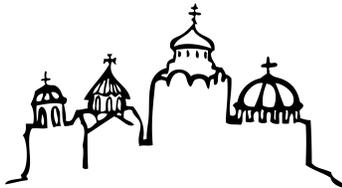


Yet, even now, with God helping us, we can face whatever our circumstances may be with the holy joy and Paschal strength that comes from firm conviction and faith in the Risen Christ.

In the overwhelming might of Christ's Resurrection, the strong man is bound forever (Mark 3:27); and in God's providence, we know that He will "make the evil to be good by [His] goodness" (Anaphora of Saint Basil the Great). It is our Lord's unfailing promise of new and eternal life which allows this day to rule all of the days which God may give us on earth. In the brightness of Pascha, even these dark days we now endure are mere servants to this feast of feasts.

On this Paschal day, my prayer is that you allow the joyful light of Christ fully into your hearts. In the coming days of celebration, let all men and women see this spiritual light shining from you, and let them hear your evangelical proclamation that "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life."

I remain sincerely yours in Christ,
+ TIKHON
Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada



Rector's Letter, May, 2022

Dear brothers and sisters:

Christ is risen! We have passed through the efforts of Great Lent and Holy Week, and now it is time to rejoice in the brightness of our Lord Jesus Christ's resurrection. As we celebrate, though, it is good to reflect on what we *gained* during the Fast. We usually think about Great Lent as a time when we give up things, but its real purpose is to practice living by the strength of the Lord and according to his ways. So all the Lenten efforts — the fasting, the prayers, the repentance and reconciliation, the alms giving, and participating more frequently and deeply in the life of the Church — these are all the basic ingredients of Christian life all the year round.

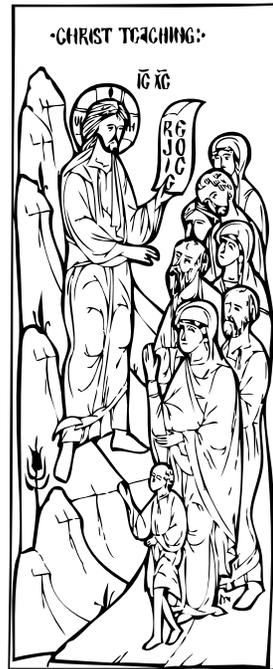


We may be disappointed in ourselves, that we did not follow through with all our intentions or perhaps we did not keep the right spirit, but if in any way we were faithful to the Lord's invitation at the beginning of the Fast, then in that way we have taken a real step toward the Lord and the joy of his Kingdom.

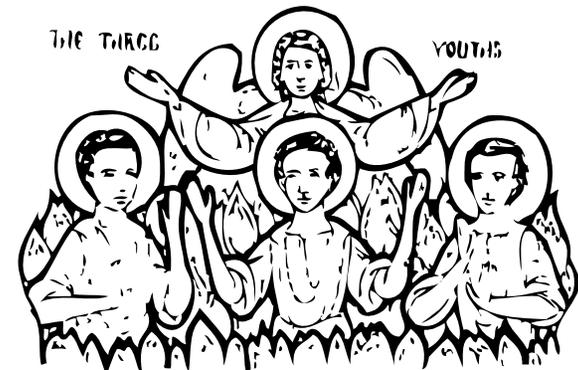
And now we should consider how to hold on to what we have gained. Obviously, fasting itself has its season, and now is the time for feasting. But our feast is in the name of the Lord who gave his life for us; we should not lapse into forgetfulness.

Did we manage to come to church more often? Why not then come to Saturday Vespers and feast days more frequently during the year? Did we pay closer attention to what we heard and saw in the services? Why not keep that attention alive?

Did we pray more? Why not bring your cares to the Lord in prayer at all times? Did we encourage someone? Why not seek out others to encourage? Did we restrain ourselves from unkind or idle words? Why not leave those words unsaid



I greet you in the joy of the Resurrection on this “chosen and holy day, first of sabbaths, king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days” (Paschal Canon, Ode 8). Great and Holy Pascha truly is the “king and lord of days.” On this day our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ shines with the victory of life over death, life which is given by Him as a gift to the whole human race. Amidst the daily news that prompts feelings of anxiety and despair, the present feast offers us our only true help. We take comfort that, in His great love for mankind, our Lord has forever banished the futile senselessness of death, which is the “last enemy” (1 Cor 15:26). Our slavery to fear and sin and death is abolished by the King of Glory, “The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle” (Ps 23[4]:8).



The dark and gloomy grave is now filled with light. We have no need to fear death—our Lord has vanquished it. At this time, the world seems to lie in the darkness of conflict, pain, and grief.

Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon

Pascha 2022



**To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of
the Orthodox Church in America,**

Dear Beloved Children in the Lord,

**CHRIST IS RISEN!
INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

at any time? There is no day when forgiveness,



generosity, or thankfulness are unwelcome.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ left us one great commandment: to love even as he loved us and gave himself for us. It is a very difficult thing to live by the standard set by our Lord, but he is glad to help us in every small way that we try to do it. Little by little, Lent after Lent and Pascha after Pascha, we can put that command into action in our life.

Yours in Christ,

F. John S. Modlin

Around the Parish

Our customary day for the **Blessing of Graves** is St. Thomas Sunday, May 1, with a rain date of Sunday, May 8. If you would like to **bless a grave at another cemetery** during this Paschal season, please speak with Fr. Joshua to arrange a time.

We will hold an informational meeting to address the proposed bylaws on Sunday, May 15 and mail out ballots to be counted by June 9. The results will be announced after the Liturgy on Sunday, June 12. All of these details will be explained in our special bylaws mailing and at the meeting on May 15.

Fr. Joshua will be on vacation with his family from May 25 through June 7. This means there will be no services in Meriden for the weekends within that period, including the Feast of Ascension. If you need urgent pastoral care, please contact Fr. David Koles (860-573-0013). Here are suggested parishes to visit in this time:

Holy Transfiguration, New Haven
(<https://www.holytransfigurationnh.org/>)

Three Saints, Ansonia
(<https://threesaintschurch.org/>)

Christ the Savior, Southbury
(<http://christsaviorchurch.org>)

After forty days, the Paschal Season concludes with the **Ascension of Our Lord**, on June 2, when our Lord completed the instruction of his disciples and ascended bodily to heaven, promising the gift of the Holy Spirit. This year, please visit one of our neighbor parishes for the feast.

Our services in the temple are streamed via Facebook and Youtube. You can most easily find them on our website: <https://sspeterpaul.org/media> .

