

Orthodox Heights

HolyTrinityOrthodoxChurch.org
139 Horseheads Blvd, Elmira Heights, NY 14903
Fr James Worthington, Acting Rector 315-706-6185
Steven Cheplick, Warden Warden@HolyTrinityOrthodoxChurch.org

APRIL 8, 2018

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA!!!

THE RESURRECTION OF
OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
Christ Is Risen!

Indeed, He Is Risen!

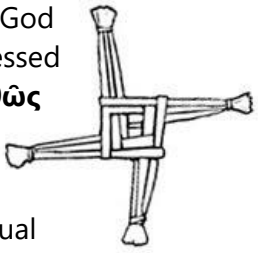
WELCOME VISITORS! We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you with us! Please know that we are glad that you are here praying with us and invite you to join us after the service for a meal and to meet everyone in our community. **Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**

LEGACY FUND: It was decided by the Parish Council to establish a Legacy Fund, in order to honor the work of the last 100 years, and provide a stable foundation for the next century in the life of our beloved parish. This designated fund will be for capital improvements and for furthering the ministries of the Parish. Please consider supporting this effort in your giving and estate planning.

Χριστος воскресе! Воистину воскресе!

RECEIVING COMMUNION: The Orthodox Church believes that in order to partake of the Eucharist, the very body and blood of Christ, one has to share the beliefs of the Church regarding it. In the Church's teaching, this means being a full member of the Orthodox Church. Therefore, one may not receive Communion in an Orthodox Church unless he or she is an Orthodox Christian and has prepared through recent confession, prayer and fasting. All are welcome to join the Orthodox Church, should they so choose. **Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**

MANY YEARS!: Congratulations are due to the newly illumined handmaiden of God Theresa Bridget, her Godparents and family. May the Lord grant him many blessed years of health and happiness within His Holy Church. **Χριστος ανέστη! Ἀληθως ανέστη!**



DDB APPRECIATION DINNER: As we are both benefactors and recipients of the Distinguished Diocesan Benefactors Program, we have been invited to the annual appreciation dinner. It will be held at St Peter & Paul Church in Buffalo, NY on Sunday, April 15 at 5 PM. If you would like to attend, please see Fr James. **Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!**

GRAVE BLESSINGS: As we continue to proclaim the Gospel of the Resurrection, it is custom to bless the graves of those who have gone on in the hope of the resurrection before us. We will be headed to the cemetery after the Divine Liturgy next week, St Thomas Sunday, to bless the graves there. Also, if any of the departed faithful are in other locations, please see Fr James to schedule a grave blessing. **Si Kristo ay nabuhay! Tootoo! Siya nga ay nabuhay!**

FELLOWSHIP SCHEDULE

April 8: PASCHA

April 15: Potluck

April 22: Cusick & Urda Families

April 29: Karney Family

READERS SCHEDULE

April 7: Reader William

April 14: Steven C

April 21: Alexander C

April 28: Rdr Thomas

PRAYER LIST

LIVING:
Archpriest Jason
Archpriest Herman
Archpriest John
Mat. Katherine
Rdr. Thomas
Rdr. David
Kathleen
Infant Hannah
Abigail
Infant Justus
Anna & Family
Leon

Kate
Elizabeth
Kristen
Katherine
Nadezhda
Errin
Helen
Larissa & Family
Janet
CATECHUMEN: Theresa P
(Tess)
BIRTHDAYS: Ryan Anthony,
Kathleen

ANNIVS: James
NAMESDAYS: None
TRAVELLING: Anna
REPOSED:
Archpriest John U
Archpriest Stephen
Priest John B
Deacon Mark H.
Rdr Gregory
Parker
Lindsay
Lucinda
Hannah

Katerina
Child Anthony C
Amanda
Peter
NEWLY REPOSED: Ronin (3-1),
Parije (3-28), Mitred
Archpriest John (4-7)
ANNIVERSARIES: None

BY THE NUMBERS: Last Collection: \$400. Weekly Budget: \$1100.
MTD: \$400. Monthly Budget: \$4360. February +\$1059

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

CONFESSIONS ARE HEARD BEFORE AND AFTER VESPERS AND AT ANY OTHER CONVENIENT TIME.

