

# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

170 Lexington Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey, 07055  
www.stjohnspassaic.org

REV. FR. IGOR KSENIUK, Rector

973-473-1928 (Phone/Fax)  
646-387-5494 (cell)  
fr.igorksn@gmail.com



April 16, 2017

## RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

- 11:30pm (Sat.) – Nocturne
- 12:00am – Procession & Paschal Matins
- 9:30am – Paschal Divine Liturgy  
Epistle: Acts 1:1-8  
Gospel: Jn. 1:1-17
- Blessing of Paschal baskets & breaking of the Fast in the church hall.

## Schedule of Services

- BRIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 17**  
9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Procession
- BRIGHT TUESDAY, APRIL 18**  
9:00am - Divine Liturgy
- BRIGHT SATURDAY, APRIL 22**  
6:00pm - Great Vespers
- ST. THOMAS SUNDAY, APRIL 23**  
9:00am - Divine Liturgy  
1:30pm - Blessing of Graves at East Ridgelawn Cemetery

CHRIST IS RISEN!  
INDEED HE IS RISEN!  
ХРИСТОС ВОСКРЕСЕ!  
ВОИСТИНУ ВОСКРЕСЕ!

Across the world today, in countless churches and in many languages, Orthodox Christians will proclaim the Paschal greeting and its confident response, "Indeed He is Risen!" This day also marks the beginning of the period during which we will sing joyous words to the Mother of God: "The angel cried to the Lady full of grace, 'Rejoice, O Pure Virgin! Again I say, rejoice. Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb. With Himself He has raised all the dead. Rejoice, rejoice all ye people!'"

These words of the hymn establish the communion between Christ, His mother the Theotokos, and us His people. They remind us that Mary rejoices in a special way – as a loving mother. After the anguish of seeing her Son suffer and die, He has risen in triumph over death. We, His people, rejoice because as He rose He raised us all from the final power of death. Of course, Mary too is one of "the people" because like the rest of us she stands in need of salvation. But she is also the one and only Birthgiver of God.

In the centuries following the Resurrection, the Orthodox Church would acknowledge this communion between Christ, His mother, and us in many ways. One example comes on Friday of this Bright Week, when we will commemorate the Icon of the Life-Giving Spring.

In a grove of cypress trees near Constantinople was a garden dedicated to the Mother of God. The garden contained a miracle-working spring. As years went by, the area became overgrown

## Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in you prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Genevieve Bobenko, Michael Bzik, Mary Fechisin, Andrew Fabian, Edward Fedush, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazarczyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

and the spring water got muddy. One day, in the fifth century, a soldier named Leo came upon an exhausted blind man who had lost his way. Wanting to help, Leo looked around for water but could find none. He heard a voice directing him to the nearby spring, and telling him not only to give the man water but to apply some of the spring's mud to the man's eyes. Leo did so, and the man regained his sight.

When Leo later became Emperor, he remembered the loving voice of the Theotokos and the miracle of healing. He had the spring and its surroundings cleaned, and built a chapel there. Over the following centuries, the chapel would be destroyed more than once (its bricks one time being used to build a mosque), and the spring would be filled in with earth. But each time, local Christians repaired the site, and continued to draw water.

The icon shows the Mother of God standing with her Son in a large chalice, from whose sides healing water pours. She is with her beloved Son, now risen, once again, and that is why we sing to her, "Rejoice, O Pure Virgin." The Son and the Mother of God together bless us with healing and grace. And that is why we sing to each other and to the whole world, "Rejoice, all ye people."

## Birthday Greetings

Happy Birthday to **Walentyna Szeszawicka**, who celebrates her birthday today. May God grant you and all who celebrate their birthdays this week good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!



## Announcements

◆ Tomorrow, **Bright Monday** at the end of the Divine Liturgy we will be having procession around the Church, during which the children will be carrying the Icons. If you have small family icons that are fit for our little parishioners, please bring them with you for the procession.

◆ The **Passaic "O" Club** gratefully extends a thank you to all our parishioners and friends who donated to this year's "**Gifts of Love**" program. Your generosity is deeply appreciated and the funds will be a welcomed addition to the funds needed to restore the St. Nicholas Chapel in Kanai, Alaska. Thank you again.

◆ **NJ Deanery Bright Wednesday Vespers** at Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus, NJ will be at **7:00pm** this Wednesday **April 19**. His Eminence Archbishop Michael will be the main celebrant and homilist. Fellowship will follow. Everyone is welcome to attend.

◆ The **Blessing of Graves** at **East Ridgelawn Cemetery** will be held next **Sunday, April 23** (St. Thomas Sunday.) The blessing will start with Panikhida at the cemetery chapel at **1:30pm**. For St. Peter's and other cemeteries please make an appointment with Father Igor. If you have family members that are buried far away and you are not able to visit their graves, you can submit their names for commemoration at the time of blessing.