



+St. John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

Antiochian Archdiocese of North America

His Eminence Metropolitan JOSEPH,

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of all North America

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Sunday of Great and All-Holy Pascha

Christ is Risen / Χριστός Ανέστη / المسيح قام

Great and Holy Pascha

Mary Magdalene, and the other women who were present at the burial of our Saviour on Friday evening, returned from Golgotha to the city and prepared fragrant spices and myrrh, so that they might anoint the body of Jesus. On the morrow, because of the law which forbids work on the day of the Sabbath, they rested for the whole day. But at early dawn on the Sunday that followed, almost thirty-six hours since the death of the Life-giving Redeemer, they came to the sepulchre with the spices to anoint His body. While they were considering the difficulty of rolling away the stone from the door of the sepulchre, there was a fearful earthquake; and an Angel, whose countenance shone like lightning and whose garment was white as snow, rolled away the stone and sat upon it. The guards that were there became as dead from fear and took to flight. The women, however, went into the sepulchre, but did not find the Lord's body. Instead, they saw two other Angels in the form of youths clothed in white, who told them that the Saviour was risen, and they



sent forth the women, who ran to proclaim to the disciples these gladsome tidings. Then Peter and John arrived, having learned from Mary Magdalene what had come to pass, and when they entered the tomb, they found only the winding sheets. Therefore, they returned again to the city with joy, as heralds now of the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, Who in truth was seen alive by the disciples on this day on five occasions.

Our Lord, then, was crucified, died, and was buried on Friday, before the setting of the sun, which was the first of His "three days" in the grave; observing the mystical Sabbath, that "seventh day" in which it is said that the Lord "rested from all His works" (Gen. 2:2-3), He passed all of Saturday in the grave; and He arose "while it was yet dark, very early in the morning" on Sunday, the third day, which, according to the Hebrew reckoning, began after sunset on Saturday.

As we celebrate today this joyous Resurrection, we greet and embrace one another in Christ, thereby demonstrating our Saviour's victory over death and corruption, and the destruction of our ancient enmity with God, and His reconciliation toward us, and our inheritance of life everlasting. The feast itself is called Pascha, which is derived from the Hebrew word which means "passover"; because Christ, Who suffered and arose, has made us to pass over from the curse of Adam and slavery to the devil and death unto our primal freedom and blessedness. In addition, this day of this particular week, which is the first of all the rest, is dedicated to the honour of the Lord; in honour and remembrance of the Resurrection, the Apostles transferred to this day the rest from labour that was formerly assigned to the Sabbath of the ancient Law.

THE EPISTLE

This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein!

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endureth forever.

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (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 to 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."

هذا هو اليوم الذي صنعه الرب فلنفرح ولننتهل به.

اشكروا الرب لأنه صالح لأن الي الأبد رحمته.

الرسالة: أعمال الرسل ١ : ١-٨

إني قد أنشأتُ الكلام الأوّل يا ثاوفيلس في جميع الأمور التي ابتدأ يسوع يعملها ويُعلّم بها إلى اليوم الذي سعد فيه، من بعد أن أوصى بالروح القدس الرسل الذين اصطفاهم، الذين أراهم أيضًا نفسَه حيًّا بعد تألمه ببراهين كثيرة وهو يتراءى لهم مدّة أربعين يومًا، ويكلّمهم بما يختصّ بملكوت الله. وفيما هو مجتمع معهم أوصاهم بالألا تبرحوا من أورشليم بل انتظروا موعد الأب الذي سمعتموه مني، فإن يوحنا عمّد بالماء وأما أنتم فستعمّدون بالروح القدس لا بعد هذه الأيام بكثير. فسأله المجتمعون قائلين: يا ربّ أفي هذا الزمان تردّ المُلك إلى إسرائيل؟ فقال لهم: ليس لكم أن تعرفوا الأزمنة أو الأوقات التي جعلها الأب في سلطانه، لكنكم ستنالون قوّة بحلول الروح القدس عليكم وتكونون لي شهودًا في أورشليم وفي جميع اليهوديّة والسامرة وإلى أقصى الأرض.

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. 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.

