***April 19, 2020***

**ASSUMPTION OF THE VIRGIN MARY**

**UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH**

**ECUMENICAL PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE AND NEW ROME**

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**Northampton, Pennsylvania 18067**

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**Sun. 19 Apr. (Apr. 06)** **THE BRIGHT RESURRECTION OF CHRIST. THE HOLY PASCHA OF THE LORD.**

St. Eutychius, patriarch of Constantinople (582). St. Platonida (Platonis) of Nisibis (308). St. Methodius, Equal-to-the-Apostles, enlightener of the Slavs (885).

**Acts 1:1-8 John 1:1-17**

**Today’s Bulletin sponsored in loving memory of father, Martin Sheska, offered by Martha and Michael Misko.**

**Blessed Feast Day of Holy Resurrection of Christ to all parishioners of our church. May Raised Jesus Brings you to Salvation!**

**Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**

**Chrystos Voskres! Voistynu voskres!**

Old Slavonic: Christos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!

Greek: Christos Anesti! Alethos Anesti!

Arabic: Almaseeh qam! Hakkan qam!

Czech and Slovakian: Kristus Vstal Mrtvych! Opravdu Vstoupil!

French: Christ est ressucite! En verite Il est ressuscite!

German: Christos ist auferstanden! In wahrheit ist er auferstanden!

Hebrew: Ha Mashiyach qam! Ken hoo qam!

Italian: Cristo è risorto! E veramente risorto!

Latin: Christus resurrexit! Vere resurrexit!

Polish: Chrystus z martwych Wstanol!

Portugese: Cristo ressuscitou! Em verdade ressuscitou!

Spanish: Cristo ha Resucitado! En Verdad ha Resucitado!

**The bright Week (fast-free)**

**(LIVESTREAM OF SERVICES ON FACEBOOK)**

**Mon. 20 Apr. BRIGHT MONDAY**. Acts 1:12-17, 21-26, Jn. 1:18-28

***9:00 AM Divine Liturgy***

**Tue. 21 Apr. BRIGHT TUESDAY.** Acts 2:14-21, Lk. 24:12-35

***9:00 AM Divine Liturgy***

**Wed. 22 Apr. BRIGHT WEDNESDAY.** Acts 2:22-36, Jn. 1:35-51

**Thu. 23 Apr. BRIGHT THURSDAY.** Acts 2:38-43, Jn. 3:1-15

**Fri. 24 Apr. BRIGHT FRIDAY.** Acts 3:1-8, Jn. 2:12-22

**Sat. 25 Apr. BRIGHT SATURDAY.** Acts 3:11-16, Jn. 3:22-33

**Sun. 26 Apr. Antipascha. 2nd Sunday of Pascha, of St. Thomas.**

Mt. 28:16-20, Acts 5:12-20, Jn. 20:19-31

***9:00 AM Divine Liturgy***

**A Biblical Paschal Meditation:**

Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. (*Matthew 28:20)*

Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that sleep.

(I Corinthians 15:20)

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

*(I Corinthians 15:5)*

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me.

(*Galatians 2:20)*

If then you be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God. (*Colossians 3:1)*

Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. *(Revelation 1:18)*

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**PROPERS FOR LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM**

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing Life. (3X)**

***Verse1****:*

Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered and let those who hate Him, flee from before His face.

***Tropar****:* Christ is risen from the dead…

***Verse 2:***

As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish; just as wax that melts before the fire.

***Tropar****:* Christ is risen from the dead…

***Verse 3:***

So the sinners will perish before the Face of God, but let the righteous be glad.

***Tropar:*** Christ is risen from the dead…

***Verse 4:***

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***Tropar:*** Christ is risen from the dead…

***First Antiphon, Tone 2:***

***Verse 1****:* Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; sing forth the glory of His Name; make His praise glorious.

***Refrain:***Through the prayers of the Birth-Giver of God, Savior, save us.

***Verse 2:***Say to God: How awesome are Your works. In the greatness of Your Power, shall Your enemies be proven false to You.

***Refrain:*** Through the prayers of the Birth-Giver of God…

***Verse 3:***Let all the earth worship You and chant to You. Let them chant Your Name, Most high.

***Refrain:***Through the prayers of the Birth-Giver of God…

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

***Refrain:***Through the prayers of the Birth-Giver of God…

***Second Antiphon, Tone2***

***Verse 1****:* May God be gracious to us and bless us and may He make His Countenance shine upon us and have mercy on us.

