



PANAGIA PANTOVASILISSA
HOLY MOTHER QUEEN OF ALL
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

A COMMUNITY FOR ALL

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Pascha 2019

Christ is Risen!



Christ is Risen, and death is overthrown! Christ is Risen, and the gates of Hades are shattered! Christ is Risen, and light comes forth from darkness! Christ is Risen, and the tomb stands empty! Yet while the tomb stands empty, we rejoice that the Church is full! And upon hearing the sacred words “Δεύτε λάβετε φως” (Come receive the light) we all rush toward that tomb that we might take Christ’s Light as our own portion and as a premonition of the Resurrection which He promises us through His sacred Church. And that Church is a great deal fuller than she usually is, for to behold the joy of the Resurrection, we drop all of the trivial tasks with which we usually occupy our time and rush towards the Light. Indeed, when the time has come to behold His Glorious Resurrection, Christ finds in us a veritable throng of people willing to partake in that joy. And His Church is a great deal fuller tonight than He usually finds Her.

Throughout much of the rest of the year, my friends, Christ is not so well attended; indeed, looking upon the rest of the year from the vantage point of this glorious night when we gather together to receive the light, we might even say that Christ is lonely. Throughout much of the rest of the year, the Mezzanine will not be filled. Throughout much of the rest of the year, parking will usually not be an issue that we need consider overmuch. Even throughout most of the rest of the Forty Days of Pascha, the singing of “Christos Anesti” will not be as fulsome as it is this night. For Christ’s Church is a great deal fuller tonight than He usually finds Her.

The situation is not yet dire. Indeed, last year was a very blessed year for our community. We welcomed several families and numerous individuals into our community and our faith. We set records for conversions to Orthodoxy, Vacation Church School attendance, weekly services, first time stewards, total stewardship, and Catechism classes offered. And, on several recent occasions, our Sunday congregation has overflowed into the Mezzanine. Indeed, we have been very blessed this past year. But what about the next? And what about our children, and their children? Will they receive the same Light in this parish? Will they receive the Light at all? And if we have not made ourselves mirrors of that Light, by our proximity to Christ and His Church, then why do we imagine that we will be in any position to give it to them? For the fact remains that Christ’s Church is a great deal fuller tonight than He usually finds Her.

As the Priest of this parish, I cannot help but think of what we *could* be. What we could be if everyone who attended our Lord at Pascha followed him the rest of the year. How much good we could do for each other and those around us in the name of Christ. How transformed we could be into His sacred image. How much further we could take the Light which we receive this day into a world in such need of it. Indeed, I cannot help but rejoice in anticipation when I think how transformed our lives could be if we were to all take up this challenge together. Then would Christ's Church remain full.

Christ our God set aside his power, and endured betrayal, mockery, and scourging. He carried a blood-soaked Cross upon the tattered flesh of his back and endured agony on Golgotha that He might offer us His Body and Blood as a sacrifice for all time. Can we set aside a few hours each week and endure a leisurely drive to receive His Gifts? That is the challenge, my friends. And it is this simplest of challenges which promises the greatest reward of all: salvation from death and sovereignty through Christ over Creation. And it can begin for you this night! For, as Chrysostom tells us in his sermon tonight, there is no shame in coming at the eleventh hour; indeed, Christ rejoices to receive us, and so do His faithful! The true shame, my friends, is in leaving the feast. Let it not be so among us!

If we want the Light of Christ to continue to shine in our beloved parish community; if we want that Light to continue to illumine the city of Lexington; if we want that Light to be present in the lives of our children, then we must all become involved in tending it. For a fire that has been kindled but is not constantly fed inevitably dies. Christ will surely abide forever, as will His Light. The question is, will *we* be here to receive Him, and will He find in us a worthy receptacle for that Light? Indeed, the question might be: Shall we abide forever in Him?

Now is not the time for such portentous thoughts. This Sunday, we join together and rejoice in the Resurrection, and we dedicate our lives to His promise of salvation. And we have every cause to rejoice. The question, my friends, is if He will find us here *next* Sunday.

With every Paschal blessing and fervent prayers that the Lord who conquered Death for us will find us in His holy house on that day, I remain,

William J. Redman



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Holy Week 2019 (most photos credited to Dennis Karounos)



Weekly Opportunities for Worship and Fellowship

SUNDAY

9 AM - Matins and Liturgy

This is the meeting of the Eucharistic community, the Body of Christ, on the Lord's Day. It is the time we set aside to come together to receive God, that we might be united together with Him and in Him. The Liturgy, should be *the* most important thing in our weekly schedules. For the Christian, this day, and this service, is the center and source of life, given by Him Who is Life! Nothing can take precedence over receiving that which God offers to us!

12 PM – Agape Fellowship

This is the time when the Body of Christ, having received our Lord together, comes together to rekindle the bonds of fellowship that have just been set aflame by the reception of our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

6 PM – Vespers

This service is an opportunity to come together in the middle of the week to worship our Lord, and to recall the works of His saints. It gives us a chance to take stock of our lives and rededicate them to Him, as well as to reflect on how He has comforted, uplifted, and transformed us during the week. There is an opportunity to plug back in to the source of our power, to help us to get through the trials and tribulations of the weekly grind!

6:45 PM – Orthodoxy 101 and Potluck

On Wednesday nights, we gather together in a fellowship meal provided from the fruits of our labour, and we learn together about our faith. Currently, our curriculum is Orthodoxy 101, which is basic Christian catechism, and which represents an opportunity for inquirers into the faith to be introduced to Orthodoxy, as well as for current Orthodox Christians to expand upon their knowledge. Adult Study will continue on Wednesday nights throughout the year, though the format and topics will change from session to session.

