Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church

A parish of the New England Diocese ✣ Orthodox Church in America

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Sunday, April 15, 2018 ***Second Sunday after Pascha – Saint Thomas Sunday***

CHRIST IS RISEN!

ХРИСТОСЪ ВОСКРЕСЕ! ✣ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ ✣ HRISTOS A INVIAT!

Today's readings are:

Acts (of the Holy Apostles) 5:12-20 and Saint John 20:19-31

Weekly calendar:

Today			coffee hour [church school is at Beaverdale Cemetery]
(approx.)		11:50am	Panikhida- remembering all the departed followed by the blessing of graves at Beaverdale Cemetery (*)
April 16	Mon	5:30pm	Daily Vespers
April 17	Tue	5:30pm	Daily Vespers
April 18	Wed	5:30pm	Daily Vespers
April 19	Thu	5:00pm	OCF at Yale – Vespers in the Lovett Room of Battell Chapel
April 20	Fri	5:30pm	Daily Vespers
April 21	Sat	4:30pm	choir rehearsal
		5:00pm	**Great Vespers – with Confessions afterward**
April 22	Sun	**9:00am**	**Divine Liturgy-** Third Sunday after Pascha- *Sunday of the Holy Myrrhbearing Women and the Righteous Joseph and Nicodemus* [Acts (of the Apostles) 6:1-7 and Saint Mark 15:43-16:8] church school and coffee hour
(approx.)		11:50am	Panikhida- remembering all the departed followed by the blessing of graves at Evergreen Cemetery (*)

(*) The blessing of graves at other cemeteries will be scheduled with individual families *at their request*. Speak to Father Michael.

"Thank you!" to all who gave such excellent cooperation through Great Lent, Holy Week and Bright Week- to parish council members, to all who helped with the parish spring-cleaning, the children's Bright Monday 'egg' hunt, to all who worked on and contributed to the Pascha and Bright Monday banquets, to the readers, altar servers and especially to the members of the choir who gave very many hours in preparation for wonderful and beautiful services. May our Risen Lord bless you richly in return for your good stewardship and loving service!

Applications for the Victor Panko Scholarship are available at the candle desk and are due by May 6th. Parish students who have been active in the church school program are eligible to apply each year they are in college.

Thomas touched your life–giving side with an eager hand, O Christ God, when you came to your apostles through closed doors. He cried out with all: "You are my Lord and my God!"

[Kontakion of Saint Thomas Sunday]

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TO BEHOLD THE RESURRECTION — *A sermon by Saint Peter Chrysologus*

To behold the resurrection, the stone must first be rolled away from our hearts. The Apostle Paul tells us that if our Lord Jesus Christ has not raised from the dead the entire proclamation of the Gospel and the life of Christian discipleship would be in vain. The apostles would be liars and we would be locked into our sins and without any hope in the face of death. On the other hand, if the Lord is risen, as we confess with our paschal greeting, then our faith, our hope, and our love are grounded in fact and are not just vain imaginations - and His resurrection truly will be for us like a well-spring pouring out grace and sanctification, new and abundant life, and great joy. The Lord rose from the dead and ascended into the heavens as if opening a door into the Kingdom of God for all those who are united to Him and participate in Him and serve Him.

'To behold the resurrection' is a way of saying, in a simple yet forceful way, that we have experienced the power of His Resurrection, that we have felt in some measure His victory over death and sin and darkness, that with the eyes of faith our minds and hearts have witnessed the triumph of life and love. But we can only expect to experience and feel and see the Resurrection if we open ourselves to this experience and allow its power to touch us. With our eyes shut, we will not see and with a closed mind and a narrow heart we will not notice anything much. We may feast, it is true, and yet the true depth and meaning and transforming power of the Feast of Feasts will be lost on us. It is all too easy to celebrate Pascha outwardly without the inner conviction and transforming joy that comes from truly having beheld the resurrection.

The greatest obstacle to celebrating Pascha in all its wonderful depth is a hard heart - a heart like a great stone, sealing our inmost self from the piercing radiance of light and life and love and forgiveness. How heavy these stones are! Stones of anger, bitterness, hatred, indifference, hurt, self-will... Stones that trap us in an airless darkness of selfishness and prevent us from entering into the joy of our Lord's resurrection and a life refreshed and renewed by the glory.

Therefore, as we approach Pascha, may He grant us the grace to strive to roll away the stones from our hearts. This can be done through sincere repentance and mutual forgiveness and by using the disciplines of prayer and fasting and sacrificial good-works to break through hardness of heart. Having done so may we greet the Holy Resurrection without hypocrisy and offer true worship to the Lord Jesus Christ as we encounter one another saying: "Christ is Risen!"

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Любопытною десницею, жизноподательеая Твоя ребра Фома испыта Христе Боже: созаключенным бо дверем яко вшел еси, с прочими Апостолы вопияше Тебе: Господь еси и Бог мой! *(Кондак о Фоме)*

Сегодня- Неделя Антипасхи – Св. Фоми
[Деяния Апостолов 5:12-20 и от Иоанна 20:19-31]
После литургия и кофе, мы будем в кладбище Бивердецлле.

Субб. 5:00чд Великая Вечерня и Исповедь

Воск. 9:00чу Литургиа- Неделе Свв. Жен Мироносиц
[Деяния Апостолов 6:1-7 и от Марка 15:43-16:8]
После литургия и кофе, мы будем в кладбище Эвергриние.