

Ambo

ST. THEODOSIUS ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



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Cleveland, Ohio

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www.sttheodosius.org

- Archpriest John Zdinak
Dean
- Archpriest Pavel Soucek
Retired/Attached
- Subdeacon Theodore Lentz
Sacristan
- Reader Julius Kovach
Ecclesiarch & Choirmaster

Divine Services

Eve Sundays & Feast Days
5:00 PM Confessions
6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sundays and Feast Days
8:40 AM 3rd and 6th Hour
9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

April 8, 2007

Holy Pascha

The Resurrection of our Lord

CHRIST IS RISEN!



INDEED HE IS RISEN!

Welcome Visitors

Our parish welcomes you and thanks you for joining us in worship and praise this morning. While only Orthodox Christians may approach the chalice for Holy Communion, everyone is welcome to partake of the Holy Bread after Liturgy. You are also invited to join us for fellowship in the Parish Hall following Liturgy.

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith; receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. (Sermon of St John Chrysostom, read at Paschal Matins)

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the center of the Christian faith. St Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and faith are in vain (1 Cor. 15:14). Indeed, without the resurrection there would be no Christian preaching or faith. The disciples of Christ would have remained the broken and hopeless band which the Gospel of John describes as being in hiding behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. They went nowhere and preached nothing until they met the risen Christ, the doors being shut (John 20: 19). Then they touched the wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with Him. The resurrection became the basis of everything they said and did (Acts 2-4): ". . . for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39).

The resurrection reveals Jesus of Nazareth as not only the expected Messiah of Israel, but as the King and Lord of a new Jerusalem: a new heaven and a new earth.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. . . the holy city, new Jerusalem. And I heard a great voice from the throne saying "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. . . He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away (Rev. 21:1-4).

In His death and resurrection, Christ defeats the last enemy, death, and thereby fulfills the mandate of His Father to subject all things under His feet (1 Cor. 15:24-26).

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing (Rev. 5: 12)

THE FEAST OF FEASTS

The Christian faith is celebrated in the liturgy of the Church. True celebration is always a living participation. It is not a mere attendance at services. It is communion in the power of the event being celebrated. It is God's

free gift of joy given to spiritual men as a reward for their self-denial. It is the fulfillment of spiritual and physical effort and preparation. The resurrection of Christ, being the center of the Christian faith, is the basis of the Church's liturgical life and the true model for all celebration. This is the chosen and holy day, first of sabbaths, king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days. On this day we bless Christ forevermore (Irmos 8, Paschal Canon).

PREPARATION

Twelve weeks of preparation precede the "feast of feasts." A long journey which includes five pre-lenten Sundays, six weeks of Great Lent and finally Holy Week is made. The journey moves from the self-willed exile of the prodigal son to the grace-filled entrance into the new Jerusalem, coming down as a bride beautifully adorned for her husband (Rev. 21:2) Repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and study are the means by which this long journey is made.

Focusing on the veneration of the Cross at its midpoint, the lenten voyage itself reveals that the joy of the resurrection is achieved only through the Cross. "Through the cross joy has come into all the world," we sing in one paschal hymn. And in the paschal troparion, we repeat again and again that Christ has trampled down death - by death! St Paul writes that the name of Jesus is exalted above every name because He first emptied Himself, taking on the lowly form of a servant and being obedient even to death on the Cross (Phil. 2:5-11). The road to the celebration of the resurrection is the self-emptying crucifixion of Lent. Pascha is the passover from death to life.

Yesterday I was buried with Thee, O Christ. Today I arise with Thee in Thy resurrection. Yesterday I was crucified with Thee: Glorify me with Thee, O Savior, in Thy kingdom (Ode 3, Paschal Canon).

