

Saints Cyril and Methodius Orthodox Christian Church

A Parish of the Diocese of New England of the Orthodox Church in America

Fr. John Hopko, Pastor • Protodeacon Paul Nimchek

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Sunday, April 16, 2017

The Great and Holy Feast of Feasts,
Holy Pascha: The Resurrection of Our
Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ

Dearly Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

With great joy we greet you on the occasion of Holy Pascha. We pray that the Lord God will bless you and yours in this holy season and throughout the year to come. Thank you for all your love and support.

Asking forgiveness and prayers, and with love in the risen Christ,

Fr. John, Macrina, and Family

REGARDING THE RECEPTION OF HOLY COMMUNION AT HOLY PASCHA

All Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting, love of neighbor and self-discipline (including personal participation during Pre-Lent, Great Lent or Holy Week in the Sacrament of private and personal Confession) are invited to receive the Holy Eucharist during the Paschal Divine Liturgy. All others are asked to refrain from participation. If you have any questions about this Eucharistic discipline and practice, please see Fr. John, before services begin. Thank you for your cooperation with this guideline, which is in accord with the usual, traditional and normative practice of the Church.

Schedule of Services

- 4/16 The Feast of Feasts, Holy Pascha**
11:00 AM – The Vespers of Pascha
- 4/17 Bright Monday**
9:15 AM – Paschal Divine Liturgy
- 4/22 Bright Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 4/23 Thomas Sunday**
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
12:15 PM – Annual Blessing of Graves in the Parish Cemetery
- 4/26 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 4/29 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 4/30 Sunday**
Holy Myrrhbearers
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 5/1 Monday**
7:00 PM – Parish Council Meeting
- 5/3 Wednesday**
8:00 AM – Matins (Morning Prayers)
- 5/6 Saturday**
6:00 PM – Vigil
- 5/7 Sunday**
The Paralytic
9:15 AM – Divine Liturgy
- 5/9 Tuesday**
Eve of the Feast of Mid-Pentecost
7:00 PM Vespers for the Middle of the Feast
- 5/10 Wednesday**
Eve of the Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius
6:15 PM – Festal Vespers and Divine Liturgy



News and Notes

Thank You! Thanks and appreciation are offered today, as we celebrate Holy Pascha, to Michael Nimchek, Choir Director, and Richard Koski, Assisting Choir Director, and to all the members of our Parish Choir for their loving service today and throughout the year. Gratitude is also given to all those who in any way helped prepare our parish for Pascha—cleaning, ironing, vacuuming, polishing, flower arranging, raking, sweeping, baking etc., etc. Thanks to all those who in any and every way support the holy, life-giving and saving work of Christ’s Holy Church!

Graduates: If you or a member of your family is graduating this spring, please let us know so that we might share the news with our Parish Family and offer our congratulations and prayerful best wishes.

LOOKING AHEAD: May Meeting of the Parish Council: The May Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Monday evening, May 1, beginning at 7:00 PM.

LOOKING AHEAD: The Feast of Saints Cyril and Methodius: We will mark the Feast of our heavenly patrons, Saints Cyril and Methodius, this year with the celebration of Vespers with the Divine Liturgy beginning at 6:15 PM on Wednesday evening, May 10, the Eve of the Feast.

Pertaining to Pascha

Paschal Appeals: Please give generously to our Parish’s General Paschal Appeal and to the Easter (Paschal) Flower Offering. We always have lovely flowers in the Church for Pascha and our contributions help cover the cost of these beautiful additions to our Paschal worship. Your support of these two appeals is deeply appreciated.

Blessing of Paschal Baskets: The Blessing of Paschal Baskets will take place at the conclusion of the Paschal Midnight Services in the Church Basement Social Hall, after which time the Parish Paschal “Agape” Meal will take place in the same location.

Paschal Agape Meal: The Parish Paschal “Agape” Meal, which will happen after the Paschal Midnight Divine Liturgy, will take place in the Church Basement Social Hall, immediately following the Blessing of the Paschal Baskets. We will not have a general food table, but will be eating from and sharing the contents of our family Paschal Baskets, while enjoying each other’s company. If you are planning to stay for this meal, please bring everything you need with you—your own plates, cups and cutlery, your own beverages and condiments, etc. (P.S. The word “agape,” pronounced “ah-GAH-pay,” means “love” in the Greek language and is the traditional word used to describe this Paschal meal.)

Thomas Sunday Blessing of Graves: On Sunday, April 23, we will celebrate the Sunday after Pascha, Thomas Sunday. As is the parish’s custom for Thomas Sunday, weather and grounds conditions permitting, we will bless the graves in the parish cemetery that day beginning at 12:15 PM.