

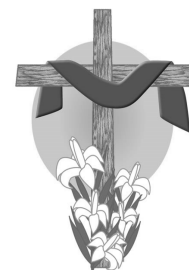


HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ
11-05 150th STREET, WHITESTONE, NY 11357 - Tel. (718) 767-2955, 767-2943
Rev. Presbyter Nicolaos Paros, Proistamenos



Email: info@holycrossgreekchurch.com
www.holycrossgreekchurch.com

SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024 - ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 5 ΜΑΪΟΥ, 2024
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ – EASTER SUNDAY.



GREETINGS

Father Nicolaos, the President of the Parish Council and its members, the President of the Philoptochos and its members, our School Board President and its members, the PTA President and its members, the Principals and teachers of our Stars Academy, Greek Afternoon and Sunday Church Schools, the advisors of our youth ministries, and the entire staff of our Holy Cross community wish everyone:

A HAPPY EASTER! CHRIST IS RISEN!

ΕΥΧΕΣ

Ο πατήρ Νικόλαος, ο πρόεδρος και τα μέλη του Εκκλησιαστικού Συμβουλίου, ο πρόεδρος και τα μέλη της Σχολικής Επιτροπής, οι πρόεδροι και τα μέλη του Συλλόγου Γονέων και Διδασκάλων, οι Διευθυντές και οι Διδάσκαλοι των Σχολείων μας, Ελληνικών και Κατηχητικών, και ολόκληρο το προσωπικό της ενορίας του Τιμίου Σταυρού εύχονται σε όλους:

ΚΑΛΟ ΠΑΣΧΑ! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!

*Αὕτη ἡ ἡμέρα, ἣν ἐποίησεν ὁ Κύριος· ἀγαλλιασώμεθα
καὶ εὐφρανθῶμεν ἐν αὐτῇ
Στίχ. ἐξομολογεῖσθε τῷ Κυρίῳ, ὅτι ἀγαθός,
ὅτι εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τὸ ἔλεος αὐτοῦ*

Πράξεις Ἀποστόλων 1:1-8 τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Τὸν μὲν πρῶτον λόγον ἐποίησάμην περὶ πάντων, ᾧ Θεόφιλε, ὧν ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς ποιεῖν τε καὶ διδάσκειν, ἄχρι ἧς ἡμέρας, ἐντειλάμενος τοῖς ἀποστόλοις διὰ πνεύματος ἁγίου οὓς ἐξελέξατο, ἀνελήφθη· οἷς καὶ παρέστησεν ἑαυτὸν ζῶντα μετὰ τὸ παθεῖν αὐτὸν ἐν πολλοῖς τεκμηρίοις, δι' ἡμερῶν τεσσαράκοντα ὀπτανόμενος αὐτοῖς, καὶ λέγων τὰ περὶ τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ θεοῦ. Καὶ συναλιζόμενος παρήγγειλεν αὐτοῖς ἀπὸ Ἱεροσολύμων μὴ χωρίζεσθαι, ἀλλὰ περιμένειν τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν τοῦ πατρὸς, Ἥν ἠκούσατέ μου· ὅτι Ἰωάννης μὲν ἐβάπτισεν ὕδατι, ὑμεῖς δὲ βαπτισθήσεσθε ἐν πνεύματι ἁγίῳ οὐ μετὰ πολλὰς ταύτας ἡμέρας. Οἱ μὲν οὖν συνελθόντες ἐπηρώτων αὐτὸν λέγοντες, Κύριε, εἰ ἐν τῷ χρόνῳ τούτῳ ἀποκαθιστάνεις τὴν βασιλείαν τῷ Ἰσραήλ; Εἶπεν δὲ πρὸς αὐτούς, Οὐχ ὑμῶν ἐστὶν γινῶναι χρόνους ἢ καιροὺς οὓς ὁ πατὴρ ἔθετο ἐν τῇ ἰδίᾳ ἐξουσίᾳ. Ἀλλὰ λήψεσθε δύναμιν, ἐπελθόντος τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος ἐφ' ὑμᾶς· καὶ ἔσεσθέ μοι μάρτυρες ἐν τε Ἱερουσαλήμ, καὶ ἐν πάσῃ τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ καὶ Σαμαρείᾳ, καὶ ἕως ἐσχάτου τῆς γῆς.

