

The Great and Glorious Resurrection of our Lord God and Saviour Jesus Christ (Holy Pascha)

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Paschal Apolytikion (Tone 5)

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Hapakoe of Pascha (Tone 4)

They who were with Mary came before the dawn, found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, and heard the angels say unto them: Why seek ye Him as man with the dead, Who dwells in light eternal? Behold the grave wrappings; make haste and declare to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath caused death to die; for He is the Son of God, the Savior of mankind.

Kontakion of Pascha (Tone 8)

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointmentbearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

Daily Readings

THE EPISTLE (for Pascha)

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein!

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endureth forever.

The Reading from the Acts of the Holy 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, He said, "You heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

THE GOSPEL (for Pascha)

The Reading of the Holy Gospel is according to St. John (1:1-17)

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 the flesh, 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.

Next Sunday is Thomas Sunday

Saturday, May 4th, Great Vespers, 3 p.m.

Sunday, May 5th, Orthros, 8:45 a.m., Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m.

The Epitaphios (*E-pee-TAH-fee-os*), which has been placed on the altar – representing the Tomb of Christ, will remain on the altar until the Feast of the Ascension (Thursday, June 6th). At that time, the image of Christ will be returned to the Cross. The image of the entombed Christ, however is a permanent part of the altar as the “tablecloth” (Antimension; *Anti-MEN-see-on*), resting under the Gospel Book. It is opened for the “anaphora” (time of the offering in the Liturgy), or the second part of the Divine Liturgy when the bread and wine are placed on the altar for consecration. It is a cloth signed by the Metropolitan Archbishop and is the church’s credentials as a canonical Orthodox Church of Apostolic succession.

A WORD WE NEED TO KNOW: PASCHA (*PAAS-kah*)

Easter is the focal point of the church calendar when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The word *Pascha* is the Aramaic derivation of the Hebrew word: *Pesach*, which means Passover. Jesus and most of the early Christians spoke Aramaic, and as the faith spread, the word was retained. We understand Christ to be our *passage* (or Passover) from death to life, our Pascha!

Leaves on the floor?

At the morning service of Holy Saturday, the triumphant announcement of Christ’s victory over death is heard with the fanfare, “Arise, O God, and judge the earth...” followed by the Great Prokeimenon: “Who is so great a god as our God! Thou art the God who doest wonders!” Bay leaves are scattered throughout the church during a procession with verses sung that speak of all of creation being renewed. The throwing of the leaves throughout the church is a sign of the entrance of the King (as was done in the early Roman world when the King returned from a victorious battle). The colors of the church are changed from dark to light, and the doors of the altar in tonight’s service remain open as a sign of the empty tomb. They will remain open throughout all of the next week, called: “Bright Week,” and closed at sundown on “Bright Saturday,” the eve of Thomas Sunday.

“Renewal Week”

The week following Easter in the Orthodox Church is a full celebration of Christ’s Resurrection. The entire week is known as “Bright Week” or “Renewal Week” because the entire creation is renewed in Christ. During the coming week and for the next forty days there is no fasting at all. From the period of Easter to the Feast of the Ascension (Thursday June 6th), Orthodox Christians greet each other with “Christ is Risen!” and the response: “Truly, He is risen!” During this period we also do not kneel in private or congregational prayer. Traditionally, a Divine Liturgy is held with a Paschal procession every day during Bright Week. The unique character of the season is heard in all services: funerals, baptisms, weddings, etc.

OFFERINGS

Holy Bread is offered by Farid Najjar with prayers in memory of Antonios, Badia, Michel, Saidi, and his nephew, Leo (+September, 2018). Memory eternal.

Holy Bread is offered by Dr. Samir & Amira Boutari in loving memory of Amira's mother, Evonne Latif (+24 April, 2014). Memory eternal.

Special offerings and requests for prayer are being made . . .

for the repose of the newly-departed Kyle Jeagar (+23 April, 2019), beloved grandson of Ted & Cecelia Coudsy. Memory eternal.

by Katrina & John Tambouras for the continued health of the Habib and Tambouras families, and in loving memory of: Matthew Tambouras (+23 April, 2016) and Gregory Habib (+18 January, 2019).
Memory eternal.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

"Agape" / "Baouth" Vespers – Sunday, April 28th, 11 a.m.

[Note: The Annual Church School "Search for the Empty Egg" will follow.]

Thanks to All!

