"We celebrate the death of death, the destruction of Hell and the beginning of the new eternal life. And we leap with joy, singing your victory with praise."

This hymn from Holy Saturday summarizes the essence of what Pascha is all about - the victorious destruction of death and the beginning of a new life in hope through our Lord Jesus Christ’s glorious Resurrection.

I love reading these hymns of Good Friday and Holy Saturday which so poetically describe how Christ came to conquer the greatest dilemma of history. Every generation of humanity since Adam and Eve has faced the reality that life on earth is but a short journey. Whether we live a few years, or even 100, our lives are still so very brief. And worst yet, the tomb has always seemed the only possible conclusion to life itself.

Well, all of that changed when the tomb of Jesus Christ was found empty. “Why are you seeking the living among the dead?” the angel asked Mary Magdalene. Yes, Jesus was crucified, killed and buried, yet He proved to be mightier than the evil that assailed Him. In fact, He proved mightier than death itself as He became the first and only person in history to confront death on its own terms, and then to annihilate it!

No other world religious leader claimed or achieved such a victory - neither Muhammed, Buddha, or any other famous historical figure. Jesus Christ stands alone in this earth-shattering event, because He alone is God incarnate!

The hymns of Good Friday and Holy Saturday describe His victory most beautifully:

“You descended into the depths of the earth and shattered the everlasting bars which kept the dead captive. And like Jonah from the whale you arose, O Christ, from the tomb on the third day.

Christ our God, though you descended into the grave, yet you overthrew the power of Hell, and rose as an immortal conqueror. You greeted the myrrh-bearing women, offered peace to your apostles, and granted resurrection to all those who have fallen.”
The mission of Sts. Constantine and Helen Church is to proclaim the Good News of Salvation through the Orthodox Christian Faith for the glory of our Triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We are a community of believers who journey towards our Lord Jesus Christ and one another through our WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, SPIRITUAL GROWTH, WITNESS, and SERVICE. We invite all people to join us on this journey in the Kingdom of Heaven.

We are under the jurisdiction of
His Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew
His Eminence, Archbishop Demetrios of America
His Eminence, Metropolitan Methodios of Boston

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RESURRECTIONAL JOY

Continued from Front Cover

Now all things are filled with light, heaven and earth and the deepest parts of the earth.
Let all creation celebrate the rising of Christ in which it is established.

The significance of our Lord’s Resurrection was not that He alone arose from the dead, but that from this moment onward in history, all people who believe in Him and follow Him would rise as well. Death, and the tomb, are no longer what awaits humanity. We no longer have to fear death, because we know it no longer has the final say! As these hymns clearly states:

Yesterday I was buried with you O Christ, today I arise in your resurrection.
Yesterday I was crucified with you O Savior, glorify me with Yourself in Your kingdom.
O my Savior, through Your resurrection from the dead, You have resurrected the entire race of Adam.

When we choose to live in the light of the Resurrection, we choose to live in the light of hope, joy, love, peace, life, and victory! Nothing can frighten us because we know that the ultimate and final victory is ours through our Lord Jesus! This is why Mother Teresa use to remind the world, “Never let anything so fill you with sorrow that you forget the joy of our Risen Lord!”

The Resurrection gives us an entirely new lens through which we look at life. Our perspective is one where God has the final say. Yes, there will be many crosses in our lives, and these may entail much struggle and suffering and even death, yet never forget that the Cross is not the end of the story. The Passion of Christ concludes with the Resurrection; death is but a doorway to new life, to an eternity in the Kingdom of Heaven.

May we all strive to live each and every day of our lives in the joy of this glorious new reality. We should not greet one another with the words “Christ is Risen! for only 40 days after Pascha,

but we should carry that resurrectional spirit of joy and hope and victory with us throughout the entire year and throughout our entire lives!

I pray that all of you, my beloved parishioners, may begin to experience this joy and radiant life in a new way this year. May each of the powerful and moving services throughout Holy Week and into Bright Week touch each of us like never before, so that we can be transformed and transfigured like the first disciples.

With love in our Risen and Victorious Lord,

+ Luke
A NEW LIFE IN THE RESURRECTION

Christians in the first century had a strange custom. When one of their fellow Christians would die, they would march in procession to the graveyards, singing joyous hymns, and then they would place laurel wreaths on the graves, the same wreaths that the Greeks would use to crown the victors of athletic contests. Why did they do this? Because they believed that through Christ Jesus, all his followers have received victory over the power of death!

We see this same idea when we hear the Resurrectional hymns of Pascha. In one such hymn, Hades is crying out in despair: “I wish I had not received Jesus, for He has broken my power. Christ has shattered the gates of hell, and He has raised up the souls which I have held captive!”

This is what we celebrate on Pascha! The day of Resurrection! The day of Salvation! The day of ultimate victory of good over evil, hope over despair, light over darkness, joy over sadness, life over death! Easter is a day for new beginnings! For the good news of our Lord’s glorious Resurrection offers each one of us an opportunity to see life from a fundamentally new perspective, to begin life with a fresh and new start!

Archbishop Anastasios of Albania has written, “With Christ’s Resurrection everything was made new again; everything was restored! From that point on, the question posed for every human being has been whether or not to participate in this restoration.”

