

SAINT GEORGE ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP ALEXANDER OF TOLEDO: RECTOR

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April 19th, 2020

Holy Pascha

The Resurrection of our Lord and God
and Savior Jesus Christ



From the Fathers...

"O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your 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 the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep."

- St. John Chrysostom



Welcome Visitors!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed through your participation with us. In the Orthodox Church, the reception of Holy Communion is a mark of membership in the Church. Only those who have been united to the Orthodox Church through Baptism or Chrismation, and have prepared themselves through regular Confession, prayer and fasting are permitted to partake of Holy Communion. We encourage visitors to participate in our prayers and hymns and to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Literature about the Orthodox faith and this parish can be found in the vestibule. Please feel free to ask questions before or after the service, as well as join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and fellowship after the Liturgy.



My soul magnifies Him who rose from the dead on the third day:/ Christ, the giver of life!/ Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!/ The glory of the Lord has shone on you!/ Exult now,/ and be glad, O Zion!/ Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,/ in the Resurrection of your Son!

Christ, the new Pascha!/ The living sacrifice!/ The lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world!/ How Divine! How Beloved!/ How sweet is Thy voice, O Christ!/ For Thou has faithfully promised to be with us,/ to the ends of the world./ Having this as our anchor of hope,/ we faithful rejoice!

Mary Magdalene hastened to Thy tomb,/ and seeing Christ, she questioned Him/ as though He were the gardener./ O Christ, great and most holy Pascha!/ O Wisdom, Word, and Pow'r of God,/ grant that we may more perfectly partake of Thee/ in the never ending day of Thy Kingdom. (*Paschal Kanon, Ode 9*)

A PARISH OF THE BULGARIAN DIOCESE OF THE ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

TODAY'S WORSHIP - HYMNS AND SCRIPTURE READINGS

Paschal Troparion

Christ is Risen from the dead / trampling down death by death,/ and upon those in the tombs/ bestowing life.

Hypakoe

Before the dawn Mary and the women/ came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb./ They heard the angelic voice: why do you seek among the dead as a man/ the One Who is Everlasting Light?/ Behold the clothes in the grave go and proclaim to the world:/ the Lord is risen He has slain death/ as He is the Son of God, saving the race of man.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Paschal Kontakion

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal./ Thou didst destroy the pow'r of death./ In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God,/ proclaiming "Rejoice" to the Myrrhbearing Women,/ granting peace to Thine Apostles,/ and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Gospel: 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 nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 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, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

THIS WEEK AND LIFE IN CHRIST

Sunday, April 19th

10:00 AM Paschal Divine Liturgy (Livestream)
HOLY PASCHA - RESURRECTION OF CHRIST
Acts 1:1-8, John 1:1-17

Monday, April 20th

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy
Bright Monday
Ven. Theodore Trichinas
Ss Gregory and Anastasius the Sinaite, of Antioch
Acts 1:12-17, 21-26, Acts 12:1-11, Compilation Gospel

Tuesday, April 21st

Bright Tuesday
Hieromartyr Januarius, Bishop of Benevento
Hieromartyr Theodore of Perge and his mother Philippa
Acts 2:14-21, Luke 24:12-35

Wednesday, April 22nd

Bright Wednesday
St. Theodore the Sykeote, Bishop of Anastasiopolis
Apostles Nathaniel, Luke, and Clement
Acts 2:22-36, John 1:35-51

Thursday, April 23rd

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Livestream)
Bright Thursday
Holy Glorious Greatmartyr, Victory-bearer, George
Martyr Alexandra the Empress, wife of Diocletian
Acts 2:38-43, Acts 12:1-11
John 3:1-15, John 15:17-16:2

Friday, April 24th

Bright Friday
The Lifegiving Spring of the Most Holy Theotokos
Martyr Sabbas Stratelates (the General) of Rome
Acts 3:1-8, Philippians 2:5-11
John 2:12-22, Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-38

Saturday, April 25th

5:00 PM Great Vespers (Livestream)
Bright Saturday
Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark
Acts 3:11-16, 1 Peter 5:6-14
John 3:22-33, Mark 6-7-13

Sunday, April 26th

10:00 AM Divine Liturgy (Livestream)
Antipascha—2nd Sunday of Pascha
St. Thomas Sunday
Hieromartyr Basil, Bishop of Amasea
Acts 5:12-20, John 20:19-31

ARCHPASTORAL PASCHAL MESSAGE PASCHA 2020

Beloved in the Lord,

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

It has been said that life under the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic is a "new normal." For us, however, this is far from "normal." Normally, clergy and faithful, tired yet edified by the forty-day Great Fast, would now be gathering in temples for the services of Holy Week. We would stand together, in the company of that "great cloud of witnesses" represented in the holy icons, and take the final steps of a liturgical journey that began with Forgiveness Sunday Vespers.

