

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

Lisa - on her birthday, daughter of Lore Stefy.

Elena Wolf, on her birthday, offered by her family.

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.

Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM

Sunday service: . (except today, Holy Pascha)

Hours - 9:40 AM

Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM

Private Confession - Half hour before any service. See Fr Matthew for other times.

General Confession - 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month. (not today)

Pannikhidas - after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month

Church School – 9:30 AM

No Church School on the first Sunday of each month.

Coffee hour - after Liturgy

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and in vite you to visit us again.

Announcements:

- **Thank you to everyone who helped to beautify our church for Easter.**
- **St. Thomas Sunday Services Sunday**
May 12, 2013 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy (normal time)
After Liturgy - Blessing of graves
- There will be no Vespers on Saturday May 25th.
- The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on May 26th, after coffee hour
- Bishop Michael has asked for our assistance in obtaining 100,000 signatures on an appeal for the **release of Archbishop Paul Yazigi and Archbishop Youhanna Ibrahim**, who were abducted on April 23, and whose whereabouts is now unknown. Please consider signing at: <http://wh.gov/teJU> You will need to register ... then receive a confirmation email with a link ... then you can sign the petition. You can read more at <http://www.antiochian.org>

Special Announcements:

- **Dues and assessments are being collected for the year 2013**, Total **Parish Membership Fee is \$200**. Partial payments are gladly accepted.
- 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

Pascha Sunday:

On this day of the Resurrection of Our Lord, we have a special duty to the world around us. We need to help other people come to a true understanding of what Christ's rising from the dead means for the world.

This is needed because there is so much misunderstanding of God's plan and intention. And that misunderstanding is often expressed with great certainty by people who are sure they know the "facts" about God, and what He does.

For example, in an article published in the New Yorker Magazine, Adam Gopnik wrote that Jesus' cry on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" indicates failure. Gopnik wrote: "His father let him down, and the promise wasn't kept."

But this is the exact opposite of what God did. The truth about His plan and work are well expressed in the Prayer of Commemoration in the Liturgy of Saint Basil, which we have heard all through Great Lent. That prayer reminds us that man(kind) was **"set in a paradise of delight"** but lost it through **"his own transgressions."** So God sent man forth from paradise, **"returning [him] to the earth from which he was taken, yet providing for him the salvation of regeneration in Christ Himself."**

The prayer goes on to say that **"it pleased Thine only-begotten Son...to condemn sin in His flesh, so that those who were dead in Adam might be made alive by Thy Christ Himself."** Christ **"made for all flesh a path to the resurrection from the dead."**

These words mean that the Father and the Son agreed that Christ should come into the world, and should suffer, be crucified and raised. It was the only way He could once and for all defeat the power of death.

In one of the readings for May 7th, Jesus Himself gives the reason for His agonizing death. Luke 24: 12-35 includes the story of the two travelers on the road to Emmaeus who meet the risen Jesus but do not recognize Him. As they walk along together, Jesus reminds them of all the prophecies of the Old Testament. He asks them, **"Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?"** (24: 26).

That word **"necessary"** is significant. It surely wasn't necessary for the Son of God, as God, to suffer and die. He is alive forever with His Father. But His creatures transgressed and could not save themselves from the deadly consequences of what they had done. **To save them, it became necessary.** We are the children of a God who refuses, as Saint Basil's prayer says, **to "turn His face away from His creatures forever."** No matter what we do, He will never forget us, because we are **"the work of His hands."** His love is so great, His determination not to let us perish is so absolute, that He will do anything for us. On this day of Pascha we celebrate that love and the eternal life it brings us.

- Department of Christian Education of the Orthodox Church in America.



See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin
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Sunday Bulletin

Church of the Mother of God

"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"

Founded 1966

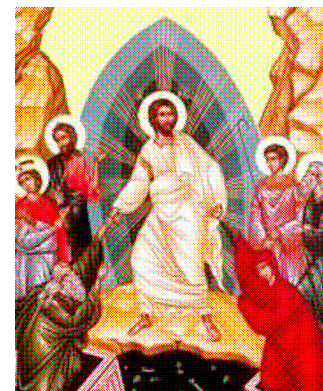
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Christ is risen!

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!*

Today the Church remembers:

Holy Pascha - The Resurrection Of Our Lord And Savior Jesus Christ.

- Greatmartyr Irene of Thessalonica (1st-2nd c.)
- Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Jacob (James), Abbot of Zheleznobórovsk.

May 5, 2013

Holy Pascha

**Easter Sunday
Beginning of the Pentecostarion**