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CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRISTOS VOSKRES! CHRISTOS ANESTI!!

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Archbishop Daniel, Metropolitan Antony, Metropolitan Yuriy, Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Metropolitan Savas, Metropolitan Kallistos of Diokleia, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Paul Stoll, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, Father George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John & Pani Mary Anne Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Protopresbyter William & Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Archpriest Dionysi Vitali, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Paisius McGrath, Father Michael Smolynec, Father Lawrence & Matushka Sophia Daniels, Father Joe Cervo, Father John Harrold [Saint Sylvester], Igumen Patrick, Pani Mary Ann Chubenko, Father Jim Orr, Father Rick S3ilier, Panimatka Laryssa Charest, Fr. Vasyl Sendeha, Father George & Dobrodijka Oksana Bazylevsky, Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Joseph Sliwinsky, Gary & Linda Mechtly, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Linda Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Archbishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Esther Holupka, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Julie Eiler, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie—young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—young man with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciw, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Yvonne Christy, Father Deacon Myron & Barbara Spak, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Carl & Margaret Reed, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Bonnie &

Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Strozh [young lady with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Chris, David Hiles, Jennifer, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Sandi Anderson, Lina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Susan Lucas, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Mira Filipović, Lynn, Jacqueline, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Brandon, Anna Trachine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, Sherri Walewski, Marika Zeliszczuk, Donna Davis, Jackie Crimbchin, Marta Charron, Mary [Corba], Margie Sekelsky, Gary Howell, Fran Fulton, Gina Catanese, Bill Vizza, Jamie Swarm, Kevin Allen (from Ancient Faith Radio), Kathy Flaherty, Tori Reade-Henry's niece, Derick-Glen Burlack's neighbor, Michael, Nichole & Christopher, Ben Douglas, Dianne Donahue, Zachary, Natasha, Noah Willard, Jodi Hanczar, Gregory Cervo, Lisa Bruce, Martha Nezolyk, Kathy Cvetkovich, Judy, Will, Emma, Ginny, Ye-Jin, Maria, John & JoAnn, Jim & Kitty, Phil Bouse, Ralph & Beverly Stoker, Noah Willard, Nikola, Natalie, Nikola, & Nevenka Jovonovich, Julia Collier, Amy Kemerer, Thomas Smith, Tracy Slaughaupt, Louis & Teresa Bercelli, Tom Nolan, Silvia Martin, Sarah Dorning, Dena & George, Georgia, Lawanda [Evelyn's niece], Maureen Sams, John Kendall, Judi Danser, Darcy, Denis Strittmatter, Nancy, Ian Brick, Cecilia Barnhart, Logan Magorien, Pam & Gordon Grant, Debbie & Jerry Novosel, Noah Willard, Sandra Dillard, Danielle McCann, Barry [Father Jim Orr's cousin], Tim Joyce, Mike Pawlyshyn-Jeannie Stutchell's brother, Joe Samchuck—vocations, Albert Heckman, Brianna Stumpf, Stanley Porembka, David & Terry Coyne Hartnett, Mike C., Jennifer Scheirer [Nick Behun's daughter], Catherine Beecham [Father Bob's cousin], JoAnne & Dave Andrews, Rev. Peg Bowman, Pat & Jan Jennings, Tim Sams, Mike Ruzzi, Stephen Popichak—Fr. Bob's brother, Mary Kay Ludovicy, Pastor Sara Irwin, George Dilendorf, Andy & Sharon Torick, Carol Behun, Erv Frye, William Lusherand, Colin Kirton—Stage 4 pancreatic cancer, Clifford, Joe

