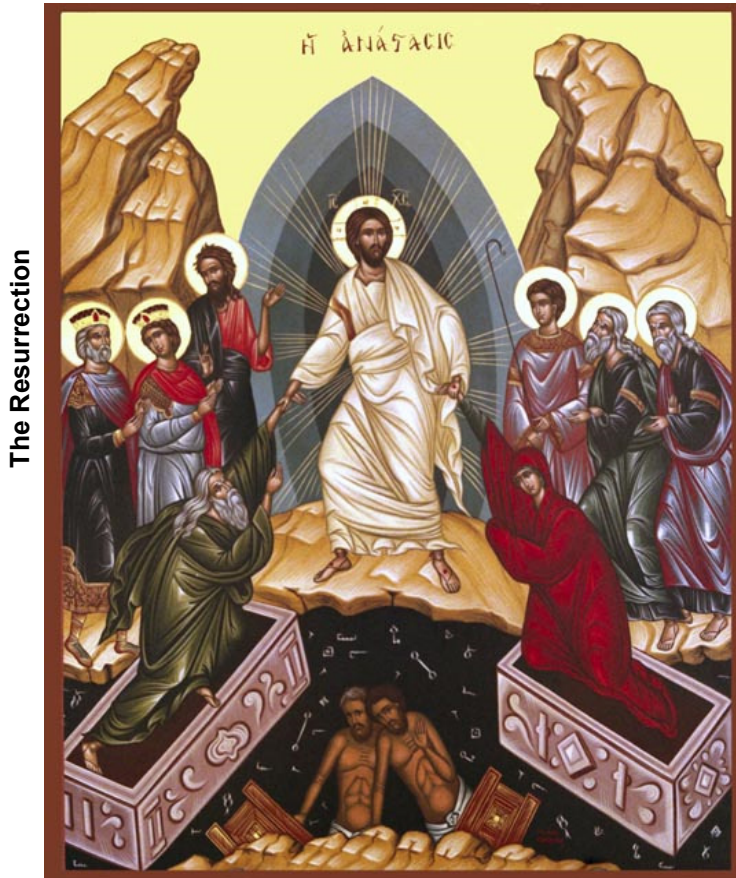




St. Catherine's Newsletter



The Resurrection



Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church

Easter 2009

Special points of interest:

- ☺ Christ Is Risen!
- ☺ What's Up With Mythbusters?
- ☺ RED Easter Eggs
- ☺ Kid's Corner
- ☺ Holy Week Crossword Puzzle!

Christ Is Risen! (Χριστός Ανέστη!)

God wants for us to be at peace with each other, loving each other, and enjoying the beauty of His created world. Because of God's everlasting love for us, He sent His only-begotten Son to become a human and live with us for one reason. To save us! Christ ended His time on Earth by voluntarily submitting to be crucified: a most humiliating and painful death. It was through His death that He was able to break the bonds of Hades, and lead us to everlasting life in the Kingdom of Heaven: eternal paradise.

The Resurrection is the whole key to our faith as Christians. Pascha (the Greek word for Passover) is known as the "feast of feasts." This is the biggest celebration in the entire church year. Christ's Resurrection from the dead changed the world forever, because it gave us the hope of the

world to come. The Resurrection gives us hope of a better world that is not only free from sin, but an eternally perfect world with God.

Pascha is more than just the day that our fasting ends and we can eat meat again. It is more than just a celebration of the church to celebrate with family and friends. It is what defines us as Christians. So what does this mean for us? How does the Resurrection play a part in our daily lives? We must challenge ourselves to keep the Resurrection at the forefront of our minds, so that whatever we do, wherever we go, our faith as Christians will guide us to make the right decisions. The easy way out is to give in to the pressures of society.

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Greek Easter Egg

The connection of egg with rebirth and eternal life made it symbol of Christ's Resurrection. The red color of Easter eggs links Jewish and Christian tradition. It reminds the lamb's blood with which Jews, when they were slaves in Egypt, marked their houses, so the Angel of death saw and pass over them, and it signifies the blood of Christ.



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The cracking of the eggs was already known in Byzantium of 13th century. It symbolizes the breaking of the tomb, but it is also a wish for a