FRIDAY

6 PM – Paraklesis

This service is an opportunity to ask the Theotokos, the Panagia Pantovasilissa, our beloved patron and God's mother, to intercede with Him on our behalf, as well as on behalf of those whom we know who stand in special need of His grace due to challenges or suffering that they may face. Blank lists for names will be in the narthex before the Paraklesis. The names will then be added to the Proskomide service before the Liturgy on Sunday. The service has a special meaning to us, as the Theotokos is the patron of our community. Please note that, in contrast to the lists of names from the Dormition Fast, the lists of names for our weekly Paraklesis are not kept from week to week.

SATURDAY

6 PM – Great Vespers

This is the service at which we prepare for and welcome the Lord's Day, on the night before we gather together to receive Christ. At the midpoint of the service, when we sing "O Gladsome Light", the Church, which was dimly lit, becomes awash with light. This is the transition from the Sabbath to the Day of the Lord, on which we shall receive His Body and Blood, thereby sacramentally becoming the Body of Christ. We gather the night before to prepare ourselves.

7 PM – The Sacrament of Confession

Though Confession is always available during the week by appointment, starting on December 9th, and henceforth, the time following the conclusion of Great Vespers will be set aside for those among the faithful who feel burdened and wounded by sin to come to Confession as we prepare to receive our Lord together the following day. If you wish to confess, please plan to be at the Church by the conclusion of Great Vespers (approximately 6:45 PM).

Get Involved:

In Our Ministries...

GREEK ORTHODOX YOUTH ASSOCIATION [GOYA]

GOYA is a youth ministry where we engage in fun, fellowship, food, retreats, and service. Families who are interested in participating, and parents who are interested in serving as volunteers are encouraged to contact Fr. William to be placed on the contact list. Our GOYA is a youth fellowship organization which, for this year, is open to our youth in grades 7-12. Sarah Nash is the Chair.

YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE OF LEXINGTON [Y'ALL]

The Young Adult League of Lexington (appropriately abbreviated Y'ALL) is a fellowship ministry which usually takes the form of casual outings and service projects. Anyone who is interested in participating is encouraged to contact Fr. William to be placed on the contact list. Our Y'ALL chapter is open to young adults, ages 18-39. Angela Brown is the Chair.

PHILOPTOCHOS

Our local Philoptochos chapter acts as the charity arm of the Church, and as a catalyst for organizing various events. The ladies of our chapter enjoy service as much as they enjoy fellowship, and have provided an immense amount of logistical support to various events we have hosted in our church. In addition to this, the chapter meets together throughout the year. If you would like more information, please contact Carolyn Janssen.

OVER 50S GROUP

FiftyUp is a fellowship oriented group that helps us to stay in touch with one another, and provides opportunities for fun, study, and common service to Christ. Anyone over 50 years of age is welcome to join. If you are interested yourself, or know someone who may be, please contact Jim Hangis or Kitty Agiountatis.

And Don't Forget to Stay in Touch...

Like and Follow us on Facebook at

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PANAGIAPANTOVASILISSA

Stay up to date by checking the Calendar on our website at

WWW.GOCLEX.ORG

And if you aren't currently receiving our weekly parish e-mail announcements, and would like to, please fill out one of the information cards located on the Literature Rack table in the back, and give it to one of our ushers!

Thank you to our Stewards!

The Parish Council of Holy Mother Queen of All/ *Panagia Pantovasilissa* Greek Orthodox Church and Fr. William would like to thank those who have filled out a pledge card for 2019. Stewards are those enable our Church to provide the Light of Christ in the Commonwealth, as well as to providing an environment where our children can learn about their rich religious and cultural heritage. Without your support, our beloved community, quite literally, would not exist. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you committing the gifts you have been given by God back to Christ through His Church! May He bless you and yours through His grace! Christ is Risen!

Adkins	Ronald and Reva	Douglass	Katina	Psychogios	Apostolos & Aspassia
Allemang	Jason & Elyse	Eliopoulos	Alyssa	Radulescu	Vlad & Aurelia
Andres	Doug & Christine	Eliopoulos	Chris & Kristen	Rdulescu	Laura
Annetts	Brett & Rthie	Ellis	Stephen	Redmon	Fr. Wiliam & Elizabeth
Arimes	Vickie	Finsand	Marye	Sanchez	Rhonda
Bart	Dana	Finsand	Thomas	Sawaya	Peter & Kallie
Brown	Angela	Hangis	Jim	Scalos	James
Campbell	Philip & Sonia	Iancu	Ionel & Valerica	Scalos-Rice	Sandra
Caras	Dottie	Ionel	Dan & Catalina	Scott	Joel
Carey	Sugar	Janssen	Carolyn	Smith	Thomas & Elizabeth
Collis	Bill & Connie	Karounos	Dennis & Chrisi	Smither	Steven & Eugenia
Cornea	Virgil & Mihaela	Kiriapopoulos	Ken & Kate	Stathis	George and Hedy
Covington	Chris	Levas	Evangelos	Thompson	Randy & Tina
Cox	Walter & Pam	Mashni	Sam & Grace	Tofan	Cristina
Creona	Crist	Mijatovic	Blazan	Watts	Ace & Rita
Dades	Aretta	Minor	Tom & Delores	Welch	Ann & Trevor
Dallas	Dora	Moga	Daniela	Whiting	Tom & Cameron
Delvizis	Thomas & Teresa	Moore	Laura	Wines	Emily
Doaud	Ghalib & Kefa	O'Malley	Eileen	Yennari-Young	Derek & Andri
Douglas	Nick	Pravosud-Polanco	Vira & Sergio		

On this most sacred Feast of Feasts, where we receive the Light from Christ, we would ask you to consider filling out a pledge card, if you have not already done so, that we might continue to spread Christ's Light throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.