



St. Michael's Orthodox Christian Church

1182 Ashland St., Greensburg, PA 15601
Diocese of Charleston, Oakland and the Mid-Atlantic
Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese
of North America.

(See the back cover for detailed contact information.)

Holy Pascha Sunday, May 1, 2016

*The Glorious and Radiant Feast of the
Resurrection of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ*

*To all who are present with us this morning,
Welcome! Christ is Risen!*

You May Find the Text of the Divine Liturgy beginning on the bottom page 91 of the Service Book (gold embossed cross on the reddish brown cover) or in the green-spiral-bound book; sheet music can be found in the 8.5" x 11" large, spiral-bound booklet.

At the Kiss of Peace our practice is for each of us to greet the person to our right and left with the bowing of our head, hands held in a prayerful clasp or crossed on the chest, while offering each other the seasonal Christian greeting, "Christ is risen!" and responding, "Indeed, He is risen!"

Please remember that Holy Communion is reserved for those Chrismated Orthodox Christians who have appropriately prepared themselves through prayer, fasting and Confession to receive the Holy Mysteries of the Church. The bread (*anti'doron*, which means 'in place' of the gifts) which we share after Communion and at the end of the Liturgy is for all.

Being mindful we are in church, let us always remember to...

...be quiet and attentive. Let us sing, pray, stand, sit, kneel and respond where responses are indicated. Let us not talk, look around, text message, play games, etc. Especially let us work at this in the Communion line and when in line to venerate the Cross and depart. If we cannot hear the post-Communion prayers being chanted during our church departure, we are way too noisy.

...refrain from eating, drinking or chewing gum. (most obviously and especially if you will be receiving Holy Communion).

...stay put. Except in rare cases, there are few of us who cannot stay in one location for two hours (actually less, for most of us).



The Paschal Homily *of our Father Among the Saints* *John Chrysostom Archbishop of Constantinople*

If anyone is devout and a lover of God, let him enjoy this beautiful and radiant festival. If anyone is a wise servant, let him, rejoicing, enter into the joy of his Lord. If anyone has wearied himself in fasting, let him now receive his recompense.

If anyone has labored from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If anyone has come at the third hour, with thanksgiving let him keep the feast. If anyone has arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; for he shall suffer no loss. If anyone has delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near without hesitation. If anyone has arrived even at the eleventh hour, let him not fear on account of his delay; for the Master is gracious and receives the last, even as the first; he gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, just as to him who has labored from the first. He has mercy upon the last and cares for the first; to the one he gives, and to the other he is gracious. He both honors the work and praises the intention.

Enter all of you, therefore, into the joy of our Lord, and, whether first or last, receive your reward. O rich and poor, one with another, dance for joy! O you ascetics and you negligent, celebrate the day! You that have fasted and you that have disregarded the fast, rejoice today! The table is rich-laden; feast royally, all of you!

Let all partake of the feast of faith. Let all receive the riches of goodness.

Let no one lament his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one mourn his transgressions, for pardon has dawned from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free.

He that was taken by death has annihilated it! He descended into hades and took hades captive! He embittered it when it tasted his flesh! And anticipating this Isaiah exclaimed, "Hades was embittered when it encountered thee in the lower regions." It was embittered, for it was abolished! It was embittered, for it was mocked! It was embittered, for it was purged! It was embittered, for it was despoiled! It was embittered, for it was bound in chains!

It took a body and, face to face, met God! It took earth and encountered heaven! It took what it saw but crumbled before what it had not seen! "O death, where is thy sting? O hades, where is thy victory?"

Christ is risen, and you are overthrown!

Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!

Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!

Christ is risen, and life reigns!

Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in a tomb!

For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the First-fruits of them that slept.

To him be glory and might unto ages of ages. Amen.

Sunday, May 1, 2016 — Great and Holy Pascha

*The Glorious and Radiant Feast of
the Resurrection of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ*

Greeting: Christ is risen! **Response:** Indeed, He is risen!

THE EPISTLE READING

St. Paul to the Apostles. (1:1-8)

IN THE FIRST BOOK, O Theophilus, 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 to 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."

