

MAY at a Glance...

Saturday, May 1 - **Holy Saturday**
The First Resurrection Service
Holy Resurrection Service

Sunday, May 2 - **HOLY PASCHA**
Holy Easter Agape Service

Monday, May 3 - **Renewal Monday**
The Feast Day of St. George

Tuesday, May 4 - **Saints Raphael, Nicholas and Irene**
NB AHEPA Dinner Meeting

Sunday, May 9 - **Thomas Sunday ~ Mother's Day**

Tuesday, May 11 - Parish Council Meeting

Friday, May 14 & Saturday, May 15

THE DIONYSOS FESTIVAL DRIVE-THRU!

Sunday, May 16 - **The Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearers**

Friday, May 21 - **Ss. Constantine & Helen**

Sunday, May 23 - **The Sunday of the Paralytic**

Sunday, May 30 - **The Sunday of the Samaritan**

Monday, May 31 - Memorial Day - Office is Closed

JUNE in ADVANCE!

Sunday, June 6- Spring Parish Assembly
Philoptochos Scholarship application deadline

Thursday, June 10 - Holy Ascension

Saturday, June 12- **The St. George Tag Sale!**
Start saving your gently used treasures now!

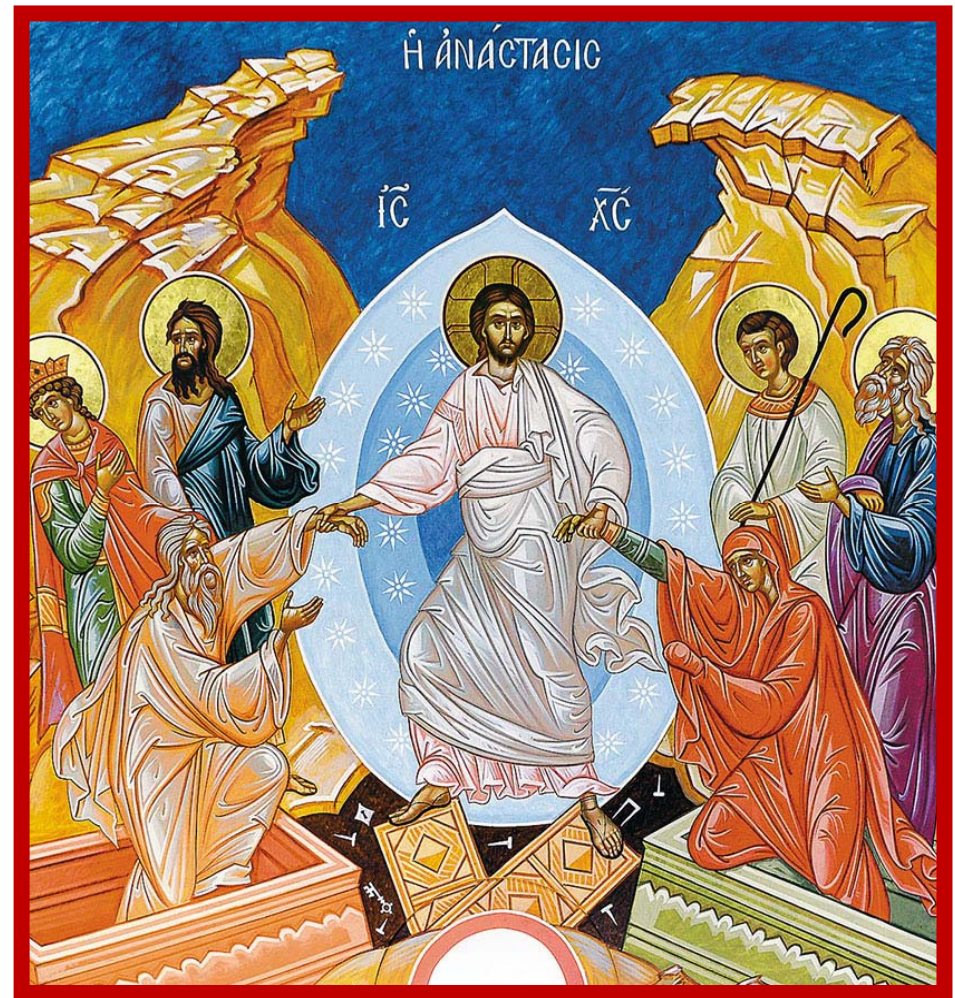
Sunday, June 13 - Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council

