in the righteousness of Jesus Christ. Let us continue to celebrate in word 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 JONAH, ON THE LORD'S PASCHA, 2009

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

To the Very Reverend and Reverend Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful
of The Orthodox Church in America

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

Beloved, let us greet one another with Paschal Joy, and exchange the kiss of peace.

Let us feast soberly, that our joy may be full. Let us not stuff ourselves to satiety with feasting, nor indulge our passions to insensibility. Most of all, let us not give ourselves over to the darkness of the fallen world from which we have sought to purify ourselves, lack of forgiveness, anger and judgment, bitterness and hatred.

Rather, let us allow our old selves to remain crucified and buried, that the New Man may live, resurrected in and with Christ. Let us live according to the Kingdom, in communion with the Holy Spirit, so that we may be renewed by the Resurrection.

Our Pascha is not simply the beautiful services and the good food. It is not just family and Easter bunnies. It is not just the fellowship and familiar old customs.

Pascha is the dawn of the Age to Come, the Kingdom of God radiating into our souls and minds and hearts. Pascha is the experience of salvation itself, the foretaste of the Messianic Banquet, and the transformation of our lives. In Pascha we behold Christ, Risen from the dead, the revelation of the Second Coming.

We have gone with Christ to His Passion, but have we been crucified with Him?

We have held vigil at His Tomb, but were we asleep, and missed Him? Did our minds betray us and we doubt His Resurrection?

Let the fruit of our Lenten efforts be the enlightenment of our minds and the renewal of our hearts that our repentance not be in vain.

Let us sing with joy together with the Angels and Archangels, and all creation which has groaned awaiting the revelation of the Son of Man. With all creation, the living and dead, the spiritual and material, and with all the saints, let us cry:

Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and on those in the tombs bestowing life!

With love and joy in the Risen Christ,

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