

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024
Sunday, May 5th – Feast of Feasts

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

Epistle Reading: Romans 6:3-11
Gospel Reading: Matthew 28:1-20

Troparion – Tone 2

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal, / You destroyed the power of death. / In victory You arose, O Christ God, / proclaiming: “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women, / granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

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 Archbishop Melchizedek, Archpriest Joseph, Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Catherine Xenia, Karen, Nadine Olsen, Michael Olsen, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, 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, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Dorothy, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie, Tyler, Anna, Alksei, Elena, Denis, Nadezhda, Izabella, Olga, Rita, Olga, Olga, Sofia, Iosif, John, Dawn, Pavel, Elena and Avery

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<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/>

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The Weekly Bulletin
HOLY SPIRIT
ORTHODOX CHURCH

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

May 5th, 2024

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, Pascal Canon).

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5pm 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 4th of May – PASCHA OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Vesperal Divine Liturgy at 9 am

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

Blessing of Baskets and Agape Meal

Sunday 5th of May – PASCHA OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Pascha Vespers at 11:00 am

Followed by: HSOC Egg Hunt

Monday 6th of May – Bright Monday

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Followed by potluck fellowship in the Church Hall

Wednesday 8th of May – Bright Monday

Deanery Bright Wednesday Vespers

Bright Vespers at 6:30 pm at the Christ the Savior Church, Paramus

Friday 10th of May – Bright Friday

Funeral of +Helen Schweizer

Visitation in the Church will be from 9 am – 10 am

Funeral Service from 10 am – 11 am

Interment will follow at: Russian Orthodox Convent Cemetery

Saturday 11th of May

Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 12th of May – Saint Thomas Sunday

Mother's day

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Visitors Welcome

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen! Everyone is welcome to visit and worship with us, and especially during Bright Week services. Please follow our bulletin to stay informed about all services 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!

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 this week.

Baptism and Chrismation

On the Great and Holy Saturday we received Joan Santiago, Edgar Urilov, Travis Neisler, Olivia Perez, and Finlay Johnson to the Orthodox Faith. God grant many years to the new members of Holy Spirit Orthodox Church and their godparents: Matushka Mihaela Pejovic, Mark Benda and Maritsa Farren.

Grave Watching Participants

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

Thank you!

Big thanks to Chalet family for their donation of the red Paschal eggs.

Pascha Flowers

Thank you to all parishioners and friends of our Church for the generous Easter flower donations. We will be selling the flowers to everyone who is interested as a gift for a Mother's Day. If you are interested to purchase flowers, please talk with Mark Benda.

HSOC Egg Hunt

Following the Pascha Vespers on Sunday 5th of May, HSOC will have its annual egg hunt. Please bring your youngest.

Eternal be her memory!

Our beloved sister in Christ +Helen Schweizer, fell asleep in the Lord on April 28th, 2024. Funeral service will be held at Holy Spirit Orthodox Church on Friday, May 10th, 2024. Visitation will be in the Church from 9 am to 10 am. The funeral service will start at 10 am. Interment will follow at Russian Orthodox Convent Cemetery, 100 Smith Road, Nanuet, New York.