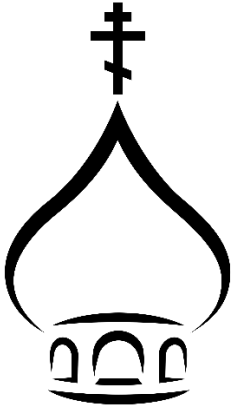


Divine Liturgy
Sunday, April 12, 2026
GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH



SAINT NICHOLAS

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

Archpriest Nikolai Breckenridge, Rector

Cell: 570-604-4277

Email: nikolai.breckenridge@gmail.com

Mitred Archpriest James Mason, Attached

Patricia Stetz Grammes, Parish Council President

Reader Nicholas Lezinsky, Choir Director

Reader John Heitzenrater, Church School Administrator

Email: ChurchSchool@stnicholasoca.org

Jennifer Bzik, Administrative Assistant

Email: assistant4stnicholas@outlook.com

Note to our Guests and Friends Visiting St. Nicholas:

We offer a most sincere and heart-felt welcome to St. Nicholas Church! Please be advised that according to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves to receive the Holy Sacrament.

(Please note - Information to be included in next Sunday's bulletin must be submitted by noon on Thursday. Thank you! ~ Jennifer N. Bzik)

***Please turn off or silence your electronic devices
before entering the church. Thank you.***

980 Bridle Path Road | Bethlehem, PA 18017-3120 | T: 610-867-0402
stnicholasoca.org

Schedule for the Week of April 12, 2026

HOLY PASCHA – THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. [Beginning of the Pentecostarion]. St. Basil the Confessor, Bishop of Parium (8th c.). Hieromartyr Zeno, Bishop of Verona (ca. 260). Ven. Isaac the Syrian, Abbot of Spoleto (550). Monastic Martyrs Menas, David, and John, of Palestine (7th c.). Venerable Anthusa of Constantinople (801). Ven. Athanasia, Abbess, of Aegina (860). Ven. Acacius the Younger, of Kavsokalyvia (Mt. Athos–1730). Transfer of the Holy Zone of Theotokos to Constantinople (942).

Fr. Nikolai's Office Hours

Fr. Nikolai will not have formal office hours this week.

Please feel free to contact Fr. Nikolai directly if you need to speak with him.



In an effort to make my scheduling more efficient, and to avoid a bunch of back-and-forth emails, please take advantage of my new scheduling app at www.calendly.com/frnikolai You can also scan this QR code with your phone, to be taken directly to the site. With this you can schedule a confession outside of the usual Vespers times, or schedule a house blessing or an in-person or Zoom meeting with me. - Fr. Nikolai

Weekly & Upcoming Calendar

****Live Stream will also be available for all services.****

Sunday, April 12

11:00 am - Agape Vespers
Followed by the blessing of baskets

Monday, April 13

Bright Monday
8:50 am - Paschal Hours
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, April 18

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, April 19

St. Thomas Sunday
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
2:00 pm - Blessing of the Graves - Union Cemetery

Saturday, April 25

To Be Determined

Sunday, April 26

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Blessing of Graves - Catasauqua

Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Please Help Take Care of Our Church

As we approach Holy Week and Paschal Services when many parishioners may be holding lit candles during services, please be reminded to take care not to drip wax on the pews, floor, or carpet, etc. As a general reminder, please leave all parts of the church facility in the condition you found it (or better). Some examples: If young children are snacking during services, make sure not to leave crumbs in and around the pews. If you are hosting coffee hour, make sure to put extra paper products back on the shelves in their labeled spots. If something spills or there are crumbs around your table at the end of coffee hour, please tidy up. Everyone doing their part helps to maintain our beautiful church.

Help Needed - Halupki Making

We will be making Halupki on Sunday, April 19th starting after coffee hour and Monday, April 20th starting at 8:00 am. Many hands make light work! Please contact Val Roberts if you have any questions.

Pierogi Making Schedule

NO Pierogi April 6, 7, 8 (Holy Week)

NO Pierogi April 13, 14, 15 (Bright Week)

NO Pierogi April 20, 21, 22

Back to Pierogi Making April 27, 28, 29

Church School Announcements

- The Pascha Easter egg hunt (open to all children) will be after liturgy on Sunday, April 19, 2026 with rain date of April 26, 2026.
- Last day of Sunday School is May 24, 2026

Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 12, 2026

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

Paschal Troparion

Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Paschal Verses, Psalm 68

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

As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire!

