CHRIST IS RISEN!
TRULY HE IS RISEN!

PALM SUNDAY
April 1
9:30 Divine Liturgy
11:15 Fish Luncheon

HOLY WEEK
APRIL 2-7
6:30 pm Services
Every Night

PASCHA
Saturday, April 7
9:30 am First Resurrection Service
***10:00 pm - Main Resurrection Service

Sunday, April 8
11:00 Easter Egg Hunt
12:00 Agape Service
1:00 Pascha Lamb Pot-Luck Luncheon

LIVING BREAD LUNCHEON
12:30-1:30PM
APRIL 7

THE ULTIMATE VICTORY

Christ is Risen!
Christos Anesti!
Krishti u Ngjall!
Hristos a Inviat!
Khristos Voskresie!

St. Paul summarized the meaning of Pascha best when he wrote, “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is your sting? O hades, where is your victory?” Christ is Risen and new life is granted to all!!!

The Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ changed history forever. This event ushered in the most incredible revolution that humankind has ever witnessed. The radical events of Holy Week and Pascha give a resounding response to the great mystery of evil and even of death itself!

We can study human history and see much suffering, pain, darkness and evil have plagued humanity throughout the centuries. We can look around in our contemporary society, and although we see progress in certain areas, we also realize that the evil and darkness of the world haven’t changed much with the passage of thousands of years. Evil and death continue to exist in new forms and ways.

With the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, however, and especially through His Passion and Death and Resurrection, a resounding response has been given to the worst of all the evil in the world. The devil and all his forces of evil no longer have the final say in our lives! Death itself does not have the final word. NO!

Christ is Risen, and death is ultimately defeated. Christ is Risen and the devil, with all his evil, can no longer maintain his grip on humanity forever. Christ is Risen and the promise of a new life is offered to all humanity, beginning here and now!

As St. John Chrysostom offered most beautifully, “Let no one fear death, for the
Sts. Constantine and Helen
Greek Orthodox Church
37 Lake Parkway, PO Box 713
Webster, MA 01570

Church Telephone: (508) 943-8361 website: www.schwebster.org
Facebook: St Constantine Helens (Church)
Church Office Hours: Monday, Fridays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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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Savior’s death has set us free! Death and hell itself have been angered and annihilated!”

One of the hymns from Holy Saturday morning puts it this way, “Today Hades lets out a groan. My power is swallowed up! The Shepherd was crucified but raised up Adam. All I ruled over is lost; all I was able to consume in my power I have spewed out. The Crucified One has emptied the graves. The sway of death is no more!” What hope this gives us!

As followers of Jesus Christ, we know that as we walk with our Lord in this life, He will walk with us throughout the challenges and struggles of this life, AS WELL AS He will walk with us into the next life. Nothing is greater than the divine love of God, and thus, nothing can separate us from that love, including the evil of this world and death itself.

St. Paul writes, “In all these things we are more than conquerors through Jesus who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing shall separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:37-39)

As we celebrate these joyous holy days and relive the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us never forget the profound significance this event should play in our lives! We can and should live with no fear of death! We can live with a new perspective when we face the dark, difficult challenges of life. Our Lord calls us to be filled with the joy, hope, and power of His Resurrection. May we never forget this new reality in our lives. Never allow anything in our lives, including any unexpected or unfortunate events, to make us forget about the joy and wonder, the hope and power, the victorious knowledge of Christ’s Resurrection, and the implications it has for our own lives and the world around us!

I pray that I will see each of you at many of the services during this upcoming holiest of weeks, and I pray that we all will experience in a vibrant and renewed way the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus!

Christ is Truly Risen!!!

With much joy and love in our Risen Lord Jesus,

+Luke

**Invite Your Friends to Easter Services! (And to a Holy Week Service!)**

This year, invite a friend, co-worker, or neighbor to attend some Holy Week Service, our Resurrection Service Saturday evening (10:00pm), or our Sunday Agape Service of Love (12:00 noon)! We all know plenty of friends and acquaintances who are not connected to any Church, and who may not be planning to go to any Christian service during this holiest time of the year. Invite them to experience the warmth of our Church Family and our beautiful worship services! You don’t have to say much, just tell them to “Come and See!”
The services of Holy Week transform us into eyewitnesses and direct participants in the awesome events of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In readings taken from both Old and New Testaments, in hymns, processions, and liturgical commemoration, we see the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies, and the mighty acts by which God Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, grants us forgiveness for our sins, and rescues us from the pain of eternal death.

**PALM SUNDAY EVENING** - Matthew 21:18-43. This evening's service calls to mind the beginning of Jesus' suffering. The gospel describes the plotting of the priests and elders to trap Jesus into convicting Himself as a religious heretic. Through parables, Jesus tells us of His coming betrayal, trial, conviction and execution by crucifixion. The hymns of this service commemorate two things; the first, the prophetic figure of Joseph, who, while virtuous, nonetheless suffered unjustly at the hands of his brothers before being greatly rewarded, and the second, the parable of the fig tree, which in failing to bear fruit, became a symbol of fallen creation, and of our own lives, in which we also have failed to bear spiritual fruit.

