

IC XC HOLY ASSUMPTION NIKA Orthodox Church In America

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The Resurrection of Christ 2014 The Archpastoral Letter of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Tikhon on the Great and Holy Pascha 2014

To the Venerable Pastors, God-loving Monastics
and Devout Faithful of the Orthodox Church in
America

Dearly Beloved in the Lord:

Christ is Risen!

Together with those who came *before the dawn* with Mary, we have come to that first day of the week and have *found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher*. With astonishment, we ponder the question of the Angel: “*Why do you seek among the dead, as though He were mortal man, Him who abides in everlasting light?*” And with wonder, we *behold the grave-clothes* lying in the empty tomb as a powerful sign of the reality of the resurrection of Christ, the Conqueror of Death.

Like the Myrrhbearers and the Apostles who ran to the sepulcher, all of us have taken a journey from the darkness and confusion of this world to the light and truth of the resurrection. We have sailed across the great sea of the Fast, asking the Lord to take from us sloth, despair, lust for power and idle talk so that we might replace them with love for Christ, compassion for our fellow human beings and care for all creation. We have been pilgrims with the Lord through the barrenness of His life-giving Passion and have tasted the wonder that is the “universally nourishing work of the Cross” (St Timothy of Antioch).

Now, we are renewed with an apostolic zeal that finds its source both in the Cross and the empty tomb, and receives its fulfillment in the grace-filled work undertaken by the twelve Apostles as they divided among themselves the preaching of the Resurrection to the ends of the world. We are reminded that we are all, within the holy Church, on what St Herman of Alaska calls a “pilgrimage of the apostolic word,” and that at every moment of that pilgrimage, we need to measure ourselves against Christ, and

Today’s commemorated feasts and saints
HOLY PASCHA — THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. [Beginning of the Pentecostarion]. Ven. Theodore Trichinas (“the Hair-shirt Wearer”), Hermit, near Constantinople. Ven. Alexander, Abbot of Oshevensk (1479). Child-martyr Gabriel of Bialystok (1690). Ss. Gregory (593) and Anastasius the Sinaite (599), Patriarchs of Antioch. Ven. Anastasius, Abbot of Sinai (695).

against those who, through martyrdom, through asceticism and through missionary labors, have shown themselves to be witnesses to the power of the life-creating cross of Christ and to the glory of His Kingdom.



Today we make a commitment to Our Lord and His Holy Church to fight the good fight of faith, and to continue our journey on the path of righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness and gentleness (1 Timothy 6:11-12). As we rejoice today in the victory over death, and continue on our pilgrimage, being transformed from glory to glory (2 Corinthians 3:18), let us remember that regardless of the path our pilgrimage takes us on, we are all called to be Apostles and witnesses of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Therefore, let us take up the challenge of the Angel offered to those who stood at the empty tomb, and together with the Apostles, the Martyrs, the Ascetics and the Missionaries, let us *Go quickly and proclaim to the world that the Lord is risen and has slain death; for He is the Son of God, who saves the race of man.*

May the grace that today shines forth so abundantly from the tomb sustain our joy and provide the light for our holy pilgrimage leading us to the life of the world to come.



With love in the risen Lord,

+TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington
Metropolitan of All America and Canada

Announcements: CHRIST IS RISEN!

PASCHA!

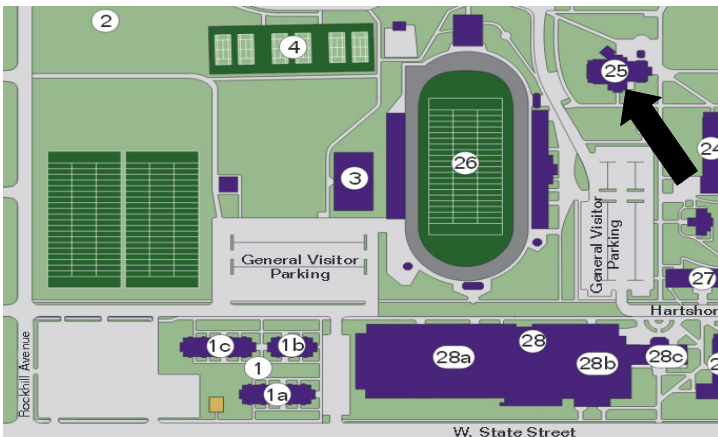
Vigil begins at 11:30 pm Saturday night!
Paschal Vespers 12 noon
Easter Egg Hunt following vespers
2PM Pascha Party @ Vorpavich's

Easter Egg Hunt following Paschal Vespers.

