

Saturday. If you have young children, try to attend as many as is possible, especially Holy Thursday and Holy Friday.

- ✧ Pascha is a very special time for children. It is a night like no other night, and they should experience this. You can help them by scheduling their time in order for them to be awake and rested for the midnight service. One way is to wake them at about 5 a.m. on Holy Saturday morning, then put them to bed about 5 p.m. Reawake them at 10 or 10:30 p.m. to get ready for Church.
- ✧ Include the children in your Paschal preparations: making the Paschal foods; readying the Paschal Basket; selecting their clothes, etc.
- ✧ Have them bring an icon from home to carry in the Paschal Procession.
- ✧ Receive Holy Communion.
- ✧ Attend the Paschal (Agape) Vespers on Sunday. This service is short and joyful, and especially suited for the youngest children who may be unable to attend the midnight service.
- ✧ During the 40 day “afterfeast” use the Troparion and Kontakion hymns as prayers before and/or after meals and as part of evening prayers.



FOR MORE
INFORMATION,
PLEASE
CONTACT:



COME CELEBRATE THE FEAST: THE RESURRECTION





THE RESURRECTION CELEBRATED ON THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE FIRST FULL MOON AFTER PASSOVER

The celebration of Pascha in the Orthodox Church... is once again not merely an historical reenactment of the events of Christ's Resurrection as narrated in the gospels. It is not a dramatic representation of the "first Easter morning." There is no "sunrise service" since the Paschal Matins and the Divine Liturgy are celebrated together in the first dark hours of the first day of the week in order to give men the experience of the "new creation" of the world, and to allow them to enter mystically into the New Jerusalem which shines eternally with the glorious light of Christ, overcoming the perpetual night of evil and destroying the darkness of this mortal and sinful world (Fr. Thomas Hopko, *The Orthodox Faith: Volume 2, Worship*).

The Church teaches that while the body of Christ rested in the tomb on the Sabbath (the day after the Crucifixion), His soul descended into Hades. Prior to the Incarnation the gates of Paradise were closed to mankind. Therefore, Hades, not to be confused with Hell, was the place where the souls of all went upon death. It was neither a place of reward nor a place of punishment. It had been likened to Death's "prison" where the souls of both the just and the sinners were confined. Since Christ actually died upon the Cross, Death claimed His soul for Hades. However, Hades received more than it expected...it received the Giver of Life, who destroyed the power of Hades. The resurrection icon portrays this concept (Excerpt from *The Icon Book* by Matusiak, Essey, McLuckie, and Booramra).

THE RESURRECTION IN SCRIPTURE AND HYMNS

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

Gospel: John 1:1-17

Divine Liturgy, Troparion

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Divine Liturgy, Kontakion, Tone 8

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal, you destroyed the power of death! In victory, you arose, O Christ God, proclaiming "Rejoice" to the Myrrhbearing Women, granting peace to your Apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

Divine Liturgy, Hymn to the Theotokos

*Shine! Shine! O New Jerusalem! The Glory of the Lord has shone on you!
Exult now and be glad, O Zion! Be radiant, O Pure Theotokos, in the
Resurrection of your Son!*

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- ✧ The best way to prepare for Pascha is to participate in the services of Holy Week: Bridegroom Matins, Presanctified Liturgy, Holy Unction, Liturgy & Passion Gospels on Holy Thursday, Holy Friday's Royal Hours, Burial Vespers & Lamentations on Holy Friday, and Vespers on Holy

