



# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH



*A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople*

Father Dave Urban, *Pastor*

Very Reverend Father John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*

Subdeacon Ryan Ferko

Timothy Martin, Reader

Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*

Lawrence Martin, *Parish Council President*

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## “Early Edition” of “THE VOICE” Our Parish Monthly Newsletter

*John the Baptist said, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ (Jn 1:23)*

### A warm welcome to our visitors!

Christ Is Risen! (*responded with: Indeed, He Is Risen!*)

Christos Voskrese! (*Voistinu Voskrese!*)

We are happy that you have joined us today! It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God’s Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop again soon! Please see Fr. Dave if you have any questions in regards to Orthodoxy or our worship.

### BULLETIN IS OFFERED:

For Peace In This World

Dearest Family of St. John’s,

Christ is risen! (*Indeed He is risen!*) May the Truth that Christ is risen and His Love guide you today and beyond!

Have a blessed Bright Week & Paschal season! Hristos a înviat! (*Adevărat a înviat!*)

With Love, Maria, Sophia, Paňi Alexandra, and Father Dave



### UPCOMING SERVICES

#### PASCHA – THE FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 24, 2022

9:00 am Resurrection Matins

~9:30 am Paschal Divine Liturgy

Blessing of Baskets (*upstairs in the church*)

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#### A FAST FREE Week! *Let us Imitate Christ and the*

*Saints and Feast (in moderation) as they did!*

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#### BRIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 25

9:30am Paschal Liturgy with Gospel Procession

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#### BRIGHT TUESDAY, APRIL 26

canceled 7:00 pm Akathist to the Resurrection



## CHRIST IS RISEN!

*Christ is Risen From The Dead, Trampling  
Down Death By Death And To Those In The  
Tombs Bestowing Life!*

## INDEED HE IS RISEN!

### PASCHAL COMMEMORATIONS

(remembered at Proskomedie - the Preparation Prayers for the Divine Liturgy)

**Processional Candles** For The Health Of Our Parish Family

**Censer (Kadilo) Incense** In Memory Of The Pavilonis, Neimer, & Knoll Families

**Censer (Kadilo) Charcoal** In Memory Of The Departed From Our Parish

**Vesperal Loaves** In Memory Of The Departed In Ukraine

**Priest’s Paschal Triple Candle** In Memory Of Departed From The Mirilovich And Kuneman Families

**Eucharistic Bread (Prosphoran)** In Memory Of Our Loved Ones

**Sacramental Wine** In Memory Of The Departed From Urban And Popescu Families

**Altar Candelabras** In Memory Of +Nicholas & +Anna Buhonick

**Tall Decorated Altar Candles** In Memory Of The Gaydos Family

**Small Decorated Altar Candles** In Memory Of +Olga Radick

**Altar Flowers** In Memory Of +John & +Helen Kailyar

**Altar Flowers** In Memory Of +Peter & +Katherine Silon

**Altar Server Candles** In Memory Of Departed From The Hudak Family

**Preparation Table Candles** In Memory Of +Jack & +Viola Peifer

**Iconostasis Candles** In Memory Of +Lawrence & +Anastasia Martin

**Decorated Tetrapod Candles** In Memory Of +Anthony & +Dorothy Horbal And +Joseph & +Anne Shuster

**Tetrapod Flowers** For The Health Of The Horbal And Shuster Families

**Festive Oil** For The Health Of The Paieski Family

#### BRIGHT THURSDAY, APRIL 28

7:00 pm Paschal Vespers

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#### BRIGHT FRIDAY, APRIL 29

9:30am Paschal Liturgy

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#### ST. THOMAS SUNDAY, MAY 1

9:30 am Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20; Gospel: John 20:19-31

Liturgical Color: **White**

Breaking of the Artos Bread

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***There is no kneeling in prayer***

***for 50 days***

***and omit “O Heavenly King” from your prayers***



## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions to Fr. Dave by Wednesday)

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\*\*\* **THANKA YOU!** to everyone who shared their stewardship of time, talents, and treasures to make the church a beautiful place to be for the Feast of Feasts, Pascha! From those who got the pussy willows ready, to landscaping around the church, to preparing and decorating the grave for Good Friday, to bringing in food for our Paschal Pot-Luck meal today:

You Are All Appreciated! Christ is risen!

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\*\*\* **Kneeling and “O Heavenly King”** – Starting today, we do not kneel in prayer or recite “O Heavenly King” until the Feast of Pentecost.

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\*\*\* **Bright Monday Procession** - we celebrate the 2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Pascha with Divine Liturgy and the Paschal Procession when we read the Gospel to the four corners of the world. This procession was the *original* Easter procession! It predates the processions at Great Friday Vespers and at the Resurrection Matins by many centuries! Services begin at 9:30.

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\*\*\* **Cemetery Grave Blessings** has been changed to **Sunday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>**. We will celebrate a Panachida after Liturgy and then head to the cemeteries after coffee social. \*\*\* *If your loved ones are not at one of the two nearby cemeteries, please schedule a time with Fr. Dave to meet (if possible) before the Feast of Ascension.*

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\*\*\* **Calling All Graduates** – Please notify Fr. Dave of your graduation information by **May 15**.

High School Students: *your High School, any academic and/or athletic awards, and where you will attend in the Fall with your intended major in college (or undecided at this time).* Trade School, College, Graduate and Post-Graduate Students: *where you went, your field of study, and degree you will earn.*

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## PASCHAL GREETING:

(use instead of ‘hello’, before ‘good morning’, etc.)