**HOLY MONDAY EVENING** - Matthew 22:15-46; 23:1-39. 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 gospel reading contrasts the efforts of the Pharisees to trick and discredit Jesus, with the forceful resistance which Christ mounts against their evil. The hymns remind us of the parable of the Ten Virgins, in which the faithful Christian is exhorted to vigilance.

**HOLY TUESDAY EVENING** - John 12:17-50. The need for true repentance is the concern of Tuesday evening's service. This transformation from the life of sin to a life of faith and obedience is exemplified for us in the person of the sinful woman who received the gift of forgiveness when she anointed Jesus with myrrh and washed His feet. The highlight of the service is the hymn written in honor of this woman by St. Kasiani. The Gospel meditation foretells of the coming suffering of Christ and recalls His inner struggles and agony.

**HOLY WEDNESDAY EVENING** - James 5:10-16, Luke 10:25-37. The primary theme of Holy Wednesday 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 the life of prayer. In the Sacrament of Holy Unction, the faithful are anointed and thus, healed both physically and spiritually. They are also reconciled to God and one another so that they might receive the gift of the Holy Eucharist instituted by Christ at the Last Supper.

**HOLY THURSDAY MORNING** - Matthew 26:2-27:2, John 13:3-17. On Holy Thursday morning, we ascend Mt. Zion with Christ and the Twelve, and enter into the upper room. Once there, we witness the awesome moment when, at the Last Supper, Christ abolishes the ritual practice of sacrifice in the Old Covenant and establishes the ritual of the New Covenant, prophesied by Jeremiah, through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The faithful receive Holy Communion at this Liturgy.

**HOLY THURSDAY EVENING** - In this service, we re-live the undeserved suffering of Jesus Christ, endured for our sake, so that we might be reconciled anew to God our Father. The 12 Gospel readings (Luke 22:1-39) witness for us the be-
trayal and arrest of Jesus, his trial and conviction, and finally his torture, crucifixion and death at the hands of a sinful humanity. This evening’s service also includes the procession representing Christ carrying His own cross along the Via Dolorosa, and ends when we see the King of Glory crucified.

**HOLY FRIDAY AFTERNOON** - I Corinthians 1:18-2:2, Matthew 27:1-61, Luke 23:39-43, John 19:31-37. In this service, we are once again reverent witnesses to the undeserved suffering of Christ, to his terrible passion and death. *What is remembered in a special way through liturgical commemoration and procession, is the faithfulness and love of Joseph of Arimathea who tenderly removed Christ’s body from the cross, wrapped it in clean linen, and carried it to his own unused tomb for burial.*

**HOLY FRIDAY EVENING** - Ezekiel 37:1-14, I Corinthians 5:6-8, Galatians 3:13-14, Matthew 27:62-66. *On Good Friday evening, the theme is Christ’s descent into Hades during which the Gospel of repentance and reconciliation with God is shared with those who died before Christ’s saving dispensation in the flesh.* The service begins with lamentations sung as we stand before the tomb of Christ commemorating His unjust punishment and the shedding of His innocent blood. *But the service ends on a note of joy and hope, with the reading of the Prophet Ezekiel in which he describes his vision of our resurrection yet to come; in the midst of despair, we are told there is hope, for not even death can separate us from the unfailing love and power of God. Death is about to be conquered and faithfulness rewarded.*

**HOLY SATURDAY MORNING** - Romans 6:3-11, Matthew 28:1-20. *On Holy Saturday morning we celebrate the theme of faithfulness receiving its reward.* 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 by the priest.

**HOLY SATURDAY EVENING & PASCHA SUNDAY MORNING**

**Mark 16:1-8.** The 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 the Enemy of our salvation. Precisely at midnight, a single light emerges from the altar representing the victory of Christ over death, the defeat of the Prince of Darkness by Jesus, the Light of the World. As the light is passed from person to person, it pushes back the darkness of the church and defeats it completely. The Resurrection is proclaimed in song and triumphant procession, and after the Liturgy, its light is carried into our homes so that they too might be filled with its light and warmth and triumph.

**PASCHA SUNDAY VESPERS** - John 20:19-25. Christ's Resurrection and victory is affirmed in this morning’s theme. 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. Love, forgiveness, reconciliation, triumph and joy—these are the gifts which we receive because Christ lived and died and triumphed for our sake.

**GLORY BE TO HIM FOR ALL THINGS, AND MAY YOUR PASCHA BE BLESSED!**

**CHRIST IS RISEN!**

**TRULY HE IS RISEN!**
WAS THE RESURRECTION TRUE?
Fr. Theodore Stylianopoulos

How could a few fishermen perpetrate such a colossal hoax duping both friends and enemies of Jesus? Did they wholly deceive St. Paul, too, the fanatical persecutor of Christianity who later became the greatest preacher of the resurrection? Further, what did such Christian leaders as Peter, James the Brother of the Lord, and Paul have to gain except expulsion from their own religious community, extreme hardships, persecution, and eventual martyrdom?

Where did they get the courage to preach a risen Christ at the risk of their very lives? The answer can only be that Christ truly rose from the dead. The apostles beheld the risen Lord, they knew of the empty tomb, and their lives were transformed by the saving power the resurrection of Jesus signified in the religious context of first-century Judaism.

