



ST. NEKTARIOS ORTHODOX CHURCH

May 2013

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CHRIST IS RISEN!

This year is my nineteenth Pascha as an Orthodox Christian, my twelfth in the OCA, and my second as an Orthodox priest. It never gets old. It is one of those rare events in life that the more it is experienced, the more it reveals the great heights and rich depths which are present to those that have eyes to see and ears to hear. It is bigger on the inside than it looks from the outside.

But it is on the outside that most of our world remains. They may look at us from time to time or allow us a little space, but for the most part we remain hidden. And that is, probably, as it should be. The most precious stones are buried deep and hidden in the earth. So too, when God revealed himself as man, he hid himself and destroyed all expectations and ideas and replaced them with truth and hope. Expectations are destructive but hope is life-giving.

And so we come to Pascha with hope. It is a hope that we ourselves will be transformed into a better and better icon of Christ. After communion there is a prayer said by the priest as the gifts are returned to the altar which is taken from the Ninth Ode of the Paschal Canon:

“O Christ, great and most holy Pascha. Wisdom, Word and Power of God, grant that we may more perfectly partake of Thee in the never-ending day of Thy kingdom.”

This is our hope: to more perfectly partake of the Body and Blood of Christ. And this takes time and devotion and effort. This is a

way of looking forward, always with hope and anticipation.

I am already feeling the desire to make this Lenten journey again. I failed so often to be like Christ in this last effort. And that is, I believe the call of the Christian life. As C.S. Lewis said, “further up and further in.” Looking for that never-ending day of the Kingdom.

Fr. David

From the

PASCHAL HOMILY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

He that was taken by death has annihilated it!
He descended into Hades and took Hades captive!
He embittered it when it tasted His flesh! And
anticipating this, Isaiah exclaimed: *“Hades 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 purged!

It was embittered, for it was despoiled!

It was embittered, for it was bound in chains!

It took a body and came upon God!

It took earth and encountered Heaven!

It took what it saw, but crumbled before what it
had not seen!

O death, where is thy sting?

O Hades, where is thy victory?

Christ is risen, and you are overthrown!

Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!

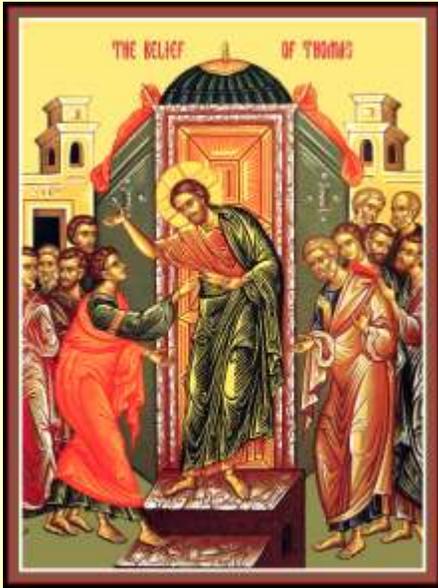
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!

Christ is risen, and life reigns!

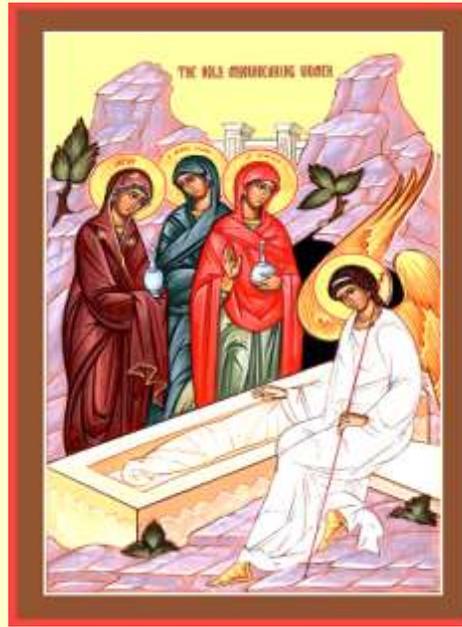
Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in a
tomb!