**Christ is risen!**

(responded with: **Indeed He is risen!**)

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## ACRY NEWS

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**Basket Raffle Returns!** – Details are being finalized for the return of the Italian Feast and Basket Raffle to be held on **Saturday, May 21**. Doors will open at 3pm with dinner starting at 4pm and the raffle of over 20 amazing baskets to follow. For reservations or more information, please call or text 412-748-0148 or email OrthodoxPittsburgh1932@gmail.com.

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\* **Bowling Tournament** - This year's Metropolitan, Orestes Memorial Bowling Tournament, which will take place on Memorial Day Weekend, **May 27-30**, is a collaboration between Camp Nazareth and Saint John's parish in Hermitage. (Events throughout the weekend will take place in Hermitage and Mercer, PA; and nearby Brookfield, OH.) It should be noted that deadlines for all paperwork and reservations is **APRIL 26**. It will be the first of a kind to be hosted in part by Camp Nazareth. You do not have to be members of the ACRY to participate. If you have any questions, please contact the Bowling Tournament Committee at [acrybowling2022@gmail.com](mailto:acrybowling2022@gmail.com). Additional information can also be found at: [www.acrod.org/organizations/senioracry/acryn-e/acrycomeingevents/bt-2022](http://www.acrod.org/organizations/senioracry/acryn-e/acrycomeingevents/bt-2022) **If you are interested in being a part of the weekend, please contact Lynn Mainolfi or Subdeacon Ryan Ferko**

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**Pill Bottle Collection** – Our ACRY continues it's outreach to “Matthew 25: Ministries” who accepts donations of **CLEAN AND EMPTY** plastic medicine pill bottles for inclusion in shipments of medical supplies to countries in need. **PLEASE MAKE SURE THE LABEL IS REMOVED AND IT IS NOT STICKY.** Our pill bottle program fulfills the dual needs of improving medical care in developing countries and caring for our environment. *Contact Theresa Sharpless or Fr. Dave for more information.*

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\*\*\* **Garden Blessing** – Speaking of looking ahead – plan to have your garden blessed! (*The format of the blessing is similar to our annual home blessing.*) Please contact Fr. Dave if you are interested.

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\*\*\* **Annual Church Picnic** – “The Cabin” in North Park is booked for **Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>** for our summer picnic. Please update your calendars to the new date.

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\*\*\* **2022 Garage Sale** – This year's garage sale will be on **August 12-14**. Please begin bringing your donations in to the church hall starting on **Sunday, May 22**.

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\*\*\* **90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Update** – Planning continues for our upcoming celebration on **October 9, 2022**. The luncheon will be held at Pittsburgh's Grand Hall at the Priory on the North Side. If you have suggestions for favors, a program book, or photo slide show, etc., please see Gina Fall or Larry Martin.

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\*\*\* **Healthy Snacks** – The variety of “grab-n-go” snacks for our coffee social are getting low. Please consider bringing in a box of something for us to share.

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\* **Pirohi** – St George Ukraine Catholic Church (3455 California Ave.) sells Pirohi every Thursday & Friday. Call 412-766-8801 for the available varieties.

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**Speaking With Your Priest** - Please know you can call me anytime if there is something troubling you. It is not a sign of weakness to share something that may be heavy on your heart or mind. As a priest and Father to our parish, I am here for you. Please call if you need someone to listen or to pray with you. Every heart has a cross and you do not need to carry it alone. Please also call if you have an idea for the growth of our parish. I am praying for you and am grateful for your prayers. With love in the risen Lord, Fr. Dave

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*Bright Monday's Spiritual Vitamin:*

**CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING  
DOWN DEATH BY DEATH AND UPON THOSE IN  
THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE!**

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## LOOKING FURTHER AHEAD



Some 2022 dates of interest:

- ??? ?? – Graduate Sunday
- May 18 – Feast of Mid-Pentecost
- May 22 – Cemetery Blessing (**\*Date Change**)
- Jun. 2 – Feast of Ascension
- Jun. 3-5 – Family Camp at Camp Nazareth
- Jun. 5 – Family Day at Camp Nazareth
- Jun. 7 – Feast of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Finding of the Head of St. John
- Jun. 11 – 5<sup>th</sup> All Soul Saturday
- Jun. 12 – Feast of Pentecost
- Jun. 13 – Pentecost Monday (Gospel Procession)
- Jun. 12-18 – Fast Free Week
- Jun. 12-18 - Science and Nature Week at Camp Nazareth (**\*Date Change**)
- Jun. 20 – Apostles' Fast begins
- Jun 26-29 - Young Women's Encounter; and Altar Boy Retreat
- Jul. 7 – Feast of the Nativity of St John
- Jul. 12 – Feast of Saints Peter and Paul
- Jul. 17 – Pgh. Deanery Week at Camp Nazareth
- Jul. 31 – Church Picnic at “The Cabin” in North Park
- Aug. 2 – Feast of the Holy Prophet Elias
- Aug. 7 – Annual Blessing of Vehicles
- Aug. 7 – Annual Blessing of Students and Teachers
- **Aug. 14** – Dormition Fast Begins, the Lesser Blessing of Water, & **Home Blessings begin**
- Aug. 19 – Feast of the Transfiguration
- Aug. 21 – Blessing of Fruit and Vegetables
- Aug. 28 – Feast of the Dormition; Blessing of Flowers and Herbs

***Please, Save the Dates!***

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**Bulletin Sponsor** – If you wish to sponsor a bulletin In Honor of (nameday, birthday, anniversary, etc.) or In Memory of someone, please do so by signing up on the sheet in the church hall or by contacting Fr. Dave (email, text, or call). An additional stewardship offering to the Church is requested.