So the sinners will perish before the face of god: but let the righteous be glad!

This is the day which the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

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

The First Antiphon, Tone 2, Psalm 66

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name, give glory to His praise! Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Say to God: How awesome are Thy deeds! So great is Thy power that Thy enemies cringe before Thee Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee! Let it praise Thy name, O Most High! Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!

The Second Antiphon, Tone 2, Psalm 67

God be bountiful to us and bless us! Show the light of Thy countenance upon us and have mercy on us! O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: ALLELUIA!

That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and thy salvation among all nations!
O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: ALLELUIA!

Let the people give thanks to Thee, O God! Let all the people give thanks to
Thee! O Son of God who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee:
ALLELUIA!

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

Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will
to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change
didst become man and was crucified, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified
with the Father and the Holy Spirit: O Christ our God, trampling down death by
death, save us!

The Third Antiphon, Psalm 68

Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee from
before his face!

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH BY DEATH!
AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE!

As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire!

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH BY DEATH!
AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE!

So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad!

CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMPLING DOWN DEATH BY DEATH!
AND UPON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BESTOWING LIFE!

Hypakoe

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 everlasting 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 unto
ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion, Tone 8

Thou didst descent into the tomb, O Immortal. Thou didst destroy. The power of death! In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, proclaiming "rejoice" to the myrrh-bearing women, granting peace to Thy apostles and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

Instead of the Trisagion:

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia!

Prokeimenon, Tone 8, Psalm 118

This is the day which the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

EPISTLE

Read by Reader Nicholas Stepanoff

(Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8) The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Alleluia Verses, Psalm 102 & 33

Thou didst arise and have mercy on Zion. The Lord looked down from Heaven and saw all the sons of men. This is the day which the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

GOSPEL LESSON FOR PASCHA

(John 1:1-17) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

The Hymn to the Theotokos

The Angel cried to the Lady Full of Grace: Rejoice, O Pure Virgin! And again I say: Rejoice! Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb! With Himself he has raised all the dead! Rejoice, all ye people! Shine! Shine! O New Jerusalem! The Glory of the Lord has shone on you! Exult now and be glad, Zion! Be radiant, O Pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son.

Candle Offerings for Sunday, April 12, 2026

Vigils in Altar - Windowsill (2)

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Boris & Marietta

Vigils in Altar - Table of Oblation (2)

In Memory Of Stefanov Family, Offered by Boris & Marietta

Vigils in Altar - Side Table (2)

In Memory Of Peytcheva Family, Offered by Boris & Marietta

Votives in Altar

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Boris & Marietta

Votives in Iconostas

In Memory of Lloyd, Joyce, Nancy & Mildred, Offered by Nicholas

Vigil in Side Candle Holders (2)

In Memory Of Mom, Dad & Joan, Offered by Pat & Tom

Crosses

For Health Of Radio & Tomsic Family, Offered by Poppy & Baba

Vigils on the Tetrapod (2)

In Memory Of Mom, Dad & Joan, Offered by Pat & Tom

Vigils on Icon Table (2)

Happy Birthday Jason Roberts, Offered by Uncle Gordon & Aunt Val

Vigils - Icon of the Virgin Mary (2)

Votives - Icon of the Virgin Mary

In Honor Of Carolina, Offered by Nicholas

Vigils - Icon of St. John the Baptist (2)

For Health Of Greg Radio, Offered by Rosalie

Votives - Icon of St. John the Baptist

In Honor Of Donna, Offered by Nicholas

Vigils on South Wall Window Sill (3)

In Thanksgiving for Past & Present Clergy of St. Nicholas

Vigils of St. Gregory (1)

In Honor Of David, Offered by Nicholas

Vigils of St. Paul (1)

In Honor Of All Children, Offered by Nicholas

Vigils on North Wall Window Sill (3)

In Thanksgiving for Past & Present Clergy of St. Nicholas

Vigil of St. Michael (1)

In Honor Of Isabelle, Offered by Nicholas

Vigil of St. Andrew (1)

