

Love Conquers All

A story is told of a man who, while he lived upon the earth, was unconcerned about the state of his soul, or spiritual growth, or eternity. When he died he found himself not enjoying eternal happiness but, rather, suffering eternal torment.

His friends and relatives went down to the gates of hell and tried to intercede for him, giving him a positive endorsement and a good character reference, but the gates of hell would not open to release him. Likewise, his parish priest tried to plead for him saying that he really wasn't all that bad. Still, the gates of hell remained closed. Finally, came his mother. She did not plead for him, she did not try to bargain for him, she did not make excuses for him. She simply said, "Let me in." The gates

of hell opened immediately because they could not withstand the force of love.

Our Father among the Saints, John Chrysostom writes: "Let no one fear death, for our Savior's death has set us free. He has destroyed death by enduring it. He has despoiled death by going down to its kingdom. O Death where is your sting, O Hades where is your victory? Christ is risen and you are abolished! Christ is risen and life is freed! Christ is risen and the tomb is emptied of the dead, for Christ has become the Leader and Reviver of those who had fallen asleep. To Him be glory and honor forever!" (*Paschal Sermon*)

Christ is Risen! Indeed He Risen!
Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

PASCHA - THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD



Icon of the Resurrection



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
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Divine Liturgy Schedule: Saturday, April 11th; at 4:00pm

PATRONAGE CHURCH SERVICES SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Sunday Resurrection of Our Lord Pascha 4.5.2026	8:00am	Resurrection Matins and Procession Divine Liturgy Anointing/Mirovanije Blessing of Paschal Food	For the Health and Salvation of: Parishioners
Bright Monday 4.6.2026	6:00pm	Vigil Divine Liturgy	For the Health and Salvation of: Parishioners
St. Thomas Sunday 4.12.2026	9:00am	Divine Liturgy	For the Repose of the Souls of: +Mary and +George Kostak Offered by: The Kotula Family

Resurrection of our Lord - Pascha

Today's Propers can be found in the Pascha Liturgy booklet.

HOLY MYSTERY OF REPENTANCE: Confession is available beginning an hour before Divine Liturgy, and ending 15 minutes before the start of services.

HOLY EUCHARIST AND VISITATION OF THE SICK: Eucharist can be brought to a parishioner who is ill, in the hospital, or at home. You can request a visit by either sending our church an email, or contacting either Fr. Vasyl or Deacon Tony, personally.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! Christós Voskrése! Voístinnu Voskrése!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER: The people of Ukraine, that peace may be soon be restored to their land, our parishioners, the founders of our parish, our benefactors, those who are sick, and those who cannot make it to church. Also, Fr. Vasyl Symyon, Charlie Toth, Larissa Toth, Tony Kotlar, Jr., Mary Hrinda, Michael Demyan, Michael Skovran, Mary Ann Ondrish, Betty Charlock, Elizabeth Hresko, John Hanyok, Ann Marie Elwell, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Joe Belensky, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Veronica Ruszin, Anna Martin, Joseph Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Howard Guba, Melanie Copper, Julie Wiegand, Natalie, Edin, and +Walter Lourdes Najera Herder, Mark and Betsey Herder, our first responders, and all military service men and women throughout the world. Please help us keep our prayer list up to date. Let us know if we need to remove or add a name by sending an email to our church. *May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician and Healer of souls and bodies, grant them peace and good health for many blessed years!*

STEWARDSHIP: You honor God and our Church by continuing to tithe each week. An offertory basket is on the table in the back of our Temple for your weekly donation. You may also mail your donation to our church, or donate using Tithe.ly online at: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733>. The link is also on the first page of our website. ***“Remember then, it is the Lord, your God, who gives you the power to acquire wealth” (Dt. 8:18).***

ST. THOMAS SUNDAY: Please join us on **April 12th**, for the feast of the appearance of our Lord to St. Thomas. We will begin with Divine Liturgy, followed by our annual St. Thomas Sunday Pot-Luck Luncheon, and an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt for children (weather permitting). Parents, please have your child bring a basket or bag from home for the egg hunt. If you plan on attending the Pot-Luck Luncheon, please contact Mary Demyan (mdemya1@verizon.net), and let her know how many people from your family will be attending and what dish you will be providing no later than **Wednesday, April 8th**. We want to ensure we have enough seating and food for everyone attending. Thank you for your help!

EASTER FLOWERS: Thank you to everyone who placed a flower order. Plants may be taken by the giver after Liturgy. Flowers not picked up by the giver will be planted in the flower beds around our church.

3RD ANNUAL PATRONAGE CHURCH'S PARISH PICNIC: Please join us on **Sunday, May 17th**, at Holy Trinity (Cathedral Gardens) Cemetery pavilion in Elkridge. Divine Liturgy will begin at 11:00am, followed by our parish picnic. A planning meeting is scheduled for **Sunday, April 26th**, after Liturgy. Any questions, please see Sharon Kotula. All are welcome to attend!

ADULT ENRICHMENT: We will be resuming sessions after Easter. Dates to be announced shortly.

