



St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

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Sunday May 2, 2021 HOLY PASCHA – THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. [Beginning of the Pentecostarion]. St. Athanasius the Great, Patriarch of Alexandria (373). Translation of the Relics of the Holy Passionbearers Boris and Gleb (in Baptism Roman and David – 1072 and 1115). St. Athanasius of Lubensk, Patriarch of Constantinople (1654). Martyrs Hesperus, Zoë, and their sons, Cyriacus and Theodulus, at Attalia (2nd c.). St. Boris (in Baptism Michael), Prince of Bulgaria (906-907).

Bright Week Schedule

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Bright Wednesday 5/5 Paschal Vespers 6:30 p.m.

Saturday 5/4 Great Vespers 5: 00 p.m.

Sunday 5/5 St. Thomas Sunday Hours 8:40 a.m.

Divine Liturgy 9:00 a.m.

Followed by Coffee Hour

Please Note Services will also stream Online

Reader Schedule

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>3RD HOUR</u> | <u>6th Hour</u> | <u>EPISTLE</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| May-9 | VOJACSEK | PECK | PECK |
| May-16 | DORAZIO | WJCIECHOWSKI | WALES |
| May-23 | SKOMORUCHA | VOJACSEK | CAREY |

This Week's Announcement

Blessed Pascha Welcome and a joyous and blessed Pascha to all! Please join us following Liturgy for the blessing of baskets. Enjoy the Feast of Feasts! Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Paschal Celebration Continues Our Paschal celebration on Wednesday evening May 5th at 6:30 p.m. with Paschal Vespers. Join us!

Study Group Pascha Break Our study group will break for Holy week and Bright week. We will return to meet on Thursday May 12th at 10:00 a.m.

Coffee Hour We are having a modified coffee hour for any who wish to participate. Participation is entirely voluntary; and participants should understand that it is impossible to eliminate all risks with respect to Covid. Therefore, each coffee hour participant assumes their own risk in deciding to participate. However, with that said, we are taking common sense steps to make fellowship safer, and would ask that participants please observe the following: **1)** maintain social distancing at all times when in the fellowship hall, whether standing or seated; **2)** continue to wear masks when not actively eating or drinking; **3)** sanitize hands before using the coffee pot; **4)** wash or sanitize hands before eating; **5)** initially food will not be provided but you may bring your own; **6)** please use the Clorox wipes on the table to sanitize your spot at table, and your chair before leaving. We would also ask that **all participants be gracious when reminded of these rules.**

FAMILY PROMISE - St. Michael's parish family members have another opportunity to serve by providing simple meals for families who are in need and who are being helped by Family Promise.

We have committed to prepare and deliver a meal on the following days:

1. Monday, May 24
2. Tuesday, May 25
3. Thursday, May 27

If you would like to sign up as an individual or in a group and prepare a simple dinner meal on any of the above days, please respond back with your date selection to either Ellen Gundersen at ellengundersen5@gmail.com or Susan Skomorucha at skomorucha@aol.com. Please RSVP your interest by 05/09/21. More information for those who sign up to make and deliver meals will follow. Thank you for your consideration and for your help with this ministry.

Questions Everyone Should ask themselves Before coming to In-Person Worship: Do you have a fever, cough, shortness of breath, and or trouble breathing? Persistent pain, pressure or tightness in chest? Any recent loss of taste/smell or gastrointestinal upset? Any contact with anyone with C-19? **If you answer YES to any of these questions you should stay at home.**

Prayers for the Departed: Metropolitan Theodosius, Archbishop David, Mitred Archpriest Eugene Pianovich, Mitred Archpriest Daniel Ressetar

Prayers for the Sick and Those in Need: Fr. John Zabinko, Fr. Joseph Chupeck, Fr. Daniel Kovalak, Mat. Ellen Chupeck, Mat. Myra Kovalak, Lemlem Resat, Olga Riley, James Hicks, Anna Herko, Luke Wales, Anna Wales, Nona Carey, Maria & Doug Dozier, Mona Elia, Mary Anne Farrell, Stephanie Hojnicky, Harry Kutch, Dimitrios Jim Petrides, Albert Shock, Elizabeth Melnik, Alexandra Grishin, Sam Sylvest, Paula Daubert, Elizabeth Clause, Jamie Clause, David Telep, Ned Minnich

Prayers for Catechmens Kristin Mackenzie, John Hill

| Date | <u>Service Duty</u> | <u>Church Cleaner</u> |
|--------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2-May | Sulpizi | Baldychev/Shatley/Sylvest |
| 9-May | Hojnicki/Najemy | Sulpizi |