THE PROCESSION

The divine services of the night of Pascha commence near midnight of Holy Saturday. At the Ninth Ode of the Canon of Nocturn, the priest, already vested in his brightest robes, removes the Holy Shroud from the tomb and carries it to the altar table, where it remains until the leave-taking of Pascha. (continued on page 5)

THE ICON OF THE DESCENT INTO HADES

The traditional icon used by the Church on the feast of Easter is an icon of Holy Saturday: the descent of Christ into Hades. It is a painting of theology, for no one has ever seen this event. It depicts Christ, radiant in hues of white and blue, standing on the shattered gates of Hades. With arms outstretched He is joining hands with Adam and all the other Old Testament righteous whom He has found there. He leads them from the kingdom of death. By His death He tramples death.

"Today Hades cries out groaning: I should not have accepted the Man born of Mary. He came and destroyed my power. He shattered the gates of brass. As God, He raised the souls I had held captive. Glory to Thy cross and resurrection, O Lord!" (Vespers Liturgy of Holy Saturday) - Rev. Alexander Schmemmann at www.oca.org

Parish Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for the year 2006 will be held on **Sunday April 29, 2007**. Reminder - in order to vote, 2006 Dues must have been paid (\$250).

Please pay your dues in one of these ways:

- * Submit your check in the yellow dues envelope through the collection basket or by mail to the Cemetery Office.
- * Give your check to one of the Vestrymen at the Candle Stand.
- * Come in person to the Cemetery Office with a check - or say "charge it" and earn bonus points on your credit card!

HOLY TRINITY PARISH
HOSTS A RUMMAGE AND
FOOD SALE ON
APRIL 19-20.
THURSDAY 9 AM - 6 PM
FRIDAY 9 AM - 3 PM

We are cooking at
Ridge Manor for the
International Buffet at
9:00 A.M. on
**Monday April
16th.** Anyone who
wishes to help can see
Sonia Vorell after
Church or call at
440-238-6912.



Russia Hungary Poland USA Slovak Republic INTERNATIONAL BUFFET

Good Food!

Prepared from authentic, time honored recipes

Good Music!

Music by Bob and Shelly Orlandi

Good Fun!

Silent Auction!! & Chinese Auction!!

Good Fellowship

Beer and Wine

Sunday April 22, 2007

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Ridge Manor Party Center
4630 Ridge Road
Brooklyn, Ohio

Sponsored by St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

Adults: \$25.00
Children
Ages 3-12: \$5.00
Under age 3: free

For Tickets & Information call
Sonia Vorell 440-238-6912
Tammy Ponomarenko 440-572-8727

Prayer Requests

Departed:

Mary Marhefka + 3/15/07
Crescencia Caraballo + 3/19/07
(Jose's mother)

Ill-afflicted:

Fr. John Zdinak
Fr. Stephen Jula
Helen Baldner
John Clements
Eileen Eschuk
Henry & Julia Grabowski
John & Ann Shuleva
Jan Tkacz
Jeanne Twitchell
Billy J Spurlock
James Sheehan
Julia Zimmerman
Mary Wazevich
Valentina Ponomarenko
Natalie Ponomarenko
Roy A. Baldner
Michael & Jennifer Turczyk
Helen Kozak
Nick Jarachovic
Marshall Prock
Mary Ann Silberhorn
Margaret Rusynyk
Karen Felon
John Conrad
George Ponomarenko
Joyce Surplus (Tylers' Aunt)

Newborns:

Nora Grace Oprisko
Sophie Magdalen Grimes

Matthew & Rhonda Fox & Unborn Child

CONGRATULATIONS to Emily and Jason Grimes on the birth of their daughter Sophie Magdalen (March 28th)! We wish the new family many years!

Parish Council News

☛ The next Parish Council Meeting is 6:00 PM Tuesday, April 17th at Ridge Manor. Any parish member is welcome.

