

## May 5, 2013: The Lord's Resurrection, Pascha, Easter

### Epistle: The Acts, 1:1-8:

*The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

### Gospel: 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 nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 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, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

By the grace of God we have been found worthy to receive, one again, the light of Christ's resurrection in our hearts and in our souls.

On the night of the Lord's Resurrection, as well as throughout the Pascal season, Orthodox Christians sing, time and again, the hymn of Christ's victory over death and Hades: ***Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and those in the tombs bestowing life***. By so doing, they reaffirm their faith and hope in their own resurrection and victory over death and the evil forces.

As the assurance of our own resurrection, Easter is the foundation of Christianity, the "Feast of feasts" that opens the doors of Paradise and brings reconciliation between man and his Creator.

On behalf of the Church Board and the Ladies Auxiliary, I'd like to extend to all of our parishioners and supporters a Blessed Pascha, filled with joy and happiness!

**CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

**Fr. George Bazgan**

**PASTORAL LETTER  
ON THE FEAST OF OUR LORD'S RESURRECTION 2013**

† NICOLAE

*by the mercies of God*

*Archbishop of the Romanian Orthodox Archdiocese in the Americas*

*To our beloved clergy and Orthodox Christians, peace and holy joy  
from Christ the Risen Lord, and hierarchical blessings from us!*

***“Why do you look for the Living among the dead? He is not here;  
He has risen!” (Luke 24:5-6)***

**Most Reverend Fathers,  
Beloved Faithful,**

**Christ is risen!**

The Day of Resurrection brings us the joy of proclaiming to one another that our life does not end on this earth, but we too will rise again into eternal life, we who believe that Christ has risen. This joy comes from that of the Myrrh-bearing women, the first who received the angels' wondrous news at the empty tomb. This news reached the Apostles, who ran to see the empty tomb and marveled at what had happened (Luke 24:12).

We are familiar with the witness of the Holy Scriptures regarding the appearances of the Risen Lord and how He explained to the disciples the fulfillment of what had been prophesied about His Passion and Resurrection. The testimony of those who saw Him risen are of a special importance. St. Paul, in his letter to the Christians of Corinth, written around the year 51, speaks of Christ's resurrection in this way: “For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born” (1 Cor. 15:3-8). Our faith in the Lord's Resurrection is based on these testimonies of those who encountered Him. We believe their witness, but we also believe the experiences of all those who, in the Church, have encountered the Resurrected Christ.

For the resurrection of Christ is not a resuscitation, but a new life, a new way of existence. There is a huge difference between the resurrection of Lazarus or of the young man from Nain and that of Christ. This was not a survival, or a re-uniting of body and soul, but a new existence, an eternal one. The Savior's resurrection was not a simple return to the life He had lived before dying on the Cross, His earthly life, but a radical transformation of the mortal body through a creative operation on it. In his second letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul the Apostle speaks about the spiritualizing, about the filling of Christ's body with the power of the Holy Spirit, a power that then radiates in those who draw near to this resurrected body: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!” (2 Cor. 5:17). The resurrection of Christ has to do with this renewal of humanity, and through humanity of the entire creation.

The renewal of mankind began with the Incarnation of the Word, when the Son of God took upon Himself our fallen human nature. The Son of God raised it from its fallenness through the strengthening of human nature, by healing it of the infirmity of sin, by re-orienting it toward God the Father, the Creator. As God, Christ has the power to heal human nature of what theologians call the

passions, of its infirmities. This work of healing and renewal continues in the sacrifice on the Cross, in the offering of the life of humanity to God the Father, and it is fulfilled in the Resurrection.

Christ demonstrated His power as God, the power of life over death, even before His bodily resurrection, in the shattering of the gates of hell and the liberation from it of those who were awaiting His coming in hope. Christ defeated hell with His human soul, united with His divinity, Father Stăniloae tells us. He is the first soul that cannot be kept in hell, but escapes it and by His divine power also sets free the souls of those awaiting salvation. Out of Christ's completely divinized soul then springs forth the power that will also raise His body from the grave.

The risen Body of the Savior is permeated with the light of the Spirit. It is a spiritualized body, which is no longer limited by earthly things; it is our body's guarantee of the universal resurrection. The Risen Body of Christ radiates the light and power of the Spirit, filling the disciples also with this Spirit. This Spirit enables them to understand that in Christ the Scriptures have been fulfilled; this Spirit strengthens them to become witnesses of the Resurrection. This light and power of the Spirit is granted to all those who believe in the Resurrection of Christ: "And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (2 Cor. 3:18).

### **Most Reverend Fathers, Beloved Faithful,**

Proclaiming the Lord's Resurrection we encourage one another to understand these discoveries. Namely, that Christ's Resurrection represents our renewal and the renewal of the world; that the Spirit brings us to new life in Christ and enables us to work toward our own resurrection already in this life through our encounter with the Risen One. The Apostles encountered this Christ who had suffered on the Cross and risen. The encounter changed their lives, and they in turn, with the power of Christ, changed the lives of many others. We too meet the Risen Christ in the mysteries of the Church, and we have the chance to have our lives renewed. In our world, increasingly estranged from God, ever more characterized by egoism, indifference and violence, we Christians can witness through our lives that the world can be different, even 2000 years after the unexpected event of the Resurrection.