PASCHA!!! APRIL 8: 12 Midnight Matins and Liturgy of the Great and Holy PASCHA.

Agape Meal to follow.

12 Noon Agape Vespers and Egg Hunt for the Kids

Bright Monday, April 9: 9 AM Divine Liturgy and Procession

Bright Tuesday, April 10: 6 PM Paschal Vespers

Bright Saturday, April 14: 10 AM Divine Liturgy at St Andrews Camp with Abp Michael

and Camp Open House

5 PM Great Vespers

St Thomas Sunday, April 15: 9 AM Divine Liturgy, Fellowship Hour

and Sunday School

Aleut: Kristus aq ungewektaq! Pichinuq ungewektaq!

Arabic: إلهنا المسيح قام! حقاً قام! al-Masīḥ qām! Ḥaqqan qām!

Armenian: Քրիստոս հարյաւմ է Մեռելոց: Օրհնյաւմ է Հարութեանը Քրիստոսի Khristos

Belarusian: Хрыстос уваскрос! Сапраўды ўваскрос! Khrystos uvaskros! Saprawdy wvaskros!

Coptic: Πιχρίστος ἀφῶν! ἕΝ οΥΜεΘΜΗι ἀφῶν! Pikhristos Aftonf! Khen oumethmi aftonf!

Dutch: Christus is opgestaan! Hij is waarlijk opgestaan!

Filipino (Tagalog): Si Kristo ay nabuhay! Totoo! Siya nga ay nabuhay!

French: Le Christ est ressuscité! Vraiment il est ressuscité!

German: Christus ist auferstanden! Er ist wahrhaftig auferstanden!

Greek: Χριστός ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη! Khristós anésti! Alithós anésti!

Irish: Tá Críost éirithe! Go deimhin, tá sé éirithe!

Korean: 그리스도께서 부활하셨습니다! 참으로 부활하셨습니다! Kristo Gesso Buhwal ha sho

sumnida! Chamuro Buhwal ha sho sumnida!

Latin: Christus resurrexit! Resurrexit vere!

Mandarin: 基督復活了 他確實復活了 Jīdū fùhuó le! Tā quèshí fùhuó le!

Quenya: ὄρῳῖ ἰῖῃῃ! ἰῃῃ ὄρῳῖ ἰῖῃῃ! Ortanne Laivino! Anwa ortanne Laivino!

Romanian: Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!

Russian: Христос воскрес! Воистину воскрес! Khristos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!

Serbian: Христос васкрсе! Ваистину васкрсе! Khristos vaskrse! Vaistinu vaskrse!

Spanish: ¡Cristo ha resucitado! ¡En verdad ha resucitado!

Swahili: Kristo Amefufukka! Kweli Amefufukka!

Tigrigna: Christos tensiou! Bahake tensiou!

Ukrainian: Христос воскрес! Воистину воскрес! Khrystos voskres! Voistynu voskres!

haryav i merelotz! Orhnyal e Harouthyoune Khristosi

Yupik: Xris-tusaq Ung-uixtuq! Iluumun Ung-uixtuq!

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church

Elmira Heights, New York



SUNDAY, APRIL 8TH, 2018
GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

ARCHPASTORAL LETTER FOR GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA 2018

Christ is Risen! – Indeed He is Risen!

As the night of Great and Holy Saturday approaches the midnight hour, there is an air of great expectation. The joy of Pascha is at hand. We sing the Canon of Holy Saturday with even greater joy, knowing that the end of the Great Fast is upon us and the radiant Feast of Feasts has all but arrived. At the end of that canon, the lights of the church being completely extinguished, in the midst of that darkness we chant: *"Do not lament Me, O Mother, seeing Me in the tomb, the Son conceived in thy womb without seed. For I shall arise and be glorified with eternal glory as God. I shall exalt all who magnify thee in faith and in love"*... and the Holy Burial Shroud of our Lord is raised from the tomb and enthroned on the altar.