Upcoming Events

- 🕯 April 8 - Pascha
- 🕯 April 15 - Thomas Sunday: grave blessings
- 🕯 April 16 - Cooking @ Ridge Manor
- 🕯 April 17 - Parish Council Meeting
- 🕯 April 22 - International Buffet @ Ridge Manor
- 🕯 April 29 - Parish Annual Meeting
- 🕯 May 13 - Mothers' Day Brunch
- 🕯 May 14 - IOCC Banquet @ St. Michael's Woodside
- 🕯 May 19 - Carpatho-Rusyn Society Seminar @ CCCC

CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME HOME to Albert Jacob Casey who was Christmated on Lazarus Saturday! We wish you many years!

Thank you to Father John and all for your prayers, phone calls, cards and much concern received during my absence from church.
Sincerely, Ann Litnar

RESEARCHING THE PEOPLE FROM 'NO MANS LAND' The Carpatho-Rusyns of Austro-Hungary

Thomas A. Peters, C.G.R.S.

May 19, 2007
9:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

Conference Room A
Cuyahoga Valley Career Center
8001 Brecksville Road, Brecksville, OH

Tom Peters of New Jersey, will present an overview of the unique problems encountered while researching Rusyn ancestry. Peters is a Certified Genealogical Record Searcher (CGRS) who specializes in genealogical research of Carpatho-Rusyns, Slovaks and Germans. An active participant in the genealogical community since 1980 and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, he has successfully traced the ancestry of Slovak and Rusyn-Americans back to the European homeland. He has taught genealogy in adult education programs and community colleges and a guest lecturer at several genealogy conferences over the years. He has extensive experience with sources in both the United States and Europe. He will review how to conduct research on Rusyn ancestors, also pointing out pitfalls and how to overcome them. Lots of practical research tips.

Members \$20.00 / Non-members \$23.00
(Registration fee includes lunch)

For more information:
Bonnie Burke 440-729-2045
Marcia Benko 440-331-3856

IOCC International Orthodox Christian Charities 15th Annual Banquet

Monday, May 14, 2007

St. Michael's Woodside
5025 Mill Rd., Broadview Hts.

Donation \$25

Doors Open at 6PM
Dinner Begins at 7 PM

Call or see Frank Tkacz for tickets
216-351-1011

Deadline for Reservations is April 30th

Coffee Hour & Greeters Schedules

Coffee Hour Hosts:

4/08 PASCHA - No Coffee Hour
4/15 Mat. Cindy Zdinak
4/22 Donna Jacak
4/29 Wojnicz Family
5/06 Kate Zolikoff
5/13 Mothers' Day Brunch
5/20 Mary Swit & Tammy Ponomarenko

Greeters:

Debbi Pinta & Michael Tabeling
Linda Smotzer & Phyllis Gindlesperger
Steven & Eileen Bondor
Maca Tyler & Tom Broslawik
Steven & Eileen Bondor
Debbi Pinta & Maca Tyler
Linda Smotzer & Phyllis Gindlesperger

2006 and 2007

Dues

\$250.00 per
Adult member
(18 and older)
per year.

(continued from page 2) The faithful stand in darkness. Then, one by one, they light their candles from the candle held by the priest and form a great procession out of the church. Choir, servers, priest and people, led by the bearers of the cross, banners, icons and Gospel book, circle the church. The bells are rung incessantly and the angelic hymn of the resurrection is chanted.

The procession comes to a stop before the principal doors of the church. Before the closed doors the priest and the people sing the troparion of Pascha, "Christ is risen from the dead. . .", many times. Even before entering the church the priest and people exchange the paschal greeting: "Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!" This segment of the paschal services is extremely important. It preserves in the experience of the Church the primitive accounts of the resurrection of Christ as recorded in the Gospels. The angel rolled away the stone from the tomb not to let a biologically revived but physically entrapped Christ walk out, but to reveal that "He is not here; for He has risen, as He said" (Matt. 28:6).

In the paschal canon we sing:

Thou didst arise, O Christ, and yet the tomb remained sealed, as at Thy birth the Virgin's womb remained unharmed; and Thou has opened for us the gates of paradise (Ode 6).

