

April 4, 2021

## Pascha, the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord



### SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

*Fighting the Good Fight with Faith*

*Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese Voistinu Voskrese!*

Propers for Pascha: pp. 164 - 171

#### Divine Services for the Week:

**SAT., APR. 3**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**PASCHA, the RESURRECTION of our LORD, anticipated**  
**RESURRECTION MATINS, DIVINE LITURGY, Blessing of baskets**  
**For the Parishioners**

**MON., APR. 5**  
**9:00 A.M.**

**BRIGHT MONDAY**  
**DIVINE LITURGY, Procession and four resurrection Gospels**

*(At St. Mary, Tuesday, April 6, 9:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy for Bright Tuesday)*

**SUN., APR. 11**  
**8:30 A.M.**

**THOMAS SUNDAY**  
**DIVINE LITURGY, distribution of Artos**  
**+ Joseph Olack, requested by Mary Elizabeth Olack**

#### **Come, Receive the Light Which Never Fades!**

By His death and resurrection Christ has defeated Death once and for all. He destroys our enslavement to sin. Through faith He offers us new life. Let us celebrate the Resurrection of Christ and, in faith, allow Him to transform our lives.

Christ is Risen! ~ Indeed He is Risen!  
Christos Voskrese! ~ Voistinu Voskrese!

#### Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

April 6: John Chabala, April 9: Erin Mackey : April 10: Mary Salamon

#### Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

None for the week

#### Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

**HOME** – Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick

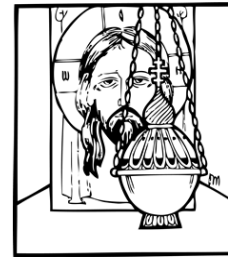
**Hunter's Care Home** (1916 Main St, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Mary Poiarkoff

**Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001) – Josephine Maruhnich

**Epistle Readers – April 3: Cantors – April 11: Reagan Cody**

**Ushers – Stand in as needed**

**Troica Holders – April 3: F. Hersh – April 11: M. Bobanic**



#### THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

April 4 - 10, 2021

*Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:*

**+ Natalie Jugan**

*(In loving memory)*

Offered By:

Mom, Mary Ann & brother, David

Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

Хрісто́съ воскресе́! Воистину́ воскресе́!

Χριστός ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!

al-Masīḥ qām! Ḥaqqan qām!

¡Cristo ha resucitado! ¡En Verdad ha resucitado!

Foltamadt Krisztus! Valoban Foltamadt!

Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!



T	S	B	U	O	D	Y	E	S	R	STORY	ROAD	BREAD	FRIGHT
N	E	O	B	T	R	E	H	E	H	GHOST	DOUBTS	HANDS	FEET
E	Y	N	R	O	T	S	C	E	S	TOUCH	BONES	FISH	PSALMS
S	E	E	T	R	H	O	U	C	I				
S	T	S	O	H	G	H	O	A	F				
T	T	A	S	N	I	B	T	E	R				
B	D	O	I	Y	R	R	E	P	I				
U	Y	S	R	E	F	T	D	C	G				
O	E	H	A	N	D	S	U	O	T				
D	O	D	S	M	L	A	S	P	H				

### Privileged Week

During Bright Week (Sunday of Pascha to the Sunday of St. Thomas), there is no fasting at all. Bright Week is seen, liturgically speaking as one single day – a continuation of Pascha throughout the whole week.

*I was buried yesterday with You, O Christ; but today I rise, resurrected with You. Yesterday I crucified myself with You, O Savior. Now glorify me with You in Your kingdom.*

*(From Pascha Matins)*

### A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

With joy we greet this Feast of Feasts! Christ is, indeed, risen. From this foundational belief of our Faith, everything else gains its meaning. As St. Paul wrote, "If Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith." (1 Cor. 15:14)

That Christ is risen from the dead changes absolutely everything. Death no longer has the last word in our lives, nor do all of the little "deaths" of our lives. All of the alienation, sickness, sorrow, grief, sin, betrayals, resentment, bitterness, poverty - in short all of the "bad news" in our lives - these things do not have the last word for us. "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning." (Psalm 29:5)

My sisters and brothers, this is *Good News*. It is the news that we have been given new life! We are raised with Christ in baptism. This is the Good News that the world needs to hear. We live in a world that is broken, wounded, and hurting; a world in which bad news seems to win the day with every news report and every social media post; a world - in short - that is *dying*.