In Honor of Radu Lungu, Offered by Nicholas

Flowers to Adorn the Icon of The Resurrection

In Memory Of Father Eugene Vansuch, Offered by Matushka Fran Vansuch

Flowers to Adorn the Icon of Our Lord Jesus Christ

In Memory Of Michael & Mary Stetz, Offered by Pat & Tom

Flowers to Adorn the Icon of The Theotokos

In Memory Of Sisters, Joan Stetz & Mary Stetz Strohecker
Offered by Pat & Tom

Pascha Flower Donations

Medium Baskets for Iconostas

In Memory Of Selar & JoAnn Konsevitch, Reade & Mary Roberts
Offered by Gordon & Valerie Roberts & Family

In Memory Of Margaret Sirb & Ann Varvarich, Offered by The Livesey & Jaindl
Family

In Memory Of Paul & Dorothy Havrilko and Nicholas & Lucille Lezinsky
Offered by Family

In Memory Of Nancy & John Junda, Offered by Anastasia & Robert Peloquin

Easter Lilies

In Memory Of Subdeacon Michael (Frank) Guydan
Offered by Michele D. Guydan

In Honor Of The Merlo Family, Offered by Thomas V. Merlo

In Memory Of Margarita Martinez, Offered by The Heitzenrater Family

In Memory Of Elsie Colclaser, Offered by Livesey & Jaindl Families

In Memory Of Dmitry & Elsbeth Guanowsky, Offered by The Guanowsky Family

In Memory Of Artim Family, Offered by David Artim

In Memory Of Natalie & Stefan Danchenko, Offered by Halina Danchenko

In Memory Of Natalie & Stefan Danchenko, Offered by Halina Danchenko

In Memory Of Natalie & Stefan Danchenko, Offered by Halina Danchenko

In Memory Of Peter Keimer, Offered by Keimer & Gowarty Family

In Memory Of Barbara Horsky, Offered by Keimer & Gowarty Family

In Memory Of Ann & John Steffaro, Offered by Keimer & Gowarty Family

In Thanksgiving for Past & Present Clergy of St. Nicholas

In Memory of Departed Parishioners of St. Nicholas

For Health Of Parishioners of St. Nicholas

For Health Of Students & Their Families, Faculty, Staff, and Benefactors of
St. John Chrysostom Academy

Hyacinths

In Memory Of Guydan/Dupay & Antoniak/Kaminsky Families
Offered by Michele D. Guydan

In Memory Of Ray, Stephen & Johanna, Offered by The Pasquel Family
For Health Of Nick, Austin, Marissa & Timmy, Offered by Stephenie Pasquel

In Memory Of Peter Kohudic

In Memory Of Yanostaw Tatusko, Offered by O. Tatusko

In Memory Of Richard Stevenbeck, Offered by O. Tatusko

In Memory Of Departed Radio Family, Offered by Greg & Rosalie Radio

In Memory Of Departed Wallitsch Family, Offered by Greg & Rosalie Radio

In Memory Of Hutz & Bretz Family, Offered by Ann Marie & Barry Bretz

In Memory Of Artim Family, Offered by David Artim

For Health Of Janice & David Cudlic, Offered by Laura & Joseph Eck

In Memory Of Valerie Kennedy, Offered by Fr. Nikolai

In Thanksgiving for Past & Present Clergy of St. Nicholas

In Memory of Departed Parishioners of St. Nicholas

For Health Of Parishioners of St. Nicholas

For Health Of Students & Their Families, Faculty, Staff, and Benefactors of
St. John Chrysostom Academy

Daffodils

For Health Of Guydan/Dupay & Antoniak/Kaminsky Families
Offered by Michele D. Guydan

For Health Of Lezinsky/Florenz Families, Offered by Nick & Judy

For Health Of Lezinsky/Florenz Families, Offered by Nick & Judy

For Health Of Radio/Tomsic Family, Offered by Greg & Rosalie Radio

For Health Of Kavchok & Mascari Families, Offered by Margie & Joe Kavchok

In Memory Of Leo Howell, Offered by Mary Howell

In Honor Of Mary & Stephen Belzner, Offered by Mary Howell

In Memory Of Mason Family, Offered by Fr. James & Mat. Marie

In Memory Of Peter & Mary Baker, Offered by Fr. James & Mat. Marie

For Health Of David Gowarty, Offered by Karen, Gabriel & Mom

For Health Of Fr. Nikolai, Offered by Gowarty & Keimer Family

For Health Of Kathleen Keimer, Offered by Karen, David & Gabriel Gowarty

In Thanksgiving for Past & Present Clergy of St. Nicholas

In Memory of Departed Parishioners of St. Nicholas

For Health Of Parishioners of St. Nicholas

For Health Of Students & Their Families, Faculty, Staff, and Benefactors of
St. John Chrysostom Academy