*This is the day which the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

*Verse: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his mercy endures for ever.*

The reading is from Acts of the Apostles 1:1-8

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

Ἐκ τοῦ Κατὰ Ἰωάννην 1:1-17 Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ Λόγος, καὶ ὁ Λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν Θεόν, καὶ Θεὸς ἦν ὁ Λόγος. Οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν Θεόν. Πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἓν ὃ γέγονεν. Ἐν αὐτῷ ζωὴ ἦν, καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ἦν τὸ φῶς τῶν ἀνθρώπων. Καὶ τὸ φῶς ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ φαίνει, καὶ ἡ σκοτία αὐτὸ οὐ κατέλαβεν. Ἐγένετο ἄνθρωπος ἀπεσταλμένος παρὰ Θεοῦ, ὄνομα αὐτῷ Ἰωάννης· οὗτος ἦλθεν εἰς μαρτυρίαν, ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός, ἵνα πάντες πιστεύσωσι δι' αὐτοῦ. Οὐκ ἦν ἐκεῖνος τὸ φῶς, ἀλλ' ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός. Ἦν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν, ὃ φωτίζει πάντα ἄνθρωπον ἐρχόμενον εἰς τὸν κόσμον. Ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἦν, καὶ ὁ κόσμος δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ ὁ κόσμος αὐτὸν οὐκ ἔγνω. Εἰς τὰ ἴδια ἦλθε, καὶ οἱ ἴδιοι αὐτὸν οὐ παρέλαβον. Ὅσοι δὲ ἔλαβον αὐτόν, ἔδωκεν αὐτοῖς ἐξουσίαν τέκνα Θεοῦ γενέσθαι, τοῖς πιστεύουσιν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ, οἱ οὐκ ἐξ αἱμάτων, οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος σαρκός, οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος ἀνδρός, ἀλλ' ἐκ Θεοῦ ἐγεννήθησαν. Καὶ ὁ Λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ἐθεασάμεθα τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ, δόξαν ὡς μονογενοῦς παρὰ πατρός, πλήρης χάριτος καὶ ἀληθείας. Ἰωάννης μαρτυρεῖ περὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ κέκραγε λέγων· Οὗτος ἦν ὃν εἶπον, ὃ ὀπίσω μου ἐρχόμενος ἔμπροσθέν μου γέγονεν, ὅτι πρῶτός μου ἦν. Καὶ ἐκ τοῦ πληρώματος αὐτοῦ ἡμεῖς πάντες ἐλάβομεν, καὶ χάριν ἀντὶ χάριτος· ὅτι ὁ νόμος διὰ Μωϋσέως ἐδόθη, ἡ χάρις καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐγένετο.

The Gospel According to John 1:1-17

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.'") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.



Paschal Homily of St. John Chrysostom

Whosoever is a devout lover of God, let him enjoy this beautiful bright Festival. And whosoever is a grateful servant, let him joyously enter into the joy of his Lord. And if any be weary with fasting, let him now receive his reward. If any has toiled from the first hour, let him receive his just debt. If any came after the third, let him gratefully celebrate. If any arrived after the sixth, let him not doubt; for he too shall sustain no loss. If any have delayed to the ninth, let him come without hesitation. If any arrived only at the eleventh hour, let him not be afraid by reason of his delay; for the Master is gracious and receives the last, even as the first. He gives rest to him, who arrives at the eleventh hour, as well as to him, who has labored from the first.

He is merciful to the one who delays, and nourishes the first. He gives also to the one, and to the other He is gracious. He accepts the works, as he greets the endeavor. He honors the deed, and the intent He commends.

