

St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral

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(<http://www.sanocpgh.org/>)

The Cathedral Messenger

Orthodox Church in America
Diocese of Western Pennsylvania

Archbishop Melchisedek
Archpriest John Mikita (Dean)
Protodeacon Michael Wusylko
Deacon Stephen Boyd

May 2024

First Homily for the First Day of Pascha (St. Luke of Simferopol)

*"Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death
and on those in the tombs, bestowing life."
or an undoing of what had gone wrong in the beginning,
that is we see a reversal, and undoing, of what had gone
wrong in Paradise.*

What is this amazing troparion of the greatest of feasts, so dear to us and so incomprehensible to non-Christians, causing even its ridicule?

Can fire be put out by fire? Can darkness be illuminated by darkness? Can evil be defeated by evil? Of course not.

Like is not destroyed by like, but only by the opposite. Fire is extinguished by water, darkness is dispersed by light, evil is overcome by good.

And yet, contrary to this universal law, Christ trampled down death by His death.

What kind of death? Spiritual death. That death, the essence of which is alienation from Christ-God, Who is Love, the Way, Truth and Life. Spiritual death is the

rejection of the path of goodness, love and truth, and the preference for it of another path - the path of evil, hatred and lies.

And this path is from the devil, the enemy of Christ, for he is the father of lies, hatred and evil. So, spiritual death is from the devil.

This death was trampled down by Christ with an immeasurable and inexhaustible stream of Divine love, poured out from the Cross of Golgotha. The devil's hatred for the human race is overcome by God's love for us.



Thus, the universal law has not been violated, according to which like cannot be overcome by like, but only by the opposite, and it is true that Christ trampled death by His death.

The prince of the power of the air is bound by the Cross of Christ (Eph. 2:2), and those who love Christ are given strength to fight against him and powerful protection from him.

No less surprising is the second part of the

This month's newsletter is sponsored by Roy and Eileen Glisan in loving memory of the Wydo family (Eileen's parents, sister, brother).

troparion: "and on those in the tombs bestowing life."

Not only is this amazing, but also the Divine light of the most precious hope illuminates our hearts. If Christ is resurrected, then we will be resurrected in our bodies. For He rose from the dead as the firstborn of the dead, initiating the general resurrection.

"For as death is through one man, so is the resurrection of the dead through one man. As in Adam all die, so in Christ all shall be made alive" (1 Corinthians 15:21-22).

Therefore, not only spiritual, but also bodily death, Christ abolished with His Cross and Resurrection. But this is

already entirely the work of the omnipotence of God, and we do not need to reason about this according to the laws of nature, for they were also created by the Creator of everything, and He is free to act not according to them, but according to the unknown laws of His Divine mind and will.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, who delivered us from spiritual death and bodily destruction. Amen.

Glory to Jesus Christ!

"The Holy Fire of Great Saturday," from a letter by Schema-monk Nicodemus.

The Russian schemamonk, Fr. Nicodemus of Mount Athos, visiting Jerusalem in 1958, describes wonderfully in a letter the unusual triumph which he observed at the time of the reception of the holy flame.

"On Great Saturday, about 12:00 noon, I, sinful Schemamonk Nicodemus, had the good fortune to follow the Patriarch from the altar of the Church of the Resurrection of Christ in the procession of the Cross, going around the Tomb enclosure three times, and thus I was able to see that which is rarely observed at the life-giving Tomb.

"After the third time around, the Patriarch (Greek Orthodox of Jerusalem) stopped before the locked and sealed door to the Tomb of the Saviour. I stood at the right side of a candlestick before the Tomb enclosure, a few steps away from the Patriarch.

"The Patriarch disrobed to his cassock. They took from him his miter, sakkos, and omophorion.

Police and state officials searched the Patriarch. Then they tore the tape from the seal off the door of the Tomb enclosure and permitted the

Patriarch to go inside the chapel. Along with the Greek Orthodox Patriarch, they admitted the Armenian Patriarch. The Armenian Patriarch did not take part in the procession of the Cross, but stood with his people on the left side of the tomb enclosure.

"Several others were permitted inside the chapel. Clergymen, upon a signal from the Patriarch, extinguished the Holy Fire from the previous year on the berth of the life-bearing Tomb and picked up everything in order to prepare for the reception of the Holy Fire.

"When the Arab police, who were to carry out both the Patriarch and the Holy Fire, entered the chapel, the door was closed after them.

"As is known to everyone, the chapel has two compartments, the altar of the Angel, and the life-bearing Tomb of the Saviour itself, the grotto or cave.

"Only the Greek Orthodox Patriarch enters the inner grotto of the Tomb. The others, with the police and the Armenian Patriarch, stand in the adjoining chapel of the Angel and wait silently.

"The door of the chapel is closed. Everyone is quiet, and silence reigns throughout the whole church of the Resurrection of Christ. All the devout await the Holy Fire in silence.

"It is necessary to explain about the preparation of the Tomb of the Saviour. On the evening of Great Friday, the flames in the whole church and in the chapel are extinguished under the control of the police.

"In the middle of the berth of the life-giving Tomb is placed a lamp on a pedestal, filled with oil and with a floating wick set, but unlit.

"Around the edge of the berth a ribbon is placed, and all over the berth they unpack pieces of cotton wadding. Thus prepared under the surveillance of the police, the Tomb enclosure is locked and sealed. The locked Tomb of the Saviour remains undisturbed until Great Saturday, when the Patriarch enters the cave of the Tomb of the Saviour to receive the Holy Fire.

"Then on Great Saturday, they admit the Patriarch into the cave of the life-giving Tomb, and the door is shut behind them. There is absolute silence...

"In the cave itself, it is dark. The Patriarch, alone there, silently prays to the Saviour... sometimes for ten minutes, sometimes more. At the time of my visit, fifteen minutes passed. Then suddenly in the darkness, on the berth of the life-giving Tomb, beads of bright blue began to spill about, multiplying, and turning into dark blue fire. From them, the prepared balls of cotton caught fire, then the ribbon, and the lamp. Everything became enveloped in the flame from the Holy Fire...

"The Patriarch quickly ignited his two bundles of candles. Upon entering the chapel of the Angel, he gave a light to the Armenian pilgrims through the oval window.

"During the appearance of the Holy Fire an uproar of joy and rapture like a clap of thunder resounds from the vast expanse of the church of the Resurrection of Christ.

"Then, to put out the fire on the berth of the Tomb of the Saviour (it does not burn here), they take away the burning lamp and the cotton wads with the ribbon.

"Two Arab policemen carry the Patriarch from the Tomb enclosure on their shoulders, with the support of assisting clergymen, and quickly carry him into the altar of the church of the Resurrection of Christ.

"One priest with the burning lamp goes before the Patriarch. All this is so fast that not many in the chapel are able to light their candles. Nor was I able to. Instead, I endeavored to join the throng of people following the Patriarch as he entered the altar, where I lit my bundle of candles with the Holy Fire from the hand of the Patriarch himself.

Schemamonk Nicodemus, Mt. Athos

Note: The church of the Resurrection of Christ is commonly known in English literature as the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.



Schedule of Divine Services

May 2024

(Note: Calendar is subject to change. Please consult calendar at sanocpgh.org/calendar)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 28 Palm Sunday Church School 9:00 am Hours 9:40 am Liturgy 10:00 am Catechism 12:00 pm Bridegroom Matins 7:00 pm	April 29 Bridegroom Matins 7:00 pm	April 30 Bridegroom Matins 7:00 pm	1 Presanctified Liturgy 9:00 am Holy Supper Matins 7:00 pm	2 Vesperal Liturgy 9:00 am Matins with Passion Gospels 7:00 pm	3 Royal Hours 8:00 am Vespers 3:00 pm Matins with Praises 7:00 pm	4 Baptisms/ Chrismations 9:00 am Vesperal Liturgy 10:00 am Nocturnes 10:30 pm Paschal Matins 11:00 pm
5 GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA Paschal Vespers 2:00 pm Agape Meal at the Rectory 3:00 pm	6 Bright Monday Liturgy 9:00 am	7 Bright Tuesday Paschal Vespers 7:00 pm	8 Bright Wednesday Liturgy 9:00 am	9 Bright Thursday Paschal Vespers 7:00 pm	10 Bright Friday Liturgy 9:00 am Reader's Vespers 7:30 pm	11 Memorial Saturday Panikhida 4:00 pm Great Vespers & Confessions 5:00 pm
12 Antipascha (St. Thomas Sunday) Church School 9:00 am Hours 9:40 am Liturgy 10:00 am Flower Cleanup/Take home 11:00 am Catechism 12:00 pm	13 Cathedral Council Meeting 7:00 pm	14	15	16	17 Reader's Vespers 7:30 pm	18 Great Vespers & Confessions 5:00 pm
19 Holy Myrrhbearers Church School 9:00 am Hours 9:40 am Liturgy 10:00 am Molieben 12:00 pm	20	21	22	23	24 Reader's Vespers 7:30 pm	25 Ambridge Wedding 1:30 pm Great Vespers & Confessions 5:00 pm
26 4th Sunday of Pascha (Paralytic Man) Hours 9:40 am Liturgy 10:00 am	27	28	29	30	31 Reader's Vespers 7:30 pm	June 1 Great Vespers & Confessions 5:00 pm