The significance of Jesus’ resurrection goes far beyond the stupendous bare fact. Every reasonable contemporary of Jesus would have regarded a rising from the dead a virtual impossibility, a unique and unprecedented event that, if true, could only have marked a radical new beginning in history. Most Jews long awaited God's great time of deliverance from the forces of evil and their instruments in the world, an act of God that for many included the resurrection of the dead. That exactly was the view of the early Christians who experienced Jesus' resurrection as a unique and decisive act of God in history, the "first fruits" of a radically new age of salvation.

However, for the early Christians, God's deliverance was not from the hands of the Romans as many expected, but from the corruptive bondage to the evil powers—sin, Satan, and death. In other words, Jesus' resurrection marked the decisive start of what St. Paul called the "new creation," a new and transforming wave of grace rushing forward and destined in God’s good time to set free the whole creation “from the bondage of decay” (Romans 8:21).

The meaning of Jesus' resurrection is missed apart from this explosive power of the new order of life launched in human history by the ministry of Jesus crowned with His resurrection.

As we come to celebrate Holy Pascha, we ought to know that as Christians we too participate in this mighty wave of the luminous renewal movement begun by Christ the fire-starter. In the first century Jesus' rising from the dead shook the cosmos and put it on a new track in history. It also demonstrated God's seal of vindication of the truth of the saving work of Jesus: where His enemies said "No" and rejected Him, God thundered a "Yes" and established the new era of salvation. The resurrection transformed and empowered the disciples to accomplish against all odds a spiritual triumph unknown in history.

However, for those who commit their hearts and lives to Christ, the power of the resurrection is still at work today waiting to be tapped to its fullest. The risen Christ lives and rules forever (Hebrews 13:8). The final evidence is in our own transformed lives, and a vibrant life of the Church in the world, as we share the paschal greetings “Christ is risen!” and “Truly He is risen!”

O Death, where is your sting?
O Hades, where is your victory? (1 Cor 15:55)
In some parts of Greece, there is a tradition that the day after Pascha is a day devoted to telling jokes. This tradition came about because they said that during Holy Week God, pulled the greatest joke on Satan himself, when Christ willingly accepted to die on the Cross. Satan thought he had won - that he had defeated Jesus, that darkness had conquered light, evil had conquered good, and death had conquered life – Satan thought he had won only to find out that when Christ entered the devil’s domain, Hades, he could not contain Him.

The hymns from Holy Saturday summarize the situation beautifully, “Today Hell laments and cries out: Better that I had not welcomed Him who is born of Mary. He has put an end to my power. He has broken my doors of bronze... My sovereignty is destroyed. I received Jesus as a mortal one among the dead, but this One I am powerless to contain. Instead, through Him I lose all I had governed. I had held the dead for ages, but behold, He resur rects them all... The Crucified One empties all the tombs, and the power of death is overcome. Glory to Your Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.”

By Jesus resurrecting from the dead, Satan did not have the final word in the battle between good and evil. As the angel said to the myrrh-bearing women, “He is not here; He has risen! Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that He has risen from the dead!”

Christ’s victory over Satan, sin and death itself is what we celebrate on Pascha!

Another hymn from Holy Saturday puts it this way, “We celebrate the death of death, the destruction of hell and the beginning of the new eternal life... Christ shattered the everlasting bars which kept the dead captive. He descended into the grace to overthrow the power of hell and rise as the immortal conqueror.”

Now all life is filled with light, hope and the power of unconquerable love. If we choose to live in this light of the Resurrection, our lives will never be the same. Christ changes the entire perspective of our existence, because we realize that goodness can prevail over evil, that love is stronger than hatred, that faith has no place for fear, and that death is but a doorway into eternal paradise.

Of course, during our earthly life, we will still face the struggles, challenges, and sufferings of our fallen nature. Yet never forget that the Passion of Christ concludes with His Resurrection – what appears to be the victory of evil and death is only a façade, a joke played on Satan.

Christ is Risen and death is defeated; Christ is Risen and hatred is eliminated; Christ is Risen and evil is healed; Christ is Risen and new life is opened up for all! Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Life Through the Cross
Henri Nouwen

Finding new life through suffering and death: that is the core of the good news. Jesus has lived out that liberating way before us and has made it the great sign. Human beings are forever wanting to see signs: marvellous, extraordinary, sensational events that can distract them a little from hard reality. . We would like to see something marvellous, something exceptional, something that interrupts the ordinary life of every day. That way, if only for a moment, we can play at hide-and-seek. But to those who say to Jesus: “Master...we should like to see a sign from You,” He replies: “It is an evil and unfaithful generation that asks for a sign! The only sign it will be given is the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah remained in the belly of the sea monster for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.”

From this one can see what the authentic sign is: not some sensational miracle but the suffering, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The great sign, which can be understood only by those who are willing to follow Jesus is the sign of Jonah, who also wanted to run away from reality but was summoned back by God to fulfil his arduous task to the end. To look suffering and death straight in the face and to go through them oneself in the hope of a new God-given life: that is the sign of Jesus and of every human being who wishes to lead a spiritual life in imitation of Him. It is the sign of the cross: the sign of suffering and death, but also of the hope for total renewal.
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 in 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 history: "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)!