Let all of you then enter into the joy of our Lord. The first and second enjoy your reward. Your rich and poor, rejoice together. You temperate and you heedless, honor the day. You who fasted, and you who did not, rejoice today. The Table is richly laden. All of you, fare sumptuously on it. The calf is a fatted one; let no one go away hungry. All of you enjoy the banquet of faith. All of you enjoy the riches of His goodness. Let no one grieve poverty; for the universal Kingdom has been revealed. Let no one grieve over sins; for forgiveness has dawned from the tomb. Let no one fear death; for the Death of our Saviour has set us free. He has destroyed it by enduring it. He despoiled Hades, when He descended thereto. He embittered it, having tasted of His flesh. Isaiah foretold this when he cried out: "You, O Hades, have been embittered by encountering him below." **It was embittered**, / – for it was abolished. **It was embittered**, / – for it was mocked. **It was embittered**, / – for it was slain. **It was embittered**, / – for it was annihilated. **It was embittered**, / – for it is now made captive. It took a body, and, lo, it discovered God. It took earth and, behold! It encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it could not see. O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? **Christ Is Risen**, / and You are annihilated. **Christ Is Risen**, / and the demons have fallen. **Christ Is Risen**, / and the Angels rejoice. **Christ Is Risen**, / and life is liberated. **Christ Is Risen**, / and the tomb is emptied of dead; for Christ, having risen from the dead, has become the first fruits of those who fall asleep. To Him be the glory and the dominion to the Ages of Ages. Amen.



With the blessing of His Eminence, Archbishop Elpidophoros, we are excited to share with you a special **DISCOUNT** for weeks 4 & 5. Beginning immediately, if you register a camper for either week 4 or 5, you will receive a 25% discount.

This was only made possible because of the love and dedication of our Camp Saint Paul families over the past 19 years.

Register Today!

campsaintpaul.org



HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH-WHITESTONE, NY
ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΟΡΘΟΔΟΞΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ ΤΙΜΙΟΥ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΥ



DIVINE SERVICES MAY 2024

SUNDAY, MAY 5
EASTER SUNDAY

AGAPE VESPERS 11:00 a.m.

MONDAY, MAY 6

**SAINT GEORGE THE GREAT
& VICTORIOUS MARTYR**

Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:00-10:00 a.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 7

SAINTS RAPHAEL, NICHOLAS & IRENE

Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:00-10:00 a.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 10

LIFE-GIVING

FOUNTAIN OF THEOTOKOS

Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:00-10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 12

**SUNDAY OF ST. THOMAS
MOTHER'S DAY**

Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:00-11:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 19

**SUNDAY OF
THE MYRRH-BEARERS**

Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:00-11:00 a.m.

TUESDAY, MAY 21

SAINTS CONSTANTINE & HELEN

Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:00-10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 26

**SUNDAY OF
THE PARALYTIC**

Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:00-11:00 a.m.

MONDAY, MAY 27

SAINT JOHN THE RUSSIAN

Orthros & Divine Liturgy 8:00-10:00 a.m.

ΙΕΡΕΣ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΕΣ ΜΑΪΟΥ 2024

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 5 ΜΑΪΟΥ
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ
ΕΣΠΕΡΙΝΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΑΓΑΠΗΣ
11:00 π.μ.

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ 6 ΜΑΪΟΥ
ΑΓΙΟΥ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ
ΤΟΥ ΤΡΟΠΑΙΟΦΟΡΟΥ
Ορθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία
8:00-10:00 π.μ.

ΤΡΙΤΗ 7 ΜΑΪΟΥ
ΑΓΙΩΝ ΡΑΦΑΗΛ, ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟΥ & ΕΙΡΗΝΗΣ
Ορθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία
8:00-10:00 π.μ.

ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ 10 ΜΑΪΟΥ
ΖΩΔΟΧΟΥ ΠΗΓΗΣ
Ορθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία
8:00-10:00 π.μ.

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 12 ΜΑΪΟΥ
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΘΩΜΑ
ΕΟΡΤΗ ΤΗΣ ΜΗΤΕΡΑΣ
Ορθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία
8:00-11:00 π.μ.