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### OUR STEWARDSHIP GIFTS TO GOD

Stewardship Offerings:	\$ 1618
Candle Stewardship:	\$ 628
Envelope Stewardship:	\$ 759
Community Outreach:	\$ 60
<b>Total Collections:</b>	<b>\$ 3065</b>
<b>Capital Improvement Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 10</b>
<b>Relocation Fund:</b>	<b>\$ 100</b>

*In faith that God provides:*

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work. As it is written, 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures for ever.'" – 2 Cor. 9:8-9

**Weekly Candle Intentions / Memorials** were offered last week by Nelson Family; Lawrence Martin; Eleanor Sanger; Melanie Shuster; Mary Jane Hudak; Bobbie Kruchkevich; Patty Watson; Mike Puhac; Cindy Pavilonis.

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*"I am the light of the world;  
he who follows Me will not walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life." - John 8:12*

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**The Eternal Lamp** was offered last week by Melanie Paieski in memory of her mother, Catherine Gaydos; and by Matthew Peifer in memory of parents, +Jack and +Viola Peifer. May Their Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamyat!

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**The Christ Cross Candles** were offered last week Anonymously in thanksgiving for God's blessings upon anonymous donors. Many Years!

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**On-Line Giving** is available from our parish website to donate to the: *General Stewardship Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, and/or Relocation Fund.* The best option is to come to church and give your offering to God in His Temple (2<sup>nd</sup> best is to mail it in to Tim Martin, 2225 McAleer Rd., Sewickley, PA 15143). If you miss coming to church for a week, online giving allows you another option to "catch up" on your weekly stewardship. You can also set up a recurring donation online. For our parish to continue it's ministries, outreach, and general bill paying, your generosity and stewardship is needed.

**\*\*\* Clergy Convocation** - Fr. Dave will be attending the Clergy Convocation at Camp Nazareth from May 3-6 (Tuesday afternoon to Friday afternoon). In case of a pastoral emergency, since cell reception is very poor at the camp, either call the camp (724-662-4840) or Fr. John Charest (847-910-7120)

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### RELOCATION UPDATE

As the spring season is upon us, the real estate market tends to expand. If you are driving around the 79 corridor and you see something pop up that you think would be great for the church to consider – please contact Sharon Peifer, Matt Peifer, Larry Martin, or Fr. Dave as soon as you see it!

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### ORTHODOXY AROUND THE 'BURGH AND OUR DIOCESE

**\*\*\* 100th Anniversary** - Mark your calendars for St. John the Baptist in Ambridge's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration on **July 10, 2022**. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in placing an ad in the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program book or attending the July 10 banquet, please contact John Righetti as soon as possible (email: rusynone@gmail.com or call / text: 412-518-7149)

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**\*\* Camp Nazareth Events** - Save these dates as Camp Nazareth returns to its full schedule this year!

- Diocesan Religious Education Conference: **April 29-May 1**
- Diocesan Deacons, Sub-deacons and Readers' Retreat: **May 6-8**
- Diocesan St. Symeon's Seniors Retreat: **May 10-12** (*Open to anyone over age 55*)
- Diocesan Family Camp: **June 3-5**
- Diocesan Family Day: **June 5**
- Science and Nature Camp: **June 12-18** (*Open to anyone ages 8-18*) **\*Date Change**
- Pittsburgh Diocesan Camping Week: **July 17-23**
- Foster Kids Camp: **August 14-19**
- Young Adult Retreat: **October 28-30** (*Open to anyone ages 18-35*)
- ACRY Encounter: **November 11-13** (*Open to anyone ages 8-18*)

**\*\*\* Senior Retreat at CN** which will take place at Camp Nazareth Retreat and Conference Center in Mercer, PA from **May 10-12**. The Retreat will feature keynote addresses by Very Rev. Proto. Kenneth Bachofsky. His Eminence Metropolitan Gregory is inviting all our diocesan "Seniors", **ages 55 and over**, to join him for 2 days of fellowship, prayer, and fun. The Theme of the Retreat – **"Coping with Change: Staying Faithful No Matter What!"** will help our Seniors navigate the many challenges they face all while remaining focused on and committed to our Lord. Online Registration is currently open!! Visit [2022 Senior Retreat Registration](#) to register for the event. Participants will also be able to register by mail. Visit [campnazareth.org](#) or acrod.org for more information. You may also call (724-662-4840) or email the Camp at [campnazareth@acrod.org](#) for more information. Don't miss out on our third annual Senior Retreat! Registration closes Friday, May 6.

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**\*\*\* Camp Nazareth Family Camp 2022** - Family Camp is exactly what it sounds like: Families "camping" together in the Camp cabins and participating in a weekend of services, games, discussions, activities and challenges that are all designed to help families deepen their relationship with God and with one another. This year's theme – **"Finding Peace Where it Matters Most: Your Own Home!"** The schedule includes time to pray together, have fun together, as well as learn and talk about the theme. Kids and parents will have their own activities and discussions as well as time together. Family Camp is from **Friday through Sunday, June 3-5**. Don't miss out on this opportunity for you and your family. Space is limited to the first 10 families, so register soon. Registration is currently open! Register at: [2022 Family Camp Registration](#) Visit [campnazareth.org](#) for more information. Registration closes on May 27.