PARTICIPATING IN THE RESURRECTION

"With Christ’s Resurrection everything was made new again, everything was restored! From that point on, the questions posed for every human being has been whether or not to participate in this restoration, in this resurrection. In the code language of Christianity, this call to participate is known by the term “repentance,” which ... calls on us to make the effort to change by becoming new, through the process initiated by the events of Easter.”

Archbishop Anastasios of Albania
HOLY WEEK SERVICES

LAZARUS SATURDAY - MARCH 31
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 1
Divine Liturgy 9:30
Community Fish Luncheon 11:15 in our Church Hall
Bridegroom Service 6:30 pm

HOLY MONDAY - APRIL 2
Bridegroom Service 6:30 pm

HOLY TUESDAY - APRIL 3
Bridegroom Service 6:30 pm with the Hymn of Kassiani

HOLY WEDNESDAY - APRIL 4
Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 9:30am
Holy Unction Service 6:30 pm

HOLY THURSDAY - APRIL 5
Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
SERVICE OF THE 12 GOSPELS 6:30pm

HOLY AND GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 6
Philoptochos Decorating the Epitaphio 9:00 am
Service of the Royal Hours 9:00am
Children’s (ages 5-12) Retreat 12:00-1:45
Vespers - Taking Christ Down from Cross 2:00 pm
LAMENTATIONS SERVICE 6:30pm

HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 7
1st Resurrection Divine Liturgy 9:30am
RESURRECTION SERVICE 10:00 pm

PASCHA SUNDAY - APRIL 8
Children’s Easter Egg Hunt 11:00am
“Service of Love” Easter Vespers 12:00
Paschal Lamb Luncheon 1:00

BRIGHT MONDAY - APRIL 9 Resurrection Matins 9:00 Liturgy 9:30
PARISH COUNCIL
President’s Message

Remembering the Needy
Not Only During Lent

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Christ is Risen!

During the past month I was on a week-long business trip to San Diego to attend one of the yearly trade shows in my industry. San Diego is in many ways a wonderful place. The weather is, of course, fantastic, San Diego Bay is beautiful, and the rest of the city is picturesque. The bulk of my days were spent inside the convention center meeting with prospective customers, and at night dining with many of those same customers. Our hotel was about ½ mile away from the convention center and I would walk every day, to the center and to the restaurants, and then to the hotel.

On every trip I make to west coast I am constantly amazed and alarmed at the number of homeless on the streets of the large cities, and this trip was no exception. Be it Seattle, San Francisco, LA, or San Diego, the streets are visibly populated with those less fortunate than us. Every day I would encounter many and different people on the walk down the hill to the convention center. I’m always worried about how I should act when I meet these people. The vast majority I encountered during this trip were not panhandling, were not confronting those around them, and were not loud or obnoxious or drunk. They were simply going about their lives, trying to survive.

Every day down the hill, and then again at night up the hill, my thoughts were only of the street people of San Diego that I came across. Initially, I must admit, I tried to avoid them, not make eye contact, in one case I crossed to the other side of the street on the walk. I crossed the street not because I didn’t feel safe, but rather because I “didn’t want to be bothered” with the potential encounter with that street person ahead. I thought about that at the trade show that day and felt ashamed, and also thought about what and how an individual should act towards these unfortunate folks. I certainly was not able to come up with all the answers in my ponderings but I decided that the least I could do is encounter these people on the streets and not avoid them, not avert my eyes, say hello if they say hello to me, and yes, if they asked, give them a dollar or two to help them out. I know many of us are reluctant to give street people money. We rationalize our decision by telling ourselves that they will only spend the money on liquor or drugs. How can we be so sure everyone out there is only interested in drugs or alcohol? How can we turn our backs on these unfortunates so easily, especially during Lent?

During the week, I felt I got better during my walks. I felt less like an outsider walking among the street people of San Diego and more just like someone who is trying to coexist with them. I met their gazes. I nodded to them. I said hello if they did. And in a few cases when they asked for help I gave them a buck or two. I know I fell far short of how I should have behaved and interacted with them, but I also know I got better. During Lent, we were supposed to make an extra effort in interacting and helping out those most needful. May we continue to do this even more so now in during the joyous season of Easter.

May we always remember all we have, including the Good News that “Christ is Risen” and share our spiritual and material wealth with others, especially those in need.

Very Sincerely,

Neal Neslusan
St John Chrysostom’s Paschal Homily

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 overthrown.
Christ is risen, and the demons have fallen.
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice.
Christ is risen, and life is liberated.
Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave.

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.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Christos Anesti! On March 4th we had our first meeting of the new year. It was well attended. Eleni will be baking sweet breads on March 27th and we will be selling them on Palm Sunday. Get your orders in as soon as you can. Eleni will be making a double recipe. Father Luke will be taking them to the shut ins for Easter. Thank you to all that donated the ingredients and to Eleni and all her crew. It takes a whole day and much effort!

We will be having a calendar raffle for the month of June. We need 30 prizes, each a minimum worth $25, for each day of the month. It can be a gift card, a basket, or a gift. If we get more prizes we will save them for the center table raffle at the gyro fest in June. Marie McNally will chair this fundraiser but she needs help. Please let us know what gift you would like to donate and we will put in on the calendar and photocopy it to sell as a ticket. We will sell the raffle calendars during May for $10 a ticket. Then in June we will draw 30 winners for each day of the month. Many organizations have had this raffle and it has been very successful. Let’s make ours a success as well!

