HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

HTOC Weekly Update

Christ is risen! Indeed he is risen!

Sunday, May 12, 2024 · 9:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy
Second Sunday of Pascha
Thomas Sunday
Mother's Day

Bloodied But Unbowed

This weekend, the gospel reading for the second Sunday of Pascha spotlights **Thomas** (John 20:19-31). For Thomas, believing that Christ Jesus had really risen from death hinged on seeing and touching the wounds of his crucified body.

Note that crucial detail: Though risen in glory and wondrously alive, Jesus still bore the scars of his death on the cross. Resurrection didn't make them vanish.

As individuals and a church, we too are scarred one way or another by bruises and broken hearts that life inescapably deals us. Jesus understands — he's been there, felt that. But he also shows us how it's possible to rise from hurt and heartache, victorious and transformed for the better, in spite of our wounds.

No matter how weak, broken, or beaten we feel as we strive to follow Jesus together, let us remember: **"By his wounds, we are healed"** (Isaiah 53:5 and 1 Peter 2:4).

Happy Mother's Day!

Thanks be to God and thanks be to you, all the women in our lives who mothered us in one way or another as human beings and Christians: mothers, grandmothers, godmothers, clergy wives, and nuns. To the living: **God grant you many blessed years!** And to those who have passed on into God's Sabbath rest: **Eternal memory and blessed rest to them!**

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!

MORE! ➡

Safe and Sound

COVID is no longer a global pandemic, but coronavirus still crops up now and then, here and there. Please keep alert and take sensible precautions while our church remains open.

If you feel ill, please stay home, follow doctor's orders, and take good care of yourself. Let us know if you want us to pray for you. We look forward to seeing you again once you get well!

Please feel free to wear a face mask if your health requires it or you just feel safer doing so.

Please respect personal space and give each other courteous leeway.

Thanks for your consideration, which is simply part of doing what Christ Jesus told us to do: **"Love others as much as you love yourself"** (Mark 12:31).

Next Week!

Join Father Alexis Woytek and our church family on

Sunday, May 19, 2024 · 9:30 a.m.
Divine Liturgy
Third Sunday of Pascha
Myrrhbearing Women Sunday

We look forward to seeing you then!

"Let us not give up the habit of meeting together... Instead, let us encourage each other all the more..."
Hebrews 10:25