This year, we still grow weary, but it is weary of "stay-at-home" orders and the anxieties of not knowing how much longer our nation will be occupied by the coronavirus. We still anxiously await joyous liturgical celebrations in our churches, but this year we are unsure when they will come. This year has been far from normal and I am sure we all share the sentiment that doing this once in a lifetime is quite enough.

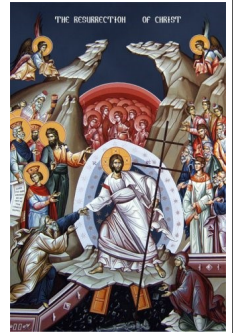
However, in the face of these unexpected challenges, let us be assured that God's providence is at work in these times, as it is at all times. This year, we are closer than ever to the countless faithful who came before us that celebrated our Lord's resurrection in even more adverse situations. Let us remember our brethren behind the iron curtain, who sat at home singing the Paschal hymns in hushed voices lest their neighbors give them up to the authorities. Let us remember the Christians under the Ottomans and the Romans whose public celebration of the Risen Lord would cost them their lives, and then only after horrific tortures. Think of the joy in our forebears' hearts the first time they could cry out for all to hear, "Christ is Risen!" When we are again able to gather for the divine services, we will not have to imagine what that felt like; we will have had a small taste of it ourselves.

This year, we have a choice. We can look at the journey we've been on with bitterness and remorse, or we can be grateful for an opportunity to stand with those who came before us, whose devotion and faith in the face of great adversity made it possible for us today to "glorify Christ, Risen from the dead." Patience, my children. "Those who endure will gain their lives," as the Risen Lord fills their hearts with his life-giving presence. Wherever Christ is, be it in church or at home behind closed doors, there is "eternal life and his great mercy."

With love in the risen Christ,



*Archbishop of Toledo and the Bulgarian Diocese -
Orthodox Church in America*



HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED TO CHAT? CALL OR EMAIL FR. GREGORY.

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Guidance for COVID-19

Livestream Services

All of these services will be **live streamed on Facebook** and finished recordings will be **uploaded to YouTube**. **Like, Share, Subscribe** to both to be notified when new postings are available. The schedule is also available online at our website.

When the "all clear" is given, the Archbishop will designate a Sunday on which we will celebrate in full Paschal Matins and Liturgy, regardless of what time of year it actually is.

Attendance at Services

Attendance at services is **limited only to those who need to be there**: the priest, a server, a reader, and a chanter. By directive of the Holy Synod there are signs on the entrances to both the church and the hall indicating that "no one may enter the building without the express blessing of the parish priest, due to the Covid-19 pandemic".

Confessions and Visitations

By directive of the Holy Synod, a blessing has been extended to forgo confession at this time. Due to restrictions put in place by hospitals, visitations are limited only to those who are very sick or dying.

Celebration of St. George

The feast of the Holy Glorious Greatmartyr, Victorybearer and Wonderworker George will take place with Divine Liturgy (Livestream) on **Thursday, April 23rd at 10:00am**.

Stewardship

We encourage you to continue giving your regular offerings during this time. Please review our new online giving option now available on our website!

Heartbeat of Toledo

Heartbeat of Toledo has been forced to cancel their upcoming fundraiser in April and have been hit particularly hard with the recent economic downturn. Donation can be sent to the church and made out to St. George Cathedral (memo line "Heartbeat of Toledo").

New Look for stgeorgerossford.org

Have you seen our new website? After many months of diligent work, the new website is finally live. Please take time to take a look and explore the new features. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

Prayer Calendar

The Quarterly prayer calendar is now available online at: www.stgeorgerossford.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Prayer-Calendar-Q2.pdf

We are praying for...

Health and Well-Being:

Anthony, Maria, Tanya, Melissa, Kelly, Lawrence, Mary, Brian, Karen, Sandy, Panka, George, Cheryl, Barb, and the kidnapped hierarchs Metropolitan Boulos and Archbishop Yohanna of Aleppo; and those being persecuted for their faith in the Middle East.

Catechumens:

Tim, Laura, Ethan, Naomi, Olivia, Daniel, Phoebe, Ezekiel, and Jachin.



Sanctuary Lamp

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
The sanctuary lamp is lit today for all members of St. George Orthodox Cathedral. May we soon be reunited!



Celebrations

Birthdays:

Dan Serdar (4/21)
Jessica Pappas (4/22)
Jenna Ostas (4/22)
Mike Goodman (4/22)

Name's Days:

George Popoff (4/23)
George Ghareeb (4/23)
George Thompson (4/23)

Anniversaries:

Jim & Tanya Mackiewicz (4/24)

