



Weekly Bulletin

Orthodox Church of the Annunciation

The Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ

Troparion of PASCHA

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

Kontakion of PASCHA Tone 8

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 resurrection on the fallen

Sentenced to Immortality by St. Justin Popovich

Man sentenced God to death; by His Resurrection, God 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.



PASCHA CHRIST IS RISEN

**ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ
ΒΑΨΙΤΕΣ!**

Christ is risen

Deus rescucitore Krisztus Föltámadt
 Et Cristo está recusitado Christ est resuscitatus
 حضرت عیسیٰ انظار ہوئے Christus est resuscitatus
 Christus ist auferstanden Krisztus er újultán
 Jezus Chrystus Zmatwychwstał المسيح قام
 Christus prisikèle Χριστός 'Ανέστη ΧΡΥΣΤΙ ΡΑΙΓΑΣ
 Hristos a Inviat Cristo Resorto
 基督 复活 基督 复活 基督 复活
 ХРИСТОС ВЪСХВЪТЫ CHRISTUS RESURREXIT
 ԲՐԻՍՏՈՍ ՅԱՐԵԱԽ Ի ՄԵՌԵԼՈՑ

Announcements and Activities

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Great Vespers Saturday– 5:30 PM.

Divine Liturgy– Sunday, at 10AM.

Coffee Hour– This week’s Coffee Hour is being sponsored by Luci F. and Michael M. Next week’s Coffee Hour will be our community potluck. Bring your favorite dish.

Parish Council– Today, after Liturgy and Coffee Hour.

Ethnic Food Fair– many thanks and Many Years to all who helped with the parish fundraiser on Saturday. Thanks to those who also worked the sernale on Friday. Your hard work is both appreciated and blessed. We raised around \$3K for the church

Pray for... Sarah, the daughter of Fr. Lawrence’s godfather, health issues. **Youseff and Jimmy**– who are ill. **Archpriest Lawrence**, from Canada, progressive eye disease. **Priscilla and Departed, George. Luci F. bad knee. Newly- Departed Marylyn; ill, Diane, ill, Colin. John Truman**—lightheadedness and a recent fall. , Tom and Amy, who lost their son. **Nicholas, the father of a friend. Rose Marie**– Rachel’s mother, cancer. **Barbara H.**–recovering from a fall. **Claude (Moses)**- in need of housing. **Eleni**—aftermath of a stroke. **Sharon. Baby Archie. Phil**– covid. **Reposed Makhoul. Marius and Lucia. (aka Darrell and Laura Beth) health issues. Todd**, cancer, Anna, his wife. **Micha. Lilly**, mother of Jason, **Ron, reposed**– request from Nina and Don;

A Reflection on Myrrh-bearers Sunday

Today is the feast day devoted to the women who brought spices to Christ’s tomb, and also the day when we honor the memory of Joseph and Nicodemus - two Pharisees, members of the ruling council, who were responsible for burying the Lord. It is the day on which we honor loyalty, for these people alone remained true to the Lord in those first days. Nicodemus and Joseph believed Jesus' message but because formerly they had been afraid openly to express their faith in the coming Kingdom of God, they used to come to Him in secret. You remember how Nicodemus came to Him by night, so that his colleagues would not see that he was visiting the hunted teacher.

Is this not how many of us often come to the Lord, ashamed of the fact and hiding it? I still remember a scene I witnessed many years ago. It was far away, in Siberia, at Easter. That night the church was full to overflowing with people all around it. A professor from a college had come and was standing, like the tax collector, at the back of the crowd. With his collar turned up and his hat pulled down, he crossed himself timidly, glancing about him. His soul was reaching out to the Church but he was afraid. Can we judge him? After all, if someone had caught sight of him there, he would certainly have run into difficulties and complications and might even have lost his job.

Nicodemus must have come by night in the same way. Joseph of Arimathea, who occasionally spoke out in the Savior’s defense against His enemies, was also His secret disciple. They maintained their loyalty to Him through the worst moments of mourning and despair, when all the disciples had abandoned the Lord and fled. Joseph and Nicodemus, risking their reputations, went to Pilate and asked his permission to bury the body of their executed teacher. The bodies of executed criminals were usually thrown into a common grave, but Pilate granted them permission and, as we know, it was Joseph and Nicodemus who carried the Lord’s body to the tomb, which was in a garden.

Meanwhile the women were looking on from afar. They did not dare to come too near. They on the other hand, had been at Golgotha, where few of the Lord’s closest friends had been. The women who stood there supporting the Virgin Mary are almost unknown to us. We know their names: there was Mary from Magdala (Mary Magdalene), there was Joanna, wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, as well as Salome, mother of the apostles James and John, and some other women from Galilee. They stood on the hill of Golgotha and watched their Lord and teacher dying. They saw where His body was placed and agreed among themselves that after the Sabbath, on which buying and selling were forbidden, they would buy spices, anoint the Lord’s body and say their own prayers of mourning (for Joseph and Nicodemus had been able only to say hurried prayers before sunset).

It is amazing that it was to these women that the Lord appeared first, appearing only later to Peter and the others. That is what the Evangelists tell us. It is true that the Apostle Paul says He first appeared to Peter, but by this he meant that Peter was the first among the apostles to see Him; Paul simply does not mention Mary Magdalene. However, as you know, the women were carrying what was necessary for burial - “myrrh” - which is why we call them the spice bearers, and they were the ones who saw Him first. ...

Amen.

“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)