



Blessed Pascha!

Dearly beloved of St. Nicholas Church, Christ is Risen!

What a joy that we have been able to have our Lenten services this year after the uncertainty of last year, and what greater joy that we are able to gather in the Church this year to celebrate our Lord's resurrection! I greet you in your homes, in the midst of your busy lives, in your joys and struggles, and send my love! It is my sincere and constant prayer that the Joy of our Lord's saving Resurrection would fill your hearts with joy and gladness in these coming days, giving you the grace to become icons and witnesses of His Resurrection to the entire world.

As the season changes around us and we see "resurrection" around us--the melting frost, the emerging green, the sudden beauty in blooming creation--we feel the joyful anticipation of our Lord's Resurrection, wanting to join in with the created world in the celebration of the One who has defeated the power of death for us, the ones whom He loves. Especially for those who have kept the fast, uncovered and confessed their sins, borne their various crosses in patient hope--the Joy of the Lord's Coming Day shines brightly, just a short while from us on the horizon. But even for those who did not keep the fast, the joy of the Feast nevertheless offers itself to us all!

"Pascha" means passover, recalling the Passover of the Jews, who were spared from the Angel of Death and saved by the Lord God from Pharoah, delivered from slavery and brought by God's prophet Moses into the promised land. Now we celebrate "A new and blameless Pascha, a mystical Pascha, a Pascha worthy of Veneration!" In this new Pascha we have passed over "from death to life" (Jn. 5:24); we are spared from the wages of death through the love of our Lord God, who defeats the Devil and the grave, delivering us from the slavery of sin and bringing us by His Son and God, Jesus Christ, into the true Promised Land, the paradise of eternal life and communion with God.

May we all keep the joy of the feast year-round!

With love in Christ,

Fr. John Parker & Family

(Service Schedule on Back)

Join us for the Services of Holy Week, Witnessing our Lord's Passion and Love, culminating in the Joy of the Resurrection*! (Fr. John is available for confession most of the week, by appointment. See bulletin, call rectory or email frjohndonora@gmail.com for questions).

Holy Week Schedule

Fri. Apr. 23rd

6pm--Vespers of Lazarus Saturday

Sat. Apr. 24th

10am--Divine Liturgy, Lazarus Saturday

Sun. Apr. 25th

10am--Divine Liturgy, Palm Sunday

6pm-- Bridegroom Matins of Holy Monday

Mon. Apr. 26th

6pm-- Bridegroom Matins of Holy Tuesday

Tues. Apr. 27th

6pm-- Bridegroom Matins of Holy Wednesday

Wed. Apr. 28th

6pm-- Matins of Holy Thursday

Thurs. Apr. 29th

9:30am-- Vespers of Holy Thursday;

6pm-- Matins of Holy Friday w/passion gospels

***Fri. Apr. 30th**

8:00am--Royal Hours;

3:00pm-- Vespers of Holy Friday;

7pm-- Matins/ Lamentations w/ procession

Sat. May 1st

9:30am-- Vespers of Holy Saturday;

9:30pm-- Nocturns & Matins of Holy Pascha, followed by basket blessing

Sun. May 2nd

10:00AM--Paschal Divine Liturgy

****If you desire to receive Holy Communion at Pascha, it is expected you have gone to confession at least once in the recent months and have prepared by fasting prior to liturgy, from midnight onward***