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**\*\*\* Camp Nazareth Family Day 2022** will be on Sunday, June 5. Fellowship and Fun All Day! Divine Liturgy will be at 10am. There will be great food, music entertainment, swimming, craft activities, games, and more! The pricing for lunch is as follows: Adults: \$10; Children 5-13: \$6; Children Under 5: Free; Family Price: \$30 (*Includes 2 Parents & All Children Under Age 13*)

*Paschal Greeting in Church Slavonic:*  
Christos voskrese! (*Voistinu voskrese!*)  
If greeted in a language you are unfamiliar with,  
translate, respond in English, then learn the response

*Bright Tuesday's Spiritual Vitamin:*  
"The cross is the sole path to the Resurrection"  
Metropolitan Saba (Esber)

**\*\*\* Pittsburgh Deanery Week at Camp Nazareth** is **July 17-23**. Registration for all campers, ages 8-18 has begun. Information is available on the Camp's Website: [campnazareth.org](#).

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**\*\*\* 2022 Young Women's Encounter** - Registration is now open for the Annual Diocesan Young Women's Encounter which will take place from **Sunday, June 26th to Wednesday, June 29th**, at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Windber, PA. We encourage our young women, ages 12-18 to attend. Registration Deadline is Monday, June 6. Register at: [tinyurl.com/ACRODYWE22](#). *The YWE planning committee will host an Informational Call on Monday, May 23rd at 7pm EST for any new or returning parents who would like to know more about what the YWE offers and what is planned for this year. Informational Call sign up: tinyurl.com/YWE22InfoCall*

### VISIT OUR DIOCESE ON-LINE

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](#)  
Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](#)  
FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddioecese](#)  
Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](#)  
YouTube: [youtube.com/acroddioecese](#)

### STEWARDSHIP SNIPPET

**Thoughts on Stewardship** by Dan Hromyak  
"Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.'" (John 20:21) Peace - the first gift of the risen Lord. Just as Jesus sent the apostles out into the world, so too, He sends us. As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be compassionate and merciful; and not with just those who are our friends, but also with our "enemies." Think of someone in your life who you need to reconcile with. Call them right now or better yet, go visit them.

*Paschal Greeting in Greek:*  
Khristós anésti! (*Alithós anésti!*)

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## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

*Epistle: Acts 1:1-8*

### The Promise of the Holy Spirit

**1** In the first book, O The-oph'ílus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, <sup>2</sup>until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>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, <sup>5</sup>for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

### The Ascension of Jesus

<sup>6</sup>So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>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 Samar'ia and to the end of the earth."

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*Gospel: John 1:1-17*

### The Word Became Flesh

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God; <sup>3</sup>all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

<sup>9</sup>The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world

was made through him, yet the world knew him not. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. <sup>12</sup>But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>(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.'") <sup>16</sup>And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. <sup>17</sup>For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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## LIVING ORTHODOXY

### Think about Bright Week and beyond!

*by Father Theophan Whitfield*

With Pascha comes the true light that enlightens the whole world and each person in it. As we unite ourselves to Christ, the radiance of the Resurrection changes everything. The week after Pascha is truly a Bright Week — the Resurrection colors all with brilliance and beauty. Nothing should ever be the same. Let this past Holy Week be a launching pad into the rest of life. Having united ourselves to Christ in both death and resurrection — having lived out our baptism through the celebration of Holy Week — we should get ready to proclaim the good news in all that we do. **May we remember that every Sunday is a "little Pascha" and that each time we gather to celebrate the Liturgy we proclaim Christ's death and we confess His Resurrection.** And if every Sunday is a little Pascha, then every week is a little Holy Week. Each day of the year is a day on which we give thanks for the Holy Mysteries we last received and look forward to being received by Christ once again at the life-giving chalice. Holy Week and Pascha occur once a year, but they are the rule, not the exception. Holy Week and Pascha are the models for every week of the year. Jesus Christ touches all of time through the Cross, and all of time collapses into the eternal now of His divine love. **May we live all of life in the light of the Resurrection!**

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### Guidelines for the Paschal Season

*By Fr. Dn. David Keim*

**Paschal Hours** - During Bright Week, our normal prayer rules are altered. The standard Morning and Evening Prayers, the prayers of the Hours, Compline, the Midnight Office, and, according to some traditions, the prayers of thanksgiving after communion, should be replaced with the Paschal Hours. (*The Paschal Hours can be found on the prayer page.*) This office of prayer is brief, beautiful, and full of elements taken from the Paschal services. It is intended that praying the Paschal Hours are to give one a respite from the longer prayers he normally prays, so if one's normal prayer rule is actually shorter than the Paschal Hours, one can consult one's father confessor for individual instruction. Blessed Feast to all!

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*Bright Wednesday's Spiritual Vitamin:*

"What is most terrible to man? Death? Yes, death. None of us can imagine, without terror, how he will have to die and breathe his last sigh.

And how parents grieve when their beloved children die, when they lie breathless before their eyes! But, brethren, do not fear, and do not grieve beyond measure. By His death Jesus Christ our Saviour has conquered our death, and by His resurrection He has laid the foundation for our resurrection."