If we choose to participate, really take part, in Christ’s Resurrection, our perspective on life radically changes! We can never remain discouraged, we can never lose hope, we can never despair, for we know that Christ is Risen and He has defeated evil. He has overcome sin. He has annihilated death itself! Through His resurrection, He has given us new and eternal life.

Another hymn of Pascha has Hades groaning, “My authority has been broken down. The Shepherd who was crucified has raised Adam, and I have been deprived of all those whom I held captive. He who was crucified has cleared the tombs!”

These hymns emphasize the common theme of ultimate victory. Evil and sin, pain and suffering, sorrow and death may threaten us, and even darken our perspective in life. But if we can remember that the overall war has already been won, we will not dwell in despair. Yes, everyday battles continue in this life, and we may be wounded many times until the 2nd coming of Christ, but we can rest assured of the outcome of the overall war itself.

Christ is Risen and thus, good shall prevail over evil. Christ is Risen, and thus hope shall prevail over despair! Christ is Risen and thus light shall prevail over darkness. Christ is Risen and thus joy shall prevail over sadness. Christ is Risen and thus life shall prevail over death!

This is why, if we choose to participate in this resurrection, we enter into a new beginning and a victorious life!
Think of a few examples of people we will hear about during Holy Week, people who entered into the new life that resurrection brings. Among the apostles of Christ, Judas betrayed Jesus, and because he didn’t stay around to see the resurrection, he fell into despair and committed suicide. In contrast, although the other apostles all abandoned Christ and felt shame and despair, they did not give up. Even Peter, the head of the apostles, denied knowing Christ three times, yet after he witnessed the Resurrection, he became a new person. From a fearful coward into a bold preacher, living a life in Christ and ultimately dying for His Master! Peter and the apostles became new creations in Christ!

Think of the thieves crucified on either side of our Lord. One rejected any possibility of resurrection, and died in anger, bitterness and hatred. The other, although he accepted that he was receiving a just punishment for his crime, still looked at Christ with hope, crying out, “Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Even though this condemned man lived an evil life, in his last moment he longed to participate in our Lord’s Resurrection and with the cry, “Remember me in your kingdom,” discovers paradise.

Even the Roman Centurion, who actually participated in Christ’s crucifixion, came to believe and partake of the Resurrection, thus ending his life not as an anonymous Roman soldier in history, but as St. Longinos, a saint of the Church!

Here lies the central message of Pascha and Christ’s Resurrection! No matter who we are or what we have done in life, no matter how many times we've denied Christ or even rejected Him, no matter how many times we've fallen into our common sins or even serious transgressions, Pascha Sunday commands us never to despair, for our Lord’s Resurrection gives us hope for a new life and a fresh start!!!

We can’t stay hopeless when we know that we have a God who loves us so much that He willingly dies in our place for us! We have a God who not only endured betrayal, denial, humiliation, rejection, and the most cruel form of death on the Cross, but a God who willingly descended into the deepest darkness of Hades to wrestle with the Evil One and break His bonds over us, destroying his power of sin, evil and death!

For those of us who choose to participate in this restoration of life, in this resurrection from the dead, than joy and peace and hope will be ours. We will live abundant lives in the power of Christ and in the victory of His Resurrection!

Christ is Risen! Christos Anesti! Krishti U Ngjall!
One of the most profound passages of Scripture is the story of Jesus appearing to two men walking on a road on the day of His Resurrection. Luke and Cleopas were traveling to the village of Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. Suddenly, the Resurrected Jesus appeared and walked with them, although at first they did not recognize Him.

The events and conversation that occurred on this seven-mile journey with Jesus provide us with powerful and practical teachings that can invigorate our spiritual lives. (Read Luke 24:13-35)

TALKING AND DISCUSSING OF JESUS

As we continue to read, we see that the two disciples are talking and discussing about the events and teachings of Jesus. And as they were talking, the Risen Lord drew near and went with them! Jesus always responds when we focus our attention on Him. Immediately as the disciples conversed about Christ, He came into their midst and walked with them.

Dear friends, we need more talking and discussing about Jesus! When we talk about Him and pray to Him and meditate on Him, there He is, in our presence. A very pious Geronta on Mt. Athos once told me that no matter where you are or what you are doing, simply call on the name of Jesus, and He will be there, in your midst. It's sort of like the song by James Taylor: "Just call out my name, and you know wherever I am, I'll come running."

When was the last time we talked and discussed about Jesus? Think about this week, our conversations with our spouses, family or friends. How many discussions do we have about Jesus and our Faith? Our children especially need to hear their parents frequently discussing and talking about Jesus, His Holy Word, and the teachings of our Church.

But it's a challenge to talk about Jesus today. There is so much junk talk in society; so much superficial hype and spin in the news and media. No wonder so many are confused about the direction and purpose of their lives. Dr. Robert Shaw, author of The Epidemic, writes that "Parents find themselves enslaved by a materialistic, overachieving society that leads them to spend so many hours at work and so much money that they can't make the time to do the things necessary to bond with their children."

Jesus promises to give us peace and purpose, but we must seek first shift our priorities and...
put more focus more on Him.

LISTENING: THE LANGUAGE OF LOVE

Another teaching from this passage occurs when Jesus asked them what they were talking about (He was still preventing them from recognizing Him). Cleopas answered and said, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" And He said to them, "What things?"