At this glorious feast my desire for all of you, the clergy and faithful of our Archdiocese, is that you encounter the Risen Christ, that you let the light of the Resurrection shine in your life, that you will be witnesses of the encounter and of the renewal of life.

I embrace you in Christ the Risen Lord and I wish you a joyful Feast!

***Christ is risen!***

Your brother in prayer before God,

† **NICOLAE**

Chicago, the Feast of our Lord's Resurrection, 2013

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

### PALM SUNDAY

Blessing of Palms, Divine Liturgy ..... 10:00 A. M.

### HOLY MONDAY

Matins of the Holy Tuesday ..... 7:00 P. M.

### HOLY TUESDAY

Matins of the Holy Wednesday ..... 7:00 P. M.

### HOLY WEDNESDAY

Sacrament of the Holy Unction ..... 7:00 P. M.

### HOLY THURSDAY

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great ..... 10:00 A. M.

Service of the Holy Passion (12 Gospels) ..... 7:00 P. M.

### GOOD FRIDAY

Taking down from the Cross (Vespers) ..... 3:00 P. M.

Lamentation Service ..... 7:00 P. M.

### GREAT SATURDAY / SÂMBĂTA MARE

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great ..... 10:00 A. M.

### HOLY PASCHA (EASTER)

Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy ..... 12:00 (midnight)

Blessing of the Easter baskets ..... 3:00 A. M.

*The traditional Easter fellowship will follow the blessing of the Easter baskets.*

### EASTER SUNDAY

Vespers Service ..... 1:00 P. M.

### BRIGHT MONDAY

Divine Liturgy at St. George Greek Orthodox Church ..... 10:00 AM.

### BRIGHT FRIDAY

Divine Liturgy ..... 10:00 AM.

## **GARAGE AND BAKE SALE**

**The Romanian Orthodox Church will be hosting a Garage/Bake sale on:**

- Friday, May 31, 2013: 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM.
- Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM.
- Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013: 12:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

**This is a fundraising event with proceeds going towards the renovation of the kitchen.**

***To make this event a success, we NEED your help!***

### **ITEMS NEEDED :**

- CHILDREN'S CLOTHING (IN GOOD CONDITION).
- ADULT CLOTHING (IN GOOD CONDITION).
- TOYS /ELECTRONIC GAMES/OTHER ELECTRONICS.
- SPORTS EQUIPMENT.
- SMALL HOUSEHOLD APPLIANCES AND FURNITURE.
- TOOLS.
- GARDEN ITEMS.
- MISCELLANEOUS (BOOKS, CHINA, DECORATIVE ITEMS, JEWELERY, PURSES, VASES, etc.).

**Donations for the garage sale will be accepted between May 12 - May 28**

(Sundays from 10:00 PM to 1:00 PM or call to make other arrangements).

**Donation for the bake sale will be accepted on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup> and Friday May 31<sup>st</sup>,**

**between 6:00 and 8:00 PM at the church Hall.**

**NOTE: This event requires a large number of volunteers to sort, price and advertise so.... please let us know if you can lend a hand.**

**For further information, to make a donation or to volunteer, please contact:**

- MARIA BAZGAN: (780) 473-0029.
- MARIANA DIACONU: (780) 473-6711.
- MARIETA MIEILA: (780) 439-9310.

**Thank you very much!**

***SAINTS CONSTANTINE and ELENA PARISH***

**9005 – 132 Ave, Edmonton, Alberta**

**THE 65TH ANNIVERSARY**

**1948 – 2013**

**MAY 26, 2013**

**10:00: HIERARCHICAL LITURGY  
(H. G. IOAN CASIAN – Vicar Bishop)**

**11:30: MEMORIAL FOR FOUNDERS  
1:00 PM: ANNIVERSARY BANQUET**

**Tickets: \$50/adults; \$15/children (7-14)  
Contact Viorel Ciocan: 780-994-2304**

**SEE YOU THEN!**



## **MEMBERSHIP**

**At the Annual General Meeting, held on February 24, 2013, the decision was made to keep the membership unchanged, at \$100/person (\$200/couple).**

**We encourage all our members and supporters to pay their membership as soon as possible so we can complete the various projects during the warm season and also to be able to assist the Archdiocese with the annual dues.**

**Keep in mind that \$35 of each membership goes to the Archdiocese.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

## **KITCHEN RENOVATION**

**Our kitchen is in dire need for expansion and renovation.**

**In the fall of 2012 we launched a campaign to fundraise for this important project.**

**The last estimate for the project came at around \$80,000.**

**We appeal to all of our members, supporters and friends to give generously towards this major project and support our fundraising events!**

**All donors will receive a tax-deductible receipt and our heartfelt appreciation.**

**THANK YOU AND MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS YOU!**