Righteous John, Wonderworker of Kronstadt  
My Life in Christ p.282

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*Paschal Greeting in Romanian:*

Hristos a înviat! (*Adevărat a înviat!*)

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## FEAST DAY FEATURES

### Saint George the Great-Martyr & Trophy-bearer

*Commemorated on May 6 / April 23, and the translation of his relics on November 16/3*

The holy, glorious and right-victorious Great-martyr and Trophy-bearer George was a Christian Roman soldier killed under Diocletian at the beginning of the 4<sup>th</sup> century. Though he was born in Cappadocia, his

mother was from Palestine, and thus he is a particular favorite of many Palestinian Christians. He is also the patron saint of Moscow, Georgia, and England, amongst other places.

St. George is often depicted with a dragon or some other serpentine creature under his feet. This comes from a legend whose details may vary according to local tradition. The tale begins with a dragon making its nest at the spring (or lake) that provided a town (either near Beirut or Silena, Libya, often) with water. Consequently, the citizens had to temporarily remove the dragon from its nest in order to collect water. To do so, they offered the dragon a daily human sacrifice. The victim of the day was chosen by drawing lots. Eventually, the "winner" of this lottery happened to be the local princess. The local monarch is occasionally depicted begging for her life with no result. She is offered to the dragon, but at this point a traveling George arrives. He faces the dragon, and, after invoking the name of the Holy Trinity, slays it and saves the princess. The grateful citizens then abandon their ancestral paganism and convert to Christianity.

The story may or may not be taken entirely literally. For example, the battle between George and the dragon may represent the battle between Christianity and Satan or between St. Michael, the archangel, and Lucifer. Dragon-slaying does appear to be a common religious theme; it may be the case that George has served as a Christianized version of older Indo-European deities and their folklore.

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### Mid-feast of Pentecost

*Wednesday of the Fourth Week after Pascha*

The 25th day of Pascha, is called the feast of Mid-Pentecost, at which Christ, "in the middle of the feast" teaches men of his saving mission and offers to all "the waters of immortality", from the Gospel of St. John (7:14). Again the faithful are reminded of the Master's presence and his saving promise: "If anyone is thirsty let him come to me and drink" (John 7:37).

The icon of the feast depicts the young Jesus in the Temple in Jerusalem speaking with the Elders (Luke 2:46-47), the first biblical example of Jesus as teacher (rabbi). In traditional Orthodox icons of this subject, the figure of Jesus is depicted larger than those of the Elders, showing his superior spiritual status.



*Bright Saturday’s Spiritual Vitamin:*  
“Christ wishes to raise men up to heaven, and has given them all the means to attain this; whilst the Devil, who himself for his pride was cast down from heaven into the dominions of the air, wishes by every means to attach men to earthly,- sensual, transitory things, and, in order to attain this end, he employs the most powerful, most prodigious means.  
**Christ taught us truth;** the Devil teaches us falsehood, and strives in every way to contradict every truth; devising various calumnies [lies] against it.”  
+St. John of Kronstadt

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**Saints Cyril and Methodius**  
*Commemorated on May 24/11*  
Our fathers among the saints Cyril and Methodius were brothers who brought Orthodoxy to the Slavic peoples of central Europe in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. In preparation for their mission to the Slavs they devised the Glagolitic alphabet to translate the Holy Scriptures and other Christian writings into what is now called Old Church Slavonic. Glagolitic later developed into the Cyrillic alphabet, which is now used in a number of Slavic languages. The two brothers have been recognized as saints, equals to the apostles, for their missionary work. Many details of their lives have been obscured by the legends that have arisen about them. The work of the brothers in translating the Holy Scriptures, the services, and other Christian literature into Slavonic has been the greatest example of Orthodox missionaries bringing Christianity to the peoples of the world. While events only a few decades after the death of Methodius seemed to destroy their work in Moravia, their work became the foundation of Slavic civilization in eastern and south-eastern Europe and provided the language footings for the missionary efforts in the coming centuries. It is for this continuation of the practice of the Holy Apostles of speaking of Christianity in the languages of all the nations that Ss Cyril and Methodius are remembered as equal to the apostles. It is to this heritage that the revived Orthodox Church in the Czech Lands (Moravia) look as their origins.

*Paschal Greeting in Italian:*  
Cristo è risorto! (*È veramente risorto!*)

LIVES OF THE SAINTS

**THE MONK JOHN**  
Commemorated on April 24/11  
The Monk John was born at the end of the VIII Century. At a young age he became a disciple of the Monk Gregory Dekapolites (+ c. 820, Comm. 20 November) and accepted monastic tonsure from him at the Soluneia (Thessalonika) monastery. Under the guidance of this experienced teacher, the Monk John attained to high spiritual accomplishment.  
When the emperor Leo the Armenian (813-820) renewed the persecution against Orthodox Christians because of their veneration of holy icons, the Monk Gregory Dekapolites together with the Monk Joseph the Writer of Church-Song (+ c. 863, Comm. 4 April) and his student the Monk John set off from Soluneia to Constantinople, to muster opposition to the Iconoclast heresy. In spite of persecution, for several years Saints Gregory and John fearlessly defended Orthodoxy, and preached veneration of holy icons. After many hardships the Monk Gregory died (in about the year 820), and soon after him his faithful student John also expired to the Lord. The Monk Joseph the Song-Writer transferred the relics of Saints Gregory and John and placed them in a church of Saint Nicholas the Wonderworker.  
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*Bright Thursday’s Spiritual Vitamin:*  
“I call up all to fully participate in the Divine banquet of the Risen Christ — the Holy Liturgy, and then, at its conclusion, to announce the good news of Christ’s Resurrection and greet one another with this symbol of the Resurrection.”  
+St. John the Wonderworker of Shanghai & San Francisco

