THE LIGHT
Sts. Constantine and Helen
Greek Orthodox Church
Webster, Massachusetts
www.schwebster.org
Vol. 12, No. 5
May 2016

CHRIST IS RISEN!
TRULY HE IS RISEN!

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

Sunday, May 1
11:00 Easter Egg Hunt
12:00 Agape Service
1:00 Pascha Lamb Luncheon

FEASTAL NAME-DAY OF CHURCH
6:00pm, May 20th

Save the Date:
Miraculous Myrhh-Streaming Kardiotissa Icon
Visiting our church June 17th

THE JOYOUS VICTORY

Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and granting life to those in the tombs!
Hymn of Pascha

On Pascha night, and for the next 40 days until our Lord’s Ascension into heaven, we will greet one another with the Paschal greeting, “Christ is Risen! Christos Anesti!”
To which we joyfully affirm, “Truly He is Risen! Alithos Anesti!”

The JOY of the resurrection radically changes everything in life! Death, which is the greatest evil and fear of humanity, no longer holds power over us. Christ has destroyed death itself! Yes, our physical bodies will still die because we live in a fallen world, but we know that if we are united with Jesus here and now, we will continue to be united with Him even after death, and for all eternity!

As St. Paul enthusiastically writes, “We are more than conquerors through Him 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 be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom 8:37-39)

Every week during the Divine Liturgy I offer a Paschal prayer which says, “Through the Cross JOY has come into the world... for by enduring the Cross for us, Christ has destroyed death by His own death!”

This joy should epitomize the season of Pascha, and in fact, should be a central characteristic of our entire Orthodox
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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Christian faith! Nothing in life can frighten us or lead us to despair if we choose to dwell in the safe and secure embrace of Christ’s victorious resurrection!

Of course, struggles and difficulties will continue to assail us as long as we live on earth. Yet, in the midst of all these “mysteries of life,” we know that the ultimate end and the greatest evil we all must face on earth - death itself - is but a doorway into fuller union with our Lord. As Christ rose from the dead, so we also shall rise with Him and live with Him for all eternity!

As we meditate on our Lord’s eternal victory, we have to ask ourselves whether we take advantage of living life each and every day with this Paschal Joy bubbling forth from our lives? Think how different the priorities of our lives would be if we truly kept this eternal perspective of Resurrectional joy and hope within us. How trivial so much of our busy lives and pursuits would be! How insignificant our present-day problems and challenges! Viewing life from the eternal and victorious perspective of God changes everything!

My prayer during this blessed season is that we all discover anew the significance of our Lord Jesus Christ’s joyous resurrection and the central impact it can play in our daily lives!

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!!!
+Fr. Luke
Saint Paul in his First Epistle to the Corinthians says that if Christ is not risen we are the most miserable of all men... And, indeed, if he was not risen we would be, because then all our faith, all that we call our spiritual experience, all the life we build on it would have been nothing but a delusion or a lie, a hallucination.

Yet we are the most happy of all men because Christ is risen. This not only hundreds and thousands, but millions know from a direct, personal experience. Many could say: God exists because I have met him, Christ is risen because I have met the risen Christ. And not only in spirit but also in the flesh; because we have the witness of the Apostles, simple men who had run away from Calvary, knowing - as they thought - that Christ was defeated when he was taken down from the Cross and buried, knowing that everything they hoped for had come to an end. And yet, they are the witnesses of the Resurrection, unprepared, hesitant, and then exulting in the joy of the truth which was revealed to them; exulting because the women came in the morning to anoint Christ, and they saw that his body was no longer there. John and Peter came after them, and the tomb was empty.

When these two disciples came to the other disciples, asking themselves questions, doubting, hesitating - Christ came to them, and he himself said to them: Fear not! I am not a ghost, I am not a disincarnate vision; a ghost has no flesh and no bones as you can see that I have! And he ate with them, he spoke to them, they touched him! And indeed, St John says in his Epistle that what the Apostles proclaim is what their eyes have seen, their ears heard, their hands touched, and that they are speaking the truth.

Yes, Christ is risen, risen not as a ghost, not as a spiritual presence but as a living God with his body, the body of the Incarnation. And indeed, if we truly believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was God himself become man for the salvation of the world, then, what is beyond our imagination is that he, who is life itself, could die; and the thing which is obvious and simple is that Life Eternal should break the fetters of death, conquer death, and that he should rise, in the body, in the flesh, as a promise to us; because uniting himself to human flesh he has shown us that man is so vast and so deep that he can be at one with God, united with God; that, indeed, a human being is complete only if he is in oneness with God, when he is a partaker of the divine nature, to use the words of St Peter's Epistle.

