



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

The Paschal Troparion

Troparion of PASCHA

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

Kontakion of Pascha, Tone 4

Thou didst descend into the
tomb, O Immortal. Thou didst
destroy the power of death. In
victory Thou didst arise, O
Christ God, proclaiming
“rejoice” to the myrrhbearing
women. Granting peace to thine
apostles and bestowing resurrec-
tion on the fallen

Sentenced to Immortality by St. Justin Popovich

Man sentenced God to death;
by His Resurrection, He sen-
tenced Man to immortality. In
return for a beating, He gives
an embrace; for abuse, a bless-
ing; for death, immortality.
Man never showed so much
hate for God as when he cruci-
fied Him; and God never
showed more love for man than
when he arose. Man even want-
ed to reduce God to a mortal,
but God by His Resurrection
made man immortal. The cruci-
fied God is Risen and has killed
death. Death is no more. Im-
mortality has surrounded man
and all the worlds.

— Blessed Justin (Popovich)



PASCHA
CHRIST IS RISEN

Deus rescucitore
El Cristo está recusitado
حضرت عيسى انقا برهين
Christus lat auferstanden
Jezus Chrystus Zmatwychwstal
Christus prisikéle
Христос 'Авέστη
Hristos a Inviat
Cristo Resorto
المسيح قام
Kristus Föltámadt
Christ est resuscitatus
Christi Ungia
Kristur et upatiginn
ΧΡΥΣΤΙ ΡΑΙΓΑΣ
Christ is risen
ХРИСТОС ВЪСХВЪТЫ
CHRISTUS RESURREXIT
ԲՐԻՍՏՈՍ ՅԱՐԵԱՒ Ի ՄԵՐԵԼՈՅ

キリストが更生した

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

Coffee Hour— This week's Coffee Hour is our monthly potluck. Next week's Coffee Hour will be sponsored by Brian & Kerri and Aaron.

Fundraiser on May 20th— We are very happy to report that yesterday's fundraiser was a great success. Many thanks to the Fadel family for their contributions out of love for their homeland and for the families of the town of Ramah, where most of the Syrians on the Central Coast are from. And many thanks to all of you: who sold tickets and worked for the event. As it happens, the two Syrian Orthodox Bishops that we've met, on their previous visits to America, will be visiting America on Tuesday. It looks like we can send the monies back to the homeland with them.

Parish Council—will meet today, after Coffee Hour.

Church School/Adult Ed— finished the last session for 2022/23. We will take a summer break and begin the 2023/24 church school year in October. Many thanks to our director, Elise R. and to the parents and students that participated. My the Lord bless you and all you learned.

Pray for... Sarah, the daughter of Fr. Lawrence's godfather, health issues. **Youseff and Jimmy— who are ill.** **Matushka Ann Hopko**, reposed. **Jonathan**— ill. **Reposed Barbara Ranjo**. Fr. **And Matushka's Granddaughter Annabella is past her illness, but still needs prayer for the return all body parts to normal.** **Laure— battling Cancer.** **Paul**— ill. **Ralph**—ill. **Archpriest Lawrence**, from Canada, progressive eye disease. **Tsige Roman**— our beloved Tsige reposed on December 3rd. Please keep praying for her homeland of Ethiopia. **Brian**— ill. **Jonathan**— ill. **Katia** — sister of Shkbarra's **Grace**, Heather's goddaughter. **Reposed Priest, James.** **Reposed Hierarch Tikhon . Diane— surgery.** **Rufin**— soldier in Ukraine. **Elise, ill.** **Sally**, surgery, **Reposed Patrick, Reposed Jim, Reposed Alex; Christian**, prayers. **Chris**, reposed. **Galina**, reposed. **Patrick**, reposed. **Clint Arsenios**— reposed. **Heather Mary**— uncommon fatigue

Fifth Sunday of Pascha: Healing of the Blind Man

Last Sunday, the Sunday of the Samaritan woman, the Holy Church told 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

“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)