



April 5, 2015 Great and Holy Pascha



From the Desk of the Pastor:

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christ is Risen! Χριστὸς ἀνέστη! Христос воскрес! Բրիստոս յարեալ ի սեռեւոց՝

Imagine what an obstacle Mount Washington posed in the mind of those South Hills commuters wishing to travel to downtown Pittsburgh in the 1940's and 1950's. To them, Mt. Washington was not only a topographical barrier to downtown, it was also a real psychological barrier too. No doubt, its existence provided a lot of hesitation for those families wishing to take a weekend drive into the city due to the inconvenience of driving around it. Mt. Washington was like a large wall partitioning the South Hills and Carnegie from downtown Pittsburgh. Today, with the existence of the Ft. Pitt Tunnel, Mt. Washington is no longer a barrier in the minds of people living in the South Hills. Rather, it is seen as a conduit (a means) connecting us to downtown. It causes no psychological concerns for us (except during construction and rush hour!).

Now, imagine what an obstacle death posed in the minds of those humans who lived before Christ and were approaching life's end. To them, death was the great fear, it was the greatest of barriers which cut them off from all whom they loved. Nobody had ever come back from it in glory. Nobody. Not once. Certainly, the thought of death was an occasion for dread. That all changed as the grease-fire news of Christ's victory of Death spread through the ancient world from Britain to Ethiopia to India within less than a generation. Because of one Jesus Christ's victory the way we now view death has changed from that of it being an obstacle to that of it being a conduit to something far greater and more beautiful. Because of today, the Great Day, gone are the feelings of dread, foreboding, fear and abhorrence for death. Today, Death, you have been defeated. Today, Death, you have been transformed into a tunnel. On the Last Day when Christ the Victor returns in full regal glory, you, O Death, will be completely abolished forever.

I wish to conclude with a word to friends and visitors who are with us on this Great Day. You are most welcome here! I remember what it felt like going to my first

Easter after having been away from church for many years. It was all fresh and new. I also felt a bit ashamed, as if eyes were on me for being a bad Catholic. Fear not! You are among friends here! I find comfort in these words below from St John Chrysostom:

If any be a devout lover of God,
let him partake with gladness from this fair and radiant feast.
If any be a faithful servant,
let him enter rejoicing into the joy of his Lord.
If any have wearied himself with fasting,
let him now enjoy his reward.
If any have labored from the first hour,
let him receive today his rightful due.
If any have come after the third,
let him celebrate the feast with thankfulness.
If any have come after the sixth,
let him not be in doubt, for he will suffer no loss.
If any have delayed until the ninth,
let him not hesitate but draw near.
If any have arrived only at the eleventh,
let him not be afraid because he comes so late.
For the Master is generous and accepts the last even as the first.
He gives rest to him who comes at the eleventh hour
in the same was as him who has labored from the first.
He accepts the deed, and commends the intention.
Enter then, all of you, into the joy of our Lord.
First and last, receive alike your reward.
Rich and poor, dance together.
You who fasted and you who have not fasted, rejoice together.
The table is fully laden: let all enjoy it.
The calf is fatted: let none go away hungry.

Celebrate! The barrier is defeated; the tunnel is complete! Christ is Risen! Be not afraid!

In Christ,
Jason, priest and sinner.

New Things Happening:

- **Your Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas** can be taken home after Pascha Sunday Divine Liturgy. Thank you!
- **Haivky Rehearsal and Pot-Luck Dinner** will be Thomas Sunday, April 12th immediately after 11am Divine Liturgy. Bring whatever you have “left over” from Easter Dinner! Nothing fancy, just great company!! If you are interested, contact Pani Halyna.
- **Coffee & Catechesis** will be Saturday, April 18th at 10:30 to 11:30am in the usual location, the old Carnegie Post Office on East Main Street.
- **Sviachene and Haivky:** We invite you to join your fellow parishioners immediately after the **10am Divine Liturgy** on **April 19th** for a buffet luncheon: (baked ham, kolbassi, holubtsi, beets & horseradish relish, eggs, cheese, roasted new potatoes with parsley garnish, paska, lemon-filled torte, coffee, tea, soda & more). It is *preferred* but not mandatory that you call the rectory with your reservation so we know how much food to prepare. A common liturgy and a common meal: just like in Heaven!
- **Our parish will have something called an “Annual General Meeting,”** which will take place on **Sunday, April 26th** at 10am in the church. Please, write your questions down ahead of time, with your name and submit them in the box at the entrance of the church, or mail.
- **Needed:** Volunteers for our parish Vacation Bible School to be held this summer at Trinity Acres. Call rectory.
- **A small apartment:** If anyone knows of an available small apartment in the surrounding area for a single person, please contact the rectory.
- **Remember Ukraine** in your prayers!

Prayer List:

Make a point of praying for everyone on the prayer list, if you don't have one contact the office and we'll send you one. In a special way at this time remember the following members of our parish family: **George Fedora** (now at home!), **Luba and Peter Hlutkowsky.**

Thank you to anonymous people in the parish who donated a large amount of Sarris Chocolate bunnies to the Charron girls. They send you their gratitude. Their parents send you the dentist's bill! ☺

The Easter Message of His Beatitude Sviatoslav will be available in the vestibule of the church, in English and in Ukrainian. If you need extra copies, please contact the rectory.

The Nut Roll Baking Project was a Huge Success! Many thanks to Ming Medwig, Anne Konecky, and Marika Zaliszczuk for making 64 delicious nut rolls and a clear profit in the amount of \$554, all donated to the church. If you did not have a chance to order your Nut Rolls this time, there will be an opportunity later this year. Dates will be announced in the bulletin in the future months. God Bless this crew for a successful project!

