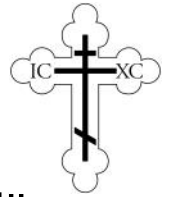




ALL-MERCIFUL SAVIOR ORTHODOX MISSION

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NEWSLETTER, SUNDAY, MAY 15, 2005—CHRIST IS RISEN!

civil date / church date



WEEKLY CALENDAR

May 15 / May 2	SUN. OF MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN.	2nd Sun. after Pascha. Tone 2.	Hours/Typika 10 am
May 16 / May 3	Monday	St. Theodosius, founder of monastic life in Rus'. St. Ahmed, m.	
May 17 / May 4	Tuesday	St. Monica, mother of St. Augustine of Africa.	
May 18 / May 5	Wednesday	<i>Fast, OW*</i>	Icon of the Theotokos "The Inexhaustible Cup".
May 19 / May 6	Thursday	St. Job the Long-Suffering & St. Job of Pochaev.	
May 20 / May 7	Friday	<i>Fast, OW*</i>	St. Nilus the Myrrh-streaming of Athos. St. Nilus of Sora, abbot.
May 21 / May 8	Saturday	Apostle John, & Healing of blind Stephen. Vespers 6:30 pm	

** Fast, OW means that oil and wine are allowed that day.*

PASCAL EPISTLE OF METROPOLITAN LAURUS

of Eastern America and New York, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia

“CHRIST IS RISEN! Let the heavens be glad as is meet, and let the earth rejoice; and let the whole world, visible and invisible, keep festival...” In these Paschal days of spring, when nature is awakening from the snows of winter, these words of the Paschal canon become particularly meaningful. “Let every breath praise the Lord,” God says through the mouth of King David. And “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.” During these days, we sense with new strength that even inanimate, unconscious creation unceasingly offers up praise to its Creator.

But what of man, the reason-endowed crown of creation? The overwhelming majority of men have rejected their Creator, have perverted the divine gift of reason, turning it into something to advance their own glorification, and not the name of God. We have been created to love and glorify the Lord willingly and consciously, as the Apostle Paul says: “Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks” (I Thess. 5, 17-18). Extending His great love toward us, to set aright what had been trampled underfoot, the Lord sent His only-begotten Son, Who has shown us that only through the voluntary bearing of our cross are we able to restore within ourselves the fallen image of man.

He came to adopt us, that we might become Christians, people of Christ, not only in name, but in deed, in our manner of life. Water mingles with water, and oil with oil; and for us to become one with Christ we must become like unto Him. And for this it is essential that we constantly uplift ourselves to Him in spirit, that we pray to Him, that we always remember Him, not only during Great Lent and Pascha, but continually. And for this we must, from one year to the next, connect this Paschal joy to the next Paschal joy, until, by the mercy of God, we reach the eternal Pascha and enter into the never-ending joy of our Lord. One may reduce the meaning of any given prayer of ours to the words of the Paschal canon: “Grant that we may truly partake of Thee in the never-waning day of Thy kingdom.”

It is my earnest desire that the risen Lord grant this to all of us.

We greet our beloved archpastors, pastors, and our whole God-loving flock on these great and saving days of the radiant Resurrection of Christ. Truly Christ is risen! Amen.

+Metropolitan LAURUS, Pascha, 2005

MOTHER'S DAY—A REPORT

Last Sunday after Typika three of the mothers of our mission enjoyed a little feast at Garibaldi's Mexican restaurant, not far from the mission chapel. A delightful time was had by all, and the surprise of free *tres leches* cake did not go unappreciated. The next time you want to eat out, you might keep Garibaldi's in mind.

HOUSTON PRIEST ASSIGNED

Fr. Ljubomir Kupec of Houston, who has served for a number of years at St. Vladimir's on Tidwell Street, has been assigned to serve the cathedral in Chicago. We wish many years to Fr. Ljubomir and we pray for the flock at Holy Protection, who are not certain what Russian-language Priest may be able to conduct services for them.

WORKS OF MERCY

Corporal: Feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, give clothing to the naked, shelter the homeless, visit the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead.

Spiritual: Turn back sinners, teach the ignorant, counsel the wavering, comfort the grieving, bear wrongs patiently, forgive injuries, and pray for the living and the dead.

PLEDGES REPORT

Many thanks to everyone who already turned in their pledges for the month of May. God bless you and keep you always!

WISH LIST

Our new church has a need for:

- a permanent location for a church building
- four 2-foot by 2-foot tables, 3.5 feet high, on which to place candle boxes
- a guest book for visitors to sign
- three icon stands (3.25 feet high in front, 4 to 4.5 feet high in back)
- a matching set of icons for placing on the walls
- dry wall work to separate the bathroom area
- shelves for our little bookstore

ICONOSTASIS PLANS

Many thanks to James Mercier, of Holy Protection Russian Orthodox Church, Austin, Texas, for providing All-Merciful Savior with his detailed plans for the iconostasis he installed for Holy Protection. Please have a look at the plans, which are in the back of the church.

SCRIPTURES FOR THIS WEEK

Sun. Acts 6:1-7; Mark 15:43-16:8

Wed. Acts 8:18-25; John 6:35-39

Fri. Acts 8:40-9:19; John 6:48-54

Mon. Acts 6:8-7:5, 47-60; John 4:46-54

Thu. Acts 8:26-39; John 6:40-44

Sat. Acts 9:19-31; John 15:17-16:2

Tue. Acts 8:5-17; John 6:27-33

ON THE WEB & ON THE STREET

Russian Orthodox Church Abroad: www.rocor.org

Diocese of Chicago & Detroit: www.chicagodiocese.org

Holy Protection Orthodox Church, 5309 Burnet Rd., Austin, TX 78756 (this church has no priest at the moment)

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 3617 Abrams Rd., Dallas, TX: www.orthodox.net (priest is Fr. Seraphim Holland)

Theotokos of the Life-Giving Spring Orthodox Mission, Bryan/College Station, Texas (priest is Fr. Cassian Sibley)

St. Jonah Church, 2530 Old Louetta Loop, Ste 113, Spring, TX (Houston): www.saintjonah.org (priest is Fr. John Whiteford)

St. Vladimir Orthodox Church, 24 Tidwell Rd., Houston, TX: pictures at www.saintjonah.org. (priest is Fr. Ljubomir Kupec)