

Sunday, April 26, 2020

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

2nd Sunday of Pascha – Sunday of Thomas

Basil the Holy Martyr, Bishop of Amasea; Glaphyra the Righteous

WORSHIP SCHEDULE TODAY: Orthros: 8:15 a.m. & Divine Liturgy: 9:00 a.m.
Both services will be live streamed and found on our Ss. Constantine and Helen Facebook Page and You Tube Channel.

HYMNS FOR THE DAY: (Found in red hymnal book)

198 – Χριστος Ανεστη/Christ is Risen

202 – Εσφραγισμενου του μνηματος/With the tomb sealed securely

240 – Ει και ταφω κατηλθεσ/Though in the grave You descended

READINGS: **Orthros Gospel:** Matthew 28:16-20.

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20.

Gospel: John 20:19-31.

(For further information go to Archdiocese website at: goarch.org or

The Metropolis of Chicago website at: chicago.goarch.org.)

THE NICENE CREED & LORD'S PRAYER are found on pages 52-54 and 71 of your blue service book. Everyone is encouraged to recite them out loud in both Greek & English.

PRE & POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS: The Pre-Communion prayers are found on pages 76-80 in your blue service book. The first four will be read in Greek and the next four in English. **Please recite them out loud as a congregation.** The Post-Communion prayers are found on pages 98-100 in Greek and pages 101-102 in English. These should be read by those who have received Holy Communion when they return to their seats.

COUNCIL CANDLE DUTY: Kristen Campbell-Wilk

MEMORIAL UPDATE: Due to Paschal restrictions memorial prayers will not be chanted on Sundays from Sunday, April 12th to Sunday, April 26th. Memorials may be offered once again beginning Sunday, May 3rd.

PASCHAL OFFERINGS: We truly appreciate and thank all that have made a gift to the Church this Easter. If you haven't already made your Easter Offering to our parish, please do so today. Your gift of love will help promote the gospel of Christ's salvation. Offering envelopes are available at the candle stand in the narthex and chapel until the end of the month.

During this time of COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis your Priests and Parish Council are praying for everyone's good health and well-being. We also ask you to please remember our parish of SS. Constantine and Helen with a generous Easter Offering. Be as generous in your love for Him as He is in His love for you.

Easter Offerings may be mailed to the church office in the envelopes mailed to your homes or electronically through the Tithely Giving Program. Thank you all and Christos Anesti! Christ is Risen!

FAITH: "Have you believed because you have seen Me?" Jesus asked Thomas. "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." Faith, not seeing, is the real miracle. It is when we believe that we truly see. "All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for what I have not seen," said Emerson.

THE BALLOON RELEASE that was to be held today has been canceled.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES have been cancelled for this year.

GREEK SCHOOL NEWS: Classes are canceled until further notice. E-learning is being offered. For details, contact Greek School principal Zoe Koultouridis.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS: **The Spaghetti Benefit Dinner**, schedule for May 7th, has been postponed to a later date. More information will be forth coming.

GOYA LAMB RAFFLE: Our GOYA held their Easter Lamb Raffle on Palm Sunday, April 12th. The winners were: Ari Bairaktaris and Perry Pappas. Our Goyans thank everyone for their support.

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS: Applications for the AHEPA, GOYA, Cathedral, Chion Society, Panagiotis Proimos and Novak Family Scholarships, are available in the church office. Deadline for applications is Sunday, May 1st.

YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATES: The Metropolis of Chicago Youth Office has announced that the Jr. Olympics scheduled for May and the Fanari Camp Program that was to be held in June and July have been canceled.

FOOD PANTRY: The call to remember the hungry and needy of the world is a continuous call by our Lord Jesus Christ. Donations of pasta, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, canned meats, canned tuna, canned fruits, canned vegetables, dry beans, lentils are all needed. Other things needed are personal hygiene items, shampoo, and toothpaste, cleaning products, hand soap, dish soap, toilet paper and other paper goods. Cash donations are always welcome.

At this time the Food Pantry will remain open on Fridays, from 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. However, instead of our regular parishioner crew working it, volunteers from the Ross Township office will. If there is anyone 18-40, without any medical conditions who would like to volunteer and work during these times is asked to contact Karen Petalas at the Township Office or Patty Makarounas through the church office.

OCCM MISSION APPEAL: Our Sunday school students had been given Mission Collection Boxes back in the beginning of March and we asked them to be returned to the church office by Palm Sunday. At this time not one donation was brought to or mailed to the church. Your support is vital in helping to proclaim the Good News of Salvation through Jesus Christ throughout the world. Please give what you can.

JESUS CLOSET UPDATE: Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the shelter's we work with in Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties are no longer accepting donations of clothing, bedding, blankets and other household items. Because of this we are forced to shut down our JC's Closet until further notice. Please do not bring any items to church as they pose a health risk for our workers and staff, and we do not have any proper areas to store these items. Thank you to all who supported this Outreach Ministry and we look forward to working with you in the near future.

NWI MASKS MINISTRY: Our Cathedral's Cultural Center has become one of the largest areas for collecting and distributing materials for face masks for healthcare workers in Northwest Indiana. Thank you to Dr. Tom Galouzis and Pete Zervos for setting this up, as well as all the volunteers for providing materials, sewing masks, sanitizing them and passing them out to all who need them. God bless you all!

FOR PONDERING: Jesus is our "connection." Through Him we know the Father and through Him we have access to the Holy Spirit.

