

May 5, 2024
GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

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HE IS RISEN



St. Sophia/SS. Faith, Hope & Agape
Greek Orthodox Church of Valley Forge

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Sunday Worship: 8:45 am - Orthros: 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
Office Hours - 10 am to 4 pm

Rev. Ekonomos Peter J. Thornberg, Proistamenos
fpeter@saintsophiachurch.org
Metropolis of New Jersey

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GOSPEL READING
John 20:19-25

Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace *be* with you." When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."



**Χριστός
Ανέστη!**

GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Saviour on Friday evening, returned from Golgotha to the city and prepared fragrant spices and myrrh, so that they might anoint the body of Jesus. On the morrow, because of the law which forbids work on the day of the Sabbath, they rested for the whole day. But at early dawn on the Sunday that followed, almost thirty-six hours since the death of the Life-giving Redeemer, they came to the sepulchre with the spices to anoint His body. While they were considering the difficulty of rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, there was a fearful earthquake; and an Angel, whose countenance shone like lightning and whose garment was white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards that were there became as dead from fear and took to flight. The women, however, went into the sepulchre, but did not find the Lord's body. Instead, they saw two other Angels in the form of youths clothed in white, who told them that the Saviour was risen, and they sent forth the women, who ran to proclaim to the disciples these gladsome tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the winding sheets. Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions.

Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday.

As we celebrate today this joyous Resurrection, we greet and embrace one another in Christ, thereby demonstrating our Saviour's victory over death and corruption, and the destruction of our ancient enmity with God, and His reconciliation toward us, and our inheritance of life everlasting. The feast itself is called Pascha, which is derived from the Hebrew word which means "passover"; because Christ, Who suffered and arose, has made us to pass over from the curse of Adam and slavery to the devil and death unto our primal freedom and blessedness. In addition, this day of this particular week, which is the first of all the rest, is dedicated to the honour of the Lord; in honour and remembrance of the Resurrection, the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labour that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.

All foods allowed during Renewal Week.



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to Beautify our Church for Holy Week and Easter**

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**Thank you to Christine Samaras for beautifying
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**In memory of George & Minnie Alexiadis and Charles & Connie Caravoulias
For the health and salvation of our family, and for the health of our mother
In memory of Thomas & Maria Hatzipavlidis
In memory of our loved ones
In memory of Peter Kostomite
In honor of Nina Laskaris
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In memory of Mrs. Phidella Natale

In memory of Vangjush Nasi and Phidella Natale

In memory of Spiro G. Vanezalos *and* in honor of Stella I. Vanezalos

In memory of my beloved husband George and our son Steven *and*

In honor of my children and grandchildren

In memory of Ruth Andrews Nikas, Bill & Carolyn Ruhl, Alexandros & Despina Tsinikas,

Ralph & Alberta Andrews, Bruce Andrews, and Demetrios & Anna Manolis

In memory of Barbara & James Stamas

In memory of Pauline Papadakes

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In memory of Aris Podotas and Michael & Martha Poloway *and*

In honor of Harriet Podotas

In memory of George Cakridas

In memory of the Scandalios and Callipolites Families

In memory of Ernest & Marian Laskaris

In memory of our beloved family members

In memory of George Tripolitis, beloved father *and*

In honor of the Tripolitis, Ruser and Kreiser Families

In memory of Maria Tsipras, Speros & Olga Tsipras, and Elias S. Tsipras I

In memory of my loved ones who have passed away

In memory of Isidoros N. & Markella Tsouros, Phokion C. Lacas,

Fr. Stephen P. Theophilos, Isidoros C. & Zoitsa Costalas, Michael Rapitis and

Constantinos I. Costalas

In memory of the Volakis Family and the Georges Family

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In memory of Nicholas Carvelas

