

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:****For health of:**

**Andrew** and **Robert** Morris on their birthdays, offered by Lore Stefy  
**Joanne** Naumov, Elena Wolff's grandson's wife, on her birthday.  
**Nicholas**, and **Nicholas** Naumov on their birthdays, great grandson and son-in-law of Elena Wolff  
 Health and prosperity of **the parishioners of the Church of the Mother of God**, offered by Father Boris and Matushka Galena.

**Readings:**

- **Acts 1:1-8**
- **John 1:1-17**

**IN THE FIRST BOOK**, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

**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 was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; 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, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**Sunday service:**

**Hours - 9:40 AM**      **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**  
 (General Confession – 9 50 AM on the first Sunday of each month. **Except during Lent**)  
 (Private Confession – Half hour before any service. Please don't delay the service.)  
 (Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month)

**Church School - 9:30 AM**

**Coffee hour - after Liturgy**

**We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to visit us again.**

**Announcements:**

- **Thank you to everyone who helped to beautify our church for Easter.**
- **St. Thomas Sunday Services**  
**Sunday, April 22, 2012 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy (normal time)**  
**After Liturgy - Blessing of graves**

**Special Announcements:**

- **The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on April 29<sup>th</sup>, after coffee hour.**

**Reminder:**

- **Volunteers are needed to clean the church.** Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, downstairs, to indicate when you can help.
- **Dues and assessments are being collected for the year 2012, Total Parish Membership Fee is now \$200.** Partial payments are gladly accepted.

**Easter Sunday: The Holy Pascha:**

A little before midnight on the Blessed Sabbath, the **Nocturne** service is chanted. The celebrant goes to the tomb and removes the winding-sheet. He carries it through the royal doors and places it on the altar table where it remains for forty days until the day of Ascension.

At midnight the Easter procession begins. The people leave the church building singing: *The angels in heaven, O Christ our Savior, sing of Thy resurrection. Make us on earth also worthy to hymn Thee with a pure heart.*

The procession circles the church building and returns to the closed doors of the front of the church. This procession of the Christians on Easter night recalls the original **baptismal procession** from the darkness and death of this world to the night and the life of the Kingdom of God. It is the procession of the **holy passover**, from death unto life, from earth unto heaven, from this age to the age to come which will never end. Before the closed doors of the church building, the resurrection of Christ is announced. Sometimes the Gospel is read which tells of the empty tomb. The celebrant intones the blessing to the *“holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity.”* The **Easter troparion** is sung for the first time, together with the verses of Psalm 67[68] which will begin all of the Church services during the Easter season.

*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.* (Troparion)

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

The people re-enter the church building and continue the service of **Easter Matins** which is entirely sung.

The **canon hymns** of Christ’s resurrection. ascribed to St John of Damascus, are chanted with the troparion of the feast as the constantly recurring refrain. The building is decorated with flowers and lights. The vestments are the bright robes of the resurrection. The Easter icon stands in the center of the church showing Christ destroying the gates of hell and freeing Adam and Eve from the captivity of death. It is the image of the Victor *“trampling down death by his own death.”* There is the continual singing and censing of the icons and the people, with the constant proclamation of the celebrant: **Christ is risen!** The faithful continually respond: **Indeed he is risen!**

*It is the day of resurrection! Let us be illumined for the feast! Pascha! The Pascha of the Lord! From death unto life, and from earth unto heaven has Christ our God led us! Singing the song of victory: Christ is risen from the dead!* (First Ode of the Easter Canon)

Following the canon, the paschal verses are sung, and at the conclusion of the Easter Matins, the **Easter Hours** are also sung. In general, nothing is simply read in the Church services of Easter: everything is fully sung with the joyful melodies of the feast.

At the end of the Hours, before the Divine Liturgy, the celebrant solemnly proclaims the famous **Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom**. This sermon is an invitation to all of the faithful to forget their sins and to join fully in the feast of the resurrection of Christ. Taken literally, the sermon is the formal invitation offered to all members of the Church to come and to receive Holy Communion, partaking of Christ, the Passover Lamb, whose table is now being set in the midst of the Church. In some parishes the sermon is literally obeyed, and all of the faithful receive the eucharistic gifts of the Passover Supper of Easter night.

The **Easter Divine Liturgy** begins immediately with the singing once more of the festal troparion with the verses of Psalm 67. Special psalm verses also comprise the antiphons of the liturgy, through which the faithful praise and glorify the salvation of God:

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! Sing of his name, give glory to his praise.*

*Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee! Let it praise Thy name, O most High!*

*That we may know Thy way upon the earth and Thy salvation among all nations.*

*Let the people thank Thee, O God! Let all the people give thanks to Thee.*

See us on the web at: [ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)

E-Mail us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

Sunday Bulletin

**Church of the Mother of God**

*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

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**Christ is risen!**

Христос  
Воскресе!

**Indeed he is risen!**

Воистину  
Воскресе!

*The angel cried to the Lady full of grace,  
“Rejoice, O Pure Virgin! Again I say, rejoice.  
Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb.  
With Himself He has raised all the dead.  
Rejoice, rejoice all ye people!”  
Shine! Shine! O New Jerusalem!*

*The glory of the Lord has shone upon you! Exult and be glad O Zion!  
Be radiant O Pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your son!*

**On this day the Church remembers:**

**Holy Pascha • The Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ**

- Apostles of the Seventy: Aristarchus, Pudens and Trophimus (ca. 67) • Martyrs Basilissa (Vasilissa) and Anastasia of Rome, disciples of Apostles Peter and Paul (1st c.) • Martyr Suchias and his company in Georgia (2nd c.) • Martyr Sabbas the Goth, of Wallachia (372).

**April 15, 2012**

**Easter Sunday**  
Beginning of the Pentecostarion

**Holy Pascha**