STEWARDSHIP: Every parishioner should be a supporting member, a steward, of our Cathedral. Everyone should contribute what they can. We all need to have the willingness to make a commitment of faith and to “go on record” as being a believer and a supporter of God’s work through His Church. Since the Coronavirus Pandemic hit, the income of our parish has been cut by 90%. If some of you have not yet returned your 2020 Pledge Form to the church office, please, do so without delay. Also, keep current in your payments. Stewardship pledge should be at least one quarter paid as of April. To make giving easier for all our faithful, we have established an online program called [Tithe.ly/give](https://tithe.ly/give). This will allow those who have internet accessibility to continue to make offerings for stewardship payments, candles, Helping Hand, Food Pantry and other donations that help cover the costs of operating our parish with just a click of your computer keys. Read on below and check out the link listed. It is a symbolic profession of faith when we all work together and helps our church to better plan for its various financial needs and expenditures. Thank you.

“**Sharing in God’s work...**” (2 Corinthians 6:1) - That is what stewardship is about. The Good Steward empowers the Church for God’s work with his/her energy, time, talents, and money. The Good Steward knows he/she is a partner, sharing in God’s work in the world.

Have you submitted your 2020 pledge to the church? Are you current with your payments? If not, please do so by May 15th. Your cooperation is deeply appreciated!

During this difficult situation and time of separation, we are working hard to make sure you can stay connected to your church. Services are being streamed. Bible studies and youth groups are being held on Zoom. And now, you can support the church from your home! Click the following link to access the Cathedral's online giving page. Make sure you select what type of donation you want to make and if you'd like to cover our processing fees. You also have the ability to enter your stewardship number (listed on your stewardship envelopes) which would help our office a ton!

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=1385847>

SAINTS OF THE DAY – BASIL THE HIEROMARTYR & GLAPHYRA THE

RIGHTEOUS: Among of the Christians of Amasia was a young girl name Glaphyra. She was abducted and sold into the slavery of the royal court. She became a servant to Empress Constantina, sister of the Emperor Constantine, and wife of Licinius, an idol worshipper who persecuted Christians. Licinius became zealously enamored with Glaphyra, to the point where Constantina gave her money and helped her escape back to Amasia and the protection of Bishop Basil. She built a new cathedral there with the money she was given and wrote letters to Constantina. One of these was intercepted by a eunuch, and Licinius sent men to capture Glaphyra and Basil. Glaphyra died before she could be taken, and Basil was tortured and imprisoned for harboring a runaway slave and being an enemy of the idol worshippers. He was tried, beheaded and his body was thrown into the sea. His relics were retrieved by his priests and buried in the new cathedral in Amasia. Constantina had Licinius sent into exile for the rest of his days.

CHURCH FATHERS SPEAK: Christ with me, Christ before me; Christ behind me, Christ in me; Christ under me, Christ over me; Christ to the right of me, Christ to the left of me; Christ in me lying down, Christ in me sitting, Christ in me in rising up; Christ in the heart of everyone that thinks of me; Christ in the mouth of everyone that speaks to me; Christ in every eye that sees me; Christ in every ear that hears me.

-St. Patrick

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER, though a bit different than what we are accustomed to, are now history for 2020. It was wonderful to see how our homes became our churches. It was inspiring to see our families gathered for prayer and how Orthodox worship services were received and celebrated here locally, nationally and around the world. We were flooded with numerous messages and comments of thankfulness and encouragement for our live streaming of the services during this Pandemic. It was very humbling for our clergy.

Special thanks goes to Nick Kavadas for live streaming all our worship services during Lent, Holy Week and Pascha; as well to Fr. Dimitri and Charlie Pilatos for chanting during Holy Week; to Kristen Campbell-Wilk and her sister Emily Campbell for singing so beautifully the Hymn of Kassiani on Holy Tuesday and the Lamentations on Good Friday; for our altar servers: Christian Mojica for carrying the Cross on Holy Thursday and Perry Pappas for all his hard work at all of the Holy Week services; for our sexton Gus Stassis for cleaning and sanitizing the church after each service; and finally for our Parish Council members who helped with the numerous requests for candles throughout the week, and for being on guard and watching over our Cathedral facilities, along with Kosta Nuses for volunteering his police officer skills in being vigilant for our clergy and parishioners safety throughout Holy Week.

We are all part of the Body of Jesus Christ (Ecclesia) and the body has many parts and each one is vital to the total performance. Many thanks to you all for your love, your support and your prayers. **“For we are the aroma of Christ”** (2 Corinthians 2:16).

DOUBTING THOMAS: How easy it was for even Christ’s disciples to doubt, unless some “proof” was available by sight, touch or other means. The New Testament tells us of Thomas and his doubts about the Resurrection of Jesus.

Thomas had seen the nails driven into Christ’s hands and the spear thrust into His side by the soldier. But he was filled with doubt and said, **“Unless I see in His hands, the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe”** (John 20:25).

Jesus ended all of Thomas’ doubts when He told him, **“Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing”** (John 20:27). He also said, **“Blessed are those that have not seen and yet have believed”** (John 20:29).

It is a wonder that we human beings, living as we are in such a materialistic society (even during the COVID-19 Pandemic people still are putting their individual needs ahead of the masses) can learn spiritual truths in any degree without proof. What a joy it is to know that we are blessed because we believe, although no visible proof has been given to us. God gave us the capacity to believe without physical proof and because we believe, we are blessed.

FOLLOWING THE RESURRECTION LITURGY and every service for 40 days until the Ascension of our Lord, the priest turns to the congregation and exclaims:

“Glory to His Third-Day Resurrection!”

Δοξα τη Αυτου τριτημερω εγερσει!

And the congregation responds by saying:

“We worship His Third-Day Resurrection!”

Προσκυνουμεν Αυτου την τριτημερον εγερσιν!

Let us all remember these life-giving words at the conclusion of the Liturgy. Let us say them with feeling and strength for the 40-day period of the Resurrection.