



# Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

## PASCHA

### *Paschal Troparion*

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

### *Troparion for the Sunday of the Blind Man, Tone 4*

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes, and call to Thee in repentance: "Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness."

### *Sentenced to Immortality by St. Justin Popovich*

Man sentenced God to death; by His Resurrection, He sentenced Man to immortality. In return for a beating, He gives an embrace; for abuse, a blessing; for death, immortality. Man never showed so much hate for God as when he crucified Him; and God never showed more love for man than when he arose. Man even wanted to reduce God to a mortal, but God by His Resurrection made man immortal. The crucified God is Risen and has killed death. Death is no more. Immortality has surrounded man and all the worlds.

— Blessed Justin (Popovich)



## PASCHA CHRIST IS RISEN

**ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΕΓΕΓΡΑΤΗ**  
**BOCKPEE!**

Deus resucitore  
 Et Cristo está recusitado  
 Krisztus Föltámandt  
 Christ est resuscitit  
 Christus ist auferstanden  
 Христос 'Ανέστη  
 Christus prisihele  
 Hristos a inuiat  
 Cristo Resorto  
 Christur er upatigina  
 ΧΡΥΣΤΙ ΡΑΙΓΑΣ  
 Christ is risen  
 ХРИСТОС ВЪЗВУТЫ  
 CHRISTUS RESURREXIT  
 ԲՐԻՍՏՈՍ ՅԱՐԵԱԽԻ Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՑ

حضرت عیسیٰ علیہ السلام ظاہر ہیں  
 المسيح قام  
 耶穌基督已復活  
 耶穌基督已復活

基督已復活  
 耶穌基督已復活

## **Announcements and Activities**

**Great Vespers for the Feast of Ascension**— Wednesday, at 6PM.

**Divine Liturgy for the Feast**— Thursday, at 9AM.

**Great Vespers**— Saturday, at 5:30PM

**Divine Liturgy**— Sunday, at 10AM.

**Parish Council**—met Sunday before last. Treasurer Sunday Ballas presented an April report with a shortfall of around \$300. To date we are a couple of thousand dollars short in our '22 budget. We spent the rest of the meeting discussing new faces in the parish and plans for upcoming events: reflections on our fundraising goals; a July fundraiser of BBQ Tri-Tip that we are planning for-with Jason N. as the pitmaster; our 2022 mortgage reduction campaign, and funding for our ongoing iconography project. The meeting was very productive

**Mortgage Drive**— Last year we met our pledge goal of 20K and church matching funds of 20K. Our goal was to do the mortgage reduction for 2 consecutive years and see if we can't retire the mortgage in 2023. Let's throw the Mortgage Reduction Red Thermometer on the wall in the Hall over the top and be able to say that this facility is totally in possession of God and His people. More about this as we move along. We will conclude this particular drive in September.

**Church School/Adult Ed.**— the last session before the Summer Break took place today. We will resume church school in late September or early October. Fr. Lawrence will discuss it with the teachers.

**Coffee Hours**— This week's Coffee Hour is our mini-potluck. Next Sunday's coffee hour will be sponsored by Svetlana C, as an act of love in memory of her brother Victor, on the occasion of his 40th day memorial.