THE HOLY GOSPEL

According to St. 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.

Christ is Risen!

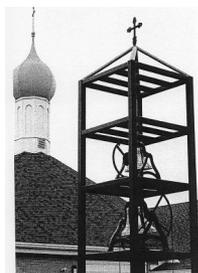
“Food on the Hill” Lunch Ministry

“Food on the Hill” is the name that has been attached to the lunch for those in need that will be prepared and served free of charge on the first Tuesday of each month . Our Men’s Fellowship has continued to take on the work of providing a bit of “daily” bread to those who can benefit from it.

The next “Food on the Hill” lunch is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 3, 2016** from 12:00 to 1:00 PM.

Anyone who would like to support “Food on the Hill” in any capacity you would like, should contact Gust Flizanes. Please make checks out to “St. Michael’s Church” with “Food on the Hill” on the memo line.

(The “Food on the Hill” Team would be greatly augmented by the addition of one or two people willing to give rides to and from the church to people who want to be here, but have no transportation. For more information talk to Gus.)



His Eminence
The Most Reverend
Metropolitan JOSEPH



Archbishop of New York and
Metropolitan of
All North America

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA

Pastoral Message for Great and Holy Pascha
May 1, 2016

Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen!

We greet you with great joy and love as we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. I wish to share with you this beautiful Paschal Oration by St. Gregory the Theologian as my pastoral message for Pascha:

*Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him.
Yesterday I died with Him; Today I am made alive with Him.
Yesterday I was buried with Him; today I am raised up with Him.
Let us offer to Him Who suffered and rose again for us...ourselves, the possession most precious to God and most proper.
Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us.
Let us become divine for His sake, since for us He became man.
He assumed the worse that He might give us the better. He became poor that by His poverty we might become rich. He accepted the form of a servant that we might win back our freedom.
He came down that we might be lifted up. He was tempted that through Him we might conquer. He was dishonored that He might glorify us. He died that He might save us. He ascended that He might draw to Himself we who were thrown down through the fall of sin.
Let us give all, offer all, to Him who gave Himself as a ransom and reconciliation for us.
We needed an incarnate God, a God put to death, that we might live. We were put to death together with Him that we might be cleansed. We rose again with Him because we were put to death with Him. We were glorified with Him because we rose again with Him.
A few drops of blood recreate the whole of creation.*

- St. Gregory the Theologian, from the Paschal Orations

It is my prayer that the Light of the Empty Tomb will bring us the peace and joy which can only come from above. Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Yours in the Risen Christ,

+Joseph

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

"The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch" (Acts 11: 26)

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The Beautiful Day of the Passover of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has arrived. *In the cosmic dimension, beyond temporal and finite things, there is nothing to do but bask in the brilliant radiance of the Feast, knowing that God has accomplished all this in His love for mankind. In this world, we remain in touch with finite and temporal things, remembering that our heavenly experience is known in earthly form — in liturgical serving, in cleaning, in singing, in chanting, in reading, in cooking, in decorating, in preparing, in setting up, in rehearsing... and much more. Thank you to everyone who has labored in our behalf, that we might arrive at and enjoy this Glorious Day that the Lord has made!*

Please return your “Food For Hungry People” boxes as soon as possible. Thank you for your generosity toward feeding the hungry around the world.

How can you help with the 2016 PLC?

Contact Chairperson
Stephanie Zarras at
724-989-7614
to find out.

On Sunday, May 15,
the Greeters Team will sponsor a
\$7 cookout lunch
to benefit our 2016 Feast.
12 years old and under - free.