"What things?" Jesus asked an open-ended question. He obviously knew what they were discussing, yet wanted to listen to them. He listened as they opened up and talked at length. It is said that "listening is the language of love." Jesus loves us and He always listens. He wants us to talk to Him in prayer. He wants to listen to our everyday concerns and issues.

In a very practical way, we can learn to be better listeners in our everyday relationships. We are called to love each other, and this means listening. Be an active listener to others. Ask open-ended questions. Be present in your conversations and in your relationships. In so doing, we become more like Christ.

CORRECT OUR UNDERSTANDING

Moving forward on the road with Jesus, we see how He clears up the confusion and misunderstanding the two disciples had about who Jesus really was. The disciples were disappointed in Jesus because they "had hoped that He was going to redeem Israel."

You see, some of the followers of Jesus thought He was a "military Messiah." They wanted Him to overthrow the Roman occupation of Jerusalem. Others thought He was simply another prophet or moral teacher. Very few could comprehend the immense charismatic depth and presence on earth of the God-Man, Jesus, whose purpose was to reveal the ultimate truth of our existence here on earth, bear the sins of the world on the Cross, and then conquer death through His Resurrection!

And so it is with many people today. We have an incorrect and confused understanding of who Jesus really is. Too many merely think of Jesus as a religious leader or prophet like Mohammed or Buddha or some other historical religious figure.

Even many contemporary liberal Protestant Christian Churches no longer believe that Jesus is God. These "churches" have become social clubs of political correctness and tolerance about Jesus. They have become places where personal immorality is viewed as a "civil right."

Many Greek Orthodox are even confused about the truth of Jesus. I remember a young couple who attended a Bible Study for the first time, and they confessed that they never heard Jesus talked about much in Church. They had no idea what the Crucifixion and Resurrection really meant. These are people who grew up attending Church!

OPEN THE SCRIPTURE

Jesus corrects the misunderstanding of the disciples and clears up their confusion as He opened the Scripture to them and "expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."

Friends, we need to open our Bibles and open our minds to allow the Holy Spirit to correct our understanding about who Jesus really is! Jesus demonstrated on the road to Emmaus that the only way to correct and true understanding of Himself is through His Holy Word. Through the Bible, God reveals His plan and purpose for our lives. It’s astonishing to me when I see people fly through books like "Lord of the Rings" or "The Divinci Code," yet they say they have no time to read the Bible!

I love the quote from Saint John Chrysostom: "I have always suggested, and will not stop suggesting, that you not only heed what is said in church, but also constantly occupy yourself in reading the Divine Scriptures at home." Ten minutes a day of reading and meditating on God's Word can open our minds, change our lives, clear our thoughts and correct our understanding of the truth about who Jesus really is and His purpose for our lives. The disciples said it them-
selves, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road and while He opened the Scriptures to us."

**GOING FURTHER**

As Jesus and the two disciples approached the village of Emmaus, Jesus indicated that He was going further. Christ wants to take us further in our faith and understanding of Him. Yet many will continue to resist Him. What's keeping you from going further?

Jesus loves us and wants us to go further in our relationship with Him. He wants to stir a positive change in our lives. He wants us to become more like Him: kind, patient, prayerful, forgiving, merciful, and loving. He wants us to truly know and experience our purpose here on earth. And He wants us to make a difference in the lives of others by being useful in service to His Church.

Also in this passage, we also read how Jesus was made known to the two disciples as He sat with them and "broke bread." Jesus broke bread with them in the same way he did with His disciples at the Last Supper. This scene is an image of the Eucharist. Jesus is made known to us every Sunday when we receive Him in the Eucharist. Every Sunday Liturgy can become a "Road to Emmaus" experience where we encounter the Resurrected Christ, and then go forth proclaiming His Resurrection to the world as did His disciples.

May we all learn from this story of the seven miles with Jesus, and have our own Emmaus experience.

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**KHRISTOS VOSKRESIE!**

You probably do not remember the name Nikolai Ivanovich Bukharin. During his day he was as powerful a man as there was on earth. A Russian Communist leader who took part in the Bolshevik Revolution 1917, and who was editor of the Soviet newspaper Pravda (which by the way means truth), and who was a full member of the Politburo. His works on economics and political science are still read today.

There is a story told about a journey he took from Moscow to Kiev in 1930 to address a huge assembly on the subject of atheism. Addressing the crowd he aimed his heavy artillery at Christianity hurling insult, argument, and proof against it.

An hour later he was finished. He looked out at what seemed to be the smoldering ashes of men's faith. "Are there any questions?" Bukharin demanded. Deafening silence filled the auditorium until one man approached the platform and mounted the lectern standing near the communist leader. He surveyed the crowd first to the left then to the right. Finally he shouted the ancient greeting known well in the Russian Orthodox Church: "Khristos Voskresie! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)

En masse the crowd arose as one man and the response came crashing like the sound of thunder: "Voistinu Voskresie! (TRULY HE IS RISEN)!"
Experiencing & Understanding Holy Week
By Fr. Andrew Domotse

The services of Holy Week transform us into eye-witnesses and direct participants in the awesome events of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Here is a summary of the week.

PALM SUNDAY EVENING - This evening's service calls to mind the beginning of Jesus' suffering. Tonight's hymns commemorate the prophetic figure of Joseph, who, while virtuous, nonetheless suffered unjustly before being greatly rewarded, and the parable of the fig tree, which in failing to bear fruit, became a symbol of fallen creation, and of our own lives.