Upcoming Dates to Keep in Mind

- Holy Pascha..... May 2nd*
- Ascension.....June 10th*
- Pentecost.....June 20th*
- Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul.....June 29th*

Pandemic Ponderings Pascha—One Year Later

by Mother Christophora [Matychak]



During the pandemic, I have often heard people refer to this as “a crazy time.” Or they say that we are living in “a crazy world” now. Others refer to the pandemic in general as “all this craziness.” I have never felt comfortable with that word or description. I wanted to say that this is not a crazy time. The world God created is lovely and beautiful—not crazy. Maybe we are crazy. Maybe our society

was already crazy before the pandemic. But I don’t think that any perceived craziness will simply go away when the pandemic becomes history.

I did a search of the Bible for the word “crazy,” and it does not appear, not even once. Then I thought: Perhaps the word “mad” is used in Scripture. So I searched that word and found it only seven times in the whole Bible.

Almost always, the word “mad” referred to a person, not to the world or society. One interesting exception can be found during the destruction of Babylon in Jeremiah 51:6-7, which reads:

“Flee from the midst of Babylon;

let every one save his life!

Be not cut off in her punishment,

for this is the time of the LORD’s vengeance,

the repayment he is rendering her.

Babylon was a golden cup in the LORD's hand,

making all the earth drunken;

the nations drank of her wine;

therefore the nations went mad.”

If people see our time, this pandemic time, as a crazy time, what do they actually mean?

Is it because we can't just go here and there,

Anytime,

Any place,

Anywhere?

Is it because we feel that

“They” have taken away “Our human rights”

(If we even ever had them),

Because we can't gather in groups,

Or because we are required to wear masks?

Is it because plans have been curtailed,

Dreams shattered,

And events canceled?

Is it a crazy time because our financial resources

Have weakened,

Or dried up,

And “secure” jobs have been lost?

Is it because people died

Without saying goodbye,

Without loved ones being near,

Without proper funerals and burials?

*Is it because even strong and healthy ones
Got sick,
Weakened by this unseen enemy?
Is it because we can't visit family and friends,
Hug our grandkids,
Gather for graduations, celebrations, and marriages?
Is it crazy because schools were closed,
Bands practiced on split-screen,
Clubs met online,
And doctors diagnosed over video chat?
Is it crazy because churches were shuttered,
Services were canceled or streamed,
Communion became virtual, rather than physical,
And monasteries locked their gates?
Indeed, we have **much** to grieve,
Much to regret,
Much to heal.
And much to fulfill, and refill.
Yet, we discovered the Lord was not in the wind.
He was not in the earthquake.
He was not in the fire.
But He came, a still small voice.
He came to each one of us,
In our own quiet solitude,
In our social isolation,
In the inner chamber of our hearts,
In our rooms, once we had shut the door.*

*Last year it was there,
Where we were forced to flee,
Where we met Christ,
When we followed Him in our own painful isolation,
And the abandonment of Holy Friday;
Where we came to search for Him
In the oh, so very empty tomb,
Of our own hearts that Pascha night of the Pandemic.
But never were we separated from Christ;
No matter how lonely we were,
No matter how empty the tomb of our hearts,
And the nave of our churches.
Yes, in the long, endless, isolated hours of Holy Week,
And behind those locked doors of Pascha night,
It was Christ Who came to us!
It was Christ with Whom we broke bread that night.
And it was Christ Who said, "Peace be with you.
As the Father has sent me, even so I send you!"
And eight days later,
When Thomas demanded the physical proofs—
To touch with his hands, to see with his eyes—
Jesus asked, "Have you believed
Because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe!"
As others walked and discussed
All that had happened in those days,
He, Jesus, walked with them.
He listened to their grief.*

He felt their trauma.

It was He Who broke the bread and opened their eyes,

So that their hearts burned!

A crazy world?

No. Not with the Lord.

He asks us, "Have you anything to eat?"

Yes, we have seen, and we have tasted,

How good the Lord is!

We are not alone.

We have not been alone!

He has opened our eyes to see His face.

He is among us, in us, and with us.

Yes, indeed, Christ is among us!

He is and ever shall be!

And let us follow Him again this year,

On whatever road He leads,

And whatever path He demands.

As in each year that has already passed,

Let us follow Him,

To His Passion, and to

His Holy Third-day Resurrection!

"And unto us He has given eternal life.

Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day!"

Christ is among us!

He is and ever shall be!

(3X)