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 19 ΜΑΪΟΥ
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΜΥΡΟΦΟΡΩΝ
Ορθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία
8:00 -11:00 π.μ.

ΤΡΙΤΗ 21 ΜΑΪΟΥ
ΑΓΙΩΝ ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΥ & ΕΛΕΝΗΣ
Ορθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία
8:00-10:00 π.μ.

ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ 26 ΜΑΪΟΥ
ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ
ΤΟΥ ΠΑΡΑΛΥΤΟΥ
Ορθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία
8:00-11:00 π.μ.

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ 27 ΜΑΪΟΥ
ΑΓΙΟΥ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΡΩΣΣΟΥ
Ορθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία 8:00-10:00 π.μ.



Holy Cross Stars Academy

Where Every Child Shines

JOIN US FOR AN

OPEN HOUSE

MARCH 6TH 7:00 PM

APRIL 4TH 7:00 PM

MAY 9TH 9:00 AM

MAY 22ND 7:00 PM



Private education for 2-, 3- and 4-year-olds

Research-based curriculum

Introduction to Greek Language and Culture

The classroom is just the beginning.

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FOR QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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Ο Άγιος Γεώργιος ο Μεγαλομάρτυρας και Τροπαιοφόρος

Γεννήθηκε μεταξύ των ετών 280-285 μ.Χ., πιθανώς στην περιοχή της Αρμενίας, από τον Έλληνα Συγκλητικό, στρατηλάτη στο αξίωμα, κατά τους χρόνους του αυτοκράτορα Διοκλητιανού, Γερόντιο. Εκεί, σε ένα μοναστήρι της περιοχής, ο Άγιος δέχθηκε το Μυστήριο του Βαπτίσματος και έγινε μέλος της Εκκλησίας. Ο πατέρας του Αγίου, Γερόντιος, καταγόταν από πλούσια και επίσημη γενιά της Καππαδοκίας. Η σύζυγός του ονομαζόταν Πολυχρονία, ήταν χριστιανή και καταγόταν από το γνωστό Λύδδα (Διάσπολη) της Παλαιστίνης. Σε νεαρή ηλικία ο Γεώργιος κατατάχθηκε στο ρωμαϊκό στρατό. Διακρίθηκε για την τόλμη και τον ηρωισμό του και έλαβε το αξίωμα του Τριβούνου. Το 303 μ.Χ., όταν άρχισαν οι διωγμοί του Διοκλητιανού, ο Άγιος Γεώργιος δε δίστασε να ομολογήσει τη χριστιανική του πίστη, προκαλώντας το μένος του Διοκλητιανού, ο οποίος τον υπέβαλε σε σειρά βασανιστηρίων. Ο Διοκλητιανός δεν το περίμενε και έφριξε με τη στάση του Γεωργίου. Τότε άρχισε για τον Άγιο μια σειρά φρικτών βασανιστηρίων, αλλά και θαυμάτων, που έφεραν πολλούς ειδωλολάτρες στη χριστιανική πίστη. Ο Άγιος μαρτύρησε προσευχόμενος, απετιμήθη την κεφαλήν, την Παρασκευή 23 Απριλίου του έτους 303 μ.Χ. Κατά δε τον υπολογισμό του ιστορικού Ευσεβίου, και σύμφωνα με το μακεδονικό ημερολόγιο, αντιστοιχούσε στην Παρασκευή της Διακαινησίμου του Πάσχα.

George, this truly great and glorious Martyr of Christ, was born of a father from Cappadocia and a mother from Palestine. Being a military tribune, or chiliarch (that is, a commander of a thousand troops), he was illustrious in battle and highly honoured for his courage. When he learned that the Emperor Diocletian was preparing a persecution of the Christians, Saint George presented himself publicly before the Emperor and denounced him. When threats and promises could not move him from his steadfast confession, he was put to unheard-of tortures, which he endured with great bravery, overcoming them by his faith and love towards Christ. By the wondrous signs that took place in his contest, he guided many to the knowledge of the truth, including Queen Alexandra, wife of Diocletian, and was finally beheaded in 296 in Nicomedia.

