

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Altar Servers: Sdn . Raphael Ruggiero

Angelino and Emanuel Revilak

SUNDAY, APRIL 17, 2022

PASCHA – EASTER SUNDAY

THE RESURRECTION OF

OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

The Sunday of Pascha, April 17: 8am, Pius X, Paschal Matins followed by Divine Liturgy at 9am
11am, Holy Spirit, Paschal Matins, followed by Divine Liturgy at 12pm, followed
by basket blessings

Monday, April 18: 9am, Paschal Matins followed by Divine Liturgy
5:30pm, Agape Vespers – Holy Spirit

Tuesday, April 19, Pius X: 11am, Paschal Hours followed by Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, April 20, Pius X: 11am, Paschal Hours

Friday, April 22: 9am, Paschal Matins - 5:30pm, Agape Vespers

Saturday, April 23: 9am, Divine Liturgy for the feast of St. George the Great Martyr
Intention for +George Carr and +George Bacasa on their name day,
by Mrs. Theresa Carr

Sunday, April 24: 11am, Divine Liturgy for Thomas Sunday for Dr. Carl Fuhrman
by the Revilak Family

This week, confessions are available by appointment.

“This is the day that the Lord has made!” It is the Great Day – 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.

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 Easter holidays. The Church grants the bestowal of special graces and blessings to those faithful who observe the three resurrectional holy days. Make the *sacrifice* to attend church and thus receive these spiritual rewards!

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 Divine Liturgy in some parishes 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!

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 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.

ACTS 1:1-8 -

In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through the holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for “the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the holy Spirit.”

When they had gathered together they asked him, “Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?”

He answered them, “It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority. But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

~~~~~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 Noć*), 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!

## GOSPEL 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 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, 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!

WE FESTIVELY OBSERVE HOLY PASSOVER 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 fulness of His heavenly Kingdom!

PRAYER REQUEST LINE – Please send prayer requests to HolySpiritPrays@gmail.com

PEROGI SALE – Perogi are available in the hall after Liturgy until 2pm.

PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS

Saints Cyril and Methodius, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen.
St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

MOUNT SAINT MACRINA HOUSE OF PRAYER

510 West Main Street, P.O. Box 878, Uniontown, PA 15401 - Phone 724 - 438- 7149 email: hpmsm@verizon.net
Prayer requests or donations can be sent to this address.

May 7, 9:30-11:30am: Saturday Morning Reflection In-House Program: “*Optimism’s Chain Reaction: Moving Forward!*” With Becky Johnen, Ed.D. Registration Due April 30. Offering \$35. Proof of full vaccination and masks are required.

May 12, 6:30-8:30pm: Thursday Evening Reflection In-House Program: “*Treasuring God’s Creation: Responses to Our Worldwide Challenge*” With Sr. Caryn Crook, OSF. Registration Due May 5. Offering \$30. Proof of full vaccination and masks are required.

May 13-15, Friday 3pm – Sunday 4pm: Weekend Icon Writing Workshop In-House Program: “*Archangel Michael or Archangel Gabriel*” With Marylyn Barone. Registration due May 6. Materials included. Offering \$230, commuters \$210. Limited to 15 persons. Proof of full vaccination and masks are required.

BCA Annual Lecture to be presented on May 12: Fr. Radu Bordeianu is on deck to present “*The Church as a Family*” for the 22nd Annual Lecture of the Byzantine Catholic Seminary. The public is welcome to register for and attend this lecture on **Thursday, May 12, at 7pm at the St. John Cathedral in Munhall, PA.** The lecture will also be livestreamed via the Seminary website (www.bcs.edu) and YouTube channel. St. John Chrysostom wrote that “the house is a little Church.” Indeed, Christian upbringing begins in the family, where the spouses are priests for each other, and they dedicate their children to God. Come and hear more about the diverse family which is the Church.

Seventeenth Annual Women’s Day of Reflection: “*A New Perspective on: Compassion-Courage-Confidence*”

Saturday May 27, 2022, 9am-2:30pm at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 210 Greentree Rd, Munhall PA 15210. Speakers include Dr. Regina Poletunow Boerio PhD of Franciscan University in Stubenville, Andrea Wedner of the Tree of Life Synagogue, and Pani Alyssa West of the Eparchy of Passaic. \$40 nonrefundable registration fee includes lunch and is due April 25. Please find registration forms on www.archpitt.org. Checks can be made payable to the Office of Religious Education. There will be a basket auction at the end of the day to benefit local women’s shelters. If you wish to donate a basket, please contact Marjorie Glaid at (412) 835-3873