Flea Market will be sponsored by Church of the Ascension (114 Berry St. Pgh 15205) on Saturday, April 25th from 9am until 2pm. Call 412-922-1187 or 412-489-6241. See you there!

Our Lady of Grace Church will be celebrating the second Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy Sunday, (310 Kane Blvd. off Bower Hill Road in Scott Twp) with a Holy Hour, with Procession of the Blessed Sacrament, Prayer and Benediction starting at 3pm. Any questions, call Kathy at 412-276-3374.

Just a reminder that there should be no dumping at Trinity Acres. If you know of someone who has been dumping there please speak with Fr. Jason immediately. In the past, we were forced to pay a significant fine for dumping and we need to make sure that doesn't happen again.

PAC Election Results: Mary Ann Davis, John Besspiata, Rebecca Zaletski. By appointment: Serhiy and Olya Chovnyk.

Church Directory is coming here in May, 2015 to take professional quality photographs of parishioners for a new parish directory.

Sunday Social After Liturgy sign-up sheets are posted in the vestibule. Please see which Sunday works for you to host the social. Will you sign up for next Sunday's 11am Social Hour to provide donuts downstairs?

Vital Stats: \$2,759.30 was offered in the collection last weekend with another \$195 for candles, \$20 for Diocesan, \$416 for the Seminary, \$409 for Annunciation, \$25 Special Offerings, and \$100 Special Offering for the Trinity Acres Kid's Camp Fund. The Nut Roll Baking Project brought in \$554. The Pyrohi Project brought in \$8,359.50, all for a grand total of \$12,837.80. Many blessings to all of our contributors whose sacrificial giving is known by God.

Lector Schedule:

- Easter Monday, April 6 at 9am: Cantor
- Easter Tuesday, April 7 at 8am: Cantor
- Saturday, April 11 at 4pm: Mary Reabe
- Sunday, April 12 at 8:30am: Ben Ciarallo and at 11am: Glen Zaborowski

What's happening in our parish this week . . .

Sat. 4/3.	Holy Saturday: <i>This is a day of simple abstinence</i>	
10:00am	Jerusalem Matins: the Wake of Christ	
12:00pm	Confessions until 3:00pm	
3:00pm	Blessing of paschal foods	
7:00pm	Easter Vigil: Vespers of Christ's Descent to & conquering of Hades & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil for the repose of Dennis S. Daniels requested by Melanie & Terry Wright (at the Little Entrance a new Easter Priest vestment set will be blessed in memory of Dennis Daniels)	JC
	.....also to mark the 2 nd anniversary of the late Helen Makar requested by Mike Makar & Christine Ruehrshneck and Families	IS
	.....Removal of Shroud (Note this is a change to the schedule)	
Sun. 4/5	Great and Holy PASCHA	
7:30am	Resurrection Matins	JC
8:30am	Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish	JC
	.....also for the repose of Joseph Wasek requested by Myron & Barbara Spak and family	IS
	.....myrovanya and solemn blessing of paschal food	

Mon. 4/6	Bright Monday: Station: <i>the Church of the Holy Apostles</i>		
	9:00am	Divine Liturgy for the repose of Anna Otchych requested by Diane Kuffner	JC
Tues. 4/7	Bright Tuesday: Station: <i>the Church of Our Lady at Blacherna</i>		
	8:00am	Divine Liturgy for the priest's intention	JC
Wed. 4/8	Bright Wed. Station: <i>the Church of Our Lady at Chalcoprates</i> <i>The pastor's day off</i>		
Thurs. 4/9	Bright Thursday: Station: <i>the Church of St. John at the Track</i>		
	9:00am	Third Hour Prayers	JC
Fri. 4/10	Bright Fri. Station: <i>the Chapel of Sts. Peter & Paul in the Cathedral</i>		
	9:00am	Third Hour Prayers	JC
Sat. 4/11	Bright Sat. Station: <i>the Church of the Baptist in the Sphorace Quarter</i>		
	4:00pm	Divine Liturgy for the repose of Dennis S. Daniels requested by Stephen H. Zinski	JC
		.....also Divine Liturgy for the repose of John Shiwarski requested by Jean Kincak & Family	IS
Sun. 4/12	St. Thomas Sunday		
	8:30am	Divine Liturgy for the people of the parish	IS
	11:00am	Divine Liturgy to mark the 1 st anniversary of the late Mary Gmitter requested by her sister, Esther Koss & Family	JC
		.....also Divine Liturgy for the repose of Thomas & Robert Boyle requested by wife & mother, Betty Boyle	IS
		<i>....followed by Haivky Rehearsal and Pot-Luck Dinner</i>	

What are the “**Stations**” for the weekday Liturgies during Bright Week? Originally, both in Rome and Byzantium, the principal liturgy for any given day might be assigned to one of the many churches in the city, and everyone went there. There is a rule in liturgy, “the more something is used, the more it is apt to change.” So today only the week following Pascha still has its “stational” churches.

You will notice that the text for the Divine Liturgy reflects the patron of that particular church. So on Bright Monday, everyone gathered at the Church of the Holy Apostles, the original cathedral of Constantinople built by St. Constantine, and the text of the liturgy reflects the titular of the old cathedral.

Tuesday and Wednesday the liturgy was held at churches dedicated to our Blessed Mother, one built by the Empress Pulcheria, and the other in a different neighborhood. Thursday was in the Church of St. John by the race track, and probably had the best attendance! Friday’s assembly was at the chapel of Sts. Peter & Paul in the new cathedral, Agia Sophia, built by Emperor Theodosios.