Then the Paschal Vigil begins, and the celebrant comes forth with a candle and proclaims to all: *"Come ye, take light from the Light that is never overtaken by night. Come and glorify Christ risen from the dead."* As this is chanted, everyone comes to receive the Light, and as the flame of the Paschal candle spreads throughout the church, so too does our joy and faith in our Lord's glorious Resurrection.

This liturgical experience is more than an ancient religious tradition; it is a vibrant reminder that we are called to be the "light of the world" ... called to bring the Good News of the Resurrection to all people. The light of this Paschal candle represents the message of Christ risen from the dead, of which every one of us is to be a bearer. Our Lord said, *"No one after lighting a lamp puts it under a bushel basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father Who is in heaven"* (Matthew 5:15-16). And He tells us further, *"You will be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria, and to the very ends of the earth"* (Acts 1:8). That is our calling.

We are called to follow in the footsteps of Mary Magdalene, who not only reported her experience of the Risen Lord to the Eleven ... but also traveled to the very heart of the Empire, Rome itself, and witnessed to the emperor! We are to be inspired by the myrrh-bearing women, who were the apostles to the apostles and the evangelizers of the evangelists! And we ourselves are to become apostles to our world – like the first apostles, no longer afraid and hiding behind locked doors, but courageously sharing the faith of our Savior with every one of our family members, friends and neighbors who needs the love of God in Christ Jesus and will listen to our witness.

But, if we are to be credible bearers of this Good News, the light of Christ must be kindled

within our hearts. We must incarnate in our lives what St. Gregory the Theologian writes of his:

Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him;

yesterday I died with Him; today I am quickened with Him;

yesterday I was buried with Him; today I arise with Him.

Saint Gregory invites us to offer to our Savior Who suffered and died and rose again for our salvation – not merely gold or silver, woven work or shimmering and costly stones – but something far more valuable in His sight:

Let us offer ourselves, the possession most precious to God, and most fitting; let us give back to the Image what is made after the Image. Let us recognize our Dignity; let us honor our Archetype; let us know the power of the Mystery, and for what Christ died.

The brilliant Theologian encourages by his words and his own example:

Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us. Let us become Gods for His sake, since He for ours became Man. He assumed the worse that He might give us the better; He became poor that we through His poverty might be rich; He took upon Himself the form of a servant, that we might receive back our liberty; He came down that we might be exalted; He was tempted that we might conquer; He was dishonored that He might glorify us; He died that He might save us; He ascended that He might draw to Himself us, who were lying low in the Fall of sin. Let us give all, offer all, to Him Who gave Himself as a Ransom and Reconciliation for us. One can give nothing like one's own self, understanding the Mystery, and becoming for His sake all that He became for ours. ("On Pascha and His Reluctance," Oration 1:4-5)

Holy Week and Pascha bring together the pious and the not so pious. The invitation for all to come together to celebrate Christ's Resurrection and our salvation is most explicit in the Homily of St. John Chrysostom on Pascha night. Whether we have kept the Fast and attended the services throughout Great Lent, or just from the start of Holy Week on, or perhaps have only shown up for the Midnight Service ... we are all invited to celebrate the Feast with joy, without fear or hesitation or guilt. No member of the Church is excluded. All our sorrows, all our failings, all our problems, all our sins ... disintegrate in the face of the Glorious Resurrection. By His Passion, Death and Resurrection, Christ has freed us all. Truly there can be no other response to this than joy and forgiveness:

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, and so let us cry: "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!"

There is no greater liberation than forgiveness. When we truly understand the meaning of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord, when we really feel and actually live the joy of that freedom, forgiveness is the only possible response.