***Refrain****:* Son of God, Who rose from the dead, save us who sing to You: Alleluia.

***Verse 2:***That we may know Your way upon the earth, among all nations Your salvation.

***Refrain****:* Son of God, Who rose from the dead…

***Verse 3****:* Let the peoples give You praise, God, let all the peoples praise You.

***Refrain:***Son of God, Who rose from the dead…

***Verse 4:***Let God bless us and let all the ends of the earth fear Him.

***Refrain:***Son of God, Who rose from the dead…

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Only Begotten Son…**

***Third Antiphon, Tone 3***

***Verse 1****:* Let God arise. Let His enemies be scattered and let those who hate Him flee from before His Face.

***Tropar:***Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing Life.

***Verse 2:***As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish; Just as wax that melts before the fire.

***Tropar****:* Christ is risen from the dead…

***Verse 3:***So the sinners will perish before the Face of God, but let the righteous be glad.

***Verse:***Christ is risen from the dead…

***Entrance Hymn****:* Bless God the Lord in the churches, you who are of Israel’s offspring.

***Tropar****:* Christ is risen from the dead…

***Hpakoe:***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 Ever-lasting 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 men.

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

***Kondak, Tone 8***

You descended into the tomb, Immortal One and destroyed the power of Death. In victory You arose, Christ God, proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrh-bearing women. You granted peace to Your apostles and bestowed resurrection upon the fallen.

***Instead of the Thrice Holy Hymn:***

As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ. (3X)

***Prokimen, Tone 8***

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***Verse:*** Give thanks to the Lord for He is Good, for His mercy endures forever.

***Epistle: Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8***

***Alleluia Verses in Tone4***

Lord, You shall rise up and have mercy on Zion.

The Lord from Heaven has looked upon the earth.

***Gospel: John 1:1-17***

***Instead of “It is right in truth…”***

The angel cried to the Lady Full of Grace: Rejoice, Pure Virgin. Again I say: Rejoice. Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb. With Himself He has raised up all the dead; Rejoice, all

peoples.

***Irmos:***Shine, Shine, O New Jerusalem for the Glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exalt, now and be glad, O Zion and rejoice, Pure Birth-Giver of God, in the Resurrection of Your Son.

***In place of Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord.***

***Tropar:***Christ is risen from the dead…

***Communion Hymn:***

Receive the Body of Christ, taste of the fountain of immortality. Alleluia (3X)

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 **BIRTHDAYS:**

**25 April…**Andrea Sawarynski

**MNOHAYA LITA! MANY YEARS!**

**NECROLOGY:**

**20 April…**Martin Sheska ‘12

**21 April…**Antin Masur ’44, Jameleh Azar ‘85

**22 April…**Alexander Poticha ’62, Michael Lubenesky ‘01

**24 April…**Ivan Lutyi ‘79

**25 April…**Mary Gulka ‘55

 **VICHNAYA PAMYAT! MEMORY ETERNAL!**

**Donation** in memory of Elizabeth Paukovitz from Michael Hnatow – 20$, Steve and Melanie Unger – 50$. Thank you!

**2020 ESSAY CONTEST.** Let's participate! **https://uolofusa.org/essaycontest**

**The Youth of our Parish are collecting funds for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA** as part of the Great Lent Giveaway 2020. You can participate by our Facebook page. Thank you for your generous donations!

**Regarding to the situation and with blessing of our Hierarchs, Sunday School, Pierogi making and Church Studies, ARE CANCELLED. All the Services are served behind the closed doors.**

**LET’S BLESS OUR BASKETS ALTOGETHER ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS IN THE CHURCH – BETWEEN 9:30 AM – 10:00 AM. PLEASE, USE THE PRAYERS FOR THE BLESSING OF PASKA AND BASKETS (YOU CAN ALSO FIND IT ON OUR WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE).**

**PASCHA:** By St. Gregory of Nyssa

This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it! O glorious state, O sweet invitation! Who tarries in accepting this invitation? Joy is the task, jubilation the injunction, through which the judgment growing out of sin is suspended and sorrow is turned into happiness.

Every memory of our condemnation is totally wiped out. Formerly birth was with pain but now without. Formerly we were born as sons of men but now as children of God. Formerly we were sent down from heaven to earth but now the Heavenly One has made us heavenly. Formerly death ruled through the power of sin but now through life justice has got the upper hand. One person opened the portal of death; Another Person led life back. We lost life through death in former times, but now death has been conquered by life. We hid under the fig-tree of shame, but now in glory we approach the Tree of Life. We were driven out of paradise for our disobedience, but now by faith we gain paradise. Again the fruit is offered us for our enjoyment at will. Once more the fountain of paradise parted four-fold by the streams of the Gospel, give drink to the whole Church – so that the Church may cause the furrows of our soul to overflow, those furrows ploughed by the teaching of Him Who sowed the word – and that the fruits of virtue may multiply. What, then, shall we do? What, indeed, but imitate the skipping of the mountains and hills in the Prophet? For the mountains, he says, skipped like rams and the hills like young lambs (Ps. 114:4,6).

