

# Christ is Risen!



*Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. (John 20:6-7)*

Dear Archangel Michael Family,

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is risen!

When the myrrh-bearing women and the apostles approach the tomb, did Jesus need to remove the stone from the tomb for Him to emerge risen? The answer is no! The proof of this answer is seen in another account of the resurrection. The disciples are gathered in the upper room with the doors and windows shut out of fear. What happens next is wondrous! The risen Lord Jesus appears to them, even though the doors and windows are shut. The sealed tomb was not a hindrance for the Lord to arise.

Why is the open tomb emphasized so much in the gospel stories of the resurrection? The purpose of the open tomb is that the disciples could enter and see for themselves and believe that Jesus was resurrected from the dead. What evidence of the resurrection did Peter find? He found the linen cloths laying there, and the handkerchief that covered His head folded together in a place by itself. If thieves had taken the body, would they have taken the time to unwrap a very sticky funeral shroud from the body and then fold and place the head covering elsewhere?

As we celebrate Pascha, the Orthodox Christian is invited by the resurrection to journey into the tomb of the heart. To enter this tomb, one must be willing to open the doors to the heart. The heart is at the center of the spiritual life. Jesus says, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." When a person makes this journey into their heart, what do they discover? Is their heart stuck to the mindset of the world, which is the funeral shroud? Or, is the heart set free of the darkness of the passions (vices) and is carried out of the dark tomb into the light of the resurrection? With an open and pure heart, one may see God. "A coal engenders a flame, a flame lights a candle, so will God, who from our baptism dwells in our heart and kindles our mind to contemplation." (St. Hesychios) The greatest effect of singing "Christ is Risen" on Pascha is that the heart becomes full of the light of Jesus Christ and is overwhelmed with the love of God.

On behalf of the Archangel Michael Church, thank you for the gift of faith that comes forth from your heart through your worship and dedication to this vibrant Christian community. May your Pascha be filled with great opportunities to spend with your family and may the risen Lord Jesus Christ bestow upon you the abundance of His love!

Χριστός Ανέστη! Christ is Risen!

In Christ's Ministry,

  
Rev. John K. Lardas

# Truly He is Risen!



## Come Celebrate with our Parish **THE RESURRECTION OF LAZARUS**

His Eminence Archbishop **ELPIDOPHOROS** of America will serve Matins & Challenge Liturgy

Our Challenge Liturgy Group will offer light refreshments following the Divine Liturgy. All are welcomed to join us in welcoming our Archbishop for worship and fellowship with the Challenge Liturgy Family at the Archangel Michael Church.



SATURDAY  
**APR 27**

Festal Matins **9 AM**  
Challenge Liturgy **10 AM**

**Archangel Michael Church**

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April 11, 2024

St. Antipas

His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros  
10 East 79<sup>th</sup> St.  
New York, NY 10075-0106

Your Eminence,

As we near Holy Week, I thank Your Eminence for leading us in worship on the Saturday of Lazarus. This is a particularly special day for our community because our Challenge Clientele attend.

The Challenge Divine Liturgy was founded in April 1990. The program reaches out to Orthodox Christians with intellectual and developmental disabilities, welcoming them into the full life of the parish. The program has grown from a local parish program into a regional multi-parish one, serving over fifty families from nine neighboring Queens/Long Island parishes. Complimentary transportation is provided for those with no means of getting to the Archangel Michael Church.

The Challenge Divine Liturgy is the catapult that sparked the idea of hosting the Tim Tebow Foundation Night to Shine, which was held at the Archangel Michael Church this past February. This glorified prom ministered to over 110 honorees that night. It was an event that changed the lives of many who participated.

Attached with this letter is a heartfelt and deeply prayed-upon letter from Fifi Eliades and her daughter Marissa. Fifi's daughter, Samantha, is featured in the advertising flyer with Your Eminence for the Saturday of Lazarus. She unexpectedly fell asleep in the Lord this past Fall. As a result of her untimely death, which is currently under investigation by the State of New York for negligence and abuse, Fifi and Marissa are seeking Your Eminence's prayers and blessing to pursue Project Sam. They are on a crusade to make impactful changes in legislation that will support the right of each person in group homes to worship according to their faith. Many of our Greek Orthodox individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities are lost in group homes, forever cut off from their church.

