

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023 PASCHA: THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Easter Sunday, April 9: Great and Holy Pascha (Easter Sunday)

11am: Paschal Divine Liturgy for Parish Intentions, then Blessing of Baskets in the Hall

Bright Monday, April 10: 10am Confessions through Campus Ministry

6pm Confession, 7pm Divine Liturgy

Bright Tuesday, April 11: 2pm Confessions through Campus Ministry

6pm Confession, 7pm Divine Liturgy

Bright Wednesday: Father's Day Off

Bright Thursday: 10am Paschal Hours

Bright Friday, April 14: 10am Paschal hours

Bright Saturday, April 15: 10am Divine Liturgy ~ 6pm Confession, 7pm Great Vespers

Sunday, April 16: Thomas Sunday

10:20am Rosary, 10:45am 3rd Hour, 11:00am Divine Liturgy

4pm Confessions and 5pm Divine Liturgy through Campus Ministry

Confessions are available before Divine Liturgy. All divine liturgies are open for intentions. Call the office or fill out the request form in the back of church and leave it in the sacristy.

AT THE DIVINE LITURGY TODAY: “This is the day that the Lord has made!” It is the Greatday—the Feast of the Radiant Resurrection. Jesus has given us HOPE for salvation and access to eternal life. This Good News that Christ is risen is to be disseminated throughout the entire world. We are contemporary witnesses to the living, risen Jesus, and we affirm this fact: Indeed, He is risen! We must ever bear testimony to this basic tenet of our Faith.

ARCHEPARCHIAL CHOIR CONCERT SUNDAY, APRIL 16 AT 2PM IN THE CHURCH: ALL ARE

WELCOME ~ We are looking for volunteers for the reception after the concert. If you are interested please speak with or contact Fr. Michael and/or sign up in the back of the church. **Thank you** to everyone who kept vigil on Good Friday, and who have helped clean and decorate the church!

THE TRADITIONAL THREE DAYS OF EASTER..... In the custom and tradition of the Byzantine Catholic Church, the Resurrection Feast is observed for a three-day period with the second and third days of Easter celebrated as major holy days. Do not neglect your obligation to sanctify these festive days by participating in the Divine Liturgy and emphasizing the spiritual manner of celebrating THE THREE-DAY RESURRECTIONAL CELEBRATION of the Easter holidays. The Church grants the bestowal of special graces, blessings, and indulgences to those faithful who observe the three resurrectional holy days. Make the sacrifice to attend church and thus receive these spiritual rewards!

HOLY DAY OBSERVED TOMORROW – BRIGHT MONDAY..... On Bright Monday, the second day of the Radiant Resurrection, the Church emphasizes the necessity of the proclamation of the resurrection event both in antiquity and in our present world. This salvific message must be proclaimed! The Emmaus Procession that follows the Divine Liturgy on this holy day commemorates Jesus' walk with two disciples to the village of Emmaus on the evening that He rose from the dead. These two men, Lucas and Cleopas, broadcast everywhere the news of Jesus' resurrection. We also are obliged to proclaim this same Good News!

BRIGHT TUESDAY IS A HOLY DAY: THIRD DAY OF THE RESURRECTION..... We observe the third day of the Radiant Resurrection on Bright Tuesday, and the Church continues to highlight the Emmaus event on this holy day. The triumphal joy felt by Jesus' followers after His resurrection is accentuated, for this same exhilaration must fill our own hearts even today. His brilliant, radiant light emanating from the triumphant empty tomb must permeate our lives by piercing our minds with holy joy and by filling our souls with divine jubilation.

WE FESTIVELY OBSERVE HOLY PASSEOVER SUNDAY TODAY..... On the Holy and Great Sunday of the Pasch, our Byzantine Catholic Church rejoices with total and complete triumph as we jubilantly celebrate The Feast of the Radiant Resurrection of the Lord. This is the principal feast of Christianity, and on this King and Lord of all Sabbaths, the Church festively echoes and resounds Jesus' marvelous message for mankind of HOPE in a "New Life" which arduously was secured through His painful passion, brutal death, desolate burial, perfect passover, and spectacular resurrection. The Ruthenian people referred to this amazing Feast of feasts as "The Greatday" (Velikden'), and indeed it is THE great day, since the victorious Jesus effected for us a New Passover. For Christians, JESUS is THE real Paschal Lamb of God, Who was sacrificed for our sins. Jesus' definitive passover permits all of us to "pass-over" from darkness into the Light; from death to eternal Life; from earth up to Heaven; from fear to Faith; from being slaves of the world to being children of God; and finally from sharing in our simple humanity to participating in His awesome Divinity! This is all true because of the fact that CHRIST IS RISEN! We are the recipients of this "New Life" since with the certitude of our faith, we can affirm this reality by shouting: INDEED, HE IS RISEN! At the Resurrection Matins on this Solemnity of solemnities, we came forward to venerate the symbols of Jesus' victory: the glorified, honorable Cross by which He conquered Death; the precious Holy Gospel Book, containing the Good News about the salvation which He obtained for us; the venerable Icon of the Radiant Resurrection, showing Jesus' unique passover as He rises from the grave, tramples upon the ignoble cross of despair, and rescues the just souls held captive in Hades; and the blessed Artos, the paschal bread, representing Jesus, our true Lamb of God, Who took away the sin of the world. The risen Savior's conquest truly makes this feast a very "great day," and on this Triumph of triumphs, we can confidently HOPE that Jesus will bestow upon each of us this same glorious resurrection. Thus He will give us access to His eternal "New Life" in the fullness of His heavenly Kingdom!