HOLY MONDAY - This evening's theme is the need for watchfulness and preparation, lest we be called unprepared before the awesome judgment seat of Christ to render an account of ourselves. The hymns remind us of the parable of the Ten Virgins, in which the faithful Christian is exhorted to vigilance.

HOLY TUESDAY - The need for true repentance is the concern of today. This transformation from the life of sin to a life of faith and obedience is exemplified in the person of the sinful woman who received the gift of forgiveness when she anointed Jesus with myrrh and washed His feet.

HOLY WEDNESDAY - Today's theme is our human need for the healing and forgiveness that comes into our lives when we establish a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We are reminded that the way to this relationship is to be found, above all else, through a life of prayer. In the Sacrament of Holy Unction, we are anointed and healed both physically and spiritually.

HOLY THURSDAY - In the morning we join the Twelve in the upper room and witness the Last Supper, when Christ established the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In the evening service, we re-live the suffering of Christ, endured for our sake, so that we might be reconciled anew to God our Father.

The 12 Gospel readings witness for us the betrayal and arrest of Jesus, his trial and conviction, and finally his torture, crucifixion and death at the hands of a sinful humanity.

HOLY FRIDAY - We again witness the undeserved suffering and death of Christ, to his terrible passion and death. In the evening, we see Christ's descent into Hades. The service includes lamentations sung as we stand before the tomb of Christ. Death is being confronted and conquered.

HOLY SATURDAY - The crucifixion is over, Christ is buried, the twelve apostles and other disciples are scattered and defeated. And yet, three myrrh-bearing women come in faithfulness to perform the last act of love - to anoint Jesus according to the Jewish burial custom. Their unwavering devotion is rewarded - they are the first to share in Christ's triumph over evil and death. They are the first witnesses to the Resurrection. This joy is commemorated through the scattering of bay leaves and rose petals in the morning service. In the Midnight Service, lamentations of the previous night are repeated and the church is plunged into darkness to symbolize the despair and defeat experienced before the dawn of Christ's victory over death. Precisely at midnight, a single light emerges from the altar representing the victory of Christ over death. As the light is passed from person to person, it pushes back the darkness of the church and defeats it completely, as the Resurrection is proclaimed.

PASCHA SUNDAY - Christ is Risen! Christ's Resurrection and victory is affirmed. The Gospel is read in numerous languages to illustrate the universality of the Good News of the Resurrection and its proclamation to the very ends of the earth.
This is the Day of Resurrection, let us be radiant O People, Pascha, the Lord’s Passover. For Christ God has carried us over from death to life and from earth to heaven, as we sing a hymn of victory.

This 8th century hymn by St. John of Damascus highlights the radiance of the resurrection. In the resurrectional period from Pascha to Pentecost, the Sunday Epistle readings tell us of a new community of believers who were so totally devoted to God that their life together was charged by the Spirit of the Risen Lord. They loved each other and shared their lives with one another, praying, and serving together in authentic Christian fellowship.

Those who had more shared with those who had less, and people related in ways that blurred the lines of gender, race and culture. Unbelievers coming into contact with this community of believers saw a vision of life that was so dynamic that they couldn’t resist it. Thus, we read in Acts that “the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:47) This is the Church that we as Orthodox Christians claim to be. These Christians shone brightly with the light of the Risen Christ.

In Christ’s Resurrection everything is made new. Everything is restored. St. Gregory the Theologian wrote in the 4th century, “Today salvation comes into the world…. Christ is risen from the dead, rise with Him. Christ returned again to Himself, let us return. Christ is freed from the tomb, let us be freed from the bond of sin. The gates of hell are opened, and death is destroyed.”

In Christ’s Resurrection we become radiant because He is the light of the world. As He told us, “Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” (John 8:12). Following Christ means that we will have His light of joy and gladness shining in our hearts. We will have an abundant life full of meaning and purpose.

Sainthood is not some unattainable state reserved for a few. It is the natural outcome of our baptism – if we see baptism as a beginning and not an ending. Listen to some of the prayers that were read for us at our baptism:

“Open the eyes of his understanding, that the light of Your Gospel may shine brightly in him.”

“Make her a child of light, and an heir of Your kingdom.”

“Fill her with the power of the Holy Spirit.”

These prayers ask that the seed planted in our heart on our day of baptism will grow within us and guide our lives. Our baptism was not an end but the beginning of our growth in faith in Jesus Christ. Our calling as Orthodox Christians is to become more and more like Christ, to be united with Him. He is our great example.

When we are asked by our evangelical friends or even the evangelist on the street corner, “Are you saved?” there is no short answer. Bishop Kallistos Ware, in his little book, How Are We Saved? says that he usually responds in the continuous present tense: “I trust that by God’s mercy and grace, I am being saved.”

As Orthodox Christians we were not created to stay as we are. We were created to become. Our challenge as Orthodox faithful is to hear the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as if we were hearing it for the first time, to encounter the Risen Lord, and to allow Him to transform our lives -- to be renewed by His Resurrection.

Being saved is not an event but a process. It is the same process that led all those saints we celebrate each day to attain Sainthood.
Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it, has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He angered it when it tasted of his flesh.