Don't forget to bring in eggs to wrap for Easter. Come on Good Friday to help us wrap the eggs, as well as to help Leslie and Laurie Manthos and their crew decorate the Epitaphion. Thank you for doing this every year!

Due to the dates of Palm Sunday and Easter, our next meeting will be held on Monday, April 16 at 6:00. Bring a friend, as well as bring some new ideas we ladies can do for fun!

A Happy and Blessed Easter to all, and a happy Spring!

With much love and affection,

Evelyn Pappas
Come and Join Us!!!
All Parishioners and Friends are invited to our

Palm Sunday, April 1 following the Divine Liturgy in our 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 & Eleni Sgouritsas and Lake Pizza for offering the fish meal in memory of his beloved father GEORGE SGOURITSAS!!

Celebrate our Lord’s Resurrection on PASCHA DAY, APRIL 8 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 Mary Seferi or our Church Office so we know how many are coming and can arrange the pot-luck meals.
LAZARUS SATURDAY
March 31

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 ages 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 6
Youth Retreat (ages 5-12)
12:00-1:30
Come All Ages!

JOY EASTER EGG HUNT!!!
EASTER DAY
April 8 11:00 am
followed by the AGAPE VESPERS of Pascha 12:00 noon

LIVING BREAD LUNCHEON
12:30-1:30pm
Holy Saturday, April 7th
Help Cook, Set Up, Offer Hospitality, Serve Meals
Clean Up
Our JOY
Retreat on Holy Confession

Each child put together a Prayer Box, seen to the left, which is a tool, to help teach and guide each of our youth on how to pray and connect with God.
My spring break was spent in New Orleans, Louisiana, working with the lowernine.org organization. Through this organization, my group of thirteen people from The College of Saint Rose was split in two, and we were able to help those who are STILL affected by the horrible Hurricane Katrina.

During the week, we stayed at Camp Restore, a religious camp that provided us with home cooked breakfast and dinner. My group worked on Ms. Marion’s home. She is a victim of contractor fraud, which means that after the Hurricane, a contractor helped her rebuild her home, but the wood he used was not pressure treated, so termites ate right through it. We had to pull out the defective wood and replace it with a sturdy wood that would support the house and last.

I learned so much about the effects of Hurricane Katrina while down in New Orleans. There were predictions that a storm would come that would devastate the city as early as 1927. There will be more storms such as Katrina, but there needs to be more precaution towards safety of the city. If the levee was just a few inches taller, the storm wouldn’t have been as devastating.

So many people faced terrible tragedy when they lost loved ones, but many people returned back to New Orleans because that is their home. Ms. Marion moved to Texas after the storm, and then moved to Baton Rouge before moving back onto her land in New Orleans. Her home is the only rebuilt home on her block. There should have been eight other neighboring homes, but Hurricane Katrina wiped them all away.

Errol Joseph, a man who had a hard struggle with recovering from Katrina, was one of the kindest and positive persons I have ever met. I asked him why he decided to move back to New Orleans and he replied that this is his home. He said “We never had a bad day. Maybe uncomfortable, but never bad.” His courage to move back home, even when another storm like Katrina could happen again, is admirable. He was able to rebuild his home with the help of the Lower Nine Organization and said he was blessed to have volunteers willing to keep helping, years and years later. He is an inspiration and told us “Be thankful for what you have, because you could always have less.”

With this in mind, and especially during this joyous season of Easter, let all of us remember to be thankful for all that we have, and to share all our blessings with others, especially those in need!
HOLY LANDS PILGRIMAGE
February 15-24, 2019

A SAMPLE SCHEDULE OF OUR PILGRIMAGE

Day 1: Depart for TEL AVIV
This afternoon, we will depart for an unforgettable and fulfilling spiritual odyssey!

Day 2: TEL AVIV / TIBERIAS
Welcome to the Holy Land! We will travel to Tiberias, a drive of approximately two hours. En route to Tiberias, visit the Church and Tomb of St. George in Lydda, the birthplace of St. George. Venerate the tomb and chain of St. George. Some believe that the church was built on the very spot where St. George was chained and tortured in an attempt to convince him to renounce his faith. Others believe that the church was built in the place where he was buried after he was martyred in Nicomedia.

Day 3: TIBERIAS / RIVER JORDAN / CAPERNAUM / TABGHA / TIBERIAS
Enjoy a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus met Simon, Peter, James and John, his first disciples, and performed many miracles here. He stilled the raging storm on the Sea of Galilee that was about to flood their boat and walked on the stormy sea to His Apostles. In Capernaum, walk in the same village Jesus did. It is here that our Lord and Savior chose and called forth His Apostles, and where He preached and performed miracles such as the healing of the paralytic, the mother-in-law of Apostle Peter, the servant of the centurion and many others. See the remains of the House of Saint Peter, one of the very few exact sites we know Jesus visited. See the ruins of the Synagogue where Our Lord preached. Continue to the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Apostles, the very place Jesus called His first disciples. Enjoy the peaceful setting of this beautiful church with its red domes. We will go to the Mountain of Beatitudes, where Jesus Christ preached the Sermon on the Mount and where the Lord’s Prayer was said for the first time. Then, on to Tabgha (Seven Springs) and the Church of the Multiplication of Fishes and Loaves. It is here that the miracle of the loaves and fish took place. Over 5,000 men, women and children were fed from the miraculous multiplication of the five loaves of bread and two fish. Our last stop will be Yardenit on the River Jordan, the site for Spiritual Baptism and Water Blessing. Experience an affirmation of your baptism in the same river that our Lord was baptized by Saint John the Baptist 2,000 years ago.