The Resurrection is a revelation of the mercy of God, of the power of God, of the love of God... but also of the greatness of man.

The Resurrection is a revelation of the mercy of God, of the power of God, of the love of God... but also of the greatness of man. Death has no fear for us; it has become a gate into eternity, and we know that the day will come when the voice of him who has brought into being all things, the voice of him who is our Savior will resound, and we will all stand before God, clothed with eternity, but in a flesh that has become part of this eternity.

Let us believe the word of God, let us conquer our doubts and hesitations by listening to God himself speaking to us, and let us respond to the word of God and to the event of the Resurrection with faith and gratitude!

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!
When Christ first rose from the tomb and appeared to His disciples and the myrrh-bearing women, He greeted them with the word "Rejoice!" And then later when He appeared to the Apostles His first words were "Peace be unto you!" Peace, because their confusion was very great - the Lord had died. It seemed as though all hope had perished for the victory of God over human wickedness, for the victory of good over evil. It would seem that life itself had been slain and light had faded. All that remained for the disciples who had believed in Christ, in life, in love, was to go on existing, for they could no longer live. Having tasted eternal life they were now condemned to expect cruel persecution and death at the hands of Christ's enemies. "Peace be unto you," proclaimed Christ. "I have arisen, I am alive, I am with you, and henceforth nothing - neither death nor persecution - will ever separate us or deprive you of eternal life, the victory of God." And then, having convinced them of His physical resurrection, having restored their peace and an unshakable certainty of faith, Christ uttered words which may in the present age sound menacing and frightening to many, "As the Father sent Me, so I send you."

Only a few hours after Christ's death on the cross, not long after the fearful night in Gethsemane, the betrayal by Judas when Christ had been taken by His enemies, condemned to death, led out beyond the city walls and died on the cross, these words sounded menacing. And it was only faith, the conquering certainty that Christ had risen, that God had conquered, that the Church had become an invincible force that transformed these words into words of hope and triumphant God-speed. And the disciples went out to preach; nothing could stop them. Twelve men confronted the Roman empire. Twelve defenseless men, twelve men without legal rights were out to preach the simplest message, that divine love had entered the world and that they were willing to give their lives for the sake of this love, in order that others might believe and come to life, and that a new life might begin for others through their death. (1 Cor 4:9-13)

Death was indeed granted them; there is not a single apostle except St. John the Divine who did not die a martyr's death. Death was granted them, and persecution and suffering and a cross. But faith, faith in Christ, in God Incarnate, in Christ crucified and risen, in Christ who brought unquenchable love into the world, has triumphed. "Our faith which has conquered the world is the victory."

This preaching changed the attitude of man to man; every person became precious in the eyes of another. The destiny of the world was widened and deepened; it burst the bounds of earth and united earth to heaven. And now we Christians, in the words of a western preacher, in the person of Jesus Christ, have become the people to whom God has committed the care of other people; that they should believe in themselves because God believes in us; that they should hope for all things because God puts His hope in us; that they should be able to carry our victorious faith through the furnace of horror, trials, hatred and persecution - that faith which has already conquered the world, in the faith in Christ, God crucified and risen.

So let us also stand up for this faith. Let us proclaim it fearlessly, let us teach it to our children, let us bring them to the sacraments of the Church which, even before they can understand it, unite them with God and plant eternal life in them. All of us, sooner or later, will stand before the judgment of God and will have to answer whether we were able to love the whole world - believers and unbelievers, the good and the bad - with the sacrificial, crucified, all-conquering love with which God loves us. May the Lord give us invincible courage, triumphant faith, joyful love in order that the kingdom for which God became man should be established, that we should truly become godly, that our earth should indeed become heaven where love, triumphant love lives and reigns.

Christ is risen!
There was a Muslim in Nigeria who converted to Christianity. When some of his friends asked him, “Why did you become a Christian?” he answered, “Well, it’s like this. Suppose you were going down a road and suddenly the road forked in two directions. You didn’t know which way to go. At the fork in the road, however, there were two men, one dead (i.e. Mohammed) and the other alive (i.e. Jesus Christ). Which one would you ask for directions on which way to go?”

Jesus is alive!!! No Muslim will claim that Mohammed is still alive today. We Christians, though, celebrate on Easter that Jesus is alive!!! This is the central teaching upon which our entire Christian faith hinges. In fact, the only reason why a small group of Jewish disciples risked their lives preaching this Good News to the world was precisely because they met the Risen Christ! The only reason why this tiny Jewish sect became the largest world religion is exactly because Jesus is alive! No other world religion claims that their main character is alive today. You won’t hear any Jew say that any of their great prophets – neither Abraham nor Moses nor King David – is alive today. Muslims don’t teach that Mohammed survived his death. Buddhists say that the Buddha was enlightened, but he died and was buried and only his teachings remain.

