

HOLY ASCENSION PARISH

MAY 2009 NEWSLETTER



THE HOLY ASCENSION ORTHODOX CHURCH is the Washington, DC, parish of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad (ROCA), under the *omophor* (or the conciliar leadership) of Metropolitan Agafangel (Pashkovsky), Bishop of Odessa & Taurida. The Holy Ascension Parish was organized on Ascension Day, May 17, 2007.

BISHOPS & LOCAL CLERGY

✠ Metropolitan Agafangel, Bishop of Odessa & Taurida, and First Hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox Church Abroad ✠ Andronik, Archbishop of Ottawa & North America ✠ Bishop Joseph (Hrebinka), Vicar Bishop of Washington ✠ Michael Foster, deacon ✠ Seraphim Englehardt, subdeacon ✠ John Hinton, subdeacon ✠ Daniel Olson, reader & choir director ✠

ADDRESS

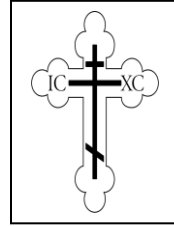
500 West Annandale Road, Falls Church VA 22307

☎ 703.539.9445 ☐ www.holyascension.info

PART 1. OUR PARISH

The Holy Ascension parish welcomes all Orthodox people to its sacraments and all people with an interest in Christianity and the abiding Tradition of the Holy Orthodox Church. The immediate Holy Ascension parish background is Russian émigré with many English-speaking converts. Members, visitors, and people in touch online come, however, from all ethnicities. The Church is One.

<http://ruschurchabroad.com/engindex.htm>
<http://ruschurchabroad.com/>
<http://www.holyascension.info/>
<http://www.rocor.us/news.htm>



PART 2. PASCHAL EPISTLE OF OUR FIRST HIERARCH

His Eminence Agafangel, Metropolitan of Eastern America and New York, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Outside of Russia, 2009!



CHRIST IS RISEN!

Right honorable Bishops and Fathers, dear brothers and sisters!

Just as the sun lights our sinful world at dawn, so does the Pascha of our Lord illuminate our most sinful souls every year. Just as the rays of the sun fall upon the natural world asleep in darkness and calls it to life, so does the Good news of the Resurrection of Christ reach our deadened and sleeping souls and calls them to eternal life. On this day, in a most special way, the Lord comes to seek out those that belong to Him, those for whom He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane: That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us (John 17:21). And the Sower of life decidedly gathers His praiseworthy harvest. But how can we find ourselves among those, who are destined to be one with Christ in eternity? The Lord did not create His union with all, but only with a small number of the people: Pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me (John 17:9). How can we find ourselves in the small number of those chosen by God, saved and fated to remain alive?

Just as the incarnation of God was for our sake and He dedicated His earthly body to us, and suffered and gave His life for us, which is a witness to His love for us, so must the Lord Jesus Christ become everything for us. We, in turn, must dedicate and sacrifice our whole lives to Him. We are called to love our Lord, our Jesus Christ, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind (Matthew 22:37). When the Lord becomes our light, our spiritual nourishment, our goal and purpose of our lives when He becomes the one, Whom we love eternally on this earth and to Whom we draw to, when we cannot live for a minute without thinking of Him, when He enters into us and dwells within us, only then can we say of ourselves: Yes, we are disciples of Christ and the body and Soul of the Lord lives within us! Until we dare to say that of ourselves, we remain idle observers and not participants in the

Resurrection of Christ, and this Resurrection does not become our personal resurrection.

I wish that all of us, brothers and sisters, arise with Christ from the dead, arise while we are still alive by the grace of God and the hope of this radiant Resurrection abides within us! The Lord has come to us in these radiant days and reached out to us, to call those drowning in earthly pursuits to life eternal! Let us decide to answer the Lord's call for our salvation! Let us break down the barriers of little faith in our hearts and declare with all our heart:

TRULY, CHRIST IS RISEN!

+ Metropolitan Agafangel (Pashkovsky), Odessa, Pascha 2009.

PART 3. PASCHAL EPISTLE OF OUR LOCAL ARCHBISHOP, MOST REVEREND ANDRONIK OF OTTAWA & NORTH AMERICA



*Your Resurrection, O Christ
our Savior, is praised with
songs by the Angels in
Heaven; Make us worthy To
praise You also here on earth
and To glorify You with a pure
heart.*

*STICHERA OF THE RADIANT
RESURRECTION OF CHRIST*

Congratulations to you all, honorable fathers, dear brothers and sisters in Christ, with the radiant Resurrection of Christ!

I greet you with the joyful Paschal greeting:

CHRIST IS RISEN!

There is nothing on earth that is higher or more holy than this radiant Paschal joy, as this joy is a foretaste of that heavenly bliss that awaits all true Christians in eternal life.

My dear brothers and sisters, let us treasure the gift received from God by our belonging to the true Church Abroad, which was saved two years ago from the destruction wrought by those who lost all sense of spiritual discernment, so that we are not kept from the joy that awaits us in eternity. Let us treasure the brilliant spiritual light that shines upon us from Christ and the Paschal joy that knows no equal. Let us greet one another from the depths of our hearts with sacred salutations. Let us fervently pray to the Resurrected Lord, that He may ignite with this Paschal light a love of Him in our hearts.

Let us celebrate and take joy in this day, created by God!

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

+Archbishop Andronik (Kotlaroff), New York, Pascha, 2009.

PART 4. MAY LITURGIES, ACCORDING TO THE CIVIL CALENDAR

All Sunday Liturgies begin at 10:00 AM. A luncheon buffet follows all Sunday liturgies. Volunteers may come forward to offer help and material with cooking at home and preparation at the church.

Currently a regular schedule also designates a family that is responsible for cleaning the church after the services. The duty is for one month at a time. If you wish to volunteer, please see the warden/*starosta*, Mr Gontscharow.

On many Saturday afternoons a BIBLE STUDY GROUP meets at 3:30 PM, chaired by Bishop Joseph. Please check beforehand with the church office, to be sure that the study group will meet on any specific day.

Saturday, May 2 . Vigil at 5 pm. Hierarchical Visit of Metropolitan Agafangel.

Sunday, May 3. Third Sunday of Pascha, Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:40. *Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women & Righteous Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus. H*

Tuesday, May 5. Vigil at 6 pm.

Wednesday, May 6. *Holy Great-Martyr George the Trophy-bearer*. No divine liturgy.

Saturday, May 9. Vigil at 5 pm.

Sunday, May 10. Fourth Sunday of Pascha. Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:40 am. *Sunday of the Paralytic. Sunday afternoon parish picnic, 12 - 4, in Nottoway Park, Vienna VA. For details, Mr Phillip Rapp , 703.266.3983.*

Tuesday, May 12. Great Vespers & Matins at 6 pm.

Wednesday, May 13. Mid-Pentecost. *Apostle James, the brother of Apostle John the Theologian*. No divine liturgy

Saturday, May 16. Vigil at 5:00 pm.

Sunday, May 17. Fifth Sunday of Pascha. Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:40 am. *Sunday of the Samaritan Woman*

Saturday, May 23. Vigil at 5 pm.

Sunday, May 24. Sixth Sunday of Pascha. Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:40 am. *Sunday of the Blind Man*

Tuesday, May 26. Vespers & Matins at 6 pm.

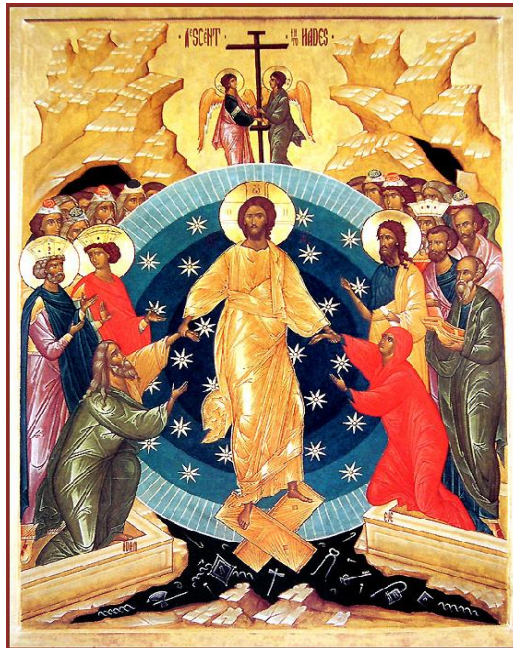
Wednesday, May 27. Apodosis of Pascha. No divine liturgy.

Wednesday, May 27,. Vigil at 6 pm.

Thursday, May 28 . ASCENSION OF THE LORD. Hours & Divine Liturgy at 7:40 am.

Saturday, May 30. Vigil at 5:40 pm.

Sunday, May 31. Seventh Sunday of Pascha. Hours & Divine Liturgy at 9:40 am. *AFTERFEAST OF THE ASCENSION. Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council*



**RUSSIAN ICON OF THE RESURRECTION
16TH CENTURY.**

Please report all difficulties with newsletter distribution and, by all means, report newsletter corrections to the newsletter preparer, Patrick Brown ~ hpcjfbrown@cox.net.