Day 4: TIBERIAS / MT. TABOR / CANA / NAZARETH / JERUSALEM
We will visit the Church of the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor. At the top of Mt. Tabor, see an utterly commanding view of all of lower Galilee and the valley of the Armageddon. It was here that Jesus revealed the wonderful power of presence in communion with the Lawgiver and prophets of the past (Moses and Elijah). This also became immediate evidence of Communion with His Father. At the foot of Mt. Tabor is the little village of Naim, where Jesus raised the only son of the poor widow from the dead. In Cana our Lord performed his first public miracle turning water into wine at the request of His Blessed Mother the Virgin Mary to spare the bridegroom the embarrassment of running out of wine at his wedding party. A special service for married couples will follow.

In Nazareth, the home of Mary, Joseph and Jesus until the beginning of His ministry. Nazareth is also where Jesus spent some years of His youth after returning to Israel from Egypt and until His public ministry began. Visit the Virgin Mary’s Well where the Angel Gabriel announced the “good news” to Mary that she would give birth to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. The Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation is built over this site.
Day 5: JERUSALEM / BETHLEHEM / JERUSALEM
In Bethlehem is the birthplace of our Lord and Savior and the cradle of biblical history. Bethlehem is located five and half miles from Jerusalem. Visit the Shepherd’s field and the Church of the Nativity. A Greek Orthodox Church has been built over the birthplace of Our Lord by the Emperor Justinian and is over 1,500 years old. It is the second oldest Orthodox Church in existence. On the way back to Jerusalem, visit the Monastery and Church of the Prophet Elias and the Church and Tomb of St. Symeon, the Just.

Day 6: JERUSALEM
We will walk through old Jerusalem to the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate and enjoy a private audience with His Beatitude Theophilos III, then continue with a visit to the Church of Saint Anna (birthplace of the Theotokos). Archeologists have uncovered all of the pools and the five porticoes, as was reported by St. John in the Gospel. Then, we will walk along the Way of the Cross. Venerate at the same cell the Lord was held prisoner before His crucifixion. It is located deep in a dungeon. There is a slab of stone with two holes through which His legs were passed and ankles shackled together. The cells of Barabas and the two thieves, who were crucified with Him, are here. We will continue with a visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, the site of our Savior’s death and resurrection. This is the most important church for Christians. We climb the stairs to reach Golgotha, the place of the crucifixion. Over the site, a main altar has been built. Take a moment to reflect in this Holy Place and to feel the spirit enliven you and appreciate all that Our Lord has given you and your loved ones. At the bottom of the stairs, as you leave the Chapel of the Golgotha, is the site where the body of Christ was placed after he was taken down from the cross. Then, we are led to the site of the Tomb, the place of the Lord’s resurrection. A small chapel has been built over the sacred place under the watch of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate. In the first small room is the great stone that sealed the tomb. It was here that the Angel of the Lord sat proclaiming the resurrection of Christ from the dead. The next small room contained the slab of stone on which the dead body of the Lord was placed, entombed and resurrected. It is a truly incredible experience to be in this church! It is from this tiny room that the Holy Light of the Resurrection emanates.

Day 7: JERUSALEM
Visit the Monastery of St Mary Magdalene to venerate the relics of St Elizabeth, the 20th century Russian Martyr and St Stephen’s Church. Then we visit the the Chapel of Ascension, the site our Lord ascended from the earth to Heaven. Continue to Gethsemane. Visit the Church of All Nations and the Garden of Agony. It is here our Lord prayed with great passion before He was to endure the selfless sacrifice to come. Continue with a visit to the Tomb of the Virgin Mary. It is from this site that the body of the Virgin Mother was taken into Heaven by her Son and God. We will visit the Western Wall (Wailing Wall) on Mount Moriah, where it is said the Patriarch Abraham was ready to sacrifice his son. Here also stands the Dome of the Rock, with its marble and multi-colored mosaics, quotations from the Koran and the Golden Cupola. Continue on to Mt. Zion to visit the Room of the Last Supper, King David’s Tomb and the Church of the Dormition. Return to the hotel for dinner. Those who wish may attend midnight Liturgy at the Holy Sepulcher for a truly unforgettable and spiritually-fulfilling evening.