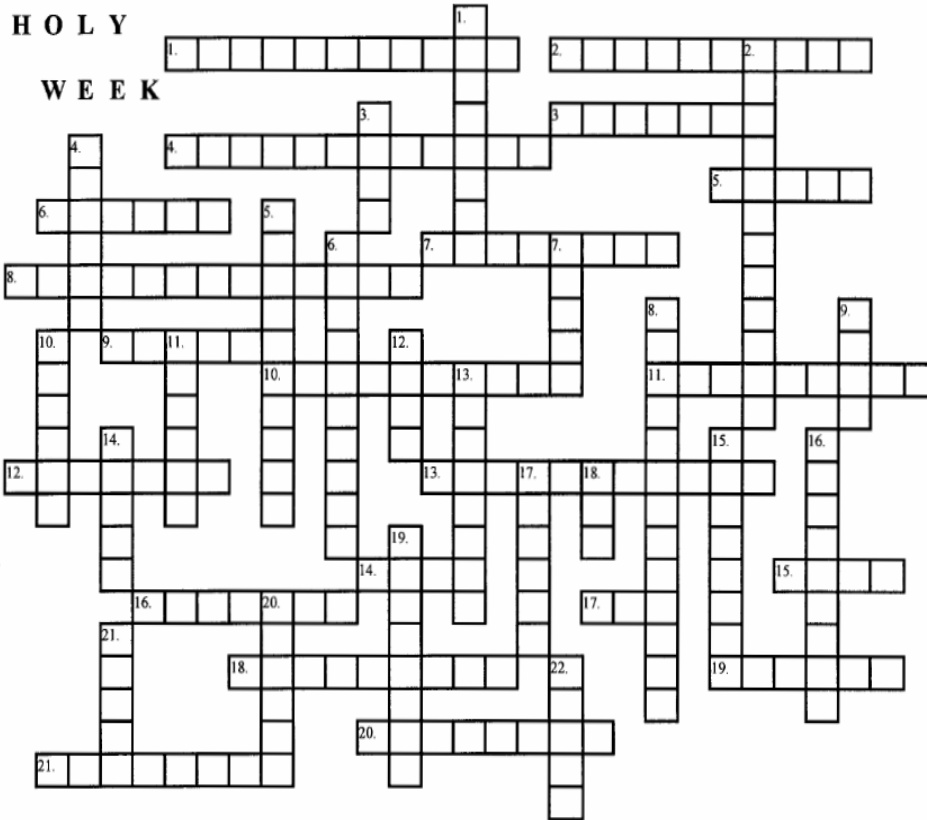


new, better life issuing from Christ's Resurrection, although the owner of the last un-cracked egg is considered very lucky.



new, better life issuing from Christ's Resurrection, although the owner of the last un-cracked egg is considered very lucky.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS: 1. Sacrament administered on Holy Wednesday. 2. Evening service first 3 days of Holy Week. 3. Jesus resurrected him. 4. Hymns sung Holy Friday evening. 5. Symbol of all Christians. 6. Myrrh bearing women came to ___ Jesus' body. 7. High Priest at trial of Jesus. 8. They are read on Holy Thursday evening. 9. Man from Arimathea. 10. Tomb of Christ. 11. Asked authorities for body of Jesus(?). 12. Took body of Christ down from cross with #9 across. 13. How Jesus was betrayed. 14. How Jesus reacted to death of Lazarus. 15. Title on Cross of Jesus: . of the Jews.. 16. Mary, Martha and Lazarus lived here. 17. In the Virgins lamps. 18. City where Jesus spent his last week. 19. ___ for the Kingdom of God is at hand.. 20. Prisoner who was released instead of Jesus. 21. Author of hymn sung on Holy Tuesday evening.

DOWN: 1. Place of the skull. 2. Arising from the dead. 3. To abstain from. 4. Palm Sunday animal. 5. Garden where Jesus was arrested. 6. Wise and foolish girls. 7. Branches waved for Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. 8. Roman governor. 9. It is empty! 10. The Feast of Feasts 11. Jesus. body anointed with these. 12. Jesus did this to disciples' feet. 13. Opposite of pride. 14. Denied Christ 3 times. 15. Last Supper meal. 16.. He was for our sake under Pontius Pilate.. 17. Type of metal. 18. The tree that didn't have any fruits. 19. Act of Judas. infidelity. 20. Christos ___ ! 21. Jesus descended here on Holy Saturday. 22. Opposite of life.

WE
NEED
YOU

TO WRITE FOR THE
ST. CATHERINE'S
NEWSLETTER

If you are interested please contact Maria at
marialake16@yahoo.com

The time has come...

JUNIOR
OLYMPICS

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
MAY 23rd - 24th

If you are interested
in participating

CONTACT YOUR
SUNDAY SCHOOL
TEACHER

What's Up with MYTHBUSTERS?

So, I'm pumping gas at the BP on Ogden when my cell phone rings. I reach for the phone but before I pick up I remember a friend told me that I would blow up if I answered the phone while pumping gas.

.....

Is she right? Should I answer the phone?

Is this true, or just a myth? Sounds like a job for Mythbusters - the Discovery Channel show where Adam and Jamie test urban legends to see if they are plausible, probable, or busted.

The fun of the show lies in their attempts to test or recreate each myth; these guys don't just sit around with historical lectures, they dive in feet first. In a similar way the Orthodox Church, during Lent, offers us an opportunity to test some myths of our society. America has been called a "Land of Desire," a "Consumer's Republic," and a "Fast Food Nation."