Come, then, and let us rejoice in the Lord Who has broken the power of the enemy and has raised the sign of victory of the Cross through the overthrow of the adversary. Let us raise a battle cry. But a battle-cry is a shout of victory. Because now the battle line of the enemy has been cast down, he who has power over the evil hosts of demons had vanished and, being uprooted, has sunk back into nullity.

Let us proclaim that it is God, the great Lord and great King of all the earth, Who has blessed the crown of His Acceptable Year and has gathered us to this spiritual congregation in the Lord Christ Jesus, to Whom be the honor to the ages of ages.

**ILLUSTRATION**

A small orphaned boy lived with his grandmother. One night their house caught fire. The grandmother, trying to rescue the little boy asleep upstairs, perished in the smoke and flames. A crowd gathered around the burning house. The boy's cries for help were heard above the crackling of the blaze. No one seemed to know what to do, for the front of the house was a mass of flames. Suddenly a stranger rushed from the crowd and circled to the back where he spotted an iron pipe that reached an upstairs window. He disappeared for a minute, then reappeared with the boy in his arms. Amid the cheers of the crowd, he climbed down the hot pipe as the boy hung around his neck. Weeks later a public hearing was held in the town hall to determine in whose custody the boy would be placed. Each person wanting the boy was allowed to speak briefly. The first man said, "I have a big farm. Everybody needs the out-of-doors." The second man told of the advantages he could provide. "I'm a teacher. I have a large library. He would get a good education." Others spoke. Finally the richest man in the community said, "I'm wealthy. I could give the boy everything mentioned tonight: farm, education, and more, including money and travel. I'd like him in my home." The chairman asked, "Anyone else like to say a word?" From the backseat rose a stranger who had slipped in unnoticed. As he walked toward the front, deep suffering showed on his face. Reaching the front of the room, he stood directly in front of the little boy. Slowly the stranger removed his hands from his pockets. A gasp went up from the crowd. The little boy, whose eyes had been focused on the floor until now, looked up. The man's hands were terribly scarred. Suddenly the boy emitted a cry of recognition. Here was the man who had saved his life. His hands were scarred from climbing up and down the hot pipe. With a leap the boy threw himself around the stranger's neck and held on for life. The farmer rose and left. The teacher, too. Then the rich man. Everyone departed, leaving the boy and his rescuer who had won him without a word. Those marred hands spoke more effectively than any words. (Wheaton: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc, 1988) pp. 119-120.

**The Holy Light (The Miracle of Miracles)**

The All-sacred Church of the Holy Resurrection in Jerusalem is a very intricate building. In it are various pilgrimage sites, the main ones being the Holy Sepulcher, which contains the All-Holy Tomb of Christ, Sacred Golgotha, and the Holy Finding of the Precious Cross.

The sacred Sepulcher is comprised of the front courtyard and the main room, we would say, to the right of which is the All-Holy Tomb. From the All-Holy Tomb a super-celestial fragrance constantly pours forth, and during the celebration of the touching of the Holy Light (around noon of Holy Saturday) the Holy Light "comes out" miraculously (without anyone lighting it). This Holy Light, which appears as a "tongue of fire" or as "sepulchral manifestation of light" is imparted from the Grace of the Holy Spirit only to the orthodox Patriarch (the Orthodox Hierarch) and through him to the pilgrims: Orthodox and non-Orthodox alike. The Holy Light many times acts on its own. It radiates, or runs like a dove or like lightning within the Church. Sometimes it enflames the Holy Sepulcher. It lights its vigil lamps as well as the sacred Golgotha, of the Taking Down of Christ from the Cross, the candles of believers, etc. The sight is not independent of the level of faith of each person. When it first appears it has a bluish color and for the first three minutes, it does not burn at all. One can place the fire on his hands, his chest, his mouth, etc. for a blessing without suffering any harm. The truths of the Holy Light are proclaimed by:

1) The autopsy and exhaustive investigation of the All-Holy Tomb prior to its sealing by non-believers to certify that there is no existence of light or lit vigil lamp or material which would easily burn, etc.

2) The physical investigation of the Patriarch by non-believers prior to His entrance into the All-Holy Tomb to make sure that he has nothing that would impart light and in the presence of the multitude of Rulers, Authorities, Diplomats and those who work in the media of mass communication, etc.

3) The vigilant and close observance of the Patriarch by an Armenian Priest, who accompanies the Patriarch as he enters the All-Holy Tomb the former then remains in the outer courtyard.