The resurrection of Christ, and Jesus presenting himself alive to his followers after his crucifixion and burial in the tomb, is the crux of our Christian faith! Christianity isn’t based on a great teacher who simply taught his people how to live. Of course, he left eternal teachings of wisdom, yet He did something much greater. He experienced death, and then conquered it! He confronted the greatest evil dilemma in human history, and proved greater than death itself!

Yet, skeptics will question whether the resurrection of Christ is only a myth. The followers of Christ in the first century faced similar skeptics. In fact, they not only ridiculed Christians for supposedly creating such fabrications, but threatened them and even killed them for this belief.

In response to such questions and threats, St. Paul wrote, “For I handed on to you AS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE what I in turn had received, that Christ died for our sins, that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day.” And as proof he continued, “Jesus appeared to Peter, then the twelve disciples, then to more than 500 believers, of whom the majority were still alive, then to James, and to all the apostles. And He finally appeared to me.” In other words, Jesus did not appear to only a handful of people after his death, but he revealed himself to hundreds. More than 500 saw the Risen Jesus at one time. And they didn’t just see him once, but over 40 days Jesus appeared to his followers after his death.

If the enemies of Christ wanted to disprove his resurrection, they could have asked these hundreds of people. In fact, they did threaten Jesus’ followers with torture, suffering and death, demanding that they deny this fact, and yet these courageous men and women didn’t deny the resurrection! Why would people be willing to die for a lie? If it was a deceitful conspiracy, would the followers of Christ held onto this belief even to the point of death? No, they continued to believe because they couldn’t deny the incredible, life-changing reality they experienced. Jesus was alive and is still alive today!

St. Paul proclaims THE RESURRECTION IS OF FIRST IMPORTANCE in our life as followers of Christ. “If Christ was not risen, then our faith is meaningless, and we Christians are to be pitied more than all others!” In other words,
Christians are naïve fools if we believe in a lie. And yet, Paul was no fool. He and the early Christians were sure that Jesus was alive because they had met him, and through this victory over death they no longer needed to fear death itself. Jesus Christ rose from the dead, and through this resurrection, He destroyed the power of death for us all!

Think for a moment. Death represents the greatest fear for countless people. Death epitomizes darkness and evil. We live in a world that often tries to deny death, or at best ignore it as if it will never come to us. We Christians view life and death from a completely different perspective. We live in the light and hope of the resurrection! Death and all evil are a reality we readily accept as a fact of life, but we know that they do not need to have the final say in our lives.

Christ is Risen!
    and death is defeated!
Christ is Risen!
    and fear is vanquished!
Christ is Risen!
    and suffering takes on new meaning!

Back in the 2nd century, the Roman historian Aristides wrote to one of his friends about this new religion, Christianity, and specifically about their strange attitude toward death. He marveled, “If any righteous person among the Christians dies, THEY REJOICE AND OFFER THANKS TO GOD, and they escort the body with songs and thanksgiving as if the dead person was setting out from one place to a better place.”

The early Christians lived with faith in the resurrection and therefore rejoiced and gave thanks in the face of death. St. John Chrysostom compared the non-Christian with the Christian by saying, “When a loved one dies, the unbeliever sees a dead body, but the Christian sees a body asleep. The unbeliever says the body has gone. We Christians agree, but we remember where he has gone - to the same place that St. Peter and Paul and all the saints abide. We remember that he will rise, not with tears of dismay, but with splendor and glory in paradise!”

So today, on this glorious feast of Pascha, let us rejoice and be exceedingly glad that no darkness or evil need to create fear in us. Christ is alive and He is the victor over death. Christ is Risen and He is the hope of all the world! There is nothing we ever need to fear, because Jesus is alive.

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!
How Does Christ’s Resurrection Change Your Life?

What impact does Christ’s Resurrection from the dead have in your life? Does the fact Christ rose from the dead affect our lives in any concrete way?

Pascha is when God Almighty, who became a human being like us, willingly accepted to confront the greatest evils of history – jealousy, slander, rejection, hatred, denial, betrayal, ridicule, humiliation, mocking, unimaginable torture from scourging to a crown of thorns to crucifixion on a cross, and even death itself – and overcame it by the power of His love! He accepted to taste evil and death because He loved the world so much. He confronted this evil because He knew that by experiencing it and overcoming it, would He set a new path for all humanity!