Saturday, June 18 - The Saturday of the Souls

Sunday, June 20 - Holy Pentecost ~ Father's Day

Sunday, June 27 - All Saints Day

Monday, June 28 - The Apostles Fast Begins



SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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May 2021

My Fellow Christians in Christ,

The Sunday of the Resurrection is called the Solemnity of Solemnities. Easter Sunday is a much more important feast than Christmas or Epiphany, but one cannot say that Pentecost is less important than Easter. Easter is the center - the heart - of the Christian year. It is on this date that the whole liturgical cycle depends, because it determines all of the movable feasts of the calendar.

The Resurrection of Christ is solemnly proclaimed during Matins for Easter Sunday. This service takes place either very early on Sunday morning, or towards the middle of the night of Saturday to Sunday. The Holy Light is presented to the faithful in the dark by the celebrant holding a lighted candle that he presents it to the faithful by saying: *"Come, take the light from the Light that has no evening, and glorify Christ, risen from the dead."* The Eastern Church represents the Christian Mystery in terms of a mystery of light; this Light, whose birth was marked by the star of Bethlehem, has been shining among us with growing intensity. The darkness of Golgotha could not extinguish it. Now it reappears among us, and all the candles which the congregation now light and hold in their hands, proclaim its triumph. In this way, the deeply spiritual meaning of Easter is found. The physical Resurrection of Jesus would be without value to us if the divine light did not shine at the same time among us, within us. We can't worthily celebrate the Resurrection of Christ if, in our soul, the light brought by the Savior has not completely overcome the darkness of our sins. A procession forms. It leaves the sanctuary and stops outside the Church, in front of the door. Often, though this custom is not universal, the account of the Resurrection taken from the Gospel according to St. Mark is read. Then the great triumphal antiphon for Easter is sung: *"Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tomb He has given life."*

The time of Easter contains several special features of ritual. The chief one is that at the beginning and end of each Liturgy, the troparion of the Resurrection, "Christ is risen from the dead" is sung. During the week that follows Easter, the doors of the iconostasion remain constantly open. In this way we symbolize the free access to the Holy of Holies that Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest, opened to us with his blood.

Easter coincides with the renewal of nature, when greenery and flowers appear. The universe itself is a symbol of spiritual realities. Spring speaks to us if we know how to interpret God's creation of inner renewal. There is a springtime of the soul. Easter brings us a message of hope. The Resurrection of Jesus tells us we can be changed. We need to feel the new green of the Paschal Season, to which some sayings in Scripture apply well: *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold all things are become new."* and *"That like as Christ*

Prayers in the time of Pandemic by Cameron Bellm

May we who are merely inconvenienced
remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home
remember those who must choose between
preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our
children when their schools close
remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
remember those who have no safe place to go to.

May we who are losing our margin money
in the tumult of the economic market
remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country
let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically
wrap our arms around each other,
let us find ways of being the loving
embrace of God to our neighbors.

Amen.



Thank you to our heroes
#MyHeroesWearScrubs





Thomas Sunday

"While the tomb was sealed, You, O Life, did shine forth from the grave, O Christ God; and while the doors were shut, You did come unto Your disciples, O Resurrection of all, renewing through them an upright Spirit in us according to Your great mercy."

Following the crucifixion and burial of Christ, the disciples were gathered in a room with the doors closed and locked for fear of the Jews.

On the evening of the Sunday after Passover, Jesus Christ entered the room and stood in their midst, greeting them with the words, "Peace be with you." He showed the disciples his hands, feet, and side.

Thomas was not present with the disciples when Jesus appeared, and he did not accept the testimony of the other disciples concerning Christ's Resurrection. He stated, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, the disciples were gathered together again with Thomas present, and the Lord appeared in the same manner. Standing in their midst he said, "Peace be with you." He then spoke directly to Thomas and said, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus replied by saying, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

The Orthodox Church observes the Sunday of Thomas one week following the celebration of the Sunday of Holy Pascha. The day commemorates the appearance of Christ to His disciples on the evening of the Sunday following Passover. This Sunday is also called Antipascha (meaning "in the stead of Pascha,") because with this day, the first Sunday **after** Pascha, the Church consecrates every Sunday of the year to the commemoration of Pascha, that is, the Resurrection.

Saint Thomas