HOLY CROSS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Sunday, April 16, 2023
Great and Holy PASCHA
+ Sts. Agape, Irene, and Chionia
Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Festal (Mark 16:1-8)
Mode of the Week: Festal/Της Εορτής

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)
Epistle Reading

This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein. Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Ps. 117)

The reading is from the Acts of the Apostles. (1:1-8)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which the Father has fixed by his own authority.

Great and Holy Pascha

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.' ") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

ΟΧΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗΣ! ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗΣ!

Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- Great and Holy PASCHA
- The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the center of Christian faith, Saint Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and faith are in vain (1 Cor. 15:14). Indeed, without the resurrection there would be no Christian preaching or faith. The disciples of Christ have would have remained the broken and hopeless band which the Gospel of John describes as being a 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 no flesh and bones as you see that I have” (Luke 24:39). Pascha is the inauguration of a new age. It reveals the mystery of the incarnation, the death and resurrection of Christ. In the Paschal services, the resurrection is performed, and the paschal hymns are sung. The Christ is our victory over death and rose again for us


- Hymn of the Resurrection (Χριστὸς ανέστη, Προλαβούσαι τον όρθρον, Ει και εν τάφω, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζωὴν χαρισάμενος).

Professional and Your Memorial Services

PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Fr. Angelo, Panteleimon, Msgr. Michael, Dimitrios, Georgios Pavlos, Pete, Jill, David, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Alex, Chris, Dianna, Keith, Jannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Samuel, Hermione, Emmanuel, Mary, Adrienne, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Sedky, Mena, Austin, Kyle, Garrett, Andy, Heather, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Raymond, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley

Prayers for those recently reposed:

- Alexis (+March 5), Jane (+March 17), Tasos (+March 21)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

- Katina B.

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Weeky Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. Gregory the Theologian on the Feast of Feasts (Pascha): “Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him; yesterday I died with Him; today I am quickened with Him; yesterday I was buried with Him; today I rise with Him. But let us offer to Him Who suffered and rose again for us— you will think perhaps that I am going to say gold, or silver, or woven work or transparent and costly stuff and the mentioned precious stones of the earth, that remains here below, and is for the most part always possessed by bad men, slaves of the world and of the Prince of the world. Let us offer our selves, the possession most precious to God, and most fitting; let us give back to the Image what is made after the Image. Let us recognize our Dignity, let us know the power of the Mystery, and for what Christ died.”

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

Pascha: Tassie Cantrell, Chloe Goss, Stacey Anne Goss

April 18: Cornelius Chirescu

April 19: Georgia Karras

April 21: Sofia Danforth, Christine Sprouse, Mina Stewart

Anniversaries—Congratulations! None in the Records

Precedings for Holy Confession:

call or email Fr. to schedule

Office Days: Tuesday through Friday: call or email Fr. for appointment

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

(If you have a celebration that did not make it into the bulletin, please e-mail Fr. Theodore!)

Announcements:

- Shuts: If you know of anyone who is unable to come to the Church because of illness, age, or any other reason, please contact Fr. Theodore so that he can visit with them, pray with them, and administer to them the Holy Mysteries.

- Greek Spring Fling this coming Saturday, 11am to 8pm! Please come attend especially Youth, Young Adult, and Not So Young!

- YOUTH: Egg Hunt on Pascha after Agape Vespers! Spring Fling gyro sale is counting on the GOYA’s for their help! Sign up link is in the email from the office.

- Coin Boxes to support the work of OCMM (Orthodox Christian Mission Center) are available for pick up coffee hour (room where the food/coffee is). These will be collected after Pascha.

- Pascha/Easter: Easter Egg Hunt and Pascha Lunchenae later today after the Agape Vespers. Please plan on attending so that we can celebrate the greatest day of the Church year together as a Church Family!

- Philoptochos Elections will be taking place next month in May. There are also still some Tsoureka available by donation.

- Fr. Theodore will be out of town this coming week from Monday to Wednesday.