You've heard the lectures before from your grandparents, teachers, and aunts; the lectures they repeat over and over: "You kids have too much stuff these days. When I was your age all we played with was an old tennis ball, a piece of chalk, and a jump rope." "I had one pair of shoes and a dress for Sunday." "A library card and a bus pass, that was a fun Saturday." Sure, our elders might exaggerate here or there, but there's some truth at the heart of what they say. They never imagined video games, much less cell phones, iPods, or the internet.

It wasn't too long ago that designer purses and sunglasses were reserved for the extremely wealthy, and now they're accessible to the middle class. And before I forget, there's a myth in here somewhere. Here's the myth that many companies want us to believe: Buying stuff brings us freedom and allows us to express ourselves. Plain and simple, this is what advertisers try to tell us every day. For example, being good customers can bring us freedom from boredom (tons of entertaining things to buy at Best Buy), freedom from work (Magic xP999 Bathroom Tile Cleaner will clean the tub for you!), or possibly free-

dom from pain (shopping makes me happy).

Advertisers want us to believe that every purchase we make is our ticket to happiness by either satisfying a need or giving us more free time to do what we really want. But if we were to



purchase less, would we be less happy, or would we have any less "freedom"? Secondly, we are taught that everything we buy or wear is a personal statement. We are asked to express ourselves by the purchases we make and share with friends.

What's our fashion? Do we play sports? Am I interested in computers?

However, this is also a myth. The clothes we wear and the fashions we choose are not custom-made or even tailored. These fashions are meant to appeal to the widest possible range of customers. Yes, buying clothing is normal, and very, very necessary.



But the claim that these clothes or other products are a statement of 'who we are' is false. The show Mythbusters does a good job finding the truth in the many myths in society. (And just so you know, using your cell phone at a gas station won't cause an explosion!)

The Church does the same with the myths that surround us in contemporary culture - it busts them. The Church is the "pillar and ground of truth" (1 Timothy 3:15), seeking to protect us

from falsehood and showing us the path to true freedom and happiness. During the year, the Church sets aside a period to really do some mythbusting-- Lent is that time. In Great Lent, the Church shows us an alternative to what society and many companies tell us: that the ticket to freedom and true happiness is through products or things. Lent is the time to remember that products and money don't bring happiness, but rather that Christ does.

The biggest myth is that God won't deliver: that there are other ways to find true freedom and happiness rather than through Jesus Christ. The truth is this: Christ does not disappoint. For some reason, we forget this. We forget that we are inheritors of the kingdom of God. We are all united to Christ through baptism, and we are all royalty because we are united to the King of Kings. In God's eyes, we are priceless and we are loved. We have been invited to try something different during Lent.

Focusing more on prayer, fasting, attending the services, and being charitable — these are all tools the

Church gives us to help us bust the myth that we need to rely on something or someone other than God for freedom and happiness. Having said all these things, I now invite you to experience the risen Christ for yourself. No one can force you to do anything.

I can't convince you that God is your ticket to freedom and happiness or that God has great plans for you. You have to experience it for yourself through making time for

God in your everyday life. That's what Lent's all about—making time for the most important relationship in our life.

A relationship with Christ is a relationship with someone who does not disappoint, but indeed, delivers in the biggest way possible. Pascha is the proof that faith in Christ is not just another myth, but instead the greatest truth of all.

(Phil Louridas www.goarch.org)

Assumption Greek
Orthodox Church

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DIVINE LITURGY SCHEDULE
Orthos: 8:30 AM
Divine Liturgy: 10:00 AM
Sunday School Liturgy: 9:30 AM

Spiritual Advisor: Very Rev.
Timothy Bakakos

Editor: Maria Lakerdas

Contributor: Marika Maggos



MAIL TO:

Do **YOU** want to write for the
St. Catherine's Newsletter?

Send in an article, poem, or short story to have it featured in the newsletter! Email it to Maria Lakerdas at marialake16@yahoo.com

Want to join the Newsletter Team?

We're looking for good writers, organized and fun people to help out with the church's children's newsletter! If you are interested and would like more information contact Maria Lakerdas (email above).



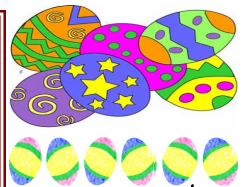
KID'S CORNER

COLOR ME!



TRIVIA (answers on bottom)

1. What is the name of the marshmallow candy shaped like chicks?
2. What is the most popular Easter candy?



Paschal Greeting

Χριστός Ανέστη!
Christ is Risen!
(Christos Anesti)
Αληθώς Ανέστη!
Truly He is Risen!
(Alethos Anesti)

Save the Date

**MAY
31st**

**Liturgy
in the
Park**