

# GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

May 2, 2021

**Saints Commemorated today:** Removal of the Relics of St. Athanasios the Great; Hesperos & Zoe the Righteous; Boris, King & Enlightener of Bulgaria (Michael in Baptism) and Jordan the Wonderworker

## EPISTLE READING

Acts 1:1-8

In the first book, O Theophilos, 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 of 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."

## GOSPEL READING

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.

## EASTER/PASCHA APOLITIKION:

Christ has risen from the dead, by death trampling upon death and to those in the tombs He has bestowed life.

## KONTAKION OF PASCHA

Though you descended into the grave O Immortal One, You destroyed the power of Hades; and you rose as Victor, O Christ our God. To the Myrrh-Bearing Women You said; Rejoice! And to Your Apostles You granted Your peace, the One who grants Resurrection to the fallen ones.**FOURTH MODE**

As the first-called of the Apostles, and brother of their leader O Andrew, entreat the Master of all that peace be granted unto the world and great mercy to our souls.



### **HOLY WEEK/PASCHA SEATING**

In case of any possible increase in attendance this week, I have asked Manoilis Anagnostou and Chris Strafford to guide seating and during Holy Communion to ensure we maintain Covid protocols. I ask that everyone work together with them by sitting with those you have already been spending time with and following any guidance Manolis or Chris may give. If you have any questions or concerns as you are entering or approaching for Holy Communion, please direct them to Manolis or Chris. Thank you for your cooperation, Fr. John

### **PHILANTHROPY AT ST ANDREW**

The Saint Andrew Philoptochos Chapter wishes a most blessed Resurrection to our church family. May you celebrate a wonderful Pascha with your friends and family and may God's love grace you and yours for many, many years. Thank you for all you do to support the philanthropic ministry of our church, spreading Christ's light and love to our parishioners and our local community.

### **PROSFORO COMMITTEE**

We are in need of parishioners willing to join the Prosforo Committee. If needed, we will do an instructional class for anyone who would like to join but is not sure how to prepare the Prosforo. Generally it means making the Prosforo for four Sundays during the year (2 every six months) and occasionally making extra for weekday Liturgies. The more who sign up the less often each individual will need to cover a Sunday. Please contact the office if you are able to volunteer. Thank you.

Jesus is the Bread of Life Who offers Himself for our salvation. "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink His blood you have no life in you; he who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:53-54).

### **DISCRETIONARY FUND**

The Discretionary Fund is to assist local parishioners (individuals, and families) that have encountered financial hardship. If you would like to help please contact Father John or make donations payable to the Discretionary Fund.

### **VISITING SAINT ANDREW?**

People of different religious affiliation or tradition are always welcome at the liturgical services of our Holy Orthodox Church. If you are interested in learning more about Orthodoxy or have specific questions, please set up a time to speak with Father John.

### **YOUR PRAYERS HELP...**

"...I was sick and you visited Me..." St. Matthew 25:36. "Holy Father, Physician of our souls and bodies have mercy, forgive and heal thy servants." The following brothers and sisters in Christ need your constant prayers and love, recovering at home or ill at home/hospital: Vasilios Spentzos (home) and Nick Limberopoulos (home).

In nursing homes or home bound: Artemis Hoke (Westgate Garden), and Amelia Morris (Miller's Merry Manor, Walkerton).

Today's **Ushers** are: Manolis Anagnostou, George Mighion, Chris Strafford, Pete Arvan. If you are not serving in the pangari today, please join everyone in the Sanctuary.

Today's Epistle Lesson will be read by an Altar Boy.

**Maria Giannakakis** prepared the Prosforo for this morning. May our God grant you spiritual joy always.

## THIS WEEK

Friday April 30	Holy Friday Descent from the Cross	2:00pm
Friday April 30	Holy Friday Matins of Holy Saturday and Lamentations	6:00pm
Saturday May 1	Holy Saturday Vesperal Divine Liturgy First Resurrection	9:00am
Saturday May 1	Holy Saturday Canon & Great and Holy Pascha at Midnight	11:15pm
Sunday May 2	Great and Holy Pascha-Anastasi/Resurrection Service	12:00am
Sunday May 2	Great and Holy Pascha <b>HRISTOS ANESTI! ALITHOS ANESTI!</b> Agape Vespers	12:00pm
Monday May 3	Bright Monday and St. George	8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy
Friday May 7	Bright Friday and Theotokos of the Life-Giving Spring <b>At Holy Dormition</b>	8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy
Saturday May 8	Great Vespers	5:00pm
Sunday May 9	Sunday of Thomas	8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy

## LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday May 11	Sts. Methodios and Cyril	9:30am Divine Liturgy
Friday May 14	Small Paraklesis <b>at Holy Dormition</b>	9:30am
Saturday May 15	Great Vespers	5:00pm
Sunday May 16	Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women	8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy
Friday May 21	Sts. Constantine & Helen	8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy

Saturday May 22	Great Vespers	5:00pm
Sunday May 23	Sunday of the Paralytic	8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy
Wednesday May 26	Mid-Pentecost	8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy
Friday May 28	Small Paraklesis	9:30am
Saturday May 29	Great Vespers	5:00pm
Sunday May 30	Sunday of the Samaritan Woman	8:30am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy



## GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF CHICAGO

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### ΙΕΡΑ ΜΗΤΡΟΠΟΛΙΣ ΣΙΚΑΓΟΥ

To the Sacred Clergy, the Monastic Brotherhoods and Sisterhoods, and the blessed laity of the Sacred Metropolis of Chicago.

Beloved fathers and brethren, Beloved children in the Lord,

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

Having reached the final steps of our Lenten Journey to Pascha, we gather on this most blessed day of the Lord's Resurrection from the dead to receive God's universal invitation: *Come, receive the Light!* Overwhelmed by the weight of sin and guilt, we receive with great relief our Lord's message: *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest* (Matt. 11:28).

God's invitation to approach Him is a radical break from the past. In the past, our ancestors hid from God (Gen. 3:10; Ex. 3:6) or were afraid to converse with him (Ex. 20:19); today, we stand upright, gazing directly into the eyes of the Risen Lord. In the past, sacrifices and offerings were offered on altars for the forgiveness of sin; today, the Son of God has offered Himself as ransom (1 Tim 2:6) and sacrifice (Rom. 3:25) for all people. In the past, angels and prophets conveyed God's will to the world; today, the Kingdom of God is within each of us (Luke 17:21)!

Like a caring parent, eager to help a child learn to walk, God stands across from us, stretches forth His arms, and encourages us: ***Come!*** And as sons and daughters, we are moved by the sight of His tender smile and we courageously take our first steps back into His loving embrace.

Beloved friends, the Paschal invitation, *Come, receive the Light*, is nothing less than a divine call to receive and to share God's unconditional love—to enter into a personal and life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ and with each other. As we encounter poverty, injustice, and other forms of suffering in our daily lives, may we respond with love by showing charity, compassion, and by defending the rights of the poor and needy (Proverbs 31:9). As our relationships with our siblings, spouses, and friends are tested, may we respond with love by forgiving those who have wronged us and by showing humility before those we have offended. In so doing, we remain in God's embrace and also become living expressions of the Light of Christ in the world so that others may join us.

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

With paternal blessings and love in the Risen Lord,

† Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago