



The LIGHT of the ASCENSION
Το Φως της Θείας Αναλήψεως



April 20, 2025

**Today we commemorate
Sunday, April 20, 2025**

- [Epistle Reading \(click here\)](#)
- [Gospel Reading \(click here\)](#)

ΙΕΡΑ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ ΑΜΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΑΡΧΙΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΙΚΗ ΕΓΚΥΚΛΙΟΣ
Αριθμ. Πρωτ.: 135/2025
Αρχιεπισκοπική Έγκύκλιος για τὸ Ἅγιο Πάσχα.

Ἅγιο Πάσχα 2025 Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τὶς Πρεσβυτέρες καὶ τὶς Διακόνισσες, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ τὶς Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τοὺς Ἐντιμολογιωτάτους Ἀρχόντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἡγεσίας τῶν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Αρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς. «Συνανέστησας παγενῇ τὸν Ἀδάμ, ἀναστὰς ἐκ τοῦ τάφου». (Κανόνας τοῦ Πάσχα, ὥδη 6η). Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοί καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν τῷ ἀναστάντι Χριστῷ, Χριστὸς ἀνέστη! Τὸ μέγιστο γεγονός ἐστὶν ἱστορία τοῦ ἀνθρωπίνου γένους, δηλαδὴ ἡ ἀνάστασις ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν τοῦ Κυρίου μας Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ συντελέσθηκε χωρὶς τὴν παρουσία μαρτύρων τῇ νύχτᾳ ἐκείνῃ. Οἱ σταυρωτές του, ποὺ ἔβαλαν φρουροὺς γιὰ νὰ σιγουρευτοῦν ὅτι κανεὶς δὲν θὰ ἀγγίξει τὸν σφραγισμένον λίθον ποὺ σκέπαζε τὸν τάφον του, ἐνωσαν μόνο τὸν σεισμὸν καὶ ἔδωσαν ψευδὴ μαρτυρία γιὰ τὰ γεγονότα ἐκείνης τῆς νύχτας (Ματθ. κζ' 62-66). Ὅμως ὁ ἀναστημένος Κύριος δὲν χρειάζεται νὰ ἀποκυλῇ τὸν λίθον καὶ νὰ παραβιάσῃ τὴ σφραγίδα, καθὼς ἡ ἀνάστασίς του ὑπερβαίνει κάθε ἀνθρώπινῃ λογικῇ κατανόησιν. Ὁ σεισμὸς ἐγινε καὶ ὁ λίθος ἀποκυλίστηκε ἀπὸ τὸν ἄγγελον ἀποκλειστικὰ καὶ μόνο γιὰ τοὺς ἀποσβολωμένους στρατιῶτες, τὶς μυροφόρες καὶ τοὺς ἀπορημένους μαθητὰς του. 2 Ἡ Ἐκκλησία, μὲ τὴ θεόπνευστη σοφία της, μᾶς προσφέρει μία ἀναπαράστασις αὐτῆς τῆς στιγμῆς στὴν εἰκόνα ποὺ φέρει τὸν τίτλον «ἡ ἀνάστασις». Ἡ διασημότερη ἐκδοχὴ αὐτῆς τῆς εἰκόνας παγκοσμίως, ἡ ὁποία ἔχει ἐμπνεύσει ἀναρίθμητα ἀντίγραφα, βρίσκεται στὸ παρεκκλήσιον τῆς Μονῆς τῆς Χώρας στὴν Κωνσταντινούπολιν. Ἐκεῖ, ὁ ἔνδοξος καὶ ἀναστημένος Κύριος τῆς Δόξης ἀνασύρει τὸν Ἀδάμ καὶ τὴν Εὐὰ ἀπὸ τοὺς τάφους τους, κρατώντας τους ὅχι ἀπὸ τὸ χεῖρ, ἀλλὰ ἀπὸ τὸν καρπὸ. Αὕτῃ ἡ δραματικὴ λεπτομέρεια τῆς λύτρωσιν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἀπὸ τὸ θάνατον καὶ τὸν Ἄδην δείχνει, ὅπως λέει ὁ Ἀπόστολος Παῦλος, ὅτι «τῇ γὰρ χάριτί ἐστε σεσωσμένοι» (Ἐφ. 2, 8). Διότι δὲν ἀπὸκείται στὴ δικὴ μας προσπάθεια νὰ κερδίσουμε τὴν αἰώνια ζωὴ. Εἶναι ἡ θυσία τοῦ σταυροῦ μὲ κατάληξιν τὴν ἀνάστασις, ἡ ὁποία μᾶς εἰσάγει στὶς μονές τοῦ οὐρανοῦ. Ὁ Θεὸς μᾶς κρατᾷ μὲ φωτεινὴ καὶ δυνατὴ ἀγάπῃ! Δὲ μᾶς ἀφήνει νὰ φύγουμε ἀπὸ κοντὰ του καὶ δὲν ἐξαρτᾶται ἀπὸ τὴν δικὴ μας δύναμιν γιὰ νὰ κρατηθοῦμε κοντὰ του. Γιατί, ὅπως ξαναλέει ὁ ἀπόστολος, «τὸ ἀσθενὲς τοῦ Θεοῦ ἰσχυρότερον τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἐστί» (Α' Κορ. 1, 25). Ἀγαπητοί μου χριστιανοί, Ἐὰν ἔτσι μᾶς ἀγαπᾷ ὁ Θεός, πῶς ἄραγε ἐμεῖς ὀφείλουμε νὰ ἀγαπᾷμε ἀλλήλους; Τὴν περίοδον τοῦ Πάσχα, ὅταν ψάλλουμε: «Συγχωρήσωμεν πάντα τῇ ἀναστάσει» (δοξαστικὸν τοῦ ὁρθοῦ τῆς ἐορτῆς), πῶς μποροῦμε νὰ ἔχουμε ἀρνητικὰ συναισθήματα γιὰ τοὺς ἄλλους; Ἄς κρατηθοῦμε ὁ ἕνας ἀπὸ τὸν ἄλλον καὶ ὅς ἀνυψώσουμε ἀλλήλους μὲ ἀγάπην, συμπόνιαν, συγχώρησιν καὶ ἔλεος. Διότι ὁ Θεὸς πρῶτος μᾶς ἀνύψωσε, ὥστε νὰ μοιρασθοῦμε τὴν ὑψωση αὐτῇ τῆς ἀγάπης μὲ ὅλους γύρω μας. Μόνο τότε μποροῦμε νὰ ψάλλουμε μὲ πληρότητα καὶ ἀνεκλάλητη χαρὰ τὸν θριαμβευτικὸν πασχάλιον ὕμνον:

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν,
θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας,
καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι
ζωὴν χαρισάμενος.
Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη!

+BARTHOLOMEW

By God's Mercy Archbishop of Constantinople
New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch
To the Plenitude of the Church: May the Grace,
Peace and Mercy of Christ Risen in Glory be with you All

Most honorable brother Hierarchs, Dearly beloved children, By God's mercy and strength, we have journeyed through prayer and fasting across the ocean of Holy and Great Lent, finally reaching the splendid feast of Pascha, and we praise the Lord of glory, who descended to the depths of Hades and "achieved the entrance for all to Paradise" through His raising from the dead. The Resurrection is not the remembrance of an event from the past, but the "good chance" of our existence, "another birth, an alternate life, a different kind of living, the transformation of our very being."1 And in the 1 Gregory of Nyssa, On the Resurrection of our Lord, PG 46.604. 2 Risen Christ, the entire creation is renewed together with humanity. When we chant in the 3rd Ode of the Paschal Canon, that "Now everything is filled with light—heaven, earth, and all things beneath the earth; therefore, let all creation celebrate the resurrection of Christ, in which everything has been established," we proclaim that the universe is founded on and filled with unfading light. The phrases "before Christ" and "after Christ" ring true not only for the history of the human race, but also for the sake of all creation. The Lord's raising from the dead constitutes the nucleus of the Gospel, the stable point of reference for all the books of the New Testament, as well as for the liturgical life and devotion of the Orthodox Christians. Indeed, the words "Christ is Risen!" summarize the theology of the Church. The experience of the abolition of the dominion of death is a source of ineffable joy, "free from the bonds of this world." "All things are filled with joy upon receiving the taste of resurrection." The resurrection is an explosion "of great joy" and permeates the entire life, ethos and pastoral ministry of the church as the foretaste of the fullness of life, knowledge and life of the eternal kingdom of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Orthodox faith and pessimism are contradictory phenomena. Pascha is for us a feast of freedom and victory over alienating forces; it is the churchification of our existence, an invitation to collaborate for the transfiguration of the world. The history of the Church is rendered "a great Pascha" as the journey toward "the liberation in glory of the children of God" (Rom. 8.21). The experience of resurrection reveals the center and 3 eschatological dimensions of freedom in Christ. Biblical references to the Savior's resurrection demonstrate the power of our freedom as believers; it is in this freedom alone that the "great miracle" is manifested, which remains inaccessible to every oppression. "The mystery of salvation belongs to those who desire it freely, not to those who are tyrannized against their will."2 Accepting the divine gift as a "transition" of the believer toward Christ is the voluntary existential response to the loving and saving "transition" of the Risen Lord toward humankind. For "without me, you cannot do anything" (Jn 15.5). The mystery of the Lord's resurrection to this day continues to shatter the positivistic certainties of those who deny God as "the denial of human will," as well as the advocates of "the fallacy of self-fulfillment without God" and the admirers of the contemporary "man-god." The future does not belong to those imprisoned in a self-sufficient, stifling and narrow earthly existence. There is no authentic freedom without resurrection, without the perspective of eternity. For the Holy Great Church of Christ, one source of such resurrectional joy is also found this year in the common celebration of Easter by the entire Christian world, along with the commemoration of the 1700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea, which condemned the heresy of Arius, who "diminished within the Trinity the one Son and Word of God," and which 2 Maximus Confessor, On the Lord's Prayer, PG 90.880. 4 established the way of calculating the date for the feast of our Savior's resurrection. The Council of Nicaea inaugurates a new age in the conciliar history of the Church, the transition from the local to the ecumenical synodal level. As we know, the First Ecumenical Council introduced the non-biblical term "homousios (of one essence)" to the Symbol of Faith, albeit with a clear soteriological reference, which remains the essential characteristic of church doctrines. In this sense, the celebrations of this great anniversary are not a return to the past, inasmuch as the "spirit of Nicaea" exists unspoiled in the life of the Church, whose unity is associated with the correct understanding and development of its conciliar identity. Discussion on the First Ecumenical Council of Nicaea reminds us of the common Christian archetypes and the meaning behind the struggle against the perversion of our spotless faith, encouraging us to turn toward the depth and essence of Church tradition. The joint celebration this year of the "most holy day of Pascha" highlights the timeliness of the subject, the solution of which not only expresses the respect of Christianity for the decrees of the Council of Nicaea, but also the awareness that "there should be no differentiation in such sacred matters." With these sentiments, filled with the light and joy of the Resurrection, while proclaiming "Christ is Risen!" with jubilation, let us honor the chosen and holy day of Pascha with a heartfelt confession of our faith in the Redeemer, who trampled down death by death and granted life to all people and all creation, through our faithfulness to the sacred traditions of the Great 5 Church as well as through sincere love for our neighbor, for the glorification by us all of the heavenly name Of the Lord.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES



PASCHA SUNDAY
APRIL 20, 2025

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Vespers of Love

2nd DAY
OF PASCHA
MONDAY

APRIL 21, 2025

9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Orthros, Divine Liturgy

3rd DAY
OF PASCHA
TUESDAY

APRIL 22, 2025

9a.m.-11a.m.
Orthros, D. Liturgy
(Holy Communion)
[Saints Raphael,](#)
[Nikolaos & Irene](#)
[\(click here\)](#)

WEDNESDAY

APRIL 23, 2025

9a.m.-11a.m.
Orthros, D. Liturgy
(Holy Communion)
[Great Martyr George](#)
[\(click here\)](#)

4:30 p.m. Greek School
6:30 Vespers
(St. George in Clifton)

FRIDAY

APRIL 25, 2025

[THEOTOKOS OF](#)
[THE LIFEGIVING](#)
[SPRING - AGIASMOS](#)
[\(CLICK HERE\)](#)

9a.m.-11.30a.m.
Orthros, D. Liturgy
(Holy Communion)
4:30 p.m. Greek School
6:30 p.m. After School Program

SUNDAY OF
SAINT THOMAS

APRIL 27, 2025

[\(click here\)](#)

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Orthros, D. Liturgy
(Holy Communion)
Catechism School
Coffee is served by the GOYA
GOYA PROM

KYPIAKH

ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ
20 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ, 2025
11:00 π.μ. – 12:00 π.μ.
Εσπερινός της Αγάπης

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ
ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ
21 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ, 2025
9:00 π.μ. – 11:00 π.μ. Όρθρος,
Θ.Λειτουργία (Θ. Κοινωνία)

ΤΡΙΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ
22 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ, 2025
Ραφαήλ, Νικολάου & Ειρήνης
([click here](#))

9:00 π.μ. – 11:00 π.μ.
Όρθρος, Θ. Λειτουργία
(Θ. Κοινωνία)

ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ
23 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ, 2025
9:00 π.μ. – 11:00 π.μ.
Όρθρος, Θ. Λειτουργία
(Θ. Κοινωνία)
Αγ. Γεωργίου Μεγαλομάρτυρος
([CLICK HERE](#))

4:30 μ.μ. -Ελληνικό Σχολείο
6:30 μ.μ. Εσπερινός
(Ναός Αγ. Γεώργιου -Κλίφτον)

ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ
25 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ, 2025
Ζωοδόχου Πηγής
([click here](#))
9:00 π.μ. – 11:30 π.μ. Όρθρος,
Θ. Λειτουργία, Αγιασμός
4:30 μ.μ. -Ελληνικό Σχολείο
6:30 μ.μ. Πρόγραμμα
μετά το σχολείο

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΘΩΜΑ
27 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ, 2025
([click here](#))
8:30 π.μ. – 11:30 π.μ. Όρθρος,
Θ. Λειτουργία
(Θ. Κοινωνία)
Κατηχητικό Σχολείο
Ο καφές σερβίρεται
από την GOYA

LIVE STREAM [click](#)
[here](#)

OUR SPIRITUAL LEADER



Rev. Christos L. Pappas

Protopresbyter

office: 201-945-6448

cell: 201-707-4737

fatherchristos@yahoo.com

Maria Tsesmeli

Office Administrator

office: 201-945-6448

Office hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Friday

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

info@ascensionfairview.org

[DONATE to the ASCENSION CHURCH click here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 20, 2025
Easter Egg Hunt

April 25, 2025
GOYA Prom

Friday, April 25th
The King of Kings" movie viewing

April 26, 2025
Philoptochos "Brunch in Paris"
at Graycliff

April 30 - May 2
P.T.O - Dine to Donate
Boulevard Diner

Saturday, May 3
7:00am - 5:00pm
Metropolis NJ GOYA
Soccer Tournament

[2025 TOPICS, TIPS, & RESOURCES](#)

April 12, 2025: Saturday of Lazarus

Some highlights from a beautiful day
After the Divine Liturgy, with the ladies of the
Philoptochos as our leaders, we all made Palm
crosses as a community to prepare
for tomorrow's major feast.
The Catechism Program hosted its Annual
Easter Retreat, where Fr. Christos spoke
to the children about the Passion of

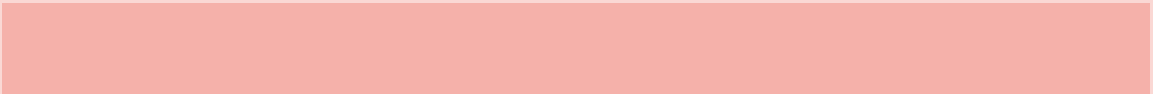
Christ and His Glorious Resurrection.
The GOYAns sold tsourekia for Pascha.

Μερικά στιγμιότυπα μιας όμορφης ημέρας
Μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία, με οδηγούς τις
κυρίες της φιλοπτώχου, φτιάξαμε όλοι μαζί
σταυρουδάκια με τα βάγια για την
μεγάλη εορτή της αυριανής ημέρας.
Το Κατηχητικό είχε το ετήσιο πασχαλινό retreat,
όπου ο π. Χρήστος μίλησε στα παιδιά για τα Πάθη
του Χριστού και την Αγία Του Ανάσταση.
Τα παιδιά της GOYA πούλησαν πασχαλινά τσουρέκια.









Palm Sunday







April 16, 2025: Holy Wednesday
Sacrament of Holy Unction

16 Απριλίου 2025: Μεγάλη Τετάρτη
Μυστήριο του Ιερού Ευχελαίου

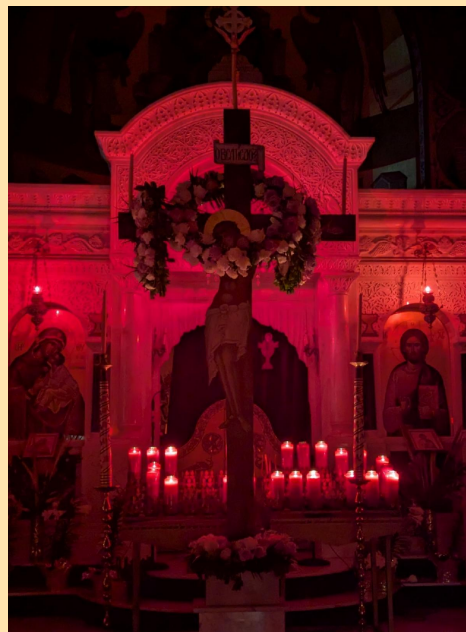




April 17, 2025: Holy Thursday – Service of the Holy Passion
17 Απριλίου 2025: Μεγάλη Πέμπτη – Ακολουθία των Παθών
«Σήμερα κρεμάται ἐπὶ ξύλου ὁ ἐν ὕδασι τὴν γῆν κρεμάσας»







FOLLOW US on social media



VISIT our WEBSITE

Ascension Greek Orthodox Church | 101 Anderson Avenue | Fairview, NJ 07022 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)