Veto, Paul Riley, Tonee & Sydnee Turner, Annette Paluh, Theresa Paluh, Lottie Bubrzyk, Cathy Lotinsky, Monk Andrew, Jeff & Buschra Kerr, Steven—Harry Batch's cousin, Rose Mary Pavlovich—Mary Anne Kuznik's Cousin, Margaret Sekelsky, Robert Sekelsky, Robert Rodriguez, Dollie Irvin, Joe Mrvos, Alexandra & Bowen, Katherine Kulik, Micky Delans [COVID-19], Pastor Terry Polen, Eleanor Kitt, Stacie & Gary, Maria Warholak, Stacie & Gary, Anna Sekelik, Christy, Mariruth, Rich & Judy Previc, Ben Williams, Denis Strittmatter, Father Joe Uzar—newly ordained, Tim—surgery, John Wakin, Olivia—young girl with a brain tumor, Rick & Sharon Morgan, John Stasko [triple by-pass], John, Kris & Kait, Jeff & Mary Jane Double [COVID-19], Terri Crosby-Vega [COVID-19], Kristi Wilson, Wendy LaGamba, Melissa Gross [hip replacement], Mike, Amy, Nathan, & Ben Forbeck [COVID-19], David Salazar, Ann Zurasky [knee replacement], James Mary, Barb Bookser, Dr. Paul Riley, David Hess, Serena, Wyatt, Makenzie, Jennifer, Carolyn Strittmatter, Barbara Shegat & Chaplain Rachelle Zazzu, Candace Irvin, Carol Muschick, Grace Love [knee replacement], Stacie Riley, Joseph Paul Cervo, Jr. [infant], Elizabeth [5-year-old], Lillian Skowvron, Pani Cathy Danczak, Sue & Greg Heinen, Paul Simpson [Father Bob's cousin, car accident], Sharon Curtis Rivas, Kathy Milcic, Lisa Bolan, David G. [cancer], Donna [dementia] & Darla, Linda Snow, Zack Blair [Pani Gina's nephew], Greg & Mary Lou Sheakley [Pani Gina's cousins—COVID], the McKenna family, David Gazella, Brian & Michele Cannone, Robert & Eleanor Rodrigues & family, Don Menagon [COVID-19], Father Deacon James Rossetti & Diakonissa Kari—ordination!, Steve Sivulich, Michael Welsh, Nick Solominsky, Samantha & Lisa Houser, Sarah Stepanovich Clark, Julia Baloga, Diane Norton [cancer], Brett Crosby, Randy Lapuh, Henry & Shirley Tkacik, Denny Mader, and Susan Pulcini—Father Ted Pulcini's mom.
ARNOLD: Homer Paul Kline and Walter Sakol. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our May babies: Pani Gina on the 9th, Nathaniel Scott on the 16th, Martha Persico on the 19th, Christine Shirley on the 23rd, Jim Weiser on the 24th, and Mary Anne Kuznik on the 25th! May God grant them all Many Happy, Healthy, Prosperous, and Blessed Years! Christ IS Risen! God Bless them and their families...

*******REMINDER—NO KNEELING UNTIL PENTECOST!*******

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE! PRAY FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD—AND IN OUR LIVES!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ... There is NOTHING to keep us from praying...for each other, for our family and friends, and most of all for the first responders—EMTs, nurses, doctors, firefighters, police officers, and members of our military who keep us safe. Be well and be **SAFE!!! God Bless!**

Please remember ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and ALL American service men and women—and bring them all home safely!

REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

Communion Fasting: nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please ask Father Bob.

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at **[412] 279-5640.**

SERVICES IN SLICKVILLE

SUNDAY, May 08 **OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS** **10:30 AM**

**3RD SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN;
RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA & NICODEMUS; APOSTLE &
EVANGELIST MARK**

Tone 2

Acts 6:1-7; 1 Peter 5:6-14

Mark 15:43-16:9; Mark 6:7-13

Litany in Blessed Memory of Charles Cherepko, Joseph Baloga, Daniel J. Pysh, Jr., Nicholas Homyrda, Anna Metrick, Carol Rose, Bogdan Mural, Esther Tylavsky, Evdokia "Josephine" Repa, +Metropolitan Constantine, Metro Warholak, Khorja Joann Abdalah, Katherine Tomson, Walter Golofski, Jr., Michael Yarmeak, Anna Vangrin, Stella Cherepko, & Rudy Muslin—Fr. Bob

SUNDAY, May 15 **OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS** **10:30 AM**

**4TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE PARALYTIC; RIGHTEOUS TABITHA;
TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF MARTYR ABRAMIUS OF BULGARIA;
SAINT ATHANSIUS THE GREAT-ARCHBISHOP OF ALEXANDRIA; MARTYR
HESPERUS, ZOE, & SONS CYRAICUS & THEODULUS AT ATTALIA; SAINT
BORIS/MICHAEL-PRINCE OF BULGARIA; TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF
HOLY PASSION-BEARERS BORYS & GLEB OF RUS**