THE WEEKS OF PASCHALTIDE

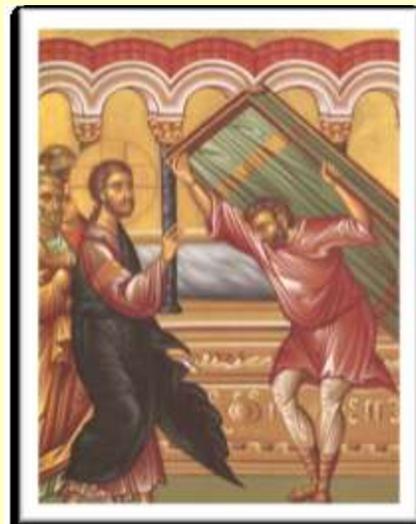
During the month of May, we celebrate Paschaltide, the weeks of Pascha before Pentecost. This month we will celebrate up through "Midfeast" on May 29th.



May 12th is the commemoration of St. Thomas where he utters that first confession after Christ's resurrection, "My Lord and My God!" History has chosen to focus so much on the "doubt" of St. Thomas that we often rob ourselves of his great faithfulness. It is this faithfulness that led him to travel to India and deliver the Gospel there and to eventually become a martyr for the faith.



On May 19th, we commemorate the Holy Myrrhbearing Women. It was these women to whom the news of the Resurrection was first entrusted and it was they who were the first "evangelists."



The Gospel of John recounts for us on the 3rd Sunday of Pascha the story of the Paralytic whom Christ asks, "Do you want to be healed?" It is this question that the Church brings to us on this day.

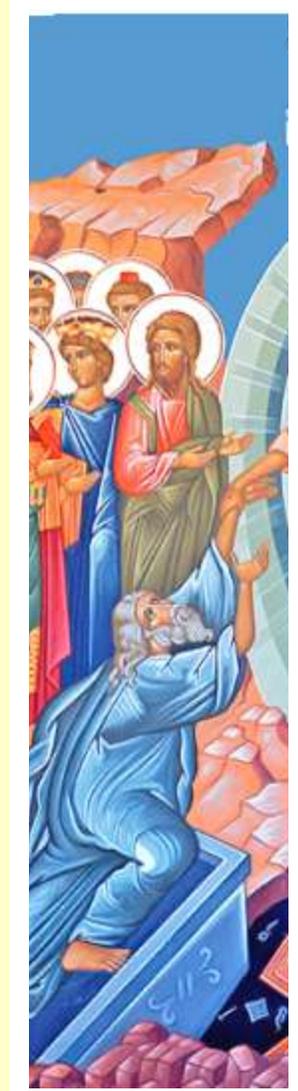


The end of the month of May brings the Midfeast of Pentecost, signifying our half-way point to the Feast of Pentecost. Just as our fasting requires effort, so too, our feasting requires our attention and effort. With this event, we anticipate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the renewal of the prayer, "O Heavenly King."

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May 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31			<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
			Holy Week Schedule →			
<u>5</u> PASCHA	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <i>St. Alexis Toth</i>	<u>8</u> Vespers 6:30 <i>St. John the Theologian</i>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> Confession 5:30 Great Vespers 6:30
<u>12</u> Divine Liturgy 9:30	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> Vespers 6:30	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> Confession 5:30 Great Vespers 6:30
<u>19</u> Divine Liturgy 9:30 <i>Sunday School</i>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> <i>Sts. Constantine & Helen</i>	<u>22</u> Vespers 6:30	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> Confession 5:30 Great Vespers 6:30 <i>3rd Finding of the Head of St. John the Forerunner</i>
<u>26</u> Divine Liturgy 9:30	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u> Vespers 6:30 <i>Midfeast of Pentecost</i>	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	



“Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.”

Troparian for Pascha