His sacred remains were taken by his servant from Nicomedia to Palestine, to a town called Lydda, the homeland of his mother, and then were finally transferred to the church which was raised up in his name. (The translation of the Saint's holy relics to the church in Lydda is commemorated on November 3; Saint Alexandra the Queen, on April 21.)

If April 23 falls on or before Great and Holy Pascha, the Feast of St. George is translated to Bright Monday.

STEWARDSHIP—MEMBERSHIP 2024

We wanted to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation to you for your support to our community by renewing your stewardship pledge for the current year. Your contribution is greatly appreciated and assists us in the maintenance of the community's programs and services. May the blessings of our Lord be with you and your family. We wish you healthy and renewed strength for the approaching Lenten Season!

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ “ΕΚΟΥΣΙΑΣ ΕΙΣΦΟΡΑΣ” 2024

Θέλαμε να ευχαριστήσουμε τα μέλη της κοινότητας μας που έχουν ανανεώσει την οικονομική προσφορά για το 2024. Για να γίνεται μέλη για το 2024, μπορείτε να συμπληρώσετε την κάρτα της ετήσιας προσφοράς σας που βρίσκετε στο παγκάρι του Ναού η στο γραφείο της κοινότητας, και επιστρέφοντάς την στο γραφείο μας μαζί με το δώρο της αγάπης σας. Η δωρεά σας είναι μια έκφραση της πίστης και της ευγνωμοσύνης σας για τις πολλές ευλογίες στη ζωή σας. Καλό και ευλογημένο Τριώδιο σε όλους!



You can now donate or offer you stewardship donation online at:

<https://onrealm.org/hc goc /- /form /give /general>

or you can scan the QR Code



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF WHITESTONE

SIGN UP TODAY FOR THE 2024 YOUTH OLYMPICS!

MAY 24 - MAY 26

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND

SUFFOLK COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION ENDS APRIL 7TH

Who can participate?

Boys and girls, 7-18 years of age and active in their parish's youth program

JOY: participants ages 7-12 GOYA: participants ages 13-18

Scan Me

To Register & Pay

Have your child's baptismal certificate
when registering



What are the events?

JOY Events:	GOYA Events:
Soccer	Soccer
Kickball	Softball
Basketball:	Volleyball
free throws	Basketball:
around the world	free throws
3v3	3v3
Track:	Track:
50m dash	50m dash
4x50m shuttle	200m dash
4x100m shuttle	400m dash
Field:	800m run
softball throw	1500m run
standing long jump	4x200m relay
Swimming:	5k
25m freestyle	Field:
4x25m relay	shotput
Board games:	softball throw
chess	long jump
checkers	high jump
backgammon	Swimming:
nok-hockey	50m freestyle
table tennis	100m freestyle
	100m relay
	Board games:
	chess
	checkers
	table tennis
	backgammon

The link to register: <https://olympics.leagueapps.com/leagues/multi-sport/4187580-holy-cross-whitestone-2024>

Olympics Website (for general inquiries): <https://www.goado.com/>

For Questions Contact: olympics@holycrossgreekchurch.com

Αρχιεπισκοπική Ἐγκύκλιος γιά γιά τὸ Ἅγιο Πάσχα

5 Μαΐου 2024

Πρὸς τοὺς Σεβασμιωτάτους καὶ Θεοφιλεστάτους Ἀρχιερεῖς, τοὺς Εὐλαβεστάτους Ἱερεῖς καὶ Διακόνους, τοὺς Μοναχοὺς καὶ τὶς Μοναχές, τοὺς Προέδρους καὶ τὰ Μέλη τῶν Κοινοτικῶν Συμβουλίων, τοὺς Ἐντιμολογιωτάτους Ἀρχοντες τοῦ Οἰκουμενικοῦ Πατριαρχείου, τὰ μέλη τῆς Ἠγεσίας τῶν 100, τὰ Ἡμερήσια καὶ Ἀπογευματινὰ Σχολεῖα, τὶς Φιλοπτώχους Ἀδελφότητες, τὴ Νεολαία, τὶς Ἑλληνορθόδοξες Ὄργανώσεις καὶ ὁλόκληρο τὸ Χριστεπώνυμο πλήρωμα τῆς Ἱερᾶς Ἀρχιεπισκοπῆς Ἀμερικῆς.

