



PANAGIA PANTOVASILISSA
HOLY MOTHER QUEEN OF ALL
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

A COMMUNITY FOR ALL

3001 TATES CREEK ROAD, LEXINGTON, KY, 40502
PHONE: (859) 266-1921; WEBSITE: WWW.GOCLEX.ORG
PARISH PRIEST: FR. WILLIAM REDMON
PHONE: (859) 229-2121
EMAIL: fr.william.redmon@gmail.com

Pascha 2018

Christ is Risen!



It is the call of the Church to challenge the faithful to grow in the image of Christ. This is our most basic task as Christians: To cultivate the image of Christ in ourselves, that we might present the image of Christ to the other. And Christ has given us the Church—indeed, He has given us each other, as a heavenly aid in our sojourn on this earth. Consequently, together with your paschal candles, you have received this special, Paschal edition of our bulletin. Within these brief pages, I have striven to outline a few ways in which any member of our community, no matter what their past level of participation, may grow in strength and wisdom through the cultivation of the image of Christ in their heart. I am not naïve enough to think that everyone will heed this call. But I do have faith that, through His Paschal Light, Christ will open and illumine the hearts and minds of those present in His Church on the Feast of His Resurrection, that they might welcome Him in, and, in turn be welcomed into His House! I have also seen, time and again during my priestly ministry, the action of the Holy Spirit enliven the faith of those who worship sincerely.

My friends, we have come together to commemorate Christ's Resurrection, but we recall that whenever we commemorate any event in our liturgical worship, it is more than a mere remembrance. Rather, through the anamnetical qualities of our worship, we make present with us the Light and Life of the Risen Christ. And as with any flame, the Light must be tended and nurtured before it can be spread. Consequently, I have put together this packet for each of you. Contained within is my Pastoral Letter on the occasion of Pascha for 2018, a list of weekly worship services, a list of suggested Paschal Resolutions, and a number of opportunities to get involved. Our life on this earth is both training for the race of which the Apostle Paul speaks, as well as the race itself. Our common destination, as we run this race, is Christ and His Kingdom. It is my prayer that by celebrating our Paschal joy together, and by resolving to nurture and spread the Light of Christ together, we may also support one another as we run that race. For, my brothers and sisters, it is a race that we can only finish together.

Fr. William

Weekly Opportunities: Growing Together in Christ!

We have added some opportunities for worship, fellowship, prayer, and adult education during the week. I have included, here, a description of the meaning and method of each of these opportunities. Please note, also, that the weekly liturgies we will celebrate each month are included in the calendar in the monthly bulletins. The weekly schedule is as follows:

SUNDAY

9 AM - Matins and Liturgy

This is the meeting of the Eucharistic community, the Body of Christ, on the Lord's Day. It is the time we set aside to come together to receive God, that we might be united together with Him and in Him. The Liturgy, should be *the* most important thing in our weekly schedules. For the Christian, this day, and this service, is the center and source of life, given by Him Who is Life! Nothing can take precedence over receiving that which God offers to us!

12 PM – Agape Fellowship

This is the time when the Body of Christ, having received our Lord together, comes together to rekindle the bonds of fellowship that have just been set aflame by the reception of our Lord.

WEDNESDAY

6 PM – Vespers

This service is an opportunity to come together in the middle of the week to worship our Lord, and to recall the works of His saints. It gives us a chance to take stock of our lives and rededicate them to Him, as well as to reflect on how He has comforted, uplifted, and transformed us during the week. There is an opportunity to plug back in to the source of our power, to help us to get through the trials and tribulations of the weekly grind!

7 PM – Adult Study and Potluck

On Wednesday nights, we gather together in a fellowship meal provided from the fruits of our labour, and we learn together about our faith. These sessions cover a variety of topics and formats (e.g. Orthodoxy 101, Bible Study, Q&A Time with Father, Reading Group, etc.). Adult Study will continue on Wednesday nights throughout the year, though the format will change from session to session.

SATURDAY

6 PM – Great Vespers

This is the service at which we prepare for and welcome the Lord's Day, on the night before we gather together to receive Christ. At the midpoint of the service, when we sing "O Gladsome Light", the Church, which was dimly lit, becomes awash with light. This is the transition from the Sabbath to the Day of the Lord, on which we shall receive His Body and Blood, thereby sacramentally becoming the Body of Christ. We gather the night before to prepare ourselves.

7 PM – The Sacrament of Confession

Though Confession is always available during the week by appointment, starting on December 9th, and henceforth, the time following the conclusion of Great Vespers will be set aside for those among the faithful who feel burdened and wounded by sin to come to Confession as we prepare to receive our Lord together the following day. If you wish to confess, please plan to be at the Church by the conclusion of Great Vespers (approximately 6:45 PM).

WEEKDAY MATINS AND DIVINE LITURGIES

9 AM – Consult the Calendar on the Back of the Monthly Bulletins or the Website

From time to time we will hold the Divine Liturgy on weekdays, when we are celebrating the feast of a particular saint, or a great feast of the Lord or the Theotokos. Unless otherwise noted, Matins begins at 9 AM, while the Divine Liturgy begins at 10 AM.

Suggested Paschal Resolutions:

Often in life, when we are focused on bettering ourselves at a task, we make resolutions. And almost as often, though we hold to them for a period of time, eventually we let ourselves slide back into mediocrity. The simple fact is that when we try to do things on our own, solely through the strength of our own will, we inevitably fail, for our power is finite. It is only through a connection to our Lord, the only Source of infinite strength, that we can achieve any goal and overcome any challenge! Consequently, here are some suggested, Church-related resolutions which we can make, and which we can work together, united in Christ, to keep in the coming year, as we dedicate that year to Him!

Worship

To better foster my relationship with Christ, I resolve to...

- Make a sincere effort to attend as many of the weekly services as my schedule permits.
- Make a sincere effort to worship at one of the services each week beyond the Divine Liturgy.
- Follow a private Prayer Rule in my home, with my family, in consultation with my priest.

Study

To further my understanding of our faith, I resolve to...

- Attend the Wednesday night Adult Study sessions, and other educational opportunities.
- Make a sincere effort to read the entire Bible in a year.
- Pick out and read a book about Orthodoxy to further my knowledge of the faith.

Stewardship

To support the ministry of Christ's Church, I resolve to...

- Give a freewill offering of 10% of my annual income to Christ and His Church.
- Increase my freewill offering by 2% of my annual income for Christ and His Church.
- Register my Kroger Card with our Church for the Community Rewards program.¹

Volunteer

To do my part to help our community to function and thrive, I resolve to...

- Seek to serve on a committee or ministry team.
- Talk to Fr. William about organizing a fellowship group (Over 50s, Book Club, etc.).
- Seek to help with the cleaning and maintenance of our building.

Outreach

To grow the Body of Christ, I resolve to...

- Invite a friend to come experience the glory of Orthodox worship.
- Reach out to someone in the community who has not come to Church in a while.
- Focus on communicating and relating to others in a more Christlike fashion.

¹ <https://www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow>

Get Involved:

Active Ministries

GREEK ORTHODOX YOUTH ASSOCIATION [GOYA]

On February 3rd, we refounded the GOYA chapter at our local parish after an absence of approximately 30 years. The first Saturday of each month is set aside for our meetings and outings, and in the coming months we will be engaging in fun, fellowship, food, retreats, and service. Families who are interested in participating, and parents who are interested in serving as volunteers are encouraged to contact Fr. William to be placed on the contact list. Our GOYA is a youth fellowship organization which, for this year, is open to our youth in grades 5-12. Mandy Xenos has graciously agreed to act as the Chairwoman.

YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE OF LEXINGTON [Y'ALL]

On February 3rd, our young adult fellowship group met together. The name that was chosen by the membership was the Young Adult League of Lexington (appropriately abbreviated Y'ALL). We plan to meet monthly. Our meetings usually take the form of casual outings. Anyone who is interested in participating is encouraged to contact Fr. William to be placed on the contact list. Our Y'ALL chapter is open to young adults, ages 18-39.

PHILOPTOCHOS

Our local Philoptochos chapter acts as the charity arm of the Church, and as a catalyst for organizing various events. The ladies of our chapter enjoy service as much as they enjoy fellowship, and have provided an immense amount of logistical support to various events we have hosted in our church this year. In addition to this, the chapter meets together for parties and outings throughout the year. If you would like more information, please contact Carolyn Janssen.

Upcoming Ministries

OVER 50S GROUP

This will be a fellowship oriented group that helps us to stay in touch with one another, and to provide opportunities for fun, study, and common service to Christ. Anyone over 50 years of age is welcome to join. If you are interested yourself, or know someone who may be, please contact Fr. William. Jim Hangis has graciously agreed to act as founding Chairman.

HOPE/JOY

HOPE/JOY is a fellowship and educational group which, in our parish this year, serves youth grades K-4. HOPE/JOY participates in monthly meetings as well as fellowship outings several times a year. Leslie Bliziotis has graciously agreed to act as the founding Chairwoman.

MEN'S/WOMEN'S READING GROUPS

In the coming year we hope to found separate Men's and Women's lay-led reading groups. If you would like to stay informed as to the progress of these two groups, please contact Fr. William.

And Don't Forget to Stay in Touch...

IF YOU AREN'T CURRENTLY RECEIVING OUR WEEKLY PARISH E-MAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND WOULD LIKE TO, PLEASE FILL OUT ONE OF THE INFORMATION CARDS LOCATED ON THE LITERATURE RACK TABLE IN THE BACK, AND GIVE IT TO ONE OF OUR USHERS!