Through Christ’s actions, He showed that evil, in whatever hideous form, no longer needs to control our lives, nor will it have the final say. We all may face various forms of evil and suffering, and we will all eventually face death itself one day, yet because of Easter Sunday, because of Christ’s resurrection from the dead and His victory over satan, sin and death itself, our lives have changed! Our perspective and worldview of life itself, with all the challenges and surprises that come, is different when we choose to live in the light of Christ’s resurrection!

Archbishop Anastasios put it this way, “With Christ’s Resurrection, everything was made new again, everything was restored. From this point on, the question posed for every human being is whether or not we choose to participate in this restoration!” Mother Teresa also said it beautifully: “Let nothing in life ever allow you to forget the joy and power of the Resurrection!”

Here lies the fundamental question for each one of us on this Holy Pascha celebration! Do we choose to participate fully in the joy and power and ultimate restoration of Christ’s Resurrection, or will we leave this holy season unmoved and untouched by the greatest event in human history?! Does the Resurrection of Christ affect the way we live? Do we carry the joy and power of Christ’s Resurrection in all our relationships – at homes, in our workplace, in our hobbies and forms of entertainment, and in every aspect of our lives? Will the forgiveness and mercy, the love and victory that radiate from the Risen Lord be the spirit which we carry throughout our lives?

The choice is ours! And whatever we choose determines how we relate with everything in life! Let me give two examples of how different life became for those who chose to live in the light of Christ’s resurrection, as opposed to those who didn’t.

Look at two of Jesus’ own disciples, Peter and Judas. Both men heard his teachings and witnessed his miracles. Both ended up making terrible choices in their lives. One denied Christ three times, while the other betrayed him to death. Judas’ sin, without the perspective of the resurrection, led him to despair. He couldn’t forgive himself for the evil choice that he made and as a result, he committed suicide.

Peter looked at his own denial of Christ through the prism of the Resurrection, received forgiveness and thus, healing. Although Peter denied His Lord and abandoned Him, he was given another opportunity after the resurrection to profess his love for Jesus. And by the power of the Resurrection, Peter went on to become one of the greatest of saints of history.

Then there’s the example of the two thieves on the cross. Both committed crimes which led to their crucifixion, yet one chose to stay in the depths of his evil deeds, while the other hoped that his ignoble death on the cross wasn’t the end of his story. In his last minutes of life, the second thief chose to live in the light of Christ’s resurrection and cried out to Jesus, “Lord, remember me in your kingdom!” And during his final moments of life, the gates of paradise open up for its first recipient – a criminal and thief who repented and believed in the Resurrection!

The question for each one of us is whether we choose to participate fully in the light and power of Christ’s Resurrection, or live our lives as if the Resurrection never occurred. The choice is ours.
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.

This is the Day of Resurrection! Let us shine forth in splendor for this Feasts of Feasts, and embrace one another. Let us call brothers and sisters even those who hate us, and let us forgive all things in the Resurrection. Thus, let us cry aloud, “Christ is Risen from the dead, by death trampling upon death, and bestowing life to those in the tombs

(Hymn from the Paschal Service)
Come and celebrate the
Feastday of our Saints
Constantine & Helen Church

6:00 pm Vesper Service, Friday MAY 20th
Followed by a COMMUNITY DINNER
offered by Helen Pappas in honor of the Church, her feastday,
the memory of her beloved husband Charlie, and
all those who celebrate their feast day!

LIVES OF STS CONSTANTINE & HELEN

Saint Constantine was the renowned emperor of the Roman Empire, who signed the EDICT OF MILAN in the year 313, which declared that the Empire would be neutral with regard to religious worship, and stop all persecution of Christianity. This was a decisive step that not only protected Christians, but prepared the way for the legal recognition of Christianity as the eventual religion of the Empire.

When St Constantine’s father died, he was proclaimed successor to Roman throne. Yet in 312, he faced the threat of an attack by Maxentius and Maximinus. As Constantine marched into Italy with his troops, he saw beneath the sun a radiant Cross with the words: "By this shall you conquer." The following night, Jesus Christ appeared to him in a dream and declared to him the power of the Cross. In the morning, he immediately ordered that a banner be made in the form of a cross, and he inscribed on it the Name of Jesus Christ.

The following day, Constantine defeated Maxentius and entered Rome in triumph as the Emperor of the West, while Licinius, his brother-in-law, ruled in the East. Licinius, however, began persecuting the Christians. Constantine fought and defeated him in 324, and thus became monarch over the West and the East.

Under the rule of Constantine, all persecutions against the Church ceased. After three centuries of suffering, Christianity triumphed through its witness of martyrdom and love, and proclamation of the Good News of Christ.

In 325, Saint Constantine gathered all the bishops of the Church for the First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea. This council helped defend the Faith against false teachings, holding firm the Church’s teaching on Christ’s Divinity.