And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry:
Hell was angered, when it encountered you in the lower regions.
It was angered, for it was abolished.
It was angered, for it was mocked.
It was angered, for it was slain.
It was angered, for it was overthrown.
It was angered, for it was fettered in chains.

It took a body, and met God face to face.
It took earth, and encountered Heaven.
It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?

Christ is risen, and you are overturned.
Christ is risen, and the demons have fallen.

If we believe that in Orthodoxy we have the fullness of the Truth, then we have the great responsibility to let our light shine before all people. It is our duty and obligation not to hide our light under the bushel.

Let us take the light of the Risen Christ that we received at our baptism, the same light we receive each year we celebrate His Resurrection, and allow it to shine forth from our lives to the world around us. Let us be Radiant in Christ!

ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM’S SERMON ON PASCHA

Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it, has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He angered it when it tasted of his flesh.

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It was angered, for it was overthrown.
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It took earth, and encountered Heaven.
It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting?
O hell, where is your victory?

Christ is risen, and you are overturned.
Christ is risen, and the demons have fallen.

For Christ, having risen from the dead, becomes the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages.

Amen.
HOLY WEEK SERVICES

LAZARUS SATURDAY - APRIL 4
Divine Liturgy 9:30, followed by a Pancake Breakfast, Making Palm Crosses & Stuffing of Plastic Eggs for Easter Egg Hunt. Come and Help!!!

PALM SUNDAY - APRIL 5
Divine Liturgy 9:30
Community Fish Luncheon 11:15 in our NEW CHURCH HALL!!!
Bridegroom Service 6:30 pm

HOLY MONDAY - APRIL 6
Bridegroom Service 6:30 pm

HOLY TUESDAY - APRIL 7
Bridegroom Service 6:30 pm with the Hymn of Kassiani

HOLY WEDNESDAY - APRIL 8
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 9:30am
Holy Unction Service 6:30 pm

HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 9
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
SERVICE OF THE 12 GOSPELS 6:30pm

HOLY AND GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 10
Philoptochos Decorating the Epitaphio 9:00 am
Service of the Royal Hours 9:00am
Children’s and Youth Service Project 12:00-1:45
Vespers - Taking Christ Down from Cross 2:00 pm
LAMENTATIONS SERVICE 6:30pm

HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 11
1st Resurrection Divine Liturgy 9:30am
RESURRECTION SERVICE 10:00 pm

PASCHA SUNDAY - APRIL 12
Children’s Easter Egg Hunt 11:00am
“Service of Love” Easter Vespers 12:00
Paschal Lamb Luncheon 1:00

BRIGHT MONDAY - APRIL 13
Matins 9:00 Divine Liturgy 9:30
Come and Join Us!!!
All Parishioners and Friends are invited to our

**PALM SUNDAY**
Family Fish Luncheon

Palm Sunday, April 5 following the Divine Liturgy in our

*Newly Renovated Church Hall!!!*

$12.00 for adult meals; Children under 12 for Free

*Let our Church family come together in fellowship and love as we prepare for Holy Week and Pascha!*

*We thank John and Eleni Sgouritsas and Lake Pizza for offering the fish meal in memory of his beloved father George Sgouritsas.!!*

Celebrate our Lord’s Resurrection on
EASTER DAY (April 12) with our Church Family

“**PASCHA LAMB”**
& a **POT-LUCK MEAL!**

11:00 am - Easter Egg Hunt for Children
12:00 Agape Vespers Service
1:00 Potluck Easter Lunch

*If you are interested in coming, please contact Jaime Ross or our Church Office so we know how many are coming and can arrange the pot-luck meals.*
A VISION FOR THE FUTURE
OFFERING A VIBRANT HOUSE OF FAITH AND WORSHIP FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

25 out of 180 Members of our Church Family have given thus far towards our Capital Campaign. Will you please prayerfully consider participating in this project to beautify our Church!

REMAINING NAMING OPPORTUNITIES (donation over THREE years):
- Classroom in new Building: Naming opportunities at $45,000
- Hall and Classroom Furnishings/Sound System: Two Opportunities at $25,000 each
- Stain Glass Windows in Interior of Church:
  - Large Interior South Wall: $36,000
  - 2 Small Narrow South Wall A: $6,000 each
  - Back Wall Window: $20,000
  - North Wall Window: $18,000
  - Altar Window: $18,000
- Church and Hall Sound System: Naming Opportunity at $12,000
- Parking Lot Resurfacing: Naming Opportunity at $30,000
- New Parking Lot (20 additional spaces): Naming Opportunity at $25,000
- Bell Tower Restoration - Naming Opportunity at $25,000

FUNDRAISING GOAL: $700,000
TOTAL CASH AND PLEDGED: $559,818

ARCHANGELS ($100,000)
- Charlie and Helen Pappas

ANGELS ($50,000)
- In Honor of their parents Despina and Bill from the Condos Children (George, Lisa, Maria, Ann)
- Emmanuel James Pappas
- Olga Pappas
- Sam and Evelyn Pappas

PRINCIPALITIES ($45,000)
- Sandi and Gerry Kunkel
- Stavros and Evangelia Pappas
- Mary Fatsi, Eleanor Teguis, Dina Teguis

GOOD SHEPHERDS: ($20,000 - 30,000)
- Michael and Titi Chito
- Van Thomas
- The Foisy Family