2026 “OUR DAILY BREAD” CASSEROLE DONATIONS: Our first casserole collection for this year will be on **Sunday April 19th**. Please place your casserole in the church's freezer when you drop it off. Be sure it is appropriately labeled with the name of the casserole, Patronage Church, and the date. Any questions, please contact Greg Calvitt (gregcalvitt@gmail.com). Aluminum pans can be found on the kitchen counter in the social hall.

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH: We are glad that you have chosen to participate in the Divine Liturgy with us today, and we pray that it will be a spiritually nourishing experience. All Catholics may receive the Eucharist if you are in good standing and prepared. We receive the Body and Blood of Christ in our mouth by spoon. Please **DO NOT** stick out your tongue. ***If you would like to become an active part of our parish community, be added to our email list, and register as a parishioner,*** please complete a “Census” form. Forms are located on the bookrack in the Narthex, or on our website, and can either be mailed to our church, or placed in the offertory basket in the back of our Temple. On-line donation information can be found under “Stewardship” in this bulletin. ***“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples” (Isaiah 56:7).***

Children's Corner

Resurrection of our Lord - Pascha

Blessing of Paschal Food – when Fr. Vasyl uses holy water and blesses the Paschal food in our baskets that we bring to church, it will no longer be just tasty food, but food that is special, holy, and festive!

Unscramble the words to see what items we bless in a traditional Easter Basket:

CHASAP _____

AHM _____

BOLSSAKI _____

GESG _____

OSRDSHREAIH _____

HRKAUT _____

RTUETB _____

CABNO _____

ATSL _____

ADECNL _____

AKTBSE OECRV _____

ECF LENTEN SERVICE PROJECT: ECF is collecting monetary donations to benefit Holy Annunciation Monastery (founded in 1977) located in Sugarloaf, PA, for this year's Lenten Service Project. This monastery of Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic Nuns is part of our Eparchy of Passaic. ECF is currently planning a visit to the monastery on **Saturday, April 25th**. If you would like to support our Lenten service project, please place your donation (cash or check made payable to: Patronage Church) in the marked white poor box in the back of our church. Donations will be accepted through Sunday, March 29th. Thank you for your generosity! Visit www.byzantinediscalcedcarmelites.com, to learn more about Holy Annunciation Monastery.

A Slavic Easter: The Tradition Continues

Twas the day before Easter, and all through the house,
The Hrutka was hanging, even tempting the mouse.
The beets were boiling and I was grating with care
Because the horseradish aroma was filling the air.

The Pascha was sticky, it was a big lump of dough
I Kneaded to plump it so it would grow.
Raisins were added, then into the pan
Where inside the oven it began to brown and expand.

With Baba in the kitchen and Dzedo taking a nap
I began cracking walnuts, leaving the shells in my lap.
Opened jars of lekvar were soon everywhere,
Filling rolls of Kolachi were all I could bear.

Two dozen boiled eggs were waiting to cool
For coloring in pastel yellow, pink, green, and blue.
Softening for the mold was a pound of sweet butter
How I prayed that my counter would be free from this clutter.

The salt shaker was cleaned and filled to the top
Leaving only the meat before I could stop.
Smoked Kolbassi and bacon and brown-sugared ham
Why couldn't they just bless cans of ready-to-eat Spam?

Finally on Sunday with filled baskets in hand
And while singing "Christos Voskrese" the congregation did stand.
With candles and incense and blessings for us all
We bid each a Happy Easter and left the church hall.

At home the family fathered to begin the holy meal
But shortly thereafter I wondered if it was all real.
Within an hour of eating everything that they were able
My family was too full to clear the dishes from the table.

Happy Easter to All! Christos Voskrese! Voistinnu Voskrese!
Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen! - author unknown

Easter Letter

My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
Christ is Risen! Indeed is Risen!

More than 2,000 years ago in the history of humanity occurred a fundamental, mysterious, and glorious event: the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Jesus had come to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast, a commemoration of deliverance. The feast entirely intended to remind the people of Israel how God had liberated them from slavery in Egypt and gave them a “New Life” devoid of slavery.

First and foremost, our Lord Jesus Christ serves as the great liberator. He liberates us from fear and from sin. He liberates us from the fears that haunt us and from the sins that bind us with its slavery!

In a particular way, the Passover Lamb symbolized safety. On that night of destruction, the blood of the Passover Lamb kept Israel safe. As our Savior, Jesus saves us from our sins and from their consequences. He was born to provide us safety on earth and safety in heaven, safety in time and safety throughout eternity!

My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ, the Feast of Passover was a beginning of “New Life” devoid of slavery for the people of Israel. And I pray this Easter dawns as a beginning of “New Life” devoid of the slavery of sin for all of you!

May this Pascha be for us a Passover-transition from our old life to our “New Life!” May every one of us arise to the “New Life” in Jesus Christ! May it be an Easter in which you grow stronger in your daily desire to follow and live for our risen Lord and Savior!

O glorious Easter Day! A day when fear, sin, and death no longer exist! A day when death is conquered! A day when sin is trampled! A day when everyone joyfully can shout: Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is Risen, and life is freed from the ancestral curse.

Christ is Risen and the graves and tombs empty their dead. For Christ, now risen from the dead, has become the Leader and Reviver of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

May the Peace and Joy of the Risen Christ be with you!

Fr. Vasyl Symyon