«Νηστεύσαντες καὶ μὴ νηστεύσαντες, εὐφράνθητε σήμερον. Ἡ τράπεζα γέμει, τρυφήσατε πάντες.»

(Λόγος κατηχητικὸς ἀγίου Ἰωάννου Χρυσοστόμου).

Προσφιλεῖς ἀδελφοὶ καὶ ἀδελφές ἐν Χριστῷ, Χριστὸς ἀνέστη!

Τὴ νύχτα τοῦ Πάσχα, ἡ χρυσή φωνὴ τοῦ μεγάλου Πατριάρχου Κωνσταντινουπόλεως ἀκούγεται σὲ κάθε ναὸ σὲ ὅλο τὸν ὀρθόδοξο κόσμο. Ὁ ἱερός Χρυσόστομος μᾶς προσκαλεῖ ὅλους μὲ τὸ πιὸ ὁμορφο κήρυγμα ποὺ εἰπώθηκε ποτὲ κατὰ «τὴν μίαν τῶν σαββάτων», τὴν «ἐορτὴν τῶν ἐορτῶν», νὰ μετὰσχουμε σὲ αὐτὸ «τὸ συμπόσιον τῆς πίστεως».

Τὸ μεγαλειῶδες αὐτὸ κάλεσμα πρὸς ὅλους νὰ μοιραστοῦμε τὴ χαρὰ τῆς ἀναστάσεως γίνεται χωρὶς ἀντίτιμο, ὅπως στὴν πρόσκληση τοῦ προφήτη ποὺ λέει «οἱ διψῶντες πορεύεσθε ἐφ' ὕδωρ καὶ ὅσοι μὴ ἔχετε ἀργύριον, βαδίσαντες ἀγοράσατε καὶ πῖετε ἄνευ ἀργυρίου καὶ τιμῆς οἴνου καὶ στέαρ» (Ἠσαΐα 55:1). Διότι ὅπως ψάλλουμε κατὰ τὴν ἀγία αὐτὴ νύχτα, «συγχωρήσωμεν πάντα τὴ Ἀναστάσει», καθὼς ἡ συγχώρηση ἀπὸ τὶς μικρότερες μέχρι τὶς μεγαλύτερες ἀμαρτίες γίνεται χωρὶς ἀντίτιμο καὶ ἡ χάρις τοῦ Θεοῦ παρέχεται δωρεάν ἐν ἀφθονία, ὅπως μᾶς λέει ὁ εὐαγγελιστής: «χάριν ἀντὶ χάριτος» (Κατὰ Ἰωάννου 1:16).

Ἴσως νὰ μὴν ἐπιτύχαμε στὴ νηστεία τόσα ὅσα θὰ ἐπιθυμούσαμε, ἴσως καὶ κάποιοι νὰ νὰ μὴ νήστευσαν καθόλου. Ὅμως ἡ μετοχὴ μας στὴν πασχαλινὴ τράπεζα δὲν καθορίζεται ἀπὸ τὴν ποσότητα ἢ τὴν ποιότητα τῶν τροφῶν ποὺ καταναλώσαμε. Τὸ εἰσιτήριο τῆς μετοχῆς στὴν «τράπεζα τῆς πίστεως» τιμᾶται μᾶλλον ἀπὸ τὴν ποιότητα τῆς φιλανθρωπίας καὶ τὴν ποσότητα τῆς ἀγάπης πρὸς κάθε συνάνθρωπο.

