



APRIL 17, 2022

THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
PASCHA

Apr. 17 (Sun) **PASCHA: THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**
 Divine Liturgy 10:30am
 Blessing of Pascal Food

Apr. 18 (Mon) **BRIGHT MONDAY**
 Divine Liturgy 7:00pm
 Procession with the Four Gospels

Apr. 19 (Tue) **BRIGHT TUESDAY**
 Divine Liturgy 7:00pm

Apr. 23 (Sat) **No Divine Liturgy**

Apr. 24 (Sun) **THOMAS SUNDAY**
 Divine Liturgy 10:30am
 Health and Well-Being of Father John Petro

Our Tithe to our Parish - April 10, 2022 - \$2,812.00

The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of Apr. 17 thru Apr. 23 for Easter Blessing on our Parish Family.



Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.



Ron Bishop, George Bodnar, Pamela Seech Dawson, Steve Fekete, Margaret Gegick, Kevin Ianni, Ted Race, Helen Rizzi, Joseph Rusinko Sr.

Please remember in your prayers Tillie Abraham. Tillie, a longtime member of our parish, passed away last week. May God grant her rest and eternal memory.

To our parish family

As you know, Father John will celebrate his final liturgy on Thomas Sunday (April 24). In order to bring our entire congregation together for this celebratory liturgy there will be no liturgy on Saturday evening (April 23).

Immediately following the Sunday morning liturgy we will gather in the church hall to honor Father John. We will serve a lite lunch and have a brief celebration giving Father John the opportunity to meet with all in attendance.

Individual personalized cards with remarks and an expression of appreciation for Father Johns' ten years of priestly ministry at St. Stephen's is welcomed.

Now is the time to come together with resounding participation at Thomas Sunday liturgy honoring Father John.

United in Prayer
Your parish council

A NEW PERSPECTIVE”

17th Annual Women’s Day of Reflection

The 17th annual Women’s Day of Reflection will be held 9:00am - 2:30pm, Saturday, May 7 at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, 210 Greentree Rd. , Munhall..

This year’s theme is: “A New Perspective on: Compassion-Courage-Confidence.

Presenters include:

- ◆ Dr. Regina Poletunow Boerio, Phd, a Professor of Psychology
- ◆ Andrea Wedner, she was wounded in the vicious attack on the Jewish Community
- ◆ Alissa West, who provides Music Therapy Services

Contact Sister Marion Dobos at 412-322-8773 or mdobos1@gmail.com for more information. Cost of \$40 includes lunch. No refunds. Pre-registration is required.

Deadline is April 25.

A registration form is available at archpitt.org.

We greet each other during the next forty days with our Paschal greeting:

Christ is Risen ! *(English)* Indeed He is Risen!

Christos Voskrese! *(Slavonic)* Voistinnu Voskrese!

Christos Anesti! *(Greek)* Alithos Anesti!

*Remember, during this entire Bright Week, there is no fasting in our Church. Each day is celebrated just like Sunday, like one continuous day. And so we have the experience, as our Church calls it, of *the unending day ... the day that knows no evening!*

*During all this Bright Week, the *doors of the Icon Screen remain open* to show us that the gates of heaven have been thrown open by the Resurrection. Our Church continually feeds us and teaches us both in words and in symbols.

PASCHA

*I was buried yesterday with You, O Christ;
but today I rise, resurrected with You.
Yesterday I crucified myself with You, O Savior.
Now glorify me with You in your kingdom.*

Let’s take a moment to gaze upon this icon of the Resurrection, which is literally called the *Descent into Hades* (the underworld.)



At the time of his death, Christ descended into the realm of death, the underworld where all those who had died up until that time were held captive. Seized by Death, Hades held them in chains, in bondage. No one could escape. Death and Hades could not contain Christ, the Giver of Life.

In this icon we see Christ coming forth from the underworld, but he does not come out alone waving a flag of victory. No, he comes forth leading Adam and Eve, our first-created parents, out of the underworld, out of their graves. He is clothed in brilliant garments of white and gold, emerging from the blackness of death. We see the chains and locks and bolts all broken, the gates of Hades being trampled, symbols of all that had held humanity captive from the time of the fall of Adam and Eve

Also coming forth we see major figures of the Old Testament: Kings Solomon and David and then John the Baptist. They represent all those who are led free from captivity of death and the underworld and who now come into the bright light and New Life of the Resurrection. Angels above hold the Cross, no longer a symbol of shame and death, but now a sign of victory over death.

Truly the icon is a visual representation of our faith, of our great paschal hymn:

*Christ is risen from the dead,
by death he trampled Death
And to those in the tombs
He granted life!*