1ST READING: Acts 1:1-18 (Section 1)

In my first account, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up to heaven, having first instructed the apostles he had chosen through the Holy Spirit. In the time after his suffering he showed them in many convincing ways that he was alive, appearing to them over the course of forty days and speaking to them about the reign of God. On one occasion when he met with them, he told them not to leave Jerusalem: "Wait, rather, for the fulfillment of my Father's promise, of which you have heard me speak. John baptized with water, but within a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

While they were with him, they asked, "Lord, are you going to restore the rule to Israel now?" His answer was: "The exact time it is not yours to know. The Father has reserved that to himself. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes down on you; then you are to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, and Samaria, yes even to the ends of the earth." No sooner had he said this than he was lifted up before their eyes in a cloud which took him from their sight.

~~~~~**On Great Saturday evening**, many catechumens, who had been under instruction during the Great Fast and who were preparing for induction into the Christian community, were baptized at the Paschal Vigil Divine Liturgy. During this baptismal eucharistic rite celebrated on what is known as "The Great Night" (Velika Noč), these aspiring converts now were initiated formally into the Church in anticipation of Jesus' momentous resurrection from the despairing tomb of death. After the magnificent resurrection feast, these newly baptized Christians continued to receive additional instructions daily during the paschal-resurrectional season with regard to the origin, the historical beginnings, and the initial missionary efforts of the early Christian Church. They used The Acts of the Holy Apostles as a source guide.

Hence, with our Resurrectional Divine Liturgy for today, we also now begin the daily, continuous reading from this fifth book of the New Testament. Through today's lesson, the Holy Evangelist Luke tells us that Jesus showed Himself to many people for forty days following His astounding resurrection event. Jesus had told the apostles to remain in Jerusalem until He would send them the Holy Spirit. They then were to be His "witnesses" to the very ends of the world, proclaiming this Good News that CHRIST IS RISEN! This is the message of HOPE for all humanity which must be reechoed by us, the "modern-day witnesses" to His redemptive acts. He has conquered Death and has emerged as a glorious Victor over all the adverse powers. We must ever testify to this basic truth that INDEED, HE IS RISEN!

**It is traditional to proclaim the Paschal Gospel in ancient and local languages, for the Good News is to be proclaimed throughout the world. Here, the Gospel is proclaimed in English, Greek, Latin, and Slovak.**

**GOSPEL: John 1:1-17 (Section 1)**

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 came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be. What came to be through him was life, And this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, And the darkness has not overcome it. A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, who was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came to be through him, but the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, but his own people did not accept him. But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God, to those who believe in his name, who were born not by natural generation nor by human choice nor by a man's decision but of God.

And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth. John testified to him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'The one who is coming after me ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" From his fullness we have all received, grace in place of grace, because while the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, God, who is at the Father's side, has revealed him.

~~~~~**In keeping with the theme** of advanced instructions for the newly baptized catechumens of the Christian Church of antiquity, with today's Feast of the Radiant Resurrection of the Lord, we likewise initiate the continuous reading of The Gospel of the Holy Evangelist John. These new members of the Christian community were, as John says in the beginning of his gospel, those to whom Jesus "gave the power to become children of God," for they accepted His message. They were "reborn" in baptism through Christ, and this birth "depended not upon the course of nature, ... but on God," Who thus made them His own children. Today's holy gospel lesson tells us about the existence of the "Word" (Jesus) before the creation of the world. God's own Son Jesus—the Word—came into the world and took on our human nature in order to deify it and thereby secure our eternal salvation. He now has accomplished this by His stupendous passover and through His miraculous resurrection. He gives new HOPE to a dark world, and we declare this reality to others by proclaiming that CHRIST IS RISEN! This is certainly THE "Greatday," for the Lord Jesus is truly our Savior. We thus continually confirm His message of redemption when we exclaim that INDEED, HE IS RISEN!