**Pray for... Hierarch Nikolai (Soraich)**—battling cancer. Samir's friend, **Johnny**, who has been improving in the battle to save his sight. **Brian**, Sunday's brother. **George and Alex**, health problems. **All those who have lost their lives or are suffering as a result of the current Pandemic**. **Archimandrite Alexander**— Fr. Lawrence's long-time father confessor, who reposed. **Our Vladyka Benjamin**— battling on-set parkinsons. **Tsige Roman and Abraham**— I know we are always mindful of Tsige, but please continue to pray for the work and for Ethiopia, torn by civil war, with all the problems that go with a regional terror. **Reposed Jonathan T. George and Alesis**, Brother and Daughter of Peter and Irene S. **Matushka Ioanna R. reposed. Matushka Priscilla**, ill. **Anya J** — a longtime friend of the parish who is ill. **Stephen F.** — battling back pain. **John F.**— battling cancer. **Archpriest Anthony**— battling cancer. **Julie**— sister of Kathy M., battling health problems. **Rhoda's requests** for Douglas and Kayana. **Reposed Constance** — the mother of Andrew F. **Will**— reposed, Michael T.'s brother-in-law. **Reposed Vadim. Christian**— undergoing some medical testing. The reposed— **Novice Nonna, Robbie**— cancer. **Raphael**, cancer. Child **Aidan**— seizures. Child **Henry. Robbie** the cousin of Brian R., who reposed after a battle with cancer. **Louis Joseph M.**, is now home and, thank God, ready to come to church again. **Victor T. reposed on Holy Saturday. Christine**—reposed on Holy Saturday. **Holli**— Reposed. **Reposed Dn. George. Jobie**, cancer

us how Christ raises a person from an earthly, carnal state of mind to the state in which a human being thirsts to worship God and pray to Him. You see, the Samaritan woman came to the well for physical water which satisfies only earthly thirst. But when Christ revealed her sins to her, and she ran to Him in repentance, then in her awakened a spiritual thirst, the thirst for Living Water springing up into everlasting life, the thirst for communion with God, her first question was about prayer: where one should worship God, how to pray.

Now today's Gospel gives us a model for prayer. "As Jesus passed by, He saw a man which was blind from birth" (Jn. 9:1). Being blind from birth he had never seen anyone. He could not imagine to himself the form of a man. He had never even seen Christ. He only knew that Christ was passing close by, that He was a miracle-worker and could give him sight. And he began to cry out, to call to Christ: "Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me!" (Mk. 10:47; Lu. 18:38). The people tried to quiet him; he was interfering with their listening to Christ's preaching, he was disturbing the peace. Christ was walking, surrounded by His disciples, and they asked: "Master, who did sin, this man or his parents, that he was born blind"? Jesus answered, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him..." When He had thus spoken, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And said unto him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (Jn. 9:2-3;6-8)

Let us imagine to ourselves the mental state of this man blind from birth. He cried out, called. They pushed him, maybe even forced him to be silent but he still cried out, begged. Speaking in our terms, he was praying...This is the model of prayer for you and me. After all, we too are spiritually blind and cannot see the Lord. But we know that he exists. Let us call to Him, cry out to Him, begging for help. And let us not despond if this help is not immediately given to us. Maybe we still have to go a long way, not an easy way, like the way for the blind man to the pool of Siloam. On this path we might meet unpleasant things, humiliations, like the clay for the blind man. Let us endure everything. Let us be obedient. Let us do what He orders us to do; let us go the way He showed us, like the blind man's way to the pool of Siloam. And here, when we have fulfilled all this, then the Lord will answer our prayer, and if it pleases Him, will fulfill it. And the same will happen to us that happened to the blind man. When through the circumstances of our life, the Lord asks us, "Dost Thou believe on the Son of God?" (Jn. 9:35), we will answer: We believe Lord! And we will worship Him.

Only Let us avoid all images during the time of prayer. We must not imagine anything to ourselves; but like the blind man, let us just *know* that the Lord is near and that He can do anything. And if things seem to turn out opposite to our prayers, let us not despond. But let us hope, hope against hope. And He will do what is beneficial for us. Let us keep the state of mind of the blind man — this is the best form of prayer.

(Taken from *The Year of Grace of the Lord*, by a Monk of the Eastern Church)

(Taken from the Year of Grace of the Lord, by A Monk of the Eastern Church)

### **From the Lives of the Saints... SAINT ACHILLES, BISHOP OF LARISSA**

Achilles, the great hierarch and miracle-worker, was born in Cappadocia. He participated in

*"There do not exist many or few, nor small or great problems. The only problem is the absence of Christ from our lives" (From the life and teachings of Elder Epiphanius Theodoropoulos)*