TORCH BEARERS: ($11,000 - $15,000)
- Kiku Andersen
- Fr Luke and Pres. Faith Veronis

BENEFACTORS: ($6000 – $10,000)
- Leah Didonato
- In Honor of Demetrios and Hariklia Milios from Celia Milios

PATRONS: ($3000 - $5999)
- Ted Avlas
- Nicholas/Bertha Constantine
- Georgia Metaxa
- George Metaxa
- Helen & Lou Nicozisis
- Olga Petluck

SUPPORTERS: ($1000-$2900)
- Fr Luke and Pres. Faith Veronis

FRIENDS: (Up to $999)
- John & Samantha Gatsogiannis
- Susan Emerson Hill
- Kaiden and Hanna Kunkel
- Zinos and Angeliki Mavodanes
- Chris & John Mayo
- Bob & Lea Mirandola
- George Nonis
- Elaine Patrinos
- Leah Didonato
- In Honor of Demetrios and Hariklia Milios from Celia Milios
PARISH COUNCIL
PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I'm sure I'm like many people who wonder where time goes. Each day, week, and month fly by and I look back saying, "I meant to do this...." or "I wish I had time for that....". There never seems to be enough time in the day to do what we want to do. I try to prioritize things, but then it's a battle determining what is "more important" (i.e. going to the grocery store to buy food for the children, or going to the gym to exercise so I can be more relaxed, patient and a better mom???)

On Saturday, March 21st, we had a great speaker, Dr. Timothy Patitsas, for our annual Lenten Retreat. Dr. Patitsas was actually a substitute, when our planned speaker unexpectedly couldn't attend. I debated on whether to go or not. I had been sick the week prior and had a houseful of chores to do. In the end, I knew it would benefit me to go and listen and learn.

As I suspected, I walked away learning something new. I want to share with you one of the lessons I learned. Dr Patitsas highlighted in his talk about Beauty First, "When you get a thought to do something good, do it then! Don't wait!"

If you are busy doing something and the thought pops in your head to call your parents, or visit a sick friend, don't hesitate, make the phone call or plan the visit. It's as if God is whispering in our ear to do good!

Dr Patitsas said many more interesting things, and I encourage you all to attend the next time we have a retreat or guest speaker. You will be pleasantly surprised as you learn something new. It time well spent! The chores and other things will eventually get done.

I wish you all a wonderful and blessed Easter!

With love,

Lisa Healy
Parish Council President

Philoptochos News

Our Next Meeting
6:00pm, April 20th

I hope all is well. Spring is finally here and Easter is fast approaching. Please plan on helping to decorate the Epi-taphio (Christ’s Tomb) as well as to wrap the Pascha Eggs at 9:00am on Good Friday. Also please remember to bring a dozen red-dyed eggs so that Fr. Luke has enough to give out on Pascha night.

On Thursday, April 2nd we will be bringing things out of storage in the Pods and setting our newly renovated hall up for our annual Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon. This will be the first event in our newly renovated hall!!! We will need a lot of help in putting things back and organizing everything in the Kitchen. Please set aside some time to help us.

We hope everyone will join us in celebrating this joyous Easter season. Also join us in beautifying our church! Wait till you see our hall, and big and better things are yet to come! Stay tuned! I would like to thank everyone who has already donated to our Building Project. We are hoping for 100% participation in the Capital Campaign. If you have not yet made a pledge or offered a donation, please seriously think about how you can help beautify our Church.

I wish everyone a happy and healthy Easter!

Love,

Evelyn Pappas
Philoptochos President
SAVE THESE DATES FOR THE SUMMER

Metropolis of Boston Summer Camp (ages 8-18)
2nd Week: July 6 - 12
*New Dates
register at www.mbcamp.org

Vacation Church Camp (ages 3-13)
July 13 - 20
*New Dates

MAKE A SPECIAL DONATION DURING LENT IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE

Please see Fr. Luke or our Church Treasurers to donate and dedicate your offering to someone.

REMAINING NEEDS:
- Lenten Altar Flowers - $40
- Cross Sunday Flowers - $75
- Incense (for a year) - $200
- Charcoal (for a year) - $150
- Altar Candles (for a year) - $100
- Garlands at Entry of Church - $40
- Holy Friday Epitaphio Flowers - $800
- Holy Saturday Rose Pedals - $75
- Circular Resurrection Icon Flowers - $75
- Easter Pew Flowers - $130
- 15 White Lilies for Easter - $40/each

Before or During Pascha, visit Some of our elderly family!

WEBSTER MANOR - Lorraine Vesho
ST. FRANCIS HOUSE - Worcester John Nicholopoulos
WESTVIEW (Dayville, Connecticut) Dina Teguis

THOSE WHO WOULD APPRECIATE A CALL OR VISIT
- Bertha Constantine
- Jennie Manthos
- Georgette Nicholopoulos
- Demetra Obrien
- Charlie/Helen Pappas
- Stavro Pappas
- Sophie Talbot
- Vassy Tanko
- Helen Tsigaridas
- Edna Vogel
- Betty Vriga

A Four Week Orthodox 201 Class
Come and Grow in Your Orthodox Faith
as we study deeper levels of our theology, history, and spirituality

6:30pm Thursday, April 23 & 30, May 7 & 14
HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

LAZARUS SATURDAY  
April 4th

9:30 Divine Liturgy  
10:30 Pancake Breakfast.  
Making Palm Crosses and  
Stuffing Plastic Easter Egg

We need a LOT OF HELP to stuff 1000 plastic Easter eggs for the annual Easter Egg Hunt.
For families whose children will participate in the Easter Egg Hunt, please bring a bag or two of candy on or before this day.