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*Paschal Greeting in Arabic:*  
El Messieh kahm! (*Hakken kahm!*)

SPIRITUAL CONSIDERATIONS

*Father is available to meet Monday thru Friday from 8:30am to 3:00pm or by appointment.*  
**Online Community:** Please email Fr. Dave to receive the weekly bulletin via email.  
**Parish Phone Tree** - Please call Fr. Dave to be added.  
**Emergency Sick Calls** – Please notify Fr Dave when you or a family member are going into the hospital or having a procedure. He will pray with you and you will receive the Mystery of Holy Anointing (Unction) to be fully prepared.  
**Mystery of Confession** – Opportunities are available after every service, most Saturdays during fasting periods from 11am to 1pm, OR by appointment.  
**Holy Communion/Eucharist** – The reception of the Holy Eucharist is encouraged for all Orthodox Christians who have properly prepared themselves, with fasting from midnight on, regular Confession, and forgiveness for all people. Those who are not Orthodox may receive *a blessing* from the chalice.  
**Lapsed Members** – You are always welcome home and we want you back! Generally speaking, sincere participation in the Mysteries of Confession, Communion, and regular attendance at the divine services are all that is required to begin parish life anew! See Fr. Dave for specific details.  
**Baptisms** – Two God-parents are required, at least one of whom must be Orthodox by faith (and the other a practicing Christian). In the case of infants, the newly-baptized must have one name that is Christian in origin. Parents/grandparents/guardians must also promise to bring the child up in an Orthodox Christian way of life. Please consult Fr. Dave for more details.  
**Adult Chrismation** – New parishioners are always welcome! In the case of adults seeking entrance into the Church, a period of prescribed catechism will be established with Fr. Dave before administration of the Mysteries. An Orthodox Christian sponsor is also required.  
**Marriages** – are only solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. They are not performed during fasting periods and certain Feast Days. Please consult Fr. Dave ASAP for more details (*before* arrangements are made for the hall).

**Church Funerals** – are provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual responsibilities and their stewardship. Otherwise, burial is from the funeral home. The Church does not permit cremation.  
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“*The cremation of bodies is not a Christian act. It is a custom of modern times. The body of a Christian has been sanctified with the Grace of the Holy Spirit, and as such may not be burned. God did not create our bodies for burning.*” - Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica  
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**CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH BY DEATH AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE!**  
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*Bright Friday’s Spiritual Vitamin:*  
The Feast of the Icon of the Life-Giving Spring  
**Tropar (Tone 3)**  
As a life-giving fount, you did conceive the Dew that is transcendent in essence, O Virgin Maid, and you have welled forth for our sakes the nectar of joy eternal, which do pour forth from thy fount with the water that springs up unto everlasting life in unending and mighty streams; wherein, taking delight, we all cry out: Rejoice, O you Spring of life for all men.  
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**Kondak (Plagal of Tone 4)**  
O Lady graced by God, you reward me by letting gush forth, beyond reason, the ever-flowing waters of your grace from your perpetual Spring. I entreat you, who bore the Word, in a manner beyond comprehension, to refresh me in your grace that I may cry out, “Hail redemptive waters.”  
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*Paschal Greeting in Spanish:*  
¡Cristo ha resucitado!  
(*¡En verdad ha resucitado!*)  
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## PRAYER CORNER

*Our Parish Prayer List for  
Special Intentions and Other Needs\**

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### ***A Prayer For The Sick:***

O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *name(s)*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her/them* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her/them* so that *he/she/they* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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***For the Health of...*** Joseph, Carol, Kelly, Thomas, Michelle, Paul, Kathleen, John, Joanne, Barbara, Brian, Kristina, Sean, Julia, Susan, Juliana, Fredrick, Kenneth, Michael, and Roberta *...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.*

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***For the Special Intentions of...*** His All Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew, Metropolitan Gregory, Fr. David S., Fr. Myron, Dcn. Michael L., Laura & family, Carlene, Georgia, Eleanora, Mark, Michaleana, Dorell, Donald, Susan, Stephen, David, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, Amee, Joshua, John, Kathryn, Rose, Charles, Justin *our diocesan seminarians*: Nicholas, Dylan, Thomas, Samuel, Timothy, Nicholas, Aydin, Subdeacon Seamus, Nicholas, *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee*: Lawrence, Matthew, Timothy, Theresa, Rich, Gina, Robert, Jane, Mary Jane, Katherine, Kenneth, John, Wendy, Margaret, John, Patricia, John, Todd *and for those who labor towards our Community Outreaches ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

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### ***May Namedays:***

Robert Fall - St Robert, Abbot of Blois (5/8)  
Mark Tongel - St. Mark the Evangelist (5/8)  
Renee Mirilovich - Great-martyr Irene (5/18)  
Christopher Bowser - Martyr Christopher (5/22)  
Christopher Kubis - Martyr Christopher (5/22)  
*...May God grant them many and blessed years!*