Tulips

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Boris & Marietta

In Memory Of Philip Stefanov, Offered by Boris & Marietta

In Honor Of Aemelia & Nico's Engagement, Offered by Christina Heitzenrater

In Memory Of Leo Howell, Offered by Leo, Nicole, Adam, Lauren & Landry

In Memory Of Cudlic, Gall & Fedora Families
Offered by The Cudlic & Eck Families

In Memory Of Nancy Cudlic, Offered by The Cudlic & Eck Families

In Memory Of Andrew & Anna Treichak, Offered by David & Janice Cudlic

For Health Of Our St. Nicholas Family & Friends
Offered by The Isbansky Family

In Honor Of Guliana Holobeny, Offered by The Bessmans

In Memory Of Peter Keimer, Offered by Keimer & Gowarty Family

In Memory Of Barbara Horsky, Offered by Keimer & Gowarty Family

In Memory Of Ann & John Steffaro, Offered by Keimer & Gowarty Family

In Memory Of Helen Haney & Rose Felix, Offered by Donna Haney

In Memory of Departed Parishioners of St. Nicholas

For Health Of Parishioners of St. Nicholas

For Health Of Students & Their Families, Faculty, Staff, and Benefactors of
St. John Chrysostom Academy

Hydrangeas

In Memory Of Felix Family, Offered by Patty Felix

In Memory Of Radio/Wallitsch Families, Offered by Greg & Rosalie

For Health Of Radio/Tomsic Families, Offered by Greg & Rosalie

For Health Of For Health Of Dorosh/Murgia Families
Offered by Marina Murgia

In Honor Of Kh. Sophia Shadid, Offered by Mat. Susan Kon

In Memory Of Artim Family, Offered by David Artim

In Memory Of Departed Family & Loved Ones, Offered by The Isbansky Family

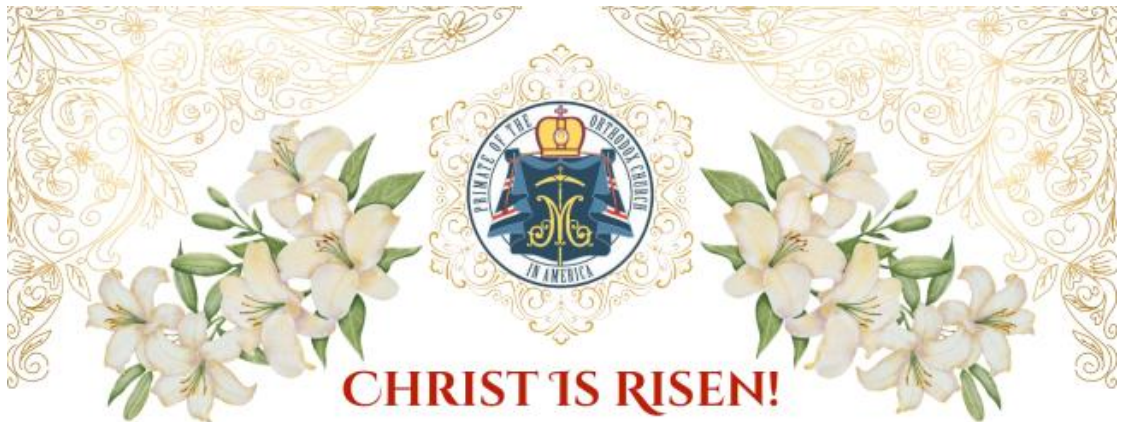
In Memory Of James Meier, Offered by Daniel & Brenda Sirb

