

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

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A parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese of North America · Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

May 2024 Monthly Newsletter

Christ is risen! Indeed he is risen!

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church is the little church with a big heart and room for all, where Jesus nourishes modern lives through ancient roots! Join our priest, Father Alexis Woytek, and our church family for worship, fellowship, and spiritual growth. Read on to find out what's happening this month at HTOC!

We Are Pascha People!

This month (May 5) we celebrate **Pascha** — Christ Jesus rising from death.

But Pascha isn't just a holiday. It's something that happened to us when we were baptized: **"By being baptized, we were buried with Christ into his death. Christ has been raised from the dead by the Father's glory. And like Christ we can live a new life"** (Romans 6:4).



And with that new life comes new family, for **"we were all baptized into one body by one Spirit. All of us, though there are so many of us, make up one body in Christ, and as different parts we are all joined to one another"** (1 Corinthians 12:13 and Romans 12:5).

Baptism — our own personal Pascha — birthed our Christian identity and kinship in Christ. Starting this Pascha, let's build anew on our baptismal bond with Jesus and each other to live a new life as a church family!

Mark Your Calendar!

Wednesday, May 1 • 6 p.m.

Holy Wednesday Unction:
Healing Sacrament of Anointing

Thursday, May 2 • 10 a.m.

Holy Thursday Vespers and Divine Liturgy:
Last Supper of Christ Jesus

Thursday, May 2 • 6 p.m.

Holy Thursday Matins:
The Twelve Passion Gospels

Friday, May 3 • 6 p.m.

Good Friday Vespers: Burial of Christ Jesus

Saturday, May 4

Church open for Holy Saturday prayer and veneration at the tomb of Christ Jesus
Times to be announced in church

Sunday, May 5 • 9 a.m.

Matins and Divine Liturgy of Pascha:
Resurrection of Christ Jesus
Blessing of Easter baskets in parish house

Sunday, May 12 • 9:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy
Second Sunday of Pascha: Thomas Sunday
Mother's Day

Sunday, May 19 • 9:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy
Third Sunday of Pascha:
Myrrhbearing Women Sunday

Sunday, May 26 • 9:30 a.m.

Divine Liturgy
Fourth Sunday of Pascha:
Paralyzed Man Sunday



MORE! ➡

Special Services: Holy Week and Pascha

Holy Wednesday Unction is the sacrament of anointing with blessed oil for healing in body, mind, and spirit as we prepare to ponder over the days ahead the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

Holy Thursday Vespers and Divine Liturgy marks the last supper of Jesus, at which he initiated the eucharist, the sacrament of his body and blood for our spiritual nourishment.

Holy Thursday Matins of the Twelve Passion Gospels follows Jesus through the Last Supper, his betrayal by Judas, his arrest, his unjust trials, his execution on the cross, and his burial in a tomb.

Good Friday Vespers marks the death of Jesus with a solemn funeral procession with the “shroud” or “winding sheet” (**plashchanitsa** in Church Slavic, **epitaphion** in Greek) – a large icon that shows Jesus laid out for burial.

Holy Saturday allows opportunity for people to keep watch in quiet prayer and veneration at the tomb of Jesus set up in the church.

Matins and Divine Liturgy of Pascha joyously celebrate the good news – that Jesus has risen from death and, being both God and man, has thus freed us human siblings of his from being hostage to its grip on us! His resurrection is the pledge of our own.

Blessing of Easter Baskets kicks off our feasting after the long fast of Great Lent. Among Slavs, traditional items in them include colored eggs, sausage, ham, farmer’s cheese, and special Easter sweet bread called **babka** by Belarusians, **paska** by Carpatho-Rusyns and Ukrainians, and **kulich** by Russians. Bring whatever foodstuffs you gave up during Great Lent and want to feast on now with God’s blessing!

Milestones

“**Rejoice with those who rejoice**” (Romans 12:15). Best wishes to our kinfolk in Christ celebrating special milestones this month! **Anniversaries:** Stephen and Joann Kuzmiak (May 6) and Michael and Julie Narancich (May 26). **Birthdays:** Olga Spontak (May 3), Chanrath Pizza (May 4), Lucy Fonseca (May 13), Julie Narancich (May 15), Lydia Pinkowski (May 26), and Emil Andrejkanic (May 31). **God grant you many years!**

News and Notes

Help Ukraine! Ukraine continues to bear the brunt of unprovoked Russian warfare at a cost of innocent lives, brutal destruction, and human heartbreak. Please relieve the horror by giving humanitarian aid via **International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) Ukraine Response** online at: tinyurl.com/iocc-ukraine.

Pitch In!

Church doesn’t happen on its own. It happens when all of us pool our time, talent, and treasure together and put them at God’s disposal to do his will as followers of Jesus. In a word, that’s **stewardship**. Want to lend a helping hand? See our parish priest, Father Alexis Woytek to find out what needs doing. Want to become a supporting member? See our parish treasurer, Mrs. Lydia Pinkowski to find out how. Thanks for pitching in to make **your** church happen!

Reach Out!

The Church doesn’t exist for itself. God calls it to reach out and share his love with the world that it lives in. Our parish charity bin is one way that we do such **outreach**, by collecting nonperishable food that our friends at **People Helping People in Hernando County** (phphernando.org) share with locals in need. Download a **grocery list** from our website (tinyurl.com/htoc-list). Thanks for reaching out and helping others through **your** church’s charity!