

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ **WELCOME** to all who are visiting with us today! We hope you will feel at home here and, if you do not already have a church home, will consider becoming a part of the Saint Herman Church community.
- ❖ **CHRISTIAN ED RESUMES NEXT WEEK** at normal times. There is no Christian Ed today.
- ❖ **PASCHA FEAST INFO:** The Pascha Feast will be Today April 20 after Agape Vespers, which starts at 3:00pm. Anna Phelps will be the money collector and will ask people to sign up to bring dishes and to clean up. *Adults are asked to pay \$10 and children to pay \$5.* If this will not be possible for your family, please don't stay home on account of money, instead talk to Fr. Matthew or Anna about your needs.
- ❖ **IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN READING THE GOSPEL at AGAPE VESPERS,** then please see Fr. Matthew.
- ❖ **FR. MATTHEW WILL BE OUT OF TOWN April 24-May 2.** Fr. Thomas Frizelle will serve Liturgy on April 27 at St. Herman Church. If there is an emergency need for a priest during Fr. Matthew's absence, you may call Fr. Christopher Stanton at (907)775-2046.
- ❖ **LITURGICAL CALENDARS** for May will be available in the narthex next week but are online at www.sainthermanwasilla.org.
- ❖ **THE CHURCH BOOKSTORE** is now housed in Fr. Matthew's office, and will be open Sundays briefly during coffee hour or other times by request.
- ❖ **ACOLYTE TRAINING DAY WILL BE SATURDAY MAY 17.** Details on the time to follow. Any boy or man age 7 and older is welcome to come if they have any interest or experience in serving at the altar. If you are interested in serving at the altar but cannot make it to the training, then please talk to Fr. Matthew.
- ❖ **SAVE THE DATE – ST. HERMAN'S COUNTRY FAIR MAY 31.**
- ❖ **ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE – APRIL 29.** Saint John's Orthodox Christian School in Eagle River is now enrolling students Preschool-8th grade for the 2014-2015 school year. Beginning in 2014-2015, a complete 7th & 8th grade program will be offered. SJOCS has been educating students for over 30 years, providing them with sound academics set in a loving Christian environment. Take a tour and meet the teachers during Open House on April 29th from 6:30-8:00pm. For more information call (907)696-3920.

SAINT HERMAN

ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America
Diocese of Los Angeles and the West*

PRIMATE

His Beatitude, the Most Blessed Patriarch JOHN of Antioch

DIOCESAN HIERARCH

His Eminence, the Most Rev. Archbishop JOSEPH

PASTOR

Rev. Fr. Matthew Howell

DEACONS

Rev. Dn. Thomas Ross

Rev. Dn. John Phelps

Contact Information

6988 N. En Dove Road
Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Office Telephone: (907)373-5254
Pastor's Cell Phone: (916)396-6325

FrMatthewHowell@gmail.com

www.SaintHermanWasilla.org

PASCHA

THE FEAST OF
FEASTS

April 20, 2014

A NOTE REGARDING HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome! In the Orthodox Church, reception of the Holy Eucharist is reserved for baptized, chrismated Orthodox Christians who have prepared by prayer, fasting and a recent confession. If you are visiting or otherwise not prepared to commune today, you are welcome to receive some of the unconsecrated, blessed bread which the acolytes are holding. We pray for all to be united in the Body and Blood of Christ! If you would like to learn how you can enter into communion with the Orthodox Church, please speak with our clergy.