In 324, Constantine laid the foundations of a new capital on the ruins of Byzantium, and named it after himself, Constantinople. Since the throne of the imperial rule was transferred from Rome, it was named New Rome, the inhabitants of its domain were called Romans, and it was considered the continuation of the Roman Empire. Right before his death in 337, Constantine was baptized and received the Holy Mysteries. He was 65, and had ruled for 31 years.

As for his holy mother Helen, during her son’s reign she traveled to Jerusalem and found the Holy Cross on which our Lord was crucified. In her zeal to glorify Christ, she erected churches at the sites of the Crucifixion and Resurrection, in Bethlehem at the cave where our Savior was born, on the Mount of Olives whence Jesus ascended into Heaven, and many others sights throughout the Holy Land.
PARISH COUNCIL

Christos Anesti! About a month ago I received a beautiful poem and remembered how Cynthia Johnson suggested I include this in my monthly message. So, thank you Cynthia! I hope you all will enjoy reading this as much as I did and remember that each day is a beautiful blessing.

THE BEST DAY OF MY LIFE!

Today, when I awoke I suddenly realized that this is the best day of my life, ever! There were times when I wondered if I would make it to today; but I did! And because I did I’m going to celebrate!

Today, I’m going to celebrate what an unbelievable life I have had so far; the accomplishments, the many blessings, and yes, even the hardships because they have served to make me stronger.

I will go through this day with my head held high, and a happy heart. I will marvel at God’s seemingly simple gifts: the morning dew, the sun, the clouds, the trees, the flowers, the birds. Today, none of these miraculous creations will escape my notice.

Today, I will share my excitement for life with other people. I’ll make someone smile. I’ll go out of my way to perform an unexpected act of kindness for someone I don’t even know.

Today, I’ll give a sincere compliment to someone who seems down. I’ll tell a child how special he is and I’ll tell someone I love just how deeply I care for them and how much they mean to me.

Today is the day I quit worrying about what I don’t have and start being grateful for all the wonderful things God has already given me. I’ll remember that to worry is a waste of time because my faith in God and his Divine Plan ensures everything will be just fine.

Tonight, before I go to bed, I’ll go outside and raise my eyes to the heavens. I will stand in awe at the beauty of the stars and the moon, and I will praise God for these magnificent treasures.

As the day ends and I lay my head down on my pillow, I will thank the Almighty for the best day of my life. And I will sleep the sleep of a content child, excited with expectation because I know tomorrow is going to be…The Best Day Of My Life!

(By Gregory M. Lousingnot)

I hope we will all strive to live each day with this in mind! Congratulations to those of you that are celebrating a special time! My deepest heartfelt sympathies to the Teguis family on the passing of Dorothy Teguis and also to the Giantsios family on the passing of Anesti Giantsios. May their memories be eternal.

God's Blessings on all of you!

Lisa Healy, Parish Council President

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Christ is Risen! Christos Anesti!

Due to the unexpected snow storm our April meeting was changed to April 11th. We had a very good meeting going over old and new business. Easter breads were to be made by Eleni and her crew. Thank you Eleni and all who helped and donated ingredients! We will also make breads for Father Luke to pass out for the shut ins and nursing homes.

Our Father's Day booklet is underway. Please get your names in by May 15th to Despina or Sandy Sanderson so we can begin organizing it. This booklet will be distributed on Father's Day, June 19th.

Our end of the year dinner will be Monday June 6th with fine dining catered by Michelle in our beautiful hall. Thomai and Debbie will be collecting names.

Our next meeting will be May 9th, when we will discuss plans for our church's name day. Please, don’t forget to see Sandi to hand in your dues.

With much love and gratitude,

Evelyn Pappas
Philoptochos President
Celebrate our Lord’s Resurrection on EASTER DAY (May 1) 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.

Making Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday
Habitat for Humanity Volunteers Building a Home in Auburn
THANK YOU to ALL who offered donations during the Lenten & Easter Season.