Day 8: JERUSALEM / JERICHO / JERUSALEM
Visit the Mount of Temptation, where the Lord was tempted by the devil and fasted for forty days and forty nights. There is an altar built over the same slab of stone where Jesus prayed and fasted. The Monastery was built over this site, and there is only one elderly monk who takes care of it. He is truly inspirational. En route to the Dead Sea, stop in Qumran, the area where a Jewish sect thought to be the Essenes wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls. Continue to the Church of St. Elisseos and Zacchaeus’ Tree. This is the tree upon which Zacchaeus climbed in order to see the Lord walk by. From here, drive to the Judean Desert to the Monastery of St. Gerasimos. It is one of the oldest monasteries in the world, built by Abbot Gerasimos in 455 A.D. Continue to Martha and Lazarus Tomb in Bethany where Lazarus was raised from the dead by Jesus after 4 days in the tomb. The Lord wanted to establish His power over death and waited until Lazarus was confirmed dead before raising him from the dead.

Day 9: JERUSALEM / USA—Return Home
SAVE THE DATES FOR NEXT YEAR AND HAVE A ONCE IN A LIFETIME SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE!!!
Contact Fr. Luke today to reserve your spot!
Dear Beloved Parishioners

Our Church will once again sponsor a MISSION TEAM TO MEXICO to serve our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church in a cross-cultural setting. This will be the SEVENTH TIME our Church will send such a group. We are sending a team of 25 participants. As in past years, we will travel to Mexico and work with the PROJECT MEXICO, while staying at the St. Innocent Orphanage. We will go from July 18-24, 2018.

Our primary goal will be to help construct a home for a needy family in Rosarito. Over the entire summer, Project Mexico will be building 30+ homes. We will also spend time with the teenage orphans at the St. Innocent home, as well as spend time with the local people we meet.

We are also very excited that two parishioners, Olivia Neslusan and Theodora Veronis, will be interning for six months at Project Mexico from June-December! These young women will be leading the 700 volunteers who will be going there throughout the summer!

In order for our group to participate in this mission trip, WE ARE RAISING $25,000, which will pay for the supplies and materials needed to build the house, our food and lodging at the orphanage, our flights to San Diego and the van we must rent for Mexico.

Would you prayerfully consider becoming a spiritual and financial partner with us on our mission? As a financial partner, you can make a tax-deductible donation to Sts. Constantine and Helen Church. Please write Project Mexico in the memo line of the check. You can learn more about Project Mexico on their website www.projectmexico.org.

Thank you for helping our Church fulfill its part in our Lord’s global mission and outreach!!

In Christ’s love,

+Luke

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**WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY**

10:00am-11:15am
Every Wednesday in March

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Come and enjoy delightful fellowship, while learning your faith!

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**GODPARENTS GRANDPARENTS SUNDAY**

**MAY 6TH**

Invite your godchildren and grandchildren, or your godparents and grandchildren to Church this Sunday and for the Meal afterwards!
**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP SERVING GROUPS**

Apr 15 Donna Cooney, Leah Didonato, Rena Klebart, Betty Tonna, Therese Totolos

April 22 - Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Mary Seferi,

Apr 29 - Kathy Bilis, Sara Darligiannis, Marie Monroe, Charlotte Neslusan, Stephanie Quill

**USHERS & GREETERS SCHEDULE**

April 1 Marie McNally, Matt Benoit, Lisa Healy, Nick Seferi, Mary Papageorge,

Holy Wednesday, Apr 4 Neal Neslusan, Jimmy Karapanos, Bill Thompson, Tasi Vriga, Tatyana Zhuk, Mike Chito

Holy Thursday, Apr 5 Nicoleta Cojocaru, Arthur Darligiannis, Zach Gianaris, Jared Quill, Nikitas Zagoras

Good Friday, Apr 6 Arthur Bilis, Chris Geoti, Thomai Gatsogiannis, Trish Lareau, Ron Sanderson

Pascha Sat Night Apr 7 Marie McNally, Matt Benoit, Lisa Healy, Nick Seferi

Apr 15 Neal Neslusan, Jimmy Karapanos, Bill Thompson, Tasi Vriga, Tatyana Zhuk, Mike Chito

Apr 22 Nicoleta Cojocaru, Arthur Darligiannis, Zach Gianaris, Jared Quill, Nikitas Zagoras

Apr 29 Arthur Bilis, Chris Geoti, Thomai Gatsogiannis, Trish Lareau, Ron Sanderson

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP Supply Pastries/Donuts Groups**

These groups will bake or bring in pastries/donuts and/or fruit and veggies for our coffee fellowship. We are looking for more volunteers to help!!!

April 1 & 8 - Palm Sunday & Pascha

April 15 – Sandi Kunkel, Evelyn Pappas, Gulapka Kostovski, Betty Tonna, Alexandra Koula

Apr 22– Kathy Bilis, Marie Monroe, Eleni Sgouritsas, Tina Collelo

Apr 29– Leah Didonato, Mary Seferi, Olga Pouloukhine, Vasiliki Zahariadis

May 6 – Sara Darligiannis, Sissy Darligiannis, Therese Totolos, Helen Constantine

May 13 – Lisa Healy, Marie McNally, Despina Condos, Trish Lareau

May 20 – Charlotte Neslusan, Evis Jordanoglou, Dolly Sosnowski, Annalisa Dunning

May 27– Lynn Purcell, Rayne Purcell, Sophia Foisy, Kelly Vosnakis

June 4– Titi Chito, Rina Sgouritsas, Lorna McWilliam, Pres. Faith Veronis

**YOUTH EPISTLE READERS**

Apr 1 - Panayiota Veronis

Apr 8 - Theodora Veronis

Apr 15 - Maia Beaudry

Apr 22 - Zach Beaudry

Apr 29 - Kiera MacKenzie

May 6 - Lily Mueller

May 13 - Olivia Neslusan

May 20 - Helen Dunning
Remembering Our Church Family

*Important Dates in APRIL:*

*Make a visit, give a call, or express 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: Celia Milios
- April 25: Harrison Jordanoglou
- April 25: Zachary Bethune