PARISH COUNCIL CORNER

We continue to work on the new structure for council meetings, focused on a more impactful meeting. Some of the topics covered in the April Meeting include:

1. Financial reports, together with all reports and the meeting minutes are posted on the council bulletin board in the church hall.
2. There will be opportunities to participate on various committees/ministries related to council. Watch the monthly newsletter and bulletin for more details. If interested, please let Larissa Lindquist or Claudia Steeb know.
3. Recent heavy rains resulted in damage at the rectory. Fr. John is working with the insurance agent and claims adjustor to get the situation remedied. The underlying problem will need to be determined and resolved to avoid any future similar occurrences.
4. Council voted to give each St. Tikhon's seminarian who visited our parish on April 14th \$100 per seminarian in cash. In addition, the seminarians will also be provided a travel snack bag.
5. Work continues regarding the Emergency Evacuation Plan for the church under the guidance of Ivan Zhikharev.
6. Work continues to complete landscaping for the church sign. While it would be great to have it completed by Pascha, it may take a little longer.
7. Tim Shewzyk will be coordinating schedules and assigning duties for Holy Week and Pascha. This includes readers for Friday night into Saturday. If interested in helping, please talk to Tim.
8. Discussed the Church Camp situation as we no longer have access to St. Tikhon's camp as the Eastern PA Diocese bought out the camp and are filling all available slots. As such, please see posters and information on a week at Camp Nazaeth for this summer. If financial aid is needed, please see Fr. John.
9. We will again be honoring our Graduates – See the separate note in this newsletter.
10. Catechumens – See the list in this newsletter.
11. The next parish council meeting will be held on May 13th at 7:00 pm in the church hall.

Do You Know?

Welcome to “Do You Know”. This is a new section for the Newsletter, with just a few tidbits of general information about the church.

- Do you know that Larissa Lindquist is our Council President this year? She sings in the choir each Sunday so you may not see her during Liturgy, but please stop and say hi to her during coffee hour.
- Do you know you can participate on Parish Council Committees/Ministries? There are many opportunities including but not limited to Finance, Evacuation Planning, Grounds & Maintenance, and many others. Please take the opportunity to find a ministry of interest and let Council President Larissa Lindquist know of your interest.
- Do you know that you can sponsor many items including the Monthly Bulletin, Weekly Bulletins, the Troika Candles, Oil Candles for the Choros, and other items from time to time? There will be a formal sign-up sheet in the Candle Room – look for it in May!



SANWA ANNOUNCEMENT

1. Thanking everyone for their generosity of time and talent. We were able to donate \$8,000 to St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary. Their visit to our Cathedral April 14th was so spiritually uplifting!
2. Next pirogie workshop is Saturday, June 8th. Please mark your calendars – we plan on making 400 dozen pirogies and need everyone's help. Thank you for continued help and support of SANWA's charitable endeavors!

Assignments (Liturgy)				
Date	3rd Hour	6th Hour	Epistle	Thanksgiving
May 5	--	--	Reader Roman	Reader Timothy
May 12	Reader John H	George P	Reader John H	Reader Roman
May 19	Nicholas	Reader Roman	Reader John B	Nicholas
May 26	Reader Timothy	Reader Gregory	F Balog	Reader John H
June 2	George P	Reader John H	J Pazin	Reader Alexander
June 9	Frank N	Reader Timothy	G Pazin	Reader John B
June 16	Reader Roman	Frank N	Reader Alexander	Reader Timothy
June 23	Reader John B	Reader Alexander	Reader Timothy	Reader Roman
June 30	Reader Alexander	Reader John B	Reader Roman	Nicholas