PASCHA PARTY! - Praise God, Holy Assumption is finally having its own Pascha Party! Pam and Dave Vorkapich (directions are on the candle desk) have graciously agreed to host a Pascha party at their home. This is for everyone in the parish. All are invited! This party will take place following Paschal Vespers on Pascha April 20 from 2 pm and on! So we have an idea of numbers please **sign up** on the sign up sheet in the hall. Please bring your own beverage and sign up to bring something if possible.

Fr Stacey's series of articles on **Spirituality** will resume following Pascha. The articles are all printed on the church website.

Bright Wednesday, April 23, at 7 pm. St. Nikolai Orthodox Mission of Alliance will celebrate a Vesperal Paschal Liturgy, at the **Dewald Chapel (#25 below) at Mount Union University**. With the Blessing of His Grace Bishop Alexander of the OCA Bulgarian Diocese, His Grace, Bishop Mark, OCA Bishop of the Diocese of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania, will preside. An agape meal will follow Liturgy with the entrée provided by the parish, we ask for side dishes and desserts from the laity attending.



WELCOME VISITORS!

We are delighted to have visitors worship with us, and we pray that you will be blessed in your time with us! Regarding participation in the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion is treated with the utmost respect and reverence in the Orthodox Church, and it is the rule that only practicing Orthodox Christians may receive it. Our non-Orthodox guests are welcome, however, to participate with us in any other way they may desire, and are welcome to join us in venerating the Cross and receiving blessed bread at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

Please Join us for Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy in the Social Hall!



If this is your first visit to our parish, we welcome you and invite you to return as often as you are able. For those interested in learning more about Orthodox Christianity please ask any of our church community – or feel free to contact Fr Stacey. Our parish library is available for your reading interests. Children are welcome to join church school classes after liturgy.

CONFESSIONS

Fr Stacey can usually hear confessions after any weekday service or after Saturday Vespers. He is also available by appointment, or during his regular office hours.

Our Vision:

*To know and love Christ,
sharing His love
with others*

Mission Statement:

Bringing the love of Christ to our community through prayer, worship, fellowship, discipleship, service, and outreach within the tradition of historic Orthodox Christianity.

This Week:

Today Holy Pascha

Paschal Vigil	11:30 PM
Procession*	12:00 AM
Paschal Matins*	12:15 AM
Divine Liturgy*	1:00 AM
Blessing of Pascha Baskets*	2:20 AM
Paschal Feast!*	2:30 AM
Paschal Vespers	Noon
Paschal Egg Hunt*	1:15 PM
Pascha Party	2 PM

(*exact times are approximate)

Wednesday

Vesperal Paschal Liturgy in Alliance	7:00 PM
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Saturday

Great Vespers	5:00 PM
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Next Sunday

Hours	9:10 AM
Divine Liturgy	9:30 AM
Coffee Hour	11:15 AM
Church School	11:45 AM

Upcoming:

Children's Festival Committee meeting (after vespers)	Wed April 30
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Going to miss a service? Listen online to our Divine Liturgy and other Orthodox Christian Teachings INBN.net

Coffee Hour Schedule APRIL 20 PASCHA!

APRIL 27 KRAJCI , CONDO , TAPYRIK
MAY 4 KISHA , KISHA-WISE , MONAHAN , MATHEWSON
MAY 11 GATES , MANOS , MANOS , HOFFMAN
MAY 18 HAYWOOD , CROSTON , KOSITA
MAY 25 HUBA , FEDORKO , MUDRAK