*(Speaking of the Feast, contact
Dianne Anton if you have ideas for
this year’s (September 11) major fund
raiser, and/or a willingness to take a
leadership role in the event.)*

Our church is quite a sight to behold all the time. Thank you to Cheryl Baum and her decorators for making a “routinely” beautiful worship space and enhancing it with palms and flowers during Holy Week and Pascha.



will host a

***Mother’s Day
Breakfast***

*following Divine Liturgy
on Sunday, May 8th
All are invited!*

The early days of Great Lent generated the momentum that brought us to Holy Week and finally to this Great and Holy Celebration of the Resurrection of Christ. In the weeks to come, let us not lose that momentum but build on it. For forty days we will sing the Paschal Troparion and greet each other, “Christ is risen! — Truly, He is risen!” Then, ten days later the Great Feast of Pentecost will mark the completion of this year’s season of Paschal and Pentecostal joy.

God grant that these days of Feasting usher us to the gates of heaven in His Ascension and finally to Great and Holy Pentecost where we on earth receive fully the grace of God’s love. May each and every one of us be forever, day by day, changed by the power of the Holy Spirit being poured out on us in His Church!

The Antiochian Women’s 2016 Bakeless Bake Sale has received \$1,385.00 in contributions to “Feed Hungry Children at Home and Abroad.” **Our goal is \$2,000.00**, which means we fall a bit short of this goal at the moment. We will be sending in our funds very soon. If you would be part of this year’s effort, now is the time to write your check and give it to this year’s Bakeless Bake Sale Coordinator, Allison Simon.

REMEMBER, the *Second Week* on this schedule *May Change*.
ALWAYS USE THE MOST CURRENT BULLETIN!

BRIGHT - May 1 thru 7 - WEEK

Christ is Risen!

Holy Pascha SUNDAY, May 1

- 11:00 AM - GREAT VESPERS
of Agape with the Gospel Readings
in Many Languages
- Children's Candy Hunt

Bright MONDAY, May 2

- 9:00 AM - Paschal DIV. LITURGY

Bright TUESDAY, May 3

- 9:00 AM - Paschal DIV. LITURGY

Bright THURSDAY, May 5

- 9:00 AM Paschal DIV. LITURGY
Great Martyr Irene
of Thessalonika

Bright SATURDAY, May 7

- 9:00 AM Paschal DIV. LITURGY
Alexis Toth of Wilkes-Barre
- 6:00 PM - GREAT VESPERS

May 8 through May 14

Sunday, May 8 - Thomas Sunday

- 8:45 AM - MATINS
- 9:30 AM - Choir Rehearsal
- 10:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
- 1:30 PM - Grave Blessings at
Westmoreland Memorial Park

Monday, May 9

- 9:00 AM - DIVINE LITURGY
Prophet Isaiah

Tuesday, May 10

- 6:00 PM - EVE. DIV. LITURGY
Sts. Cyril & Methodios

Wednesday, May 11

- 6:30 PM - Church School Meeting
at Wetzel home

Saturday, May 14

- 6:00 PM - GREAT VESPERS
- 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Christ is risen! Every Feast of the Church is by nature an opportunity for *celebration, reflection* and *thanksgiving*. In Holy Pascha, the Feast of feasts, *celebration* is the most obvious. Even in the dimly lit setting and somber melodies of Holy Week we feel the growing anticipation to *celebrate* which builds in a crescendo that can only be missed by a very dull heart.

At the same time, such *celebration* is both the cause and result of *reflection*. We are on a journey that requires constant *reflection* in our attentiveness to the unbelievable story of our lives in Christ that reaches back to Adam and Eve in our history and extends forward to the end of each of our lives and to the very reality of Christ's coming again. Our ability to *reflect* on such things fuels new life and vitality in our God intended travels "from glory to glory." As each successive *celebration* moves us to *reflection* which circles back to deeper *celebration*, we are finally delivered to the place of union and love that we simply call *thanksgiving*.

As the fullest expression of the Love that He is, God the Father and Son and Holy Spirit, in the work done by Christ through His Passion, Crucifixion, Rising, Ascending and Pouring out of the Spirit in His Church, grants us the fitting response to all He is and does — the *Thanksgiving*, the *Eucharist*.

Glory to the risen Christ God for all things! ***Truly, He is risen!***

Today's bulletin covers are donated in memory of Diana Roberts and Thomas Roberts, Sr., by Helen Porembka and Frank Porembka, Jr