**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:**

- April 28: Richard & Sophia Bethune

**NAMEDAYS:**

- Pascha: Anestis Jordanoglou
- Sunday after Easter—St. Thomas: Thomai Gatsogiannis, Thomas Klebart, Tom Laurea, Gideon Thomas Ross, Garry Thomas Ross

**SAVE DATES FOR SUMMER**

- Vacation Church Camp: July 9-13
- Metropolis of Boston Summer Camp: Week 4 - July 30 - Aug 5

*Sign up today because this week fills up quickly ([www.mbcamp.org](http://www.mbcamp.org))*

**Spring General Assembly**

- Sunday, Apr 29th
  - Light Lunch Provided
  - + Church Audit
  - + Update on State of Affairs
  - + Amendment to Church Bylaws
HOLY SCRIPTURE FOR PASCHA

If Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all people the most pitiable. But now Christ is risen from the dead and has become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 15:17-20

Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. Go quickly and tell His disciples that He is risen from the dead indeed, and He is going before you to Galilee.

Matthew 28:5-7

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:50-53

“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

Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:54-56

Look for our safe and convenient online giving at bottom left of Church webpage at www.schwebster.org

Learn your Orthodox Faith from Orthodox podcasts, music, teachings at www.myocn.net www.AncientFaith.com
Thank You to those who sponsor our monthly bulletin!
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 PALM SUNDAY 8:30 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy 11:30 Community Meal 6:30 Bridegroom Service</td>
<td>2 HOLY MONDAY 6:30 Bridegroom Service</td>
<td>3 HOLY TUESDAY 6:30 Bridegroom Service w Hymn of Kassiani</td>
<td>4 HOLY WEDNESDAY 9:30 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:30 Holy Unction Service</td>
<td>5 HOLY THURSDAY 9:30 Divine Liturgy 6:30 Service of 12 Gospels</td>
<td>6 GOOD FRIDAY 9:00 Holy Hours 9:00 Decoration of Epitaphio 12:30 JOY &amp; GOYA Retreat 2:00 Vespers</td>
<td>7 HOLY SATURDAY 9:30 1st Resurrection Service 12:30 Living Bread Luncheon **10:00pm Resurrection Service</td>
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<td>8 HOLY PASCHA 11:00 Easter Egg Hunt 12:00 Agape Vespers 1:00 Pascha Pot-Luck Dinner</td>
<td>9 Bright Monday 9:00 Resurrectional Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>10 Bright Tuesday</td>
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<td>12 Bright Thursday</td>
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<td>14 Bright Saturday 5:00 Joy Girls 6:30 Vespers</td>
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<td>15 8:30 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy 11:30 Bible Bowl 7pm AA</td>
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<td>18 10:00 Bible Study 6:30pm Paraclesis Service</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>21 Parish Oratorical Festival 5:00 Joy Girls 6:30 Vespers</td>
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<td>22 8:00 Matins 9:00 Liturgical Baptism of Julian Raymond 9:30 Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>23 St George 8:45 Matins 9:30 Divine Liturgy 6:00 VCC Meeting 6:30 Parish Council Meeting</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25 10:00 Bible Study</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28 Spring Clean Up Day Greek Dance at Worcester Cultural Fest 5:00 Joy Girls 6:30 Vespers</td>
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<td>29 8:30 Matins 9:30 Divine 11:30 General Assembly 5:00 Teen Dinner Dialogue</td>
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<td>May 1 10:00 Bible Study</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>May 5 12:30 Living Bread Luncheon 5:00 Joy Girls 6:30 Vespers</td>
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Mark Your Calendar: March 6th is Godparents Grandparents Sunday!!!
OUR RISEN LORD

Born in a manger surrounded by beasts
Three kings came to praise him from the Far East
His mission was known to his Father above
Yet misunderstood by the people he loved

His Mother was a Virgin and holy as could be
And He was raised by a carpenter close to the sea
Soon he embarked on his life as a teacher
A fisher of men, an itinerant preacher

Few people knew that He was the Messiah
The Pharisees looked down on him as a pariah
Performing miracles and raising Lazarus from the dead
His influence and fame became even more widespread

Despite his power, He was more humble than a dove
Changing lives as He taught his disciples to love
He preached that the meek shall inherit the earth
And to love your enemies and those of lowly birth

He was soon betrayed by one of his own
Given to Pilate and tortured to the bone
To fulfill his Godly mission He was handed over to die
And crucified with two criminals on a hill near the sky

His body was pierced as he gasped for his last breath
Those around him did not know He would soon conquer death
He was placed in a sealed off tomb of stone within
And in three days was resurrected to save us from sin

His legacy has lasted for over 2,000 years
Transforming lives with hope and less fear
We praise him today and rejoice on high
As we sing “Christ is Risen” in joyous reply!

Nicholas A. Veronis