

The Ascension of Our Lord

On the fortieth day after His passover, Jesus ascended into heaven to be glorified on the right hand of God (Acts 1.9–11; Mk 16.19; Lk 24.51). The ascension of Christ is His final physical departure from this world after the resurrection. It is the formal completion of His mission in this world as the Messianic Saviour. It is His glorious return to the Father Who had sent Him into the world to accomplish the work that He had given him to do (Jn 17.4–5).

... and lifting His hands He blessed them. While blessing them, He parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they returned to Jerusalem with great joy (Lk 24.51–52).

The Church's celebration of the ascension, as all such festal celebrations, is not merely the remembrance of an event in Christ's life. Indeed, the ascension itself is not to be understood as though it were simply the supernatural event of a man floating up and away into the skies. The holy scripture stresses Christ's physical departure and His glorification with God the Father, together with the great joy which His disciples had as they received the promise of the Holy Spirit Who was to come to assure the Lord's presence with them, enabling them to be His witnesses to the ends of earth (Lk 24.48–53; Acts 1.8–11; Mt 28.20; Mk 16.16–14).

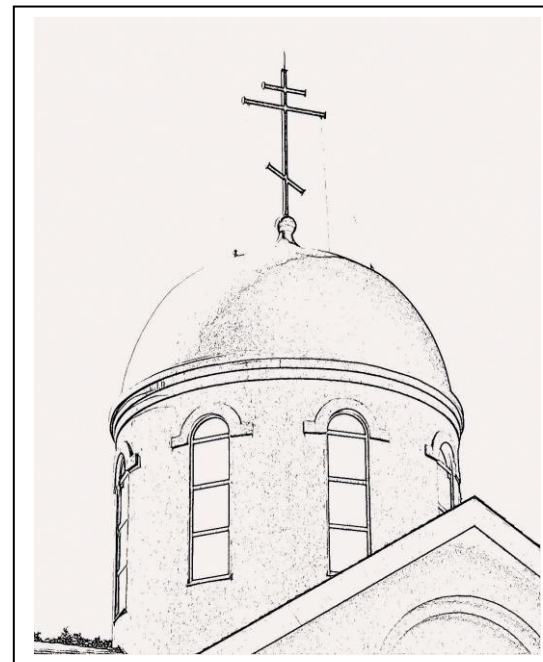
In the Church the believers in Christ celebrate these very same realities with the conviction that it is for them and for all men that Christ's departure from this world has taken place. The Lord leaves in order to be glorified with God the Father and to glorify us with himself. He goes in order to "prepare a place" for and to take us also into the blessedness of God's presence. He goes to open the way for all flesh into the "heavenly sanctuary . . . the Holy Place not made by hands" (see Hebrews 8–10). He goes in order send the Holy Spirit, Who proceeds from the Father to bear witness to Him and His gospel in the world, making Him powerfully present in the lives of disciples.

The liturgical hymns of the feast of the Ascension sing of all of these things. The antiphonal verses of the Divine Liturgy are taken from Psalms 47, 48, and 49. The troparion of the feast which is sung at the small entrance is also used as the post-communion hymn.

Thou hast ascended in glory O Christ our God, granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit. Through the blessing they were assured that Thou art the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world! (Troparion).

When Thou didst fulfill the dispensation for our sake, and didst unite earth to heaven, Thou didst ascend in glory, O Christ our God, not being parted from those who love Thee, but remaining with them and crying: I am with you and no one will be against you! (Kontakion).

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Matushka Mary Buletza-Breton, *Choir Director*

June 9, 2024
SIXTH SUNDAY OF PASCHA
Blind Man

Tone 5. St. Cyril, Archbishop of Alexandria (444). Ven. Cyril, Igoumen of White Lake (1427). Ven. Alexander, Abbot of Kushta (Vologdá—1439). Five Nuns beheaded in Persia: Martyrs Thecla, Mariamne, Martha, Mary, and Ennatha (346). St. Columba, Enlightener of Scotland (597).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Acts 16:16-34

Gospel: John 9:1-38

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Wednesday – **6:00pm Great Vespers w.Litya**

Thursday – **9:00am Divine Liturgy (Ascension)**

Saturday – **6:00pm Great Vespers (Ascension)**

Saturday – **9:00am Divine Liturgy**

Next Sunday's Readings:

Epistle: Acts 20:16-18, 28-36

Gospel: John 17:1-13



The Blind Man

*Christ is Risen!
Indeed He is Risen!*

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are **Mary Herelick, Zoran Pejovic, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Mary Tczap, George Stavrou, Margaret Makara, Dennis & Ann Marie Gahr, Michael Getmanov, Alan Diaz, Maryann Sivilic, Leo Radionoff, and Lori Ratushnuk.**

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for Coffee Hour after the veneration of the Cross. **The reception of the Holy Eucharist** is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is **offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.**

Annunciations

TODAY – Please join us for **Coffee Hour** in the Parish Hall after the Veneration of the Cross. **Team #1** is in charge.

THIS WEDNESDAY – We begin the celebration of the Great Feast of the **Ascension of Our Lord** with Great Vespers and Litya at 6pm. On **THURSDAY**, we will celebrate the Festal Divine Liturgy at 9:00am. This is a Major Feast that is worthy of our attention and our worship. Please participate in the Divine services.

THIS SATURDAY – A **parish cleanup day** will take place from 9am – 1pm. Please plan to come and help with the work that needs to be done to keep our buildings and grounds in good order. An electronic sign-up sheet will be available shortly.

Sunday, June 30 – A **baby shower for Matushka Mihaela Pejovic** will be held at the Parish Hall beginning at 4:00pm. All are invited. Please RSVP to Matushka Mary or Tara Paxton.

The Ss. Peter and Paul South River Men's Club will be holding it's **Annual Spaghetti Dinner** on **Saturday, June 15th** from **5:00 - 8:00PM**, in the Church hall at 9 Jeffrie Ave. (*Vespers will be served at 4:00PM*) A limited number of "baskets" will be raffled off as well. Tickets: \$15 for adults and \$8 for 14 and under. Price includes spaghetti, great meat sauce, sausage, salad and dessert! Soda and water will be available for purchase at this BYOB event. Tickets are available by contacting Phil at 908-331-1297. Come and enjoy good food and fellowship!

SAVE THE DATE! The **Annual Parish Ethnic Fair** will take place on Sunday, September 22, 2024!

MANY YEARS

Birthdays this week:

Tuesday – Veronica Noordzy

Wednesday – Sylvia Van Ness

Thursday – Georgina Humphrey

Friday – Sarah Bair

Saturday – Reanna Paxton

Wedding Anniversaries this week:

Today – Dennis and Ann Marie Gahr (#59)

***Please pray for vocations to
the Holy Priesthood!***

***Keep up on OCA news by
visiting www.oca.org,
diocesan news by visiting
www.nynjoca.org, and
parish news by visiting
www.occa-brick.org.***