Paschal Greetings from Around the World

From <https://www.oca.org/orthodoxy/paschal-greetings>

Language	Greeting & Response
Aleut:	Khristus anahgrecum! Alhecum anahgrecum!
Aleut:	Khris-tusax agla-gikux! Agangu-lakan agla-gikux!
Albanian:	Krishti U Ngjall! Vertet U Ngjall!
Alutuq:	Khris-tusaq ung-uixtuq! Pijii-nuq ung-uixtuq!
Amharic:	Kristos tenestwal! Bergit tenestwal!
Anglo-Saxon:	Crist aras! Crist sodhlice aras!
Arabic:	El Messieh kahm! Hakken kahm!
Armenian:	Kristos haryav ee merelotz! Orhnial eh harootyunuh kristosee!
Athabaskan:	Xristosi banuytashtch'ey! Gheli banuytashtch'ey!
Bulgarian:	Hristos voskrese! Vo istina voskrese!
Byelorussian:	Khrystos uvaskros! Saprawdy uvaskros!
Chinese:	Helisituosi fuhuole! Queshi fuhuole!
Coptic:	Pchristos aftooun! Alethos aftooun!
Czech:	Kristus vstal a mrtvych! Opravdi vstoupil!
Danish:	Kristus er opstanden! Ja, sandelig opstanden!
Dutch:	Christus is opgestaan! Ja, hij is waarlijk opgestaan!
English:	Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!
Eritrean-Tigre:	Christos tensiou! Bahake tensiou!
Esperanto:	Kristo levigis! Vere levigis!
Estonian:	Kristus on üles tõusnud! Ta on tõesti üles tõusnud!
Ethiopian:	Christos t'ensah em' muhtan! Exai' ab-her eokala!
Finnish:	Kristus nousi kuolleista! Totisesti nousi!
French:	Le Christ est réssuscité! En verite il est réssuscité!
Gaelic:	Taw creest ereen! Taw shay ereen guhdyne!
Georgian:	Kriste aghsdga! Cheshmaritad aghsdga!
German:	Christus ist auferstanden! Wahrlich Er ist auferstanden!
Greek:	Christos anesti! Alithos anesti!
Hawaiian:	Ua ala hou 'o Kristo! Ua ala 'I 'o no 'oia!

Hebrew:	Ha Masheeha houh quam! Be emet quam!
Hungarian:	Krisztus feltamadt! Valoban feltamadt!
Ibo (Nigeria):	Jesu Kristi ebiliwo! Ezia o' biliwo!
Indian (Malayalam):	Christu uyirthezhunnettu! Theerchayayum uyirthezhunnettu!
Indonesian:	Kristus telah bangkit! Benar dia telah bangkit!
Italian:	Cristo e' risorto! Veramente e' risorto!
Japanese:	Harisutos Fukkatsu! Jitsu ni Fukkatsu!
Javanese:	Kristus sampun wungu! Tuhu sampun wungu!
Korean:	Kristo gesso! Buhar ha sho nay!
Latin:	Christus resurrexit! Vere resurrexit!
Latvian:	Kristus ir augsham sales! Teyasham ir augsham sales vinsch!
Lugandan:	Kristo ajukkide! Amajim ajukkide!
Norwegian:	Christus er oppstanden! Sandelig han er oppstanden!
Polish:	Khristus zmartwyckwstal! Zaprawde zmartwyckwstal!
Portuguese:	Cristo ressuscitou! Em verdade ressuscitou!
Romanian:	Hristos a inviat! Adevărat a înviat!
Russian:	Khristos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!
Sanskrit:	Kristo'pastitaha! Satvam upastitaha!
Serbian:	Hristos vaskrse! Vaistunu vaskrse!
Slovak:	Kristus vstal zmr'tvych! Skutoc ne vstal!
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad ha resucitado!
Swahili:	Kristo amefufukka! Kweli amefufukka!
Swedish:	Kristus är uppstånden! Han är sannerligen uppstånden!
Syriac:	M'shee ho dkom! Ha koo qam!
Tlingit:	Xristos Kuxwoo-digoot! Xegaa-kux Kuxwoo-digoot!
Turkish:	Hristos diril - di! Hakikaten diril - di!
Ugandan:	Kristo ajukkide! Kweli ajukkide!
Ukrainian:	Khristos voskres! Voistinu voskres!
Welsh:	Atgyfododd Crist! Atgyfododd yn wir!
Yupik:	Xris-tusaq Ung-uixtuq! Iluumun Ung-uixtuq!
Zulu:	Ukristu uvukile! Uvukile kuphela!