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### ***May Birthdays:***

Anna Karoline Dzadony (5/3), Fr Matthew Stagon (5/4), Donald Bodnar (5/6), Apryle Horbal (5/6), Fr Thomas Soroka (5/6), Ethan Gogal (5/7), Ella Kovats (5/9), Dr Phillip Labas (5/10), Jillian Gaydos (5/14), Robert Mozes (5/16), Pañi Alexandra Urban (5/16), Patrick Wertz (5/19), Linda Gavulich (5/20), Kenneth Parks (5/22), Elias Mainolfi (5/24), Sean Watson (5/26), Alexander Hanchulak (5/27), Fr Jonathan Tobias (5/27), Michael Horbal (5/29), Melanie Shuster (5/30) *...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years!*

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***For our Catechumens & Inquirers...*** Tyler, Susan, Marilyn, John *...through the prayers of St. Paul the Apostle, St. Mary Magdalene, & St. John Maximovitch.*

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***For those preparing for Marriage...*** Justin & Erica, Francis & Alexandra, Nicole & Dustin *...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia and all Holy Martyrs.*

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### ***May Anniversaries:***

Father's Godparents, Dick & Andrea Babbie (5/7)  
Father's Best Man, Joe & Sarah Lavra (5/7)  
Father's sister, Melissa & Christopher Ditmore (5/17)  
Fr Dave's Ordination to the Priesthood (5/17)  
Ashley & Derrick Andrekovich (5/19)  
Ernest & Claudia (Herbert) Pido (5/19)  
Fr Dave & Pañi Alexandra (5/25)  
Jim & Katherine Schrmack (5/26)  
Anthony & Donna Horbal (5/27)  
*...through the prayers of St. Nicholas Planas*

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***For Pregnant Mothers...*** Allison (*due in May*), Marilyn (*June*), Stacey (*June*), Sammy (*June*), Caitlin (*September*), Mallory (*September*) *...through the prayers of St. Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, and St. Irene Chrysovalantou.*

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***For those serving in the Armed Forces & Civil Authorities...*** Thomas R. Dzadovsky and Trevor Meegan *...through the prayers of St George, the Great-Martyr & Wonderworker.*

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***For the souls of the newly departed...*** +Donald

Shelpman (4/21), +Andrew M. Halapin (4/14)

*...May the Lord God grant them blessed repose where there is no pain sorrow or mourning. May they be Eternal in God's Memory.*

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\* This is to be used for the special intentions of our brothers and sisters in Christ and can be inserted as a prayer itself into our daily prayers. Please let Fr. Dave know if you wish to make additions or subtractions (*in the case of answered prayers*) to our Parish List. The words of the Gospel are true: **it is good to pray for one another.** Let this be a place where we lay out our concerns and beg the help of our brothers & sisters in Christ. *This prayer list is **NOT** limited to only Orthodox Christians.*

*Paschal Greeting in Swahili:*

Kristo amefufukka! (*Kweli amefufukka!*)

## DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS FOR THE WEEK

The Paschal Hours is sung for all the Hours, Compline, Midnight Office, Prayers after Communion, and Private Devotions (Morning and Evening Prayers) for all of Bright (Renewal) Week. (*It is also sung on the leave-taking of Pascha, the eve of Ascension*)

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### PASCHAL HOURS

*When said privately at home*

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen. Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life. (*3 times*)

***The Resurrection Prayer (Kievan Tone 6 samohlasen)***

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, \* let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, \* the only sinless one. \* We venerate your Cross, O Christ, \* and we praise and glorify your holy Resurrection, \* for You are our God, \* and we know no other than You: \* we call on your Name. \* Come, all you faithful, \* let us venerate Christ's holy Resurrection. \* For behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. \* Let us ever bless the Lord, \* praising his Resurrection, \* for by enduring the Cross for us, \* He has destroyed death by death. (*3 times*)

***Hypakoë (Ipakoje) of Pascha (Tone 4 samopodoben)***

Before the dawn Mary came with the women \* and found the stone rolled away from the tomb.\* And they heard from the angel: \* “He abides in life everlasting. \* Why seek Him among the dead as if He were a man? \* Behold the burial shroud! \* Go and proclaim to the world: \* ‘That the Lord is risen and has conquered death.’ \* For He is the Son of God, \* and He is the Savior of mankind!”

***Kondak of Pascha (Tone 8)***

You descended into the grave, O Immortal One; \* yet You destroyed the power of death. \* As Conqueror, You arose, O Christ God, \* saying to the myrrh-bearing women: "Rejoice," \* granting peace to your apostles \* and offering resurrection to the fallen.

***Troparia of the Paschal Office (Tone 8)***

When your Body was in the tomb and your Soul was in hell, \* when You were in paradise with the thief, \* You were at the same time, O Christ, as God upon your throne \* with the Father and the Spirit, infinite and filling all things.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

O Christ, your tomb, the fount of our resurrection \* is indeed a giver of life more splendid than Paradise \* and more radiant than any royal chamber.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Hail, holy and divine dwelling of the Most High, \* for through you, O Theotokos, \* joy has been given to those who cry out: \* “Blessed are you among women, O Lady most pure!”

Lord, have mercy. (*40 times*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, always now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O shine, O shine, O new Jerusalem: \* for the Glory of the Lord is risen upon you. \* O Zion, sing with joy and rejoice. \* And you, pure Mother of God, \* rejoice in the Resurrection of your Son.

Lord, have mercy. (*3 times*)

O Lord, bless us!