One might ask, "What difference does all of this make in the way I live my life?" It makes all the difference in the world. In light of what Christ has done for us, how can we remain angry with our neighbor? How can we despair over our sins or fret about our problems? Who has the right to look down on others? Who has reason to complain about being treated unfairly?

Who has cause to be bitter or bear a grudge? Who can remain paralyzed by the terror of sickness, suffering, and death itself? The universe has been filled with joy, freedom, and forgiveness. The sorrows of sin have been overcome; our enslavement to the devil has been ended; and the chains of death have been shattered. On the night of Pascha, we rejoice with St. John Chrysostom and his proclamation of Christ's ultimate victory:

O Death, where is thy sting? O Hell, where is thy victory? Christ is risen, and thou art overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion, unto ages of ages. Amen.

It is my sincere hope and fervent prayer that all of us will renew our personal faith in our Risen Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on this Day of His Resurrection ... and in return, He Who is the God Who loves us more than we love ourselves, will bless all of you with all the good things that come from His hands.

Christ is Risen! – Indeed, He is Risen!

With love in our Resurrected Lord and Savior, Abp Michael

IN MEMORIAM

We prayerfully remember all those who gave of their time, talent and treasure during Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha. We especially wish to thank those listed below who made Memorial donations for the adornment of the Temple. Christ is Risen!

Beverly Michalko- In Memory of the Michalko and Jubinski Families

Ruth Kriel - In Memory of Steve Kriel

Reader Thomas and Mildred Cheplick - In Memory of the Petelchuk and Cheplick Families

Marilyn and Robert Cusick - In Memory of William & Irene Cusick and Walter & Vera Michalko

Denis Kingsley - In Memory of Daniel and Clara Kingsley

Sbdn. Shawn Michael, Kathryn Karney and Family - In Memory of Basil and Evelyn Meade

Elizabeth Holobinko - In Memory of Paul Serbak and Walter Holobinko

Paul and Mildred Urda

Anonymous

THE PASCHAL HOMILY OF ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

If anyone is devout and a lover of God, let him enjoy this beautiful and radiant festival.

If anyone is a wise servant, let him, rejoicing, enter into the joy of his Lord.

If anyone has wearied himself in fasting, let him now receive his recompense.

If anyone has labored from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If anyone has come at the third hour, with thanksgiving let him keep the feast. If anyone has arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; for he shall suffer no loss. If anyone has delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near without hesitation. If anyone has arrived even at the eleventh hour, let him not fear on account of his delay. For the Master is gracious and receives the last, even as the first; he gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, just as to him who has labored from the first.

He has mercy upon the last and cares for the first; to the one he gives, and to the other he is gracious.

He both honors the work and praises the intention.

Enter all of you, therefore, into the joy of our Lord, and, whether first or last, receive your reward. O rich and poor, one with another, dance for joy! O you ascetics and you negligent, celebrate the day! You that have fasted and you that have disregarded the fast, rejoice today! The table is rich-laden; feast royally, all of you! The calf is fattened; let no one go forth hungry!

Let all partake of the feast of faith.

Let no one lament his poverty, for revealed.

Let no one mourn his transgressions, for pardon has dawned from the grave.

Let no one fear death, for the Saviour's death has set us free. He that was taken by death has annihilated it! He descended into hades and took hades captive! He embittered it when it tasted his flesh! And anticipating this Isaiah exclaimed, "Hades was embittered when it encountered thee in the lower regions." It was embittered, for it was abolished! It was embittered, for it was mocked! It was embittered, for it was purged! It was embittered, for it was despoiled! It was embittered, for it was bound in chains!

It took a body and, face to face, met God! It took earth and encountered heaven! It took what it saw but crumbled before what it had not seen!

It took what it saw but crumbled before what it had not seen!

"O death, where is thy sting? O hades, where is thy victory?"

Christ is risen, and you are overthrown!

Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!

Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!

Christ is risen, and life reigns!

Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in a tomb!

For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the First-fruits of them that slept.

To him be glory and might unto ages of ages. Amen.