Assignments					
Date	Greeters	Candle Room	Collection Counters	Bell Ringers	Brunch
May 5	L Papakirk	S Romanchik	N Waryanka, R Glisan	Brayden & Julianna	III
May 12	B Daskivich	Rinaldo	J Dille, G Ribar	Brayden & Allie	IV
May 19	J Resovich	G Ribar	N Tesone, K Zallow	Julliana & Jules	V
May 26	A Ribar	B Savchik	R Steeb, R Horodnic	Aleks & Allie	VI
June 2	C Namisnak	S Romanchik	N Waryanka, R Glisan	Brayden & Julianna	I
June 9	C Steeb	Rinaldo	J Dille, G Ribar	Brayden & Allie	II
June 16	E Glisan	G Ribar	N Tesone, K Zallow	Julliana & Jules	III
June 23	L Papakirk	B Savchik	R Steeb, R Horodnic	Aleks & Allie	IV
June 30	J Resovich	R Steeb	J Dille, G Ribar	Brayden & Julianna	V



Clip and insert in prayer book to pray for those in the prayer list

Prayer List

(All names should be submitted to one of the Cathedral Clergy for commemoration at the divine services.)

For Health and Salvation: Archbishop Nathaniel Matushka Eugenia Patricia with child Alexander Georgette	Adrienne George Sam Nathaniel Gwendolyn Stephanie Marilyn	Monk Joseph Waltor Vasily Phyllis Sylvia	For the Newly Departed: Archpriest Anthony Olga Marilyn
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CALLING ALL GRADUATES

We will once again be honoring our graduates – high school, college, graduate or higher education program – on a Sunday in June. If you or someone in your family is graduating this spring or summer, or graduated in December 2023, please let Claudia Steeb know by May 12th. Claudia can be reached by email at Claudia9@consolidated.net or by text/phone at 412-496-5531.

CATECHUMENS

The following will be baptized/chrisdated on the Saturday before Pascha: Sean Simmons, Brandon Martin, Stephen Snyder, Jackson Decheck, Ashley McPeak, Max Beitzel, Jessica Zhikharev.



April 22, 2024

St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral
1600 Guyton Rd.
Allison Park, PA 15101

Dear Friends at St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral,

Thank you so much for all of the beautiful mom and baby care bags. They are all so lovely! They are truly a blessing to our clients and to our staff. Our client services staff loves to give them to our clients as a reminder of our care for them. And when moms come back to visit us with their babies, it's great to be able to give them a lovely gift bag.

Thank you for your support of our work with your gifts and your prayers. It's such an encouragement to us!

Many blessings,

Amy Mee
Church Engagement Director, Network of Life

OPEN HOUSE

Birthday Celebration



Tour Our Pregnancy Medical Centers



North Side

May 6th | Drop in 6:30 - 8:30pm
425 E Ohio St,
Pittsburgh, PA 15212

Oakland

May 8th | Drop in 6:30 - 8:30pm
4615 Fifth Ave,
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

Monroeville

May 9th | Drop in 6:30 - 8:30pm
4075 Monroeville Blvd Bldg 2, Suite 100,
Monroeville, PA 15146



Join us in celebrating our 39th Birthday at our Open House events! We are excited to invite you to come to one of our three Women's Choice Network pregnancy medical clinics located in Oakland, Monroeville, and North Side. Each center will be hosting an open house where you can tour the facilities and discover more about the important work we're doing in our community. Learn how we're striving to make Pittsburgh a Sanctuary City for Life!



Scan to Register





Saint Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral

May 26 – June 30, 2024

Everyone Can Make a Difference!

The Baby Bottle Campaign enables everyone to participate in a small but meaningful way. Each family member from the youngest preschooler to the oldest grandparent can add their contribution to the bottle that saves babies and transforms families.

When you fill a bottle or give online, you help a mom or dad to choose life.

Ways to donate to the Baby Bottle Campaign:

1. Pick up a bottle at the OCLife table—fill it with change or insert a check payable to **Network of Life**.

Return your bottle by Sunday, June 30.

2. Donate online at:

<https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrsync/event/website/?m=6486437>

Watch this 1-minute video and see why our participation is so important!

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16hkjJRcM84SbGeLEoTuJEI9EudDFmgB/view>

For any questions, contact Hayley Hinkle or Michael & Catherine Laquatra.



**ORTHODOX
CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE
ST. ALEXANDER NEVSKY**

Jessica Patterson

Thursday June 20, 2024

Guest Speaker



7:00 pm

Please join us for a Moleben Service
for Victims of Abortion

7:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Talk about BREATHE,
an After-Abortion Care Program

Refreshments will be provided.