GOOD FRIDAY MYRRH-BEARING GIRLS
For all girls from 3 to 18 years old

6:00pm
GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION
To Dress Up and Sing the Lamentations

Contact Nike Beaudry
((508) 864-4955
For your girls to participate

GOOD FRIDAY RETREAT  
April 10th

JOY Retreat/Service Project  
12:00-1:30
Come All Ages!

Philoptochos Ladies Decorate Christ’s Tomb & Wrap Easter Eggs
9:00 am, GOOD FRIDAY  
April 10

JOY EASTER EGG HUNT!!!
EASTER DAY  
April 12, 11:00 am
followed by the
AGAPE VESPERS of Pascha 12:00 noon

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COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:
April 19 - Thomai Gatsogiannis, Stephanie Quill, Betty Tonna
April 26 - Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Mary Seferi
May 3 – Donna Cooney, Athena Cooney, Bill Anthopoulos, Jaime Ross
May 10 - Kathy Bilis, Marie Monroe, Carolyn Niemeck, Deb Raymond

YOUTH EPISTLE READERS
April 5 Panayiota Veronis
(Philippians 4:4-9 - page 145)
April 11 Evening - Lily Mueller
(Acts 1:1-8 - page 45)
April 19 - Hanna Kunkel
Acts 5:12-20 - page 47)
April 26 - Theodora Veronis
(Acts 6:1-7 - page 48)
May 2 - Maria Mironidis
(Acts 9:32-42 - page 50)
May 10 - Olivia Neslusan
(Acts 11:19-30 - page 52)
May 17 - Smaranda Cojocaru
(Acts 16:16-34 - page 56)
May 24 - Maia Beaudry
(Acts 20:16-26 - page 60)

USHERS & GREETERS SCHEDULE
Palm Sunday, April 5
Chris Constantine, Nicoleta Cojocaru, Zach Gianaris, Garry Ross, Alex Seferi
Holy Wednesday, April 8
Arthur Bilis, Del Monroe, Chris Geotis, Thomai Gatsogianis, Trish Lareau
Holy Thursday, April 9
Marie McNally, Eric Beland, Matt Benoit, Lisa Healy, Nick Seferi
Good Friday, April 10
Neal Neslusan, Mary Papageorge, Gus Koulax, Cindy Johnson, Jared Quill
Pascha Evening Service, April 11
Chris Constantine, Nicoleta Cojocaru, Zach Gianaris, Garry Ross, Alex Seferi
Pascha Day, April 12 at 12:00 noon
Arthur Bilis, Del Monroe, Chris Geotis, Thomai Gatsogianis, Trish Lareau
April 19
Marie McNally, Eric Beland, Matt Benoit, Lisa Healy, Nick Seferi
April 26
Neal Neslusan, Mary Papageorge, Gus Koulax, Cindy Johnson, Jared Quill

WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY
10:00-11:15
Every Wednesdays

EARLY RISERS BIBLE STUDY
6:30 am - 7:30 am
Every Saturday
Remembering Our Church Family

**Important Dates in APRIL:**

*Make a visit, give a call, or express your congratulations to members of our Church family who celebrate special days during this month.*

**BIRTHDAYS:**
- April 3       Lex Pappas
- April 4       Elisabeta Cojocaru
- April 7       Persephoni Sgouritsas
- April 7       Del Monroe
- April 10      Maximos Pappas
- April 12      Catalin Enache
- April 12      Helen Thomas
- April 13      Dhimitra Adamopoulos
- April 18      Kathy Bilis
- April 18      Pauline Mueller
- April 19      Kaiden Kunkel
- April 21      Muriel Angelo
- April 23      Leslie Manthos
- April 23      Cynthia Johnson
- April 25      Harrison Jordanoglou
- April 25      Zachary Bethune
- April 30      Bertha Constantine

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**
- April 28      Richard & Sophia Bethune

**NAMEDAYS:**
- Easter - April 12       Anestis Jordanoglou
- April 19—St. Thomas
  - Thomas Baxter
  - Thomai Gatsogiannis
  - Thomas Klebart
  - Tom Laurea
  - Tom Naumski
  - Gideon Thomas Ross
  - Garry Thomas Ross
- April 23       St George
  - George Condos
  - Evis Georgia Jordanoglou
  - Georgette Nicholopoulos
  - George Barakilis
  - George Carabina
  - George Milios
  - George Nonis
  - George Papageorge
  - Leslie Georgia Manthos
  - Georgia Sgouritsas
  - Giorgo Sgouritsas

**SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**

*The Sacrament of Confession has always been a central part of an Orthodox Christian’s preparation for Easter. Anyone interested in participating in this Sacrament of Confession and Reconciliation should contact Fr. Luke and make an appointment before Pascha.*
WINTER BUDGETARY BLUES

As we all know, this past winter was a brutal one, with historic amounts of snow fall. City counselors around the State have complained about how snow removal costs has depleted and even far exceeded town budgets, while businesses have complained about the loss of income during the challenging months of January and February’s snow storms.