Tone 3

Acts 9:32-42; Romans 8:289-39

John 5:1-15; John 15:17-16:2

SUNDAY, May 22

OBEDNITZA—UPSTAIRS

10:30 AM

**5TH SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE SAMARITAN WOMAN; PROPHET
ISAIAH; MARTYR CHRISTOPHER OF LYCIA & CALLINICA & AQUILINA;
TRANSLATION OF THE RELICS OF SAINT NICHOLAS THE WONDERWORKER
OF MYRA TO BARI**

Tone 4

Acts 11:10-26, 29-30; Hebrews 13:17-21

John 4:5-42; Luke 6:17-23

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 08 MAY 2022

**3RD SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SUNDAY OF THE MYRRH-BEARING
WOMEN; RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH OF ARIMATHEA & NICODEMUS;
APOSTLE & EVANGELIST MARK**

Christ IS Risen! Indeed He IS Risen!

Христос воскрес! Воистину воскрес!

Χριστός ανέστη! Ἀληθῶς ανέστη! (Khristós Anésti! Alithós Anésti!)

Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!

المسيح قام! حقا قام! (al-Masīḥ qām! Ḥaqqan qām!)

TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION—TONE 2

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead!
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
All the powers of heaven cried out:
O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

TROPARION OF THE RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH—TONE 2

The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Thy most pure body from the
tree
Wrapped it in fine linens and anointed it with spices,
And placed it in a new tomb.
But Thou didst rise on the third day, O Lord,
Granting the world great mercy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

TROPARION OF THE MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN—TONE 2

The angel came to the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb and said:

Myrrh is meet for the dead; but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption! So proclaim: The Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

KONTAKION—TONE 2

Thou didst command the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ!
By Thy Resurrection, Thou didst stop the lamentation of Eve, O God!
Thou didst command Thy apostles to preach: The Savior is Risen!

PROKEIMENON—TONE 6

READER: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

PEOPLE: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

READER: To Thee, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me.

PEOPLE: O Lord, save Thy people and bless Thine inheritance.

READER: O Lord, save Thy people.

PEOPLE: And bless Thine inheritance.

ALLELUIA VERSES—TONE 8

Lord, Thou wast favorable to Thy land; Thou didst restore the fortune of Jacob.

Mercy and truth have met; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS (Replaces "It Is Truly Meet")

The angel cried unto Mary, who was full of Grace

Hail, oh pure virgin, oh pure virgin

once again I hail Thee

Thy Son has risen from His three days in the grave,

and He has raised the dead with Him,

Oh rejoice, all ye people.

Oh shine with clear radiance, shine on new Jerusalem

For the glory of the Lord is shining up on you.

Rejoice! Rejoice! now and be joyful--oh Zion, and though

oh pure one and adorable birthgiver of God,

in the rising again of HIM who was born of Thee.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Receive ye the Body of Christ; taste ye the fountain of immortality.

Praise the Lord from the heavens! Praise Him in the highest!



Patriarchal Encyclical for Holy Pascha 2022

**BY GOD'S MERCY ARCHBISHOP OF CONSTANTINOPLE-NEW ROME
AND ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH**

**TO THE PLENITUDE OF THE CHURCH: MAY THE GRACE, PEACE AND MERCY
OF CHRIST RISEN IN GLORY BE WITH YOU ALL**

* * *

Having run the race of ascetic struggles during Holy and Great Lent and experienced with compunction the venerable Passion of the Lord, we are now filled with the eternal light of His splendid Resurrection, wherefore we praise and glorify His transcendent name, exclaiming the joyfully message to the whole world: "Christ is Risen!"

The Resurrection is the nucleus of the faith, devotion, culture and hope of Orthodox Christians. The life of the Church—in its divine-human, sacramental and liturgical, as well as spiritual, moral, and pastoral expression and in the good testimony about the grace that has come in Christ and about the expected "common resurrection"—incarnates and reflects the annihilation of the power of death through the Cross and Resurrection of our Savior, along with the liberation of humankind from "enslavement to evil." This Resurrection is witnessed by the Saints and

Martyrs of the faith, by the doctrine and ethos, but also the canonical structure and function of the Church, along with the sacred churches, monasteries and venerable sites, the godly zeal of the clergy and the unconditional commitment of those who have given their "having" and "being" to Christ as monastics, together with the orthodox phronema of the faithful and the eschatological impetus of our ecclesiastical way of life as a whole.