CHRIST IS RISEN!

April 12, 2026

04/001

To the clergy, monastics, and faithful of the Orthodox Church in America, beloved in the Lord:

Christ is risen! Indeed he is risen!

A week ago, we heard the holy Martha express her faith in the resurrection of the dead when she said: "I know that my brother will rise again in the resurrection at the last day" (Jn. 11:24). But our Lord replied to her, "I am the Resurrection and the Life," and that very day he called Lazarus forth from the tomb (Jn. 11:25, 43-44).

He did this by the power of his third-day Resurrection, a power that cannot be contained by time or place. The Pascha of the Lord is not an event like other events, one more link in a chain of causality or knot in a string of happenstance. Through Christ's Passion and Resurrection, divine eternity breaks into time; mortality encounters life everlasting. Christ's Pascha is not just the resurrection of the dead at the end; it is the end of time itself. In the light of Pascha, all other events are bathed in the endless radiance of the unceasing and immeasurable age to come.

The uncontainable, all-encompassing power of the Lord's Resurrection is reflected in the way that we celebrate the Paschal event. There is one day a year we call Pascha. And yet, all of Bright Week is also considered one day, a single celebration of Pascha. Then again, the feast actually continues until its Leavetaking on the eve of the Ascension. And even after that, we renew our Paschal celebration each Sunday, adorning our weekly observance of the Lord's Day with a grand cycle of hymns in honor of the Resurrection.

Liturgically, then, we see that Pascha cannot be contained; its power cannot be circumscribed by a single day or even a whole season. This is also true in each of our lives. Christ is risen, and therefore

each and every moment offers us the possibility of a new beginning. By the power of Christ's Pascha, our entire life becomes a continuous opportunity to renew ourselves, to start again.

This means that the joy of this Paschal morning, the rejoicing we experience when we discover the empty tomb in the deep dawn, need never cease. Yes, Martha was right: the Lord will raise us up on the last day. But he is also ready to raise us up today, tomorrow, and every day of our lives. He suffered the consequences of our sin on the Cross so that he might free us from our bondage to its power. The joy of liberation need not come only at the end, or only once a year: Christ's Pascha is with us always, in our hearts and in our lives.

It is my prayer that this experience of Pascha remain with each of you throughout this week, throughout these forty joyous days of celebration, and throughout all the days of your life. I pray that, finding joy in his victory, you may experience that victory again and again each time you turn back to him and start anew. If we remain faithful to him—not by our instant moral perfection, but by our steadfast repentance and willingness always to begin again—he who is called Faithful and True will surely remain faithful to us, and we will know the happiness and power of his Pascha both now and throughout the age to come (Rev. 19:11; cf. 2 Tim 2:12–3).

To him who passed through the darkness of hell in order to lift us up to the unfading light of his heavenly kingdom, henceforth and always, Christ our true God, the Paschal Lamb who lives forever, be all glory and adoration, together with his Father and his All-holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Christ is risen! Indeed he is risen!

Yours in the Risen Christ,

+Tikhon
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada



His Eminence, the Most Reverend
+ **MARK**
*Archbishop of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania
Orthodox Church in America*

April 12, 2026

The Resurrection of our Lord, Great and Holy Pascha

Dearly Beloved in Christ,

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

As we began Great Lent, we asked one another for forgiveness and entered the Fast with joy. Now, standing at the radiant Feast of Feasts, we come before one another once again in that spirit of joy and reconciliation, exclaiming: *"This is the day of resurrection! Let us be illumined by the Feast! Let us embrace each other! Let us call 'brothers' even those that hate us, and forgive all by the resurrection!" (The Paschal Stikhiri).*

Having journeyed through Holy Week, we must be mindful of what we have beheld in the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem, where the crowds cried, *"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!"* and how quickly those same voices turned to cry, *"Crucify Him! Crucify Him!"* Dear brothers and sisters, we must take care that this same change of heart does not occur within us. We must not allow our Paschal joy to become bitter or even overshadowed. Rather, we are called to preserve and cultivate the sweetness and beauty of the Resurrection in our lives. Do we receive Christ with steadfast faith, or do we, through our sins and negligence, deny Him? We are given the supreme gift of eternal life; let us guard this gift and not carelessly cast it aside. The tomb is found empty! The Cross is the weapon of peace! Death is overthrown! Life Reigns!