THE EPISTLE

*This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein!
O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His mercy endureth forever.*

The Reading from the Acts of the Apostles. (1:1-8)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom He had chosen. To them He presented Himself alive after His passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, "You heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

THE GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (1:1-17)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His Name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to Him, and cried, "This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me ranks before me, for He was before me.'") And from His fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

SAINTS OF THE DAY

PASCHA – The Commemoration of our Lord's Rising from the Tomb

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Ages 3-6: Next Sunday at 9:00am

Ages 7-9, 10-12, and 13-19: Next Sunday following Liturgy

NO CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TODAY

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

April 20 - 27

Today 3:00pm: Agape Vespers followed by Pascha Feast

Monday 9:00am: Bright Monday Liturgy at St. Nicholas Church in Eklutna

Wednesday 6:30pm: Bright Week Vespers

Saturday 6:30pm: Reader Vespers

Sunday 9:00am: Matins; 10:00am: Divine Liturgy

A GOOD WORD

VITAMINS FOR THE SOUL

- ❖ "In that we have beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us bow down before the Holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. Thy Cross do we adore, O Christ, and Thy Holy Resurrection we praise and glorify: for Thou art our God, and we know none other beside Thee; we call upon Thy Name. O come, all ye faithful, let us adore Christ's Holy Resurrection. For lo, through the Cross is joy come into all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us sing His Resurrection: for in that He endured the Cross He hath destroyed Death by death." – Pascha Matins
- ❖ "Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord hath dawned upon thee. Dance and be glad, O Zion. And delight thou, O pure Theotokos, in the rising of thy son.
How divine! How beloved! How sweet is thy voice, O Christ! For thou has faithfully promised to be with us to the end of the age. Having this as our anchor of hope, we the faithful do rejoice.
O Christ, great and most holy Pascha; O Wisdom, Word and Power of God: Grant that we may more perfectly partake of thee in the never-ending day of thy kingdom." – Paschal Canon, 9th Ode
- ❖ "Blessed is Christ Who promised life and resurrection to Adam's children in the day of His coming. We too shall arise and exalt Him along with the saints who have been pleasing to Him." -- St. Ephraim the Syrian



**THE SELF-RULED ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE
OF NORTH AMERICA**

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238
Telephone: (201) 871-1355 - Fax: (201) 871-7954
pat.vicar@acoantioquena.com - www.antiochian.org

L061/0414

Buenos Aires, April 20th 2014

<p>Pastoral Letter on Pascha - 2014 of His Eminence Metropolitan Silouan</p>

How to resurrect with Christ

“If then you were raised together with Christ, seek the things that are above,
where Christ is, seated on the right hand of God” (Colossians 3:1)

*Beloved in Christ
Hierarchs, clergy and faithful,
Of this God-protected Archdiocese*

Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!

Christ defeated death! We are no longer subject to it; rather we are Christ's, who gave us “*the right to be God's children*” (John 1:12) and to be His “*friends*” (John 15:15)! What great news! What a great gift! What a great reality! An eternal bond is granted to whoever believes in Christ as Savior from death -- divine adoption in Christ's name!

From now on, the Lord commissioned us to be victorious not only over death “from outside,” but also over death “from within,” that is, over our own selfishness. He also commanded us to be messengers of the Good News and heralds of His victory - and ours, too - over any kind of death. He asked us, as Christians, to abide by love rather than by hate, by hope rather than by despair, by faith rather than by logic, by justice rather than by injustice, by forgiveness rather than by resentment, by humility rather than by vanity and arrogance, and by sacrifice rather than by self-interest.

Christ defeated death in our lives! He set us free from fear: from fearing death, from fearing evil, from fearing illness and calamities, from fearing each other, from fearing the uncertainty of the future, from fearing insecurity and unemployment, from fearing violence and terrorism, and from fearing persecution and sufferings for His sake. Instead, He gave us the power and the means to seek the true freedom. The freedom to love each other even though we differ in character, education and profession. The freedom to forgive each other even though we have suffered. The freedom to ask forgiveness from each other even though we



have badly hurt each other. The freedom to serve each other even though we differ in origin, background and culture. The freedom to work together even though we differ in thinking, worldview, ability and capacity. The freedom to abide by the truth and raise our children to seek Him. The freedom to defend the unjust and the needy and restore them their rights. The freedom to be at the Lord's hand, obedient, prayerful and faithful.

Christ defeated death in our reality! He gave us the gift to start anew, to renew our heart, to purify our mind, and to reaffirm our commitment of faith at His service. He restored in us the dignity of our person, the beauty of our nature, and the bounty in our personality.