Finally, the procession of light and song in the darkness of night, and the thunderous proclamation that, indeed, Christ is risen, fulfill the words of the Evangelist John: "The light shines in darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5).

The doors are opened and the faithful re-enter. The church is bathed in light and adorned with flowers. It is the heavenly bride and the symbol of the empty tomb:

Bearing life and more fruitful than paradise Brighter than any royal chamber, Thy tomb, O Christ, is the fountain of our resurrection (Paschal Hours).

MATINS

Matins commences immediately. The risen Christ is glorified in the singing of the beautiful canon of St John of Damascus. The paschal greeting is repeatedly exchanged. Near the end of Matins the paschal verses are sung. They relate the entire narrative of the Lord's resurrection. They conclude with the words calling us to actualize among each other the forgiveness freely given to all by God:

This is the day of resurrection. Let us be illumined by the feast. Let us embrace each other. Let us call "broth-

ers" even those who hate us, And forgive all by the resurrection. . .

The sermon of St John Chrysostom is then read by the celebrant. The sermon was originally composed as a baptismal instruction. It is retained by the Church in the paschal services because everything about the night of Pascha recalls the Sacrament of Baptism: the language and general terminology of the liturgical texts, the specific hymns, the vestment color, the use of candles and the great procession itself. Now the sermon invites us to a great reaffirmation of our baptism: to union with Christ in the receiving of Holy Communion.

If any man is devout and loves God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. . . the table is fully laden; feast you all sumptuously. . . the calf is fatted, let no one go hungry away. . .

THE DIVINE LITURGY

The sermon announces the imminent beginning of the Divine Liturgy. The altar table is fully laden with the divine food: the Body and Blood of the risen and glorified Christ. No one is to go away hungry. The service books are very specific in saying that only he who partakes of the Body and Blood of Christ eats the true Pascha. The Divine Liturgy, therefore, normally follows immediately after paschal Matins. Foods from which the faithful have been asked to abstain during the lenten journey are blessed and eaten only after the Divine Liturgy.

THE DAY WITHOUT EVENING

Pascha is the inauguration of a new age. It reveals the mystery of the eighth day. It is our taste, in this age, of the new and unending day of the Kingdom of God. Something of this new and unending day is conveyed to us in the length of the paschal services, in the repetition of the paschal order for all the services of Bright Week, and in the special paschal features retained in the services for the forty days until Ascension. Forty days are, as it were, treated as one day. Together they comprise the symbol of the new time in which the Church lives and toward which she ever draws the faithful, from one degree of glory to another.

O Christ, great and most holy Pascha. O Wisdom, Word and Power of God, grant that we may more perfectly partake of Thee in the never-ending day of Thy kingdom (Ninth Ode, Paschal Canon).

The V. Rev. Paul Lazor New York, 1977

at www.oca.org

Weekly Schedule

Sunday April 8

Holy Pascha

12:00 AM Paschal Vigil

(Matins & Liturgy followed by Agape breaking of the fast)

1:00 Agape Vespers at St. Innocent

Monday April 9

Bright Monday

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

Tuesday April 10

Bright Tuesday

Wednesday April 11

Bright Wednesday

10:00 AM Ridge Manor Committee

5:30 PM Finance Committee

Thursday April 12

Bright Thursday

11:00 AM Faith Enrichment Lunch at Olive Garden on Day Drive

Friday April 13

Bright Friday

April 14

Bright Saturday

6:00 PM Great Vespers

Sunday April 15

2nd Sunday of Pascha

Thomas Sunday

9:00 AM Divine Liturgy

followed by grave blessings at Cemetery

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Hristos Anesti! Alethos Anesti!

Christos Voskrese! Voistinu Voskrese!

El Massih Kham! Haaken Kham!



St. Theodosius Orthodox Cathedral

8200 Biddulph Rd

Brooklyn, OH 44144

Addressee