St. Alexander Nevsky Orthodox Cathedral

8290 Thompson Run Road

Pittsburgh, PA 15237



ORTHODOX
CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE
ST. ALEXANDER NEVSKY



ST. ALEXANDER NEVSKY ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL
ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

MON 2024
JULY 15

**CONNOQUENESSING
COUNTRY CLUB**

1512 Mercer Road
Ellwood City, PA 16117

REGISTRATION OPENS AT 8:15 AM
SHOTGUN START AT 9:30 AM
LUNCH BUFFET & PRIZES AT est. 2:30 PM

\$125
Per Player

Foursome
\$500

DEADLINE TO REGISTER
JUNE 28, 2024

Contact **ALEX GLISAN** at
(724) 831-6466 with questions.

GOLF ENTRY FEE INCLUDES: 18 holes of golf, gift bag, hot dog & chips, water & beer on the course, lunch buffet with silent auction

TEE SPONSORSHIP: \$100 (Name displayed on tee box)
LUNCH ONLY: \$40/Person

ONLINE REGISTRATION FORM AVAILABLE AT:
<https://www.sanocpgh.org/informational-downloads>

GOLF REGISTRATION:
 Golf Entry Fee: \$125/Player (\$500/Foursome) - Entry Fee includes 18 holes of golf, gift bag, hot dog/chips, water & beer on the course, lunch buffet with silent auction

<p><u>Golfer #1</u></p> <p>First Name: _____</p> <p>Last Name: _____</p> <p>Phone #: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>	<p><u>Golfer #3</u></p> <p>First Name: _____</p> <p>Last Name: _____</p> <p>Phone #: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>
<p><u>Golfer #2</u></p> <p>First Name: _____</p> <p>Last Name: _____</p> <p>Phone #: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>	<p><u>Golfer #4</u></p> <p>First Name: _____</p> <p>Last Name: _____</p> <p>Phone #: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>

LUNCH ONLY REGISTRATION:
 \$40/Person

<p><u>Attendee #1</u></p> <p>First Name: _____</p> <p>Last Name: _____</p> <p>Phone #: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>	<p><u>Attendee #2</u></p> <p>First Name: _____</p> <p>Last Name: _____</p> <p>Phone #: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>
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If more than 2 attendees, please list additional names below:

TEE SPONSOR REGISTRATION:
 Tee Sponsor: \$100 (Name displayed on tee box)

Name: _____

Contact Address: _____

Contact Person First Name: _____

Contact Person Last Name: _____

Contact Person Phone #: _____

Contact Person Email: _____

CHECK ENCLOSED:

Please make checks payable to: "SANOC" and mail to: "Alex Glisan, 208 Olivia Way, Pittsburgh, PA 15237"

of Golfers @ \$125 _____

of Lunch Only @ \$40 _____

of Tee Sponsors @ \$100 _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Special Church Events

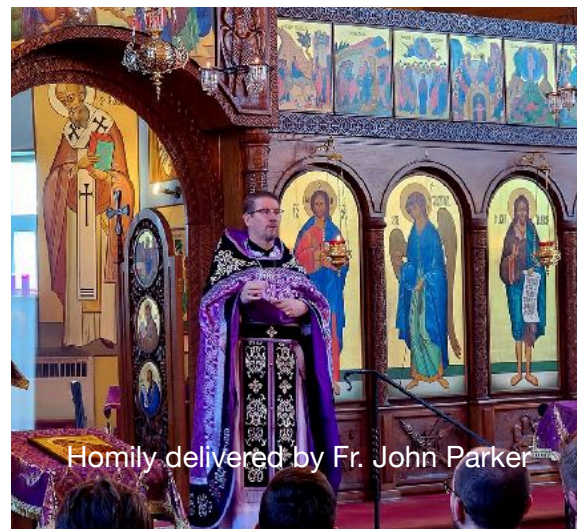
Archdiocesan Mission Vespers followed by Lenten Meal



Homily delivered by Fr. Alexander Cadman



Visit of St. Tikhon's Seminary Choir and the Miraculous Icon of St. Anna





**ORTHODOX
CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE
ST. ALEXANDER NEVSKY**

Many thanks to our parishioners who filled gift bags for new moms and babies. These bags were distributed at the various Women's Choice Network centers.