Sunday Altar Flowers During Lent
In memory of Hristos Bilis from Athena Bilis
   Michael and Titi Chito
   Anna Naum
Flowers for Cross Sunday
In memory of my parents Gregorios and Aglaia Koumoulos from Helen Zenon
Incense for Entire Year
Aristotelis and Gloria Panagiotou
Charcoal for Entire Year
In memory of Charlie from Helen Pappas
Altar Candles for Entire Year
For the Glory of God from Marion Thomas
Flowers for the Five Salutation Services
In memory of husband/father Nicholas from Dora Stathis and Pres. Faith Veronis
In memory of our Parents and loved ones from Charles and Ann Chito
For the Glory of God from the Beaudry Family
For the Glory of God from Barbara Desrosiers
Palm Sunday Altar Flowers
In memory of our son Bruce from Bill and Despina Condos
Palms for Palm Sunday
In memory of our father/grandfather Vaios from Donna & Athena Cooney
Bridegroom Icon Flowers
In memory of Charlie from Helen Pappas
Holy Unction Supplies
In memory of Apostolos, John and Victoria Panagiotou from Kosta Panagiotou
Holy Thursday Crown of Flowers
Grace and Bill Milios

Holy Thursday Candles
In memory Patricia Chakalis from Lorraine George
Holy Friday Epitaphio Candles
Vasiliki Zahariadis
Holy Friday Epitaphio Flowers
Irene Mountzouris
Resurrectional Candle
Lorraine George
Resurrectional Icon Flowers
In memory of cousin Gayle Collings from Leah Didonato
Flowers for Circular Resurrectional Icon
Alexandra (Sandra) Thomas
Pascha Altar Arrangement
Sam and Evelyn Pappas
Rose Pedals for Holy Saturday
In memory of Charlie from Helen Pappas
Garlands at Entry of Church
In memory of our parents and loved ones from Charlie and Ann Chito
Easter Flower Clusters for Pews
   Sophie Apostol
   Easter Azaleas
Five Flowers in memory of Charlie from Helen Pappas
Three Flowers in memory of Charlie Pappas from Sandi/Gerry Kunkel
In memory of my wife Evangelia from Stavros Pappas
In memory of our Charles & Loucia Christos from Evelyn Pappas and Dhimitra Adamopoulos
In memory of James & Michael Naum from Anna Naum
   In memory of daughter Koula from Georgette Nicholopoulos
   In memory of our parents from Aristotelis & Gloria Panagiotou
   In memory of our parents and loved ones from Charlie and Ann Chito
PROJECT MEXICO CAMPAIGN
64 Envelopes = $4000

Please take or send in one of the
64 Envelope Campaign
(64 Envelopes from $25 to $100
in $5.00 increments)
found in the Church narthex and hall,
and make a donation to our
Group of 20 going to Project Mexico.

This is one way you can help
our parishioners go to Mexico and
Build a Home for those in need!!!

THANK YOU!!!

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE
On May 8, come to the Church early
and our Parish Nurse, Nicoleta Cojo-
caru, will check your blood pressure,
offer medication management and con-
sult on any health related
issue.

She will be at the Church on the
2nd Sunday of each month
from 7:30am until the Divine Lit-
urgy begins. She can also meet
people after the
Divine Liturgy. If you prefer her
to visit you in your home, feel
free to call her at 774-452.1049
FATHER’S DAY BOOKLET

This year our Philoptochos Society will be honoring and remembering our husbands, fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, brothers, sons, sons-in-law, grandsons, uncles and nephews in a special way on Father’s Day, Sunday, June 19th when we offer the ARTOCLASIA for the LIVING and a MEMORIAL SERVICE for our beloved men who have PASSED AWAY. All the names will be printed in a special Father’s Day Booklet.

If you would like the names of your loved ones to be in our special booklet, please give a $5.00 donation made payable to the Philoptochos Society and send to Despina Condos (6 Noble, St, Dudley, MA 01571) or give to her or Sandy Sanderon in Church by May 13, 2016.

Please contact Despina (508-943-5586) or Sandy (860-315-7845) if you have any questions.

Thank you for honoring our special men and supporting the Philoptochos!

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE
Capital Campaign

Thanks to John and Eleni Sgouritsas for joining the Good Shepherd Category of Giving by Donating our Large Stain Glass Window

96 families or individuals, including 78 Church Stewards (or 50% of our parishioners) have contributed to our Capital Campaign.

If you have not participated yet, please consider doing so.

Several remaining projects:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Three Offices and Office Bathroom Renovation</td>
<td>$50,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Front Church Walkway Pavers</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Back Patio Pavers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repaving of Parking Lot</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Additional Parking Spaces</td>
<td>$25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside Landscaping</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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</table>
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
Today Hades lets out a groan: “My sovereignty is destroyed. I received Him as a mortal one among the dead; but this One I am powerless to contain; instead with Him I lose all I had governed. I had held the dead for ages, but behold, He resurrects all.”

_Hymn from Holy Saturday_

“When You descended into death, O Life Immortal, You struck Hades dead with a lightning flash of divinity; and You raised up the dead from the underworld.