We sincerely thank everyone who assisted with all that was needed to be done in preparing the church for our worship services throughout Great Lent and Holy Week. We especially thank our choirs and directors, Sub-deacons, ushers, altar servers, readers, and decorators.

Paschal "Agape" Breakfast

After receiving the final blessing at the end of the Liturgy, you are invited to attend our "pot luck" Agape meal. Proceeds of the Breakfast each year are made to the "Food for the Hungry People."

Parish Council Paschal Dinner Meeting - Monday, May 6th; 6:30 p.m.
[at a restaurant to be determined and announced]

**St. Michael Antiochian Orthodox Church
of the San Fernando Valley**

16643 Vanowen Street, Van Nuys, California 91406-4622

April 28, 2019

Beloved in Christ,

With great joy we proclaim that Christ is risen! **المسيح قام! Χριστος ανέστη!**
Χριστος Воскресе! Cristo ha resucitado! Hristos a înviat! Ua ala hou 'o Kristo!
Truly, He is risen!

In the words of Saint John Chrysostom: "...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... It took a Body and it met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen..."

I want to express my sincere thanks for everyone's participation in helping to make our Paschal celebration this year triumphant. As we have heard in the Paschal proclamation: "...for lo, through the Cross, joy has come into all the world! Ever blessing the Lord let us sing His Resurrection! For in that He has endured the Cross, He has destroyed death by Death!

Celebrating comes with whole hearted preparation. The more the preparation, the greater the celebration. Our time together during Great Lent and Holy Week this Fiftieth year in the history of our parish has again been glorious. We pray that we will be able to celebrate the Feast in our new church sanctuary in the next year. Our ability to fulfill this task will be achieved as God wills through our dedication and commitment. I am truly thankful for those of you who have been faithful in fulfilling their pledge to our Capital Funds Campaign and all who have been regular contributors to our project. The many sacrifices of our founders and faithful parishioners through the years have thankfully helped us to begin a new era in the life of our parish. Our community continues to grow and all of our ministries are involving many of our new members by offering their talents and skills in service. There are many

opportunities for everyone to have a part in the many tasks ahead of us for the glory of God.

I trust that this has been a meaningful season of illumination for you and your family. May the joy of the Paschal Feast fill your life with all that God truly desires for us: those imperishable gifts that are truly not of this world.

Christ is risen!

Father Timothy Baclig

Pastor

St. Michael 50th Anniversary Golf Classic - May 13

The St. Michael Golf Classic is our largest annual fundraiser and we need your help for its success. This year the Golf Classic is celebrating our parish's 50th Anniversary and will again take place at the Woodland Hills Country Club. The evening will be filled with fun and fellowship with friends. A barbecue dinner will be followed with raffles, auctions and awards for our golfers. How can you help?

1) consider a donation toward our Golf Ball Raffle. Each golf ball recipient will receive a prize equivalent to its purchase price of \$50. One of the golf balls will reward the winner a free trip Grand Prize! Donations of gift cards and cash are being received for the Golf Ball Raffle. Consider giving your unused or newly purchased Gift Cards or your donation to DeAnne Abraham at: <dmarieabe@aol.com> or 818-389-0065; 2) consider a donation toward our Chinese Auction Baskets. In years past, these baskets have consisted of a Money Tree, Disney gift items, including tickets to Disneyland, a wine basket, picnic basket, golf basket, sports basket, cooking basket, restaurant basket, religious basket, Starbucks basket, Trader Joe basket, and many others. Each basket must be at least \$75 in value with an itemized list of its contents. Please let Sean O'Dea know if you are able to make a donation by contacting him at: <guinnessodea@gmail.com> or 818-642-7278.

Food for the Hungry Collection

All Food for the Hungry collection boxes should now be turned in to the Church Office. Please write your name on your box or write a check for the total amount of your collection earmarked "FFHP" for credit on your Contribution Statement. Thanking you in advance for your support.

Note to Coffee Hour hosts: coffee and paper goods will be provided each week.

Holy Bread Offering List

May 05 - open
May 12 - open
May 19 - open
May 26 - The Azzam, Hallak
and Tannous families

Coffee Hour Hosts Calendar

May 05 - The Castillo family
May 12 - open
May 19 - open
May 26 - The Azzam, Hallak and
and Tannous families

Please contact Fr. Timothy (818/219-3761; pastor@stmichaelvannuys.org) to sign-up to offer Holy Bread and Cindy Tamoush at: (818-345-4363; famtam5@soval.rr.com) to sign-up for the Coffee Hour.