Saint John Chrysostom says, *"Let all partake of the feast of faith; let all receive the riches of goodness."* No one is excluded from this joy, for Christ has trampled down death by death and bestowed life on those in the tombs! The joy of Pascha is not fleeting, nor is it confined to a single night. It is the very life of the Church, the foundation of our faith, and the promise of our salvation. Having been illumined by the light of the Resurrection, we are called to carry that light into the darkness of the world, bearing witness to Christ, of Whom it is written, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* (John 1:1). Be assured of my prayers for all of you, and I humbly ask that you remember me in yours. As we stand before the empty tomb, may we proclaim with one voice:

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Your unworthy father in Christ,

+ Mark

+MARK
Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Diocese of Eastern Pennsylvania

O Physician of our souls and bodies, Who hast sent Thine only-begotten Son to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit and heal us, Thy servants, from all physical and spiritual ailments, through the grace of Thy Son, Jesus Christ. Grant to us patience in sickness, strength of body, and recovery of health. Lord, Thou hast taught us through Thy Word to pray for each other that we may be healed. For Thou art the source of healing, and to Thee we send up glory, to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers for the Health of the Servants of God:

Archbishops: Melchisedek Pleska, Nathaniel Popp, Benjamin Peterson

Igumen: Patrick Carpenter, David Lewis

Archpriests: Nikolai Breckenridge, Thomas Edwards, John Perich, James Mason, Claude Vinyard, David Shewczyk, Ian Shipley, James Weremedic, John Onofrey, George Hasenecz, Emilian Hutnyan, John Nightingale, Gregory White

Deacons: Geoffrey LoBalbo

Matushki: Liudmyla Breckenridge, Marie Mason, Johanna Bohush, Evelyn Edwards, Paraskeva Vansuch, Myra Kovalak, Gloria Martin, Rebekah Markewich, Sophia Shadid, Katia Vansuch, Lisa Weremedic, Stephanie Onofrey, Susan Kon

Servants: Ann Marie Bretz, Bethany Bruder, Theresa Butler, Jennifer Bzik, Helen Cotirgasanu, David G. Cudlic, Val Danchenko, Alexis Defoe, Maryann Dudash, Christopher Felix, Olga Frimenko, David Gowarty, Patricia Grammes, Tom Grammes, Rachel Hardesty, Luca Harford, Artemiy Hartman, Kalista Hartman, Nicholas Hazzard, Dymphna (Madeleine) Heitzenrater, Marina (Margaret) Heitzenrater, Don Holobeny, Jonathan Hontz, Sava Hrebinka, Sherry Hromiak, Krista Irwin, Michael H. Isbansky, Shirley Isbansky, Sarah Jubinski, Kathleen Keimer, Alexandra Keysock, William Keysock, Mary K. Koretski, Stephanie Koretski, Bernard Kusior, Jean Kusior, David Lezinsky, Judy Lezinsky, Radu Lungu, Mircea Lupo, Victoria Lustig, Olga Maksimova, Amber Metz, Michael Metz, Lanelle Mikolaitis, Doina Marian, Kylie Pinho, Joseph Pinkowicz, Kiera Pheiffer, William Podlusky, Kathy Porter, William Potter, Rosalie Radio, Laurel Riley, Leah Roberts, Barbara Roman, Victoria Ross, Mary Ruzila, Connor Samuels, Robert Schainfeld, Catherine Shea, Janice Shumbata, Francine Slivka, Michael Slivka, Julia Smith, Maeve Stuckey, Heatherlyn Sturges, Jerry Volkert, Irene Witaneck, Sandra Wyslutsky

Catechumens: Mo AboHagar, Austin Bednar, Jared Buck, Nicholas Heacock, Margaret MacKay, Taylor Magditch, Christian Reichert, Adam Smith, Sean.

Handmaidens: Lydia Claycomb, Ruth Finlaw, Tanner Mazur, and their unborn children

Please remember them and all our homebound and nursing home parishioners in your daily intercessory prayers.