

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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April 28, 2019

RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

- **11:30pm** (Sat.) – Nocturne
- **12:00am** – Procession & Paschal Matins
- **9:30am** – Paschal Divine Liturgy
Epistle: Acts 1:1-8
Gospel: Jn. 1:1-17
- **Blessing** of Paschal baskets & breaking of the Fast in the church hall.

Schedule of Services

BRIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 29

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Procession

BRIGHT TUESDAY, APRIL 30

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

BRIGHT SATURDAY, MAY 4

6:00pm - Great Vespers

ST. THOMAS SUNDAY, MAY 5

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

1:30pm - Blessing of Graves at East Ridgelawn Cemetery

CHRIST IS RISEN!
INDEED HE IS RISEN!
ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕСЕ!
ВОИСТИНУ ВОСКРЕСЕ!

On the day of the Resurrection of Our Lord, we have a special duty to the world around us. We need to help other people come to a true understanding of what Christ's rising from the dead means for the world.

This is needed because there is so much misunderstanding of God's plan and intention. And that misunderstanding is often expressed with great certainty by people who are sure they know the "facts" about God, and what He does. For example, in an article published in the New Yorker Magazine, Adam Gopnik has written that Jesus's cry on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" indicates failure. Gopnik states: "His father let him down, and the promise wasn't kept."

But this is the exact opposite of what God did. The truth about His plan and work are well expressed in the Prayer of Commemoration in the Liturgy of Saint Basil, which we have heard all through Great Lent. That prayer reminds us that man(kind) was "set in a paradise of delight" but lost it through "his own transgressions." So God sent man forth from paradise, "returning [him] to the earth from which he was taken, yet providing for him the salvation of regeneration in Christ Himself."

The prayer goes on to say that "it pleased Thine only-begotten Son...to condemn sin in His flesh, so that those who were dead in Adam might be made alive by Thy Christ Himself." Christ "made for all flesh a path to the resurrection from the dead."

Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Genevieve Bobenko, Michael Bzik, Mary Ann Dolak, Dorothy Fabian, Barbara Kary, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Dennis Maixner, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky.

These words mean that the Father and the Son agreed that Christ should come into the world, and should suffer, be crucified and raised. It was the only way He could once and for all defeat the power of death.

In Luke 24:12-35 Jesus Himself gives the reason for His agonizing death. It is the story of the two travelers on the road to Emmaeus who meet the risen Jesus but do not recognize Him. As they walk along together, Jesus reminds them of all the prophecies of the Old Testament. He asks them, "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?" (24: 26).

That word "necessary" is significant. It surely wasn't necessary for the Son of God, as God, to suffer and die. He is alive forever with His Father. But His creatures transgressed and could not save themselves from the deadly consequences of what they had done. To save them, it became necessary. We are the children of a God who refuses, as Saint Basil's prayer says, to "turn His face away from His creatures forever." No matter what we do, He will never forget us, because we are "the work of His hands." His love is so great, His determination not to let us perish is so absolute, that He will do anything for us. On this day of Pascha we celebrate that love and the eternal life it brings us.

Εἰς Πολλά Ἐτῆ Δέσποτα!

We lovingly welcome our dear Vladika, **His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, Bishop of New York and the Diocese of New York and New Jersey**. We also warmly welcome all visitors and friends of our parish. Thank you for joining us in prayer this Paschal Sunday morning. May God grant all of you good health and joy for Many Years!

Announcements

◆ Tomorrow, **Bright Monday**, at the end of the Liturgy we will have a procession around the Church, during which the children will be carrying the Icons. If you have small family icons that are fit for our little parishioners, please bring them with you for the procession.

◆ The **Blessing of Graves** at **East Ridgelawn Cemetery** will be held next **Sunday, May 5** (St. Thomas Sunday.) The blessing will start with Panikhida at the cemetery chapel at **1:30pm**. For St. Peter's and other cemeteries please make an appointment with Father Igor. If you have family members that are buried far away and you are not able to visit their graves, you can submit their names for commemoration at the time of blessing.

◆ The **Passaic "O" Club** gratefully extends a thank you to all our parishioners and friends who donated to this year's **"Gifts of Love"** program. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and the funds will be a welcomed addition to the funds needed to assist St. Tabitha's House in Malava, Kenya. Thank you again.

Welcome Visitors

We welcome all visitors to the Paschal Divine Liturgy this morning. It is our joy to have you with us today. If this is your first visit to our parish, we welcome you and invite you to return as often as you are able. While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross, receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, and for fellowship in our Church Hall after the service.