But in Jesus Christ, there is a new creation. And he is inviting each of us to take our part in proclaiming this Good News - in words of grace and actions of mercy - to the world around us. God is, in the Resurrected Christ, renewing and reconciling the world to himself (see 2 Corinthians 5.14-18). Such Good News is meant to be shared:

*"Christ is risen, and you, O death, are annihilated!  
 Christ is risen, and the evil ones are cast down!  
 Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!  
 Christ is risen, and life is liberated!  
 Christ is risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead!  
 For Christ, having risen from the dead,  
 is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.  
 To him be glory and power forever and ever!"*  
*(From the Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom)*



A very blessed, joyful, and happy Pascha to you all!

In the Resurrection

*Fr. Geoff*



## *Christ is Risen!*

The ceremonies of Holy Week are the commemoration of the greatest events of human history; they direct our attention to Christ's Cross and death, and finally to his empty tomb and resurrection. The joyful and hope-filled end of Holy Week is remembered in one of the gospel readings taken from the 28th chapter of Matthew.

There, we see the myrrh bearing women approach the tomb and hear an angel who spoke not only to them, but to us as well. The first words spoken by the angel are, “You must not be afraid.” With these words we are all reminded that the resurrection destroys our fear of death and replaces it with hope and with God’s promise of eternal life. We no longer have reason to fear; Christ, by his own death, has broken the chains by which death and the grave held us as prisoners.

Second he said, “Come here and see the place where He was lying.” We are all invited to examine the empty tomb and see for ourselves the triumph of Christ over our enemy. How do we know that Christ lives? We know because He continues to change lives, and to dwell as a living presence in the hearts of those who accept Him.

Finally, the angel said, “Go quickly now and tell the disciples.” The command is to go and tell others what the resurrection means. It means that we who have experienced its joy and who trust in the promise of Christ must share that joy and trust and hope with those who have not yet experienced it. If we want to make Easter truly meaningful, therefore, we cannot merely enjoy it; we must experience it for ourselves, and share it with others as well.

- Rev. Andrew Demotses

*“This is the day of Resurrection. Let us be enlightened by this feast, and let us embrace one another. Let us call brothers and sisters, even those who hate us, and in the Resurrection forgive everything.”*



*Christ is Risen! Indeed he is Risen! ~ Christos Voskrese Voistinu Voskrese!*

## A Pascha Tradition

The Holy Spirit reminds us ” not to reject the traditions of our elders, which they have learned from their fathers” (Sirach 8:9). Together with the Byzantine Rite, we have inherited many meaningful customs which make our liturgical worship inspiring, spiritually rich, and close to the heart of our people. Among these venerable customs we count the custom of blessing food at Easter. This venerable custom was brought to the United States by our fore-fathers. As we celebrate the Pasch, a feast of new life, we bless the food sustaining our physical life. Thus our custom has its meaning even today and, therefore, it should be piously observed.

At the appointed time of the blessing of the paschal foods, the basket is brought to the church. Having prepared themselves during Lent and by making their Easter confession and receiving Holy Communion, the faithful eat the blessed food on Easter Sunday and the days following Easter.



## The Traditional Three Days of Easter and Bright Week

It is the custom of the Byzantine Catholic Church that we continue the triumph, the magnificence, and the splendor of Jesus’ New Passover and His Radiant Resurrection. This is accomplished by our celebrating Easter itself and the following two days: **BRIGHT MONDAY** and **BRIGHT TUESDAY**. The services of Bright Week are done with the Royal Doors fully open. This unblocked view of the altar symbolizes the open door of Christ’s empty tomb as well as the rent veil of the Jewish Temple, which was torn apart at the moment Christ died. The Church grants to all who come to Church these days with particular graces as they participate and receive the Glorified Eucharistic Christ in Holy Communion. The Church ever continues to place great spiritual emphasis and importance upon the Most Holy Eucharist as the essential Bread of Life. Therefore, since innumerable graces are received from God in availing ourselves to this unique opportunity, it is recommended that all take advantage by coming to Church during these days. In receiving the Divine Eucharist, remember to include on your Communion intentions the well-being and stability of our nation, and all who have lost their lives in war, and the advancement of the Byzantine Catholic Church in this country as well as throughout the entire world.



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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E.C.F. coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh

Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff

- Holy Mystery of Reconciliation ..... Before and after Liturgies
- Holy Mysteries of Initiation ..... Contact the church office
- Holy Mystery of Anointing ..... Ask prior to surgery or serious illness
- Holy Mystery of Marriage ..... Contact the church office eight months prior to wedding
- Religious Education Classes ..... September through May, following Sunday Divine Liturgy
- St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club ..... Everyone welcome to participate



*Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Христос Воскресе! Восстину Воскресе!*