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen. Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life. (*3 times*)

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[When the Paschal Office is said in place of Compline or Evening Prayers, we insert the following prayer prior to the last “Christ is risen...”].

*A Prayer of St. Basil the Great*  
Blessed are you Lord, Master almighty, who made the day light with the light of the sun and the night radiant with the rays of fire; who have granted us to pass through the length of the day and to draw near the beginnings of the night. Hear our supplication and that of all your people. And pardoning all of us our offences, voluntary and involuntary, accept our evening entreaties and send down the multitude of your rich mercy and acts of compassion on your inheritance. Wall us about with your holy Angels; arm us with the arms of justice; fence us with the rampart of your truth; guard us by your power; deliver us from every misfortune and from every trick of the adversary. Grant us also that both the present day with the coming night and all the days of our life may be perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, without stumbling, without dreams, through the intercessions of the All-holy Theotokos and of all the Saints who have been well-pleasing to you since time began. For Yours it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.]

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**A Prayer for Peace**

Almighty God and Creator, You are the Father of all people on the earth. Guide, I pray, all the nations and their leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Protect us from the evils of injustice, prejudice, exploitation, conflict and war. Help us to put away mistrust, bitterness and hatred. Teach us to cease the storing and using of implements of war. Lead us to find peace, respect and freedom. Unite us in the making and sharing of tools of peace against ignorance, poverty, disease and oppression. Grant that we may grow in harmony and friendship as brothers and sisters created in Your image, to Your honor and praise. Amen.

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**The Jesus Prayer**

(Inhale) O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
(Exhale) have mercy on me, a sinner!

(Repeat until your heart is calm...)

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**A prayer for our Neighborhoods**

*by Archbishop Demetrios of America*

I pray to you, God, for the families of my neighborhood. Visit them. Throw their troubles out of them and bring hope. Make the daily cares that devour the heart disappear. Present solutions to life’s problems. Settle the disturbed relationships among members of different families whom I know or do not know. O Lord, remind the people of our area that You exist, that You are a strong and loving Protector. Keep away, Lord, anything that causes the disappearance of peace from souls, and the escape of sleep from our eyes. Stay a little while more tonight in our neighborhood. Spread peace along with the night. Let the harshness of the day and its struggles not spread over the night. Amen.

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**A Prayer for our Diocesan Clergy**

O Lord Jesus Christ, Good Shepherd of Your sheep, light the fire of ardent love in the hearts of all Your priests, that they may ever and in all things seek only Your glory. Remember especially, Lord, our Bishop *(name)*, and our spiritual father *(name)*, and all our diocesan clergy, who are laboring in Your vineyard for the salvation of all those whom You have entrusted to them. Make their lives as holy as the word they preach. Keep them from being discouraged. Hear their prayers for our salvation. Give them wisdom and courage to proclaim Your truth. Make them priests after Your own heart. For You are a merciful God Who loves us and to You we give glory, together with Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving- Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

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**ONLINE BULLETIN BONUSES**

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**A Few Notes For Bright Week & The Paschal Season**

*By V. Rev. Fr. Mark Mancuso*

We greet one another during the **entire Paschal season** (which lasts 40 days) with the words: “**Christ is risen!**” and the response to the greet is: “**Indeed, He is risen!**”

✠ During **Bright Week**, the Holy [Royal] Doors and the Deacons’ doors of the iconostasis remain open symbolizing the empty tomb of our Master and Savior: *Christ is risen!*

✠ During **Bright Week**, our prayers in church and at home are sung and not read as we sing all week the feast of the risen Christ: *Christ is risen!*

✠ During **Bright Week**, our morning and evening prayers are replaced by the singing of the short service of the Paschal Hours [see our “prayer corner” above]: *Christ is risen!*

✠ During **Bright Week**, we do not read from the psalter [Book of Psalms] at home or in church for the prophecies have been fulfilled: *Christ is risen!*

✠ During **Bright Week**, there is no fasting as we are at feast with the Bridegroom who processes forth from the tomb: *Christ is risen!*

✠ During the entire **Paschal Season** and extending to Pentecost there is no prostrating or kneeling permitted in church or at home for we stand with the resurrected Christ: *Christ is risen!*

✠ During the entire **Paschal Season** we begin all of our prayers at home and in church by singing the tropar of Pascha:

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

✠ During the entire **Paschal Season** and extending to Pentecost, we do not prayer “O Heavenly King, the Comforter, O Sprit of Truth...” for the Comforter comes on Pentecost: *Christ is risen!*

✠ **And most important of all:** “A Pascha worthy of all honor has dawned for us. Pascha! Let us embrace each other joyously!... This is the day of resurrection. Let us be illumined by the Feast. Let us embrace each other. Let us call *Brother* even those who hate us, and forgive all by the resurrection, and so let us cry: *Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!... And unto us He has given eternal life. Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day!*

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**THE ANGEL EXCLAIMED TO HER, “FULL OF GRACE, REJOICE O PURE VIRGIN. AGAIN I SAY REJOICE, YOUR SON IS RISEN FROM HIS THREE DAYS IN THE TOMB, AND HE HAS RAISED ALL THE DEAD. LET ALL PEOPLE REJOICE!”**

**O SHINE, O SHINE, O NEW JERUSALEM: FOR THE GLORY OF THE LORD IS RISEN UPON YOU. O ZION, SING WITH JOY AND REJOICE. AND YOU, PURE MOTHER OF GOD, REJOICE IN THE RESURRECTION OF YOUR SON.**