Christ defeated death in our relationships! Christ is the only mediator between God and man. However, He made us "bridges" of salvation to reach others. As Antiochian Orthodox Christians in North America, we are bequeathed an apostolic "lineage:" tradition, inheritance and mission. In this regard, the image of the "bridge" summarizes the Antiochian witness that emerges out of the past, prompts the present and prepares the future of the Antiochian Orthodox Church on the eve of the election of a new Metropolitan to succeed to His Eminence, Metropolitan Philip of eternal memory.

Christ's victory over death is a responsibility when it is handed over to us. "*I am the Way,*" (John 14:6) the Lord said. "*We are the bridge,*" we would respond to Him. Indeed, the Lord means for us to be His co-workers in this most unprecedented cooperation between heaven and earth. Antiochian Orthodox, among others, are leading the work of building a bridge between East and West, between our Patriarchate and the Archdiocese, among their brothers and sisters of other Orthodox Churches in North America, among their brethren whom they invited to share this apostolic faith, toward those are in need. If Christ is the "bridge" from heaven to earth and from earth to the netherworld, saving in this way the entire creation, then you understand that being a "bridge" means to follow Christ in His openness to humanity, in bringing humanity to unity, in serving your brethren to the extent of your ability and capacity.

I am glad for your witness – a bridge that unites both ends and that is open for people to come across in both directions, and for Christ to work the salvation of each one. I am sure that, as we are celebrating our Lord's resurrection from the dead, you will treasure this divine gift of being a bridge. Indeed, I am certain that you will not spare any means to serve the Divine Providence toward humanity.

May our Lord guide all of us by His eternal light shown forth from the empty tomb!

† **Silouan**

Metropolitan of Buenos Aires and all Argentina

&

Patriarchal Vicar of New York and all North America



Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

The Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

His Eminence, Archbishop JOSEPH

April 15, 2014

Beloved in Christ:

We thank God for our safe return from the numerous events surrounding the burial of our beloved Metropolitan Philip. Although our hearts are saddened by this great loss, we are comforted through God's mercy and the outpouring of love, expressions of sympathy and the great number of people who have been in contact with us. The Chancery has been overwhelmed with the number of calls, letters and emails and with the Holy Week upon us, we ask for your understanding in not being able to properly responding to each of you at this time.

After 40 days of Great Lent, having examined, confessed and cleansed ourselves, we joyfully celebrated the feast of Lazarus Saturday which marked the beginning of the last days of our pilgrimage to Pascha. Just as our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ humbly entered Jerusalem on a colt, we should now humbly enter the Holy Week. The days ahead will be filled with deep prayer and contemplation, through the many readings and church services, recounting our Lord's suffering and ultimately His victory over death.

I beseech you, dear ones, to join me in focusing on what lies ahead of us in the coming days - quietly, reverently, and respectfully – in joyful anticipation. All hearts and minds should be turned towards Him. Let us *"lay aside our earthly cares"* and turn our entire selves towards Christ to whom belongs all glory, honor and worship that we might experience the power of the Resurrection.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joseph', written in a cursive style.

+ ARCHBISHOP JOSEPH

Diocese of Los Angeles and the West

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

THE PASCHAL OFFICE FOR USE THROUGHOUT BRIGHT (RENEWAL) WEEK

- *From the Great and Holy Sunday of Pascha through Bright Saturday, we read the Paschal Office in place of Morning and Evening Prayers at our homes, as well as in place of Compline, Midnight Office, the Hours, and the Prayers of Thanksgiving after Holy Communion. It is also read on the leave-taking of Pascha. The instructions below account for when we say the Paschal Office privately at home or in church worship.*

<u><i>If said privately at home:</i></u>	<u><i>If said in church worship:</i></u>
Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.	Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Reader: Amen.

PASCHAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE (or Plain Reading)

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (THRICE)

IN THAT WE HAVE BEHELD (Plain Reading)

In that we have beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us bow down before the Holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. Thy Cross do we adore, O Christ, and Thy Holy Resurrection we praise and glorify: for Thou art our God, and we know none other beside Thee; we call upon Thy Name. O come, all ye faithful, let us adore Christ's Holy Resurrection. For lo, through the Cross is joy come into all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us sing His Resurrection: for in that He endured the Cross He hath destroyed Death by death. (THRICE)

HYPAKOE OF PASCHA IN TONE FOUR (or Plain Reading)

They who were with Mary came before the dawn, found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, and heard the angels say unto them: Why seek ye Him as man with the dead, Who dwells in light eternal? Behold the grave wrappings; make haste and declare to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath caused death to die; for He is the Son of God, the Savior of mankind.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT (or Plain Reading)

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment-bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

TROPARIA OF THE PASCHAL OFFICE (Plain Reading)

In the grave with the body but in Hades with the soul as God; in paradise with the thief, and on the throne with the Father and the Holy Spirit wast Thou, O Christ, filling all things, Thyself uncircumscribed.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

As life-bearing, as more splendid than paradise and more radiant than any royal chamber, O Christ, is shown forth from Thy tomb the fountain of our Resurrection.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Rejoice, O thou hallowed, divine abode of the Most High, for through thee, O Theotokos, was joy given unto those who cry aloud to thee: Blessed art thou among women, O all-undefiled Lady.

Lord, have mercy. (FORTY TIMES)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

<u><i>If said privately at home:</i></u> Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.	<u><i>If said in church worship:</i></u> Reader: Bless, father, in the Name of the Lord. Priest: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us. Reader: Amen.
--	---

- *When the Paschal Office is said in place of Compline or Evening Prayers, we insert the following prayer. In church, the priest offers it; in private, the layperson.*

A PRAYER OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, Master Almighty, Who hast lightened the day with the light of the sun and hast illumined the night with flashes of fire, Who hast vouchsafed us to pass through the length of the day and to draw near to the beginning of the night; hearken to our prayer and to that of all Thy people; and, having pardoned us all our voluntary and involuntary sins, receive our evening supplications, and send down the multitude of Thy mercy and compassions upon Thine inheritance. Wall us in with Thy holy angels. Arm us with the armor of Thy righteousness. Make a bulwark about us with Thy truth. Guard us with Thy power. Deliver us from all oppression and every plot of the adversary. Grant us also that the present evening with the coming night and all the days of our life may be holy, perfect, peaceful and sinless, without stumbling-blocks and without fantasy, through the intercessions of the All-holy Theotokos and of all the saints, who in all ages have been well pleasing unto Thee. For Thine it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PASCHAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE (or Plain Reading)

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs
bestowing life! (THRICE)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (THRICE)

<u><i>If said privately at home:</i></u>	<u><i>If said in church worship:</i></u>
Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (ONCE)	Reader: Father, bless.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>This concludes the Paschal Office when said privately at home.</i> 	

THE DISMISSAL

(**Offered only by the Priest in church worship**)

Priest: May He Who is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; (on Pascha, say all of the below)

- **On Monday, say:** by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven;
- **On Tuesday, say:** at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John;
- **On Wednesday and Friday, say:** by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross;
- **On Thursday, say:** at the supplication of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our father among the saints, Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia;
- **On Saturday, say:** at the supplication of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers;
- **If replacing post-communion prayers, add:** of our father among the saints, John Chrysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated;

of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of Saints Nn., whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, forasmuch as He is good and loveth mankind.

- *If the Paschal Office will precede Vespers or Orthros, the choir sings “Amen” and the Priest immediately begins the next service with the words “Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving and Undivided Trinity.” Otherwise, finish the Paschal Office with the order below.*

Priest: Christ is risen! (THRICE)

People: Truly He is risen! (THRICE)

Priest: Glory to His Holy Third-day Resurrection!

People: We adore His Holy Third-day Resurrection!

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs...

People: ...bestowing life!