Ἔτσι, ὁ ἱερός Χρυσόστομος μᾶς προσκαλεῖ ὅλους στὴν πασχαλινὴ τράπεζα χωρὶς νὰ μᾶς ἐλέγχει γιὰ τὸ ἂν τηρήσαμε τοὺς περὶ νηστείας κανόνες. Γιατὶ τὴ νύχτα τῆς ἀναστάσεως ὁ νόμος τῆς ἀγάπης ὑπερέχει παντὸς ἄλλου νόμου, ὅταν ἀγαπᾶμε καὶ συγχωροῦμε, ὅπως μᾶς ἀγαπᾶ καὶ μᾶς συγχωρεῖ ὁ Θεός.

Ἀγαπητοί μου χριστιανοί, ἄς μὴ ἀπορρίψουμε τὴν πρόσκληση ποὺ μᾶς ἀπευθύνει ὁ ἅγιος Ἰωάννης ὁ Χρυσόστομος! Ἄς τὴν ἀποδεχθοῦμε, χωρὶς νὰ ὑπερηφανευόμαστε γιὰ ὅλα ὅσα νομίζουμε ὅτι κατορθώσαμε, ἀλλὰ καὶ χωρὶς ντροπὴ ἢ ἀπόγνωση γιὰ τὴν ἀποτυχία στοὺς στόχους μας! Ἡ τράπεζα γέμει! «Τρυφήσατε πάντες» ἀπὸ τὸ ἔλεος καὶ τὴν ἀγάπη τοῦ Θεοῦ.

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη,

† Ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

† Ὁ Ἀμερικῆς Ἐλπιδοφόρος

MEMORIALS – ΜΝΗΜΟΣΥΝΑ

Please inform the church office at least one week in advance
for memorial services and koliva.

**Please note that there is no memorials beginning from the Saturday of Lazarus until the
Sunday of Thomas. The first Sunday that Memorials will take place again is May 19th
(Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women)**

Σας παρακαλούμε να κάνετε έγκαιρα τις παραγγελίες σας για τα κόλλυβα
τουλάχιστον μία εβδομάδα νωρίτερα για να μπορούμε να σας εξυπηρετούμε με τον
καλύτερο δυνατό τρόπο.

**Δεν τελούνται μνημόσυνα από το Σάββατο του Λαζάρου
μέχρι την Κυριακή του Θωμά. Μπορείτε να ξανά τελέσεται μνημόσυνα από
την Κυριακή των Μυροφόρων 19 Μαΐου.**

The Children's Word: "Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them,
for to such is the Kingdom of Heaven." Mark 10:14

All the Nations

Have you ever heard something in another language...and you didn't know what it meant? Maybe you wondered what somebody was saying, but nobody even told you. Maybe it wasn't so important after all. You know what today is! Today is Pascha (Easter). Today, at church, we hear the good news—the best news! We hear how our Lord, Jesus Christ, rose from the dead. We hear how He is still with us. Long ago, Jesus's followers wrote this good news down so people could read it and know about it. Jesus told His followers to go to all the nations, yes, to go all over the world. God wants the whole world to know the good news—that Christ rose from the dead! He wants the whole world to know about Him. He wants the whole world to know how we can grow close to Him. Today, at church, we hear this good news in lots of different languages. We hear the good news in so many languages, because we know that God wants everybody to know about it. Today, you might hear the gospel (the good news) in 5 or 10 or even 15 languages. But do you know how many languages the good news has been written down in? More than 1,500 languages! This good news is so important, that we Christians want everybody to know about it. Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF WHITESTONE

FESTIVAL 2024 SPONSORSHIP FORM

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Please make checks payable to: **Holy Cross Church of Whitestone** and mail to 11-05 150th Street, Whitestone, NY 11357 with this sponsorship form.

**Anyone interested in volunteering for the Festival
please contact the Church Office.**

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Church Office
(718) 767-2955 or email: info@holycrossgreekchurch.com

Only with the love and support of our Community can make
the 2024 Festival a success!

HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF WHITESTONE

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FREE
ADMISSION

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Saturday 3-11 pm • Sunday 3-9 pm

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