4) Finally, the fragrant column ripped open by the Holy Light in 1579. This is to the left of the entrance to the Church of the Resurrection. Even the enemies of the Church remain dumbfounded before this undoubtable reality. The Holy Light is not the only source of Divine Grace in the Holy Land, but it is the crowning of all miracles there. It is the miracle of miracles, a repeated miracle every Holy Saturday.

**The Blessing of the traditional Paschal food**

Historically, the Lenten period was a period of fasting and abstaining from meat and dairy products every day. To show their joy and gratitude at the end of this strict fast, people took to the Divine Liturgy celebrated on Easter morning food, which was blessed, and which they later ate at their Paschal “breakfast”.

This custom of blessing the foods, which will be consumed on Pascha, continues in all Orthodox churches today. Each of the foods has symbolic meanings that reflect the faith of our people.

THE EGGS: PYSANKY. The egg is often likened to the tomb from which Christ arose. Jesus came out of the tomb like a living chick comes out of an egg that looks dead. According to tradition, St. Mary Magdalene who – was a wealthy woman – gained an audience with the Emperor Tiberius in Rome after Christ’s Resurrection. Denouncing Pilate for the way he conducted himself at Christ’s trial, Mary told the Emperor about Christ and His Resurrection from the Dead. Holding out an egg to him, she proclaimed “Christ is Risen!” The Emperor was not impressed. He told St. Mary Magdalene that there was about as much chance of a human being returning to life from the dead as there was of the egg in her hand turning red. The egg promptly turned red! This is why many icons show Mary Magdalene holding a red egg.

With the special meaning of hope, of the emergence of new life, and of the Resurrection, the decoration of pysanky with Christian symbols are fitting, and the sharing of the pysanky with friends and relatives shows the good wishes given to them. An egg will be used to first break the fast, and the sharing of one egg by all members of the family shows family unity and hope for a good life in the year ahead.

THE MEAT PRODUCTS: HAM, ROASTED LAMB, KOLBASA. All meat products represent the animals used in sacrifice in the Old Testament, and remind us of the sacrifice of our Savior Jesus Christ, who became for us “a Lamb of God, taking away the sins of the world.” Meats also remind us of the story of the fattened calf prepared by the father for the Prodigal Son; the analogy is the Lord giving His Son to mankind who sinned. Ham symbolizes freedom from the Old Law, which did not allow some kinds of meat; the New Law began with the Resurrection. Roasted lamb is symbolic of Jesus, the Paschal Lamb by whose blood we are saved. Kielbasa represents the links of chains of death, which were broken when Christ rose from the dead.

THE DAIRY PRODUCTS: BUTTER & CHEESE. Butter in shape of a lamb can also remind us of Jesus, the Paschal Lamb. All dairy products are related to the prophecies that told of the prosperity and peace of the Messianic times and are symbolic of the special gifts, which God gives us.

PASCHA BREAD. Bread is symbolic of Jesus Christ, the “Living Bread” who “came down from heaven to give life eternal to the world”. The richness of this bread both in ingredients and in decoration is a reflection of the special meaning it holds. Bread reminds us of Jesus who in the Eucharist is the true bread of everlasting life and who nourishes our souls as bread nourishes our bodies.

THE HORSERADISH AND THE SALT. Horseradish was part of the original Passover meal as a reminder to Jews of the bitterness and harshness of life in Egypt. To Christians, the horseradish represents the bitterness of sin and the hardships we must go through in life because of the original sin. The horseradish sweetened with red beets reminds us of the bitterness of the Passion of Christ which He overcame in glory through His Sacrifice and Resurrection. Salt is a reflection of Christ’s words: “You are the salt of the earth” which we Christians must follow. Salt is also a symbol of fast and self-denial.

THE BASKET used for the blessing of the Paschal food was special and never used for any other purpose. Careful attention is paid to the preparation of the food to go in the basket. The embroidered covers for the baskets are symbolic of the great beauty of the “New Life” given all believers through Christ’s suffering and Resurrection. Each basket also contains a lighted candle, which is a symbol of the radiance of the resurrected Christ.

**WE PRAY FOR THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING of all, who may encounter the virus at any time (such as doctors and first responders).** Also we pray of the ill-afflicted: Gregory, Allan, Lubov Slonova, Chet Bohanek, William Savitz, Catherine Kochenash, Vladimir & Emma Krasnopera, Brendan Phillips, Jessie Hnatow, Jessica Meashock, Adam Hewko, Betty Hendrickson, Andrew Thaxton, Michelle Pierzga, Susan Ferretti, Carole Zarayko, Mariana Goshow, Judy Albright, Rob Hewko, Daniel Kochenash, Christopher Mack, Norman Betrous.