

Pascha 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ our Lord!

Christ is Risen! + Χριστός Ανέστη! + Христос воскрес!

Glory to God for the renewal and gift of our great and Holy Feast of Pascha!

This is my 46th year celebrating Holy Pascha as the priest of our beloved parish of St. John the Russian, and this has been the most glorious, most beautiful, and most powerful Paschal celebration that I have experienced.

First, we must thank our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the Most Holy Mother of God, our humble and always present patrons, St John the Russian and St. Seraphim of Sarov.

In addition, I thank God for your steadfastness throughout the past two and one half very difficult years during which you have persevered and grown in the Divinely Revealed Faith of our Holy Orthodox Church, which is the Body of Christ in this place, filled with Divine Light and Truth.

Your love, faith and devotion were expressed in every aspect of our Holy and Divine services. Every surface of the church was sparkling clean and perfectly reflected the Paschal light and Joy. The candle stands were ablaze with your offerings and prayers. The icons were radiant with the light and presence of our beloved Saints and intercessors. The church was adorned with beautiful flower arrangements and plants. The choir sang with a power and clarity that filled the temple with angelic hymns. The congregation responded with power and joy. The altar servers performed their tasks with a dignity and joy that was upheld by the love of God and the enthusiasm of the congregation! Everyone contributed to the Holy Paschal Meal of Love as we broke the fast and once again fed upon the dairy and flesh meats that God provides for our daily sustenance.

Finally, all you, beloved parishioners, were radiant with your faith, prayer, and divine enthusiasm, as you bore witness to the reality that Christ has Risen from the Dead and that our lives have been renewed and once again firmly set upon the path of salvation.

Whether we came at the beginning or only at the end, we have all received the same reward.

From the depths of my heart, I give thanks and Glory to God, for each and every one of you, whether you are young or old, whether you are weak or strong, who have been steadfast and have consequently grown in true, deep faith and spiritual understanding in these troubled times.

May our every day be filled with the true and enduring remembrance of the Glorious Light of our Resurrected Lord.

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

With Love in Christ,

Fr. Spyridon and Matushka Xenia

Pascha 2022