فَصْلٌ شَرِيفٌ مِنْ بَشَارَةِ الْقَدِيسِ يوحنا الإنجيليّ البشيرِ، والتلميذِ الطاهرِ ١: ١٧-١

في البدء كان الكلمة، والكلمة كان عند الله، وإلهًا كان الكلمة، هذا كان في البدء عند الله. كلُّ به كان، وبغيره لم يكن شيءٌ مما كَوْن. به كانت الحياة والحياة كانت نور الناس، والنور في الظلمة يضيء والظلمة لم تُدركه. كان إنسان مرسلٌ من الله اسمه يوحنا. هذا جاء للشهادة لأيشهد للنور، لكي يؤمن الكلُّ بواسطته. لم يكن هو النور بل كان لأيشهد للنور. كان النور الحقيقي الذي ينير كلَّ إنسان أت إلى العالم. في العالم كان، والعالم به كَوْن، والعالم لم يعرفه. إلى خاصته أتى وخاصته لم تقبله، فأما كلُّ الذين قبلوه فأعطاهم سلطانًا أن يكونوا أولادًا لله الذين يؤمنون باسمه، الذين لا من دم ولا من مشيئة لحم ولا من مشيئة رجلٍ لكن من الله وُلدوا. والكلمة صار جسدًا وحلَّ فينا (وقد أبصرنا مجده مجدًا وحيد من الأب) مملوءًا نعمةً وحقًا. ويوحنا شهد له وصرخ قائلاً: هذا هو الذي قلتُ عنه إنَّ الذي يأتي بعدي صار قبلي لأنه مُتقدِّمي، ومن ملئه نحن كلُّنا أخذنا، ونعمةً عوض نعمة، لأنَّ الناموس بموسى أعطي، وأما النعمة والحق فبيسوع المسيح حصلوا.

“Love your Neighbor”- A Ministry of St John the Evangelist Orthodox Church

During this year's Great Lent and for May, St John's will be collecting donations as we have done for many years, alongside all parishes in the Antiochian Archdiocese for the following two important programs of the Archdiocese.

May – Project Mexico/ St Innocent Orphanage – Project Mexico is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that performs works of mercy in the name of Jesus Christ, building homes for the poor in Mexico and by providing education and shelter for orphaned boys through St. Innocent Orphanage.

Easter Egg Hunt Planning

Hi All,

Happy Monday! Pascha is quickly approaching and we'd like to host an event for our children before Pascha. We're planning on hosting an Egg Hunt and brunch on Holy Saturday April 23 right after liturgy. The service starts at 10:00 a.m.

Please let me know if you would like to join so we have a good headcount for planning. We already have a generous donation of eggs from Rula and Deacon Nicholas. (Thank you)

What we need? More parents involved. I don't have the bandwidth to do it all. I need a few parents to help bring some snack items and a few parents to help with the Egg Hunt and activity tables. If this is you, please let me know! 🙏

Please let me know if you're planning to bring your kids, and secondly, if you can help make it a success!

Warmly,

Rania Kashou

Upcoming Events

Sunday, April 24th	Pascha / Easter followed by breakfast (scrambled eggs, sausages, cheese, Lebneh... etc.)
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Coffee Hours

Sunday, April 24th	Pascha / Easter
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Holy Week Schedule

<u>April 20th</u> : Holy Wednesday	Holy Unction صلاة الزيت المقدس at 7:00 pm
<u>April 21st</u> : Holy Thursday	Vespertal Liturgy and Washing of the Feet at 10:00am Passion Gospels at 7:00 pm
<u>April 22nd</u> : Holy Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Royal Hours, Vespers and Taking the Body from the Cross – 2:30 pmLamentations تقاريط الجناز at 7:00 pmVigil at Christ's Tomb at 9:00pm
<u>April 23rd</u> : Holy Saturday	Vespertal Liturgy at 10:00am Rush Service 10:30 pm followed by the Divine Liturgy
<u>April 24th</u> : Great and Holy Pascha	Agape Vespers at 1:00pm

Memorial Service

- † 40 days memorial service on Sunday may 8th for the handmaiden of God Carla Karanikola.
May her memory be eternal!

Holy Oblations

This week Holy Oblations are offered by:

- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Noha Schulze, George Messih, and Nabil Wahbeh**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Helen Addes**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Carla Karanikola**. May her memory be eternal!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **George Wahbeh**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family for the good health of **Stacy Simon**. Many years!
- † Raghda Jildeh and family for the good health of sister-in-law **Souhair Karkar**. Many years!
- † St. John Parish Family in memory of **Kh. Patricia Romley**. May her memory be eternal!

Candles for the altar table and in front of the icons of Christ and the Theotokos offered by:

- † Ibrahim Fasheh in memory of Hanada Fasheh for one full year. May her memory be eternal!



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