Awaiting with joy, Your Eminence's pastoral visit, I remain....

Respectfully Yours,

Rev. John K. Lardas

Protopresbyter

# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2024

## SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

April 27 | 9AM Matins | 10AM Challenge Liturgy with Archbishop Elpidophoros

## PALM SUNDAY

April 28 | 7:15AM Matins | 8:30AM Liturgy | 11AM Liturgy | 7PM Nymphios

## HOLY AND GREAT MONDAY

April 29 | 8:30AM Presanctified Liturgy | 7PM Nymphios

## HOLY AND GREAT TUESDAY

April 30 | 8:30AM Presanctified Liturgy | 7PM Nymphios

## HOLY AND GREAT WEDNESDAY

May 1 | 8:30AM Presanctified Liturgy | 3PM Unction | 7PM Unction

## HOLY AND GREAT THURSDAY

May 2 | 5:45AM Liturgy | 8:30AM Liturgy | 6PM The Twelve Gospels

## GOOD FRIDAY

May 3 | 9AM Royal Hours | 11AM Youth Retreat | 3PM Vespers | 7:30PM Epitaphios

## HOLY AND GREAT SATURDAY

May 4 | 8:30AM Liturgy | 11PM Paschal Vigil | 1:30AM AMC Paschal Meal

## HOLY AND GREAT PASCHA

May 5 | 10:30AM Agape Vespers with Chocolate and Egg Hunt for Children

## BRIGHT WEEK

May 6 | Bright Monday & Feast of St. George | Matins & Liturgy 8:30AM

May 8 | Bright Wednesday & Feast of St. John Theologian | Matins & Liturgy 8:30AM

May 10 | Bright Friday & Feast of the Life Giving Font | Matins & Liturgy 8:30AM

# ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΑ 2024

## ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ ΤΟΥ ΛΑΖΑΡΟΥ

27 Απριλίου | 9π.μ. Ορθρος | 10π.μ. Αρχιερατική Θ. Λειτουργία

## ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΒΑΙΩΝ

28 Απριλίου | 7:15π.μ. Ορθρος | 8:30π.μ. Θ. Λειτουργία | 11π.μ. Θ. Λειτουργία | 7μ.μ. Ο Νυμφίος

## ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ

29 Απριλίου | 8:30π.μ. Προηγιασμένη Θ. Λειτουργία | 7μ.μ. Ο Νυμφίος

## ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΡΙΤΗ

30 Απριλίου | 8:30π.μ. Προηγιασμένη Θ. Λειτουργία | 7μ.μ. Ο Νυμφίος

## ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ

1 Μαΐου | 8:30π.μ. Προηγιασμένη Θ. Λειτουργία | 3μ.μ. Ευχέλαιον | 7μ.μ. Ευχέλαιον

## ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΕΜΠΤΗ

2 Μαΐου | 5:45π.μ. Θ. Λειτουργία | 8:30π.μ. Θ. Λειτουργία | 6μ.μ. Τα Δώδεκα Ευαγγέλια

## ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ

3 Μαΐου | 9π.μ. Βασιλικές Ωρες | 11π.μ. Νεανική Σύναξη  
3μ.μ. Αποκαθήλωση | 7:30μ.μ Ο Επιτάφιος Θρήνος

## ΜΕΓΑ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ

4 Μαΐου | 8:30π.μ. Θ. Λειτουργία | 11μ.μ. Ακολουθία του Πάσχα | 1:30π.μ. Πασχαλίνο Τραπέζι

## ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ

5 Μαΐου | 10:30π.μ. Εσπερινός της Αγάπης

Θα ακολουθήσει ανίχνευση αυγών και κεράσματα σοκολάτας για τα παιδιά της ενορίας.

## ΔΙΑΚΑΙΝΗΣΙΜΟΣ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΑ

6 Μαΐου | Εορτή του Αγίου Γεωργίου | Ορθρος & Θ. Λειτουργία 8:30π.μ.

8 Μαΐου | Εορτή του Αγίου Ιωάννου του Θεολόγου | Ορθρος & Θ. Λειτουργία 8:30π.μ.

10 Μαΐου | Η Ζωοδόχος Πηγή | Ορθρος & Θ. Λειτουργία 8:30π.μ.