For us Orthodox, the celebration of Pascha is not a temporal escape from worldly reality and its contradictions, but a proclamation of our unwavering faith that the Redeemer of Adam's race, who trampled death by death, is the Master of history, the eternally "with us" and "for us" God of love. Pascha is the experience of the certainty that Christ is the Truth that sets us free; it is the foundation, existential axis, and horizon of our life. "Apart from me you can do nothing" (Jn 15.5). No circumstance, "tribulation or distress, persecution or famine, nakedness, peril or sword" (Rm 8.35) can separate the faithful from the love of Christ. This steadfast conviction inspires and invigorates our creativity and desire to become in this world "collaborators of God" (1 Cor. 3.9). It guarantees that, in the face of every insurmountable hurdle and impasse, where no human solution is conceivable, there is always hope and perspective. "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me" (Phil. 4.13). In the risen Christ we know that evil, no matter what form it assumes, does not have the final word in the journey of humankind.

However, even as we are filled with gratitude and joy for this supreme value ascribed to the human being by the Lord of glory, we are disheartened before multifaceted violence, social injustice, and infringement of human rights in our time. "The radiant message of the resurrection" and our cry "Christ is Risen!" today reverberate alongside the horrendous sound of weapons, the distressing cries of innocent victims of military aggression and the plight of refugees, among whom there are numerous innocent children. We saw with our own eyes all of these problems during our recent visit to Poland, where the vast majority of Ukrainian refugees has fled. We stand and suffer alongside the pious and courageous people of Ukraine that bear a heavy cross. We pray and strive for peace and justice as well as for all those who are deprived of these. It is unimaginable for us Christians to remain silent before the obliteration of human dignity. Together with the victims of military conflict, the "greatest casualty" of war is humanity, which has not managed to eradicate war in the course of its long history. Not only does war not solve problems; it actually creates new and more complex problems. It sows division and hatred; it increases discord among peoples. We firmly believe that humankind is capable of living without war and violence.

The Church of Christ innately functions as an agent of peace. Not only does it pray "for the peace from above" and "the peace of the whole world," but it underlines the importance of every human effort to establish peace. The principal characteristic of a Christian is "peacemaking." Christ blesses the peacemakers, whose struggle is a tangible presence of God in the world and depicts the peace "that surpasses all understanding" (Phil. 4.7) in the "new creation," the heavenly kingdom of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As judiciously emphasized in the document of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, entitled "For the Life of the World," the social ethos of the Orthodox Church, the Church "honors the martyrs for peace as witnesses to the power of love, to the goodness of creation in its first and final forms, and to the ideal of human conduct established by Christ during his earthly ministry" (§ 44).

Pascha is the feast of freedom, joy, and peace. We solemnly praise the Resurrection of Christ through which we experience our own co-resurrection. And we faithfully worship the great mystery of Divine Economy and we share in "the feast that is common to all." In this spirit, from the see of the Church of Constantinople, which eternally participates in the Cross and Resurrection of our Lord, we address to all of you, most honorable brother Hierarchs and beloved children, our wholehearted paschal greeting, invoking upon you the grace and mercy of Christ the God of all who put Hades to death and granted us eternal life.

At the Phanar, Holy Pascha 2022

+ **Bartholomew of Constantinople**

Your fervent supplicant to the Risen Lord[1]

Thomas Sunday John 20:19-31

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when He had so said, He shewed unto them His hands and His side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained. But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. And after eight days again His disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and

stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith He to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name...(KJV)

Hristos Voskrese! Vaistinu Voskrese!

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Hristos a inviat! Adevarat a inviat!

The Lord Jesus Christ convinced the Holy Apostle Thomas of His Resurrection when He invited Thomas to put forth his finger and hand and touch Him. The Holy Apostle Thomas proclaimed his belief with the words "My Lord and my God!"

The Church continues with the joy of the Resurrection at this time and until the Feast of the Ascension. The Lord Jesus Christ's Resurrection is all consuming for the believing heart, mind, and soul.