_Hymn from Good Friday_

**USHERS & GREETERS SCHEDULE**

**PASCHA Evening Service, Apr 30 (10pm)** Nicoleta Cojocaru, Zach Gianaris, Garry Ross, Jared Quill

**PASCHA Day Service, May 1 (Noon)** - Arthur, Bilis, Del Monroe, Chris Geotis, Thomai Gatsogianis, Trish Lareau

May 8 - Marie McNally, Eric Beland, Matt Benoit, Lisa Healy, Nick Seferi

May 15 - Neal Neslusan, Mary Papageorge, Jimmy Karapanos, Cindy Johnson

May 23 - Nicoleta Cojocaru, Zach Gianaris, Garry Ross, Jared Quill

May 30 - Arthur Bilis, Del Monroe, Chris Geotis, Thomai Gatsogianis, Trish Lareau

**COFFEE FELLOWSHIP:**

May 8 - Marie McNally, Christa Benoit, Sandi Kunkel, Mary Seferi

May 15 – Donna Cooney, Athena Cooney, Leah Didonato, Jaime Ross

May 22 - Kathy Bilis, Marie Monroe, Stephanie Quill, Evangeline Wilson

May 29 - Thomai Gatsogianis, Trish Lareau, Betty Tonna, Deb Raymond

**YOUTH EPISTLE READERS**

May 1 Maria Mironidis
May 8 - Lily Mueller
May 15 - Maia Beaudry
May 22 Theodora Veronis
May 29 - Panayiota Veronis
June 5 - Olivia Neslusan
June 12 - Gabriella Ross
June 19 - Zach Beaudry
## Remembering Our Church Family

### Important Dates in MAY:

*Try to make a visit or give a call, to those celebrate special days this month.*

#### BIRTHDAYS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Nick Seferi</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 3</td>
<td>Kara George</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>Ted Tonna</td>
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<td>May 8</td>
<td>Maria Econome</td>
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<td>May 9</td>
<td>Joey Gliniecki</td>
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<td>May 12</td>
<td>Angelo Adamopoulos</td>
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<td>May 12</td>
<td>Yanni Mironidis</td>
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<td>May 13</td>
<td>Elliot Benoit</td>
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<td>May 14</td>
<td>Charles Chito</td>
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<td>May 14</td>
<td>Cristina Enache</td>
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<td>May 15</td>
<td>Matthew Neslusan</td>
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<td>May 16</td>
<td>Barbara Gianaris</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>Stephanie Quill</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>Taso Zahariadis</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
<td>Joan Geotis</td>
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<td>May 25</td>
<td>Dimitri Mironidis</td>
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<td>May 25</td>
<td>Scott Kunkel</td>
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<td>May 26</td>
<td>Nicholas Avlas</td>
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<td>May 27</td>
<td>Michael Belanger</td>
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<td>May 29</td>
<td>Stephen Pappas</td>
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<td>May 30</td>
<td>Sophia Koulax</td>
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<td>May 30</td>
<td>Lea Koveas Mirandola</td>
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<td>May 31</td>
<td>Gus Koulax</td>
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<td>May 31</td>
<td>Matt Benoit</td>
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#### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

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<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>Michael &amp; Titi Chito</td>
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<td>May 9</td>
<td>Michael &amp; Muriel Angelo</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 12</td>
<td>Garry &amp; Jaime Ross</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
<td>Yanni &amp; Katie Mironidis</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 21</td>
<td>Dimitrios/Efkarpia Sidopoulos</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
<td>John and Eleni Sgouritsas</td>
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<td>May 23</td>
<td>Scott and Kathy Kunkel</td>
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<td>May 24</td>
<td>Ron and Sandy Sanderson</td>
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<td>May 27</td>
<td>Pauline &amp; Carl Mueller</td>
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#### NAMEDAYS:

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<td>Anestis Jordanoglou</td>
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<td>May 2</td>
<td>St George</td>
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<td>George Condos</td>
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<td>Evis Georgia Jordanoglou</td>
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<td>Georgette Nicholopoulos</td>
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<td>George Barakililis</td>
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<td>George Carabina</td>
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<td>George Nonis</td>
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<td>George Papageorge</td>
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<td>Leslie Georgia Manthos</td>
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<td>Georgia Sgouritsas</td>
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<td>May 5</td>
<td>St Irene</td>
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<td>Irene Mountzouris</td>
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<td>May 8</td>
<td>St Thomas</td>
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<td>Thomas Baxter</td>
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<td>Thomai Gatsogiannis</td>
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<td>Thomas Klebart</td>
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<td>Tom Laurea</td>
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<td>Tom Naumski</td>
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<td>Gideon Thomas Ross</td>
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<td>Garry Thomas Ross</td>
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<td>May 13</td>
<td>St. Glykeria</td>
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<td>Glykeria Partsalis</td>
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<td>May 21</td>
<td>Sts Constantine &amp; Helen</td>
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<td>Constatine Anifantis</td>
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<td>Eleni Barakililis</td>
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<td>Charles Constantine Chito</td>
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<td>Charlie Chito</td>
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<td>Helen Constantine</td>
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<td>Louisa Eleni Foisy</td>
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<td>Elaine Goulas</td>
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<td>Helen Hazatones</td>
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<td>Helen Kerbici</td>
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<td>Constantine (Gus) Koulax</td>
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<td>Helen Lepine</td>
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<td>Helen Metropoulos</td>
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<td>Helen Pappas</td>
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<td>Chuck Spiro Pappas</td>
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<td>Kostas Panagiotou</td>
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<td>Eleni Sgouritsas</td>
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<td>Helen Thomas</td>
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<td>Helen Tsigaridas</td>
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<td>Eleni Xanthopoulos</td>
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<td>Helen Zenon</td>
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</table>
Charity is first of all a benefit to those who bestow it!

St John of Kronstadt
**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 Corinthian 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 into Galilee.

*Matthew 28:5-7*

“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*

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**DAILY BIBLE READINGS MAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reference</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Acts 1:1-8 John 1:1-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 4</td>
<td>Hebrews 13:7-16 John 1:35-52</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6</td>
<td>Acts 3:1-8 John 2:12-22</td>
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<td>May 7</td>
<td>Acts 3:11-16, John 3:22-33</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 8</td>
<td>Matt 28:16-20, John 1:1-7, John 20:19-31</td>
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<td>May 9</td>
<td>Acts 3:19-26, John 2:1-11</td>
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<td>May 12</td>
<td>Acts 4:23-31, John 5:24-30</td>
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<td>Acts 6:8-15; 7:1-5, 47-60, John 4:46-54</td>
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<td>May 17</td>
<td>Acts 8:5-17, John 6:27-33</td>
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<td>May 19</td>
<td>Acts 8:26-39 John 6:40-44</td>
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<td>May 20</td>
<td>Acts 8:40; 9:1-19 John 6:48-54</td>
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<td>May 26</td>
<td>Corinthians 4:9-16, John 8:12-20</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>Acts 12:1-11, John 8:31-42</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 30</td>
<td>Acts 12:12-17, John 8:42-51</td>
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Thank You to those who sponsor our monthly bulletin!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sun</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tue</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Sat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 HOLY</td>
<td>2 Bright Monday (St George)</td>
<td>3 Bright Tuesday</td>
<td>4 Bright Wednesday</td>
<td>5 Bright Thursday</td>
<td>6 Bright Friday (Life Giving Fount)</td>
<td>7 Bright Saturday</td>
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<tr>
<td>PASCHA</td>
<td>9:00am Resurrection Matins</td>
<td></td>
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<td>8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy</td>
<td>9am-1pm Mother's Day Flower Sale—Project Mexico Team Fundraiser</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christ is</td>
<td>9:30 Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>Risen!</td>
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<td>8 Mother’s</td>
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<tr>
<td>Day</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:00am World Religions Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 Matins</td>
<td>6:00pm Philoptochos Meeting</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 Divine</td>
<td>8:30pm NA</td>
<td>6:30 Parish Council Meeting</td>
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<td>7pm AA</td>
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<td>21 Sts Constantine and Helen</td>
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<td>8:30 Matins</td>
<td>10:00 World Religions Study</td>
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<td>20</td>
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<td>7:00am World Religions Study</td>
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<td>8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy</td>
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<td>25 Mid-Pentecost</td>
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<td>8:45 Matins 9:30 Liturgy</td>
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<td>9:30 Divine</td>
<td>8:30pm NA</td>
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<td>7:00am World Religions Study</td>
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<td>Liturgy</td>
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<td>7pm AA</td>
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<td>30 Memorial Day</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>10:00 World Religions Study</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30 Matins</td>
<td>9:00am—12:00 Memorial Prayers at Mt Zion</td>
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<td>10:00 World Religions Study</td>
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<td>Cemetery</td>
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<td>7pm AA</td>
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<td>30 Memorial Day</td>
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Christos Anesti!
Alithos Anesti!

Greek

Christ is Risen!
Truly He is Risen!

Khristos Voskresie!
Voistinu Voskresie!

Slavonic

Khrishtu u Ngjall!
Te vertete u Ngjall!

Albanian

Kristo Amefufuka!
Kweli Amefufuka!

Swahili

Hristos a Inviat!
Adevarat a inviat!

Romanian

Al’Masiah qam
Haqqan qam

Arabic

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

French

Christus ist auferstanden!
Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!

German