

## Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom:

If any man is devout and loves God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast!  
If any man is a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord.  
If any has labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense.  
If any has worked from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward.  
If any has come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast.  
If any has arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in nowise be deprived because of it.  
If any has delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. And if any has tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness.  
For the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first.  
He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as to him who has worked from the first hour.  
And He shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one He gives, and upon the other He bestows gifts.  
And He both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering.  
Therefore, enter all into the joy of your Lord; receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival! You sober and you heedless, honor the day!  
Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast.  
The table is full-laden; feast you all sumptuously.  
The calf is fattened; let no one go hungry away.  
Enjoy you all the feast of faith: receive you all the riches of loving-kindness.  
Let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal Kingdom has been revealed.  
Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave.  
Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it.  
By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive.  
He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh.  
And Isaiah, foretelling this, cried: Hell, said he, 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 slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown.  
It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face.  
It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.  
O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your 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 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**

See us on the web at:

[ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)

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## Orthodox Church of the Mother of God *"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

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Descent into Hades of Jesus Christ

**Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!**

#### On this day the Church remembers:

- **Holy Pascha -The Resurrection Of Our Lord And Savior Jesus Christ** • Martyr Sabbas Stratelates ("the General") of Rome, and 70 soldiers with him (272)
  - Ven. Savva and Aleksey the Recluse, of the Kiev Caves (Near Caves—13<sup>th</sup> c.) • Martyrs Pasicrates and Valentine in Moesia (Bulgaria—228) • Martyrs Eusebius, Neon, Leontius, Longinus, and others, at Nicomedia (303) • Ven. Thomas the Fool, of Syria (6<sup>th</sup> c.)
  - St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker of Constantinople (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> c.) • Ss. Iorest (1678) and Sava Brancovici (1683), Metropolitans of Ardeal and Confessors (Romania)
  - Hieromartyr and Confessor Elijah (Ilie) the Wallachian (1657)

***Christ is risen from the dead,  
Trampling down death by death,  
And upon those in the tombs  
Bestowing life.***

(Kontakion)

**April 24, 2011**

Beginning of the  
Pentecostarion

**Easter Sunday**

Bright week

**Today's Bulletin is Sponsored:****For the memory of:****Dorothy Morris**, *memory eternal*, Robert Morris's Mother.**For the health of:****All parishioners of the Mother of God Church** by Fr. Boris and Matushka Galina.**Nelly Freed** on her birthday, sister of Lore Stefy.**Readings:**• **Acts 1:1-8**

**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."

• **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 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**Except Pascha Sunday – Midnight  
And St Thomas Sunday - 9:00 AM**Church School - 9:30**

No classes April 24 and May 1

**Coffee hour** after Liturgy

<b>Sunday, April 24, 2011</b>	<b>Pascha - Midnight Service and Divine Liturgy</b>
<b>(Saturday April 23, 2011 11:30 PM)</b>	<b>(Blessing of Easter Food Baskets after Liturgy)</b>

**We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy downstairs. Please visit us again.**

**Announcements:**

- **Sunday, May 1, 2011** (St. Thomas Sunday), **Divine Liturgy** will start one hour earlier at **9:00 am**. After the Liturgy there will be **Blessing of graves**.
- Remember to check out our church store for fine and reasonably priced items. We have icons, matrushka dolls, and other handcrafted items that would be perfect gifts for Pascha, birthdays, weddings or baptisms.
- There will be no church school classes today, April 24<sup>th</sup>, or next Sunday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Special Announcements:**

- **Congratulations** to the winners of our Paschal baskets: First prize went to **Tara Golden**, Second prize went to **Adele Taran**, and third prize went to **Alexander Stefy**. Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets.
- Upcoming bulletins can be sponsored; this can be done with the signup sheet at the candle stand.
- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)
- Dues and assessments are being collected for the year 2011, Total is \$175. (\$30 dues, \$145 assessment) Partial payments are gladly accepted.