The serious believer's life is founded in and guided by the Resurrection. Each celebration of Pascha renews, deepens, and strengthens belief in the Resurrection.

Belief in the Resurrection is the guiding light through the darkest moments of life. Belief in the Resurrection takes the mind beyond the earthly grave to the unlimited joy of eternal life.

Jesus' Resurrection established the dominance of hope in earthly life and makes visions of overcoming adversity possible. In the Matins of Pascha we find the verse that embeds hope in the human heart, mind and soul.

The verse of hope in Paschal Matins states: "How sweet is Thy voice O Christ! For Thou hast faithfully promised to be with us to the end of the world. Having this as our anchor of hope, we the faithful rejoice." (The Paschal Service, DRE OCA, 1977 p.38)

The finite mind is challenged and expands to experience the joy of the Resurrection. Believers immersed in Jesus Christ sense the presence and joy of the Risen Lord.

God's Holy Church abounds with the celebration of the Feast each day until the Leave-taking of Pascha. Believers reorient their lives after having experienced and celebrated the Resurrection.

The Resurrection is celebrated in the present. The Paschal greeting, "Christ is Risen!" is shared by believers until the Leave-taking of Pascha and confirms the Resurrection.

The Paschal greeting reaches into the depths of the heart, mind, and soul. The Resurrection transforms and make believers "new" in Christ. The world is renewed with the celebration of Pascha.

The Holy Apostle Thomas' experience with Jesus serves as further verification of the Resurrection. The Holy Scriptures document Jesus' various appearances as the Risen Lord.

The current Gospel of St. John proclaims the value of the written word as a basis for believing Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and believing we might have life through his name. (Jn.20:31)

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ merits our deepest thoughts throughout the remaining days of earthly life. Jesus conquered death and proved there is more to life than earthly death.

Jesus' triumph over death gives believers reason to think deeply about the way to live earthly life. The hope of eternal life is very real in the Risen Christ.

The Resurrection gives credence to the wisdom of the Holy Scriptures.

Jesus said: "Strait is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life and few there be that find it." (Mt.7:14) Believers are blessed with the opportunity to celebrate the Resurrection in God's Holy Church.

Wise believers cherish and are grateful to the Risen Lord for the opportunity to celebrate Pascha in peace and safety. Today is a day to invest in prayers for peace in parts of the world where hardship, conflict and wars exist.

Today is a day to pray for peace in this land and in all lands where peace is not existent. The Risen Lord has demonstrated He can accomplish what was considered impossible when He triumphed over death. Bringing peace is possible.

The Risen Jesus greeted His disciples with the words: "Peace be unto you!"

We have the opportunity to be ambassadors and promoters of peace in the name of the Risen Lord. Let us make the effort! Hristos Voskrese! Christ is Risen!

Thomas Sunday. Venerable John, Disciple of St. Gregory Decapolis. April 18/May 1, 2022..Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic

Father Stel Muksuris

THE HOLY FIRE APPEARS AGAIN: APRIL 23, 2022

Orthodox tradition holds that the Holy Fire happens annually on the day preceding Orthodox Pascha (Orthodox Easter). During this time, blue light is said to emit within Jesus' tomb, rising from the marble slab covering the stone bed believed to be that upon which Jesus' body is to have been placed for burial.

The light is believed to form a column of fire, from which candles are lit. This fire is then used to light the candles of the clergy and pilgrims in attendance. The fire is also said to spontaneously light other lamps and candles around the church. Pilgrims and clergy say that the Holy Fire does not burn them.



SPC: Serbian Patriarch Porfirije congratulated Ramadan Bayram
In the spirit of brotherly love and respect, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to all Muslims and wish them to celebrate Ramadan Bayram in health, peace, love and all good.

In the past period, Muslims have been preparing for the celebration of the great Islamic holiday—Ramadan Bayram by fasting, prayer and doing good deeds. A true believer knows that the one who loves God also loves his neighbor, and close to us are all those we meet on our life's journey regardless of religion, because we are all descended from the same ancestor Adam (Adam) and Eve (Have). We greet our Muslim brothers in the love of God with a sense of sincere friendship and respect,

Patriarch of Serbian Porfirije

http://www.spc.rs/.../patrijarh_srpski_porfirije...