Well, our Church’s finances have also been impacted by this winter! Snow storms kept people away on Sundays, even though we NEVER CANCELED a Divine Liturgy on the Lord’s Day. Even during our worst storm, when many other churches canceled their services, we still had 20 or so brave souls who ventured out into the snow and worshipped our Lord in the Holy Eucharist.

A minimal attendance on three Sundays, however, greatly affected our revenue for January and February - in our stewardship, candle money, and tray offerings. In addition to this, we had to pay close to $9000 for the plowing and sanding of our parking lot and shoveling snow off the roof! As a result, we had to dip into our Church’s emergency fund to help pay our bills.

Please help our beloved Church by keeping up to date in your stewardship offerings, and even making some extra donations to help offset our winter budgetary blues!

A minimal attendance for three Sundays, due to the snow storms, combined with the close to $9000 we have had to pay in snow removal, have led us to dip into our Church’s Emergency Fund… We need your help!!!

We are also in the midst of our Capital Campaign for our Church Renovation and Building Project. Thank God, we have done quite well thus far, having raised close to $560,000 of our $700,000 goal. BUT, the money raised thus far has come from only 25 stewardship families out of the 180 members we have in our community. We would love to have 100% participation in our Building Fund Capital Campaign!!!

Please prayerfully reflect on what your faith and the Church means to you, and see how you can sacrificially participate in the supporting and beautifying of God’s Holy House.
HOLY SCRIPTURE RELATED TO PASCHA

“Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, “The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.”

Luke 24: 5-7

“Thus it is written and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and “that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations.”

Luke 24:46-47

“Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

John 20:29

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

APRIL


April 5 (Palm Sunday) Philippians 4:4-9 John 12:1-18
April 6 Matthew 21:18-43 Matthew 24:3-35
April 7 Matthew 22—26
April 8 John 12:17-50 Matthew 26:6-16
April 9 1 Corinthians 11:23-32 Matthew 26:1-75
April 10 1 Corinthians 5:6-8 Matthew 27:62-66
April 11 Romans 6:3-11 Matthew 28:1-20

April 12 (PASCHA) Acts 1:1-8 John 1:1-17
April 13 Acts 1:12-26 John 1:18-28
April 15 Acts 12:1-11 John 1:35-52
April 18 Acts 3:11-16 John 3:22-33

April 19 Acts 5:12-20 John 20:19-31
April 21 Acts 4:1-10 John 3:16-21
April 24 Acts 5:1-11 John 5:30 - 6:2
April 25 1 Peter 5:6-14 Luke 10:16-21

April 26 Acts 6:1-7 Mark 15:43-16:8
April 27 Acts 6:8-7:60 John 4:46-54
April 28 Acts 8:5-17 John 6:27-33
Thank You to those who sponsor our monthly bulletin!

If you would like to place an ad and support our monthly bulletin, please contact Fr. Luke or the Church Office.

$200/year or $20/month.
# APRIL 2015

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**PALM SUNDAY**  
8:30 Matins  
9:30 Liturgy  
11:00 Community Fish Luncheon  
6:30 Bridegroom Service  
6 HOLY MONDAY  
6:30 Bridegroom Service  
7 HOLY TUESDAY  
6:30 Bridegroom Service  
8 HOLY WEDNESDAY  
9:30 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy  
6:30 HOLY UNCTION SERVICE  
9 HOLY THURSDAY  
9:30 Divine Liturgy  
6:30 Service of 12 Gospels  
10 GOOD FRIDAY  
9:00 Holy Hours  
9:00 Decoration of Epitaphio  
12:30 JOY & GOYA Retreat  
2:00 Vespers  
6:30 Lamentations  
11 HOLY SATURDAY  
9:30 1st Resurrection Service  
**10:00pm Resurrection Service**  
12 PASCHA  
11:00 Easter Egg Hunt  
12:00 Vespers of Love  
1:00 Pascha Lamb Lunch  
13 BRIGHT MONDAY  
9:00 Matins  
9:30 Liturgy  
14 BRIGHT TUESDAY  
15 BRIGHT WEDNESDAY  
10:00 Bible Study  
16 BRIGHT THURSDAY  
17 BRIGHT FRIDAY  
Life Giving Font)  
8:45 Matins  
9:30 Liturgy  
18 BRIGHT SATURDAY  
19  
8:30 Matins  
9:30 Divine Liturgy  
6:00 Philoptochos Meeting  
20  
21  
22  
10:00 Bible Study  
23 St George  
8:45 Matins  
9:30 Liturgy  
6:30 Orthodox 201 Classes  
24  
25  
26  
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9:30 Divine Liturgy  
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May 1  
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Spring Clean-Up Day at the Church
Christ is Risen!
Truly He is Risen!

Christos Anesti!
Alithos Anesti!

Khrístos Voskresie!
Voistinu Voskresie!

Krishti u Ngjall!
Te vertete u Ngjall!

Khristos a Inviat!
Adevarat a inviat!

Kristo Amefufuka!
Kweli Amefufuka!

Le Christ est ressuscité!
En verite, il est ressuscité!

Christus ist auferstanden!
Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!

Khrístos a Inviat!