

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2023
SUNDAY, APRIL 16th – FEAST OF FEASTS

HOLY PASCHA!
CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Epistle Reading: Acts 1:1-8
Gospel Reading: John 1:1-17

Ninth Ode, Paschal Canon

O Christ, great and most holy Pascha.
O Wisdom, Word and Power of God,
Grant that we may more perfectly partake on Thee in the
never-ending day of Thy Kingdom.

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archpriests Samuel and Joseph, Archimandrite Joseph, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Mark Benda, Matushka Ellen, Emily Anastasia, Gabriel, Zoe, Nadine, Michelle, Alexander, Luis Ramon, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance Engelsman, Maria Higginbotham, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia and Adrian. Amen!!!

***** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski*****

Follow us on



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The Weekly Bulletin
HOLY SPIRIT
ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

April 16th, 2023

HOLY PASCHA: THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD - The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the center of the Christian faith. Saint Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and faith are in vain (I Cor. 15:14). Indeed, without the resurrection there would be no Christian preaching or faith. The disciples of Christ would have remained the broken and hopeless band which the Gospel of John describes as being in hiding behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. They went nowhere and preached nothing until they met the risen Christ, the doors being shut (John 20: 19). Then they touched the wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with Him. The resurrection became the basis of everything they said and did (Acts 2-4): “. . . for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have” (Luke 24:39). The resurrection reveals Jesus of Nazareth as not only the expected Messiah of Israel, but as the King and Lord of a new Jerusalem: a new heaven and a new earth. Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. . . the holy city, new Jerusalem. And I heard a great voice from the throne saying “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. . . He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away (Rev. 21:1-4). In His death and resurrection, Christ defeats the last enemy, death, and thereby fulfills the mandate of His Father to subject all things under His feet (I Cor. 15:24-26). Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing (Rev. 5: 12). The Christian faith is celebrated in the liturgy of the Church. True celebration is always a living participation. It is not a mere attendance at services. It is communion in the power of the event being celebrated. It is God’s free gift of joy given to spiritual men as a reward for their self-denial. It is the fulfillment of spiritual and physical effort and preparation. The resurrection of Christ, being the center of the Christian faith, is the basis of the Church’s liturgical life and the true model for all celebration. This is the chosen and holy day, first of sabbaths, king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days. On this day we bless Christ forevermore (Irmos 8, Paschal Canon).

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5 pm Saturdays
Hours: 9:45am Sundays
Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

Saturday 15th of April – PASCHA OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Vespereal Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Paschal Nocturnes, Matins and Divine Liturgy at 11:30 pm

Blessing of Baskets and Agape Meal

Sunday 16th of April – PASCHA OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Pascha Vespers at 11:00 am

Monday 17th of April

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Followed by potluck fellowship in the Rectory

Saturday 22nd of April

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 23rd of April – Saint Thomas Sunday

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Monday 24th of April

Parish Council Meeting at 7 pm via ZOOM

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Welcome

Everyone is welcome to visit and worship with us, and especially during Bright Week, to experience the beauty of Bright Week's services. Please follow our bulletin on: <https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/weeklybulletins> for more information or take a physical copy in the Church.

Holy Pascha: The Resurrection of Our Lord

The Feast of Feasts is the most significant day in the life of the Church. Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Chrismation

On the Great and Holy Friday Luis Ramon was chrismated and during Divine Liturgy on Great and Holy Saturday Delia and Glen Gamboa were chrismated by Rev. Michael Pejovic. God Grant Many Blessings to Luis, Delia and Glen, their family, friends, and to their sponsors Mark Benda and Matushka Mihaela Pejovic.

Pascha Baskets

Blessing of Pascha baskets will be in the Parish Hall following the Paschal Divine Liturgy and following the Vespers of Pascha at 11:00 Am on Sunday.

Pascha Flower Memorials

Thank you to all parishioners and friends of our Church for the generous Easter flower donations in memory of your loved ones.

Grave Watching Participants

Many thanks to all those who signed and read Psalms over the tomb of our Lord. Thank you for your effort and maintaining constant vigil.

Fast Free Week

After celebrating the Most Holy Pascha of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our Holy Church prescribes the week of feast and as such we are not called to fast on Wednesday and Friday.

Deanery Bright Wednesday Vespers

The Deanery Bright Week Vespers will be held in Christ the Saviour Orthodox Church in Paramus, 365 Paramus Road, Paramus, NJ 07652. Archbishop Michael will preside. The services will begin on Bright Wednesday at 6:30 pm. An agape meal will follow in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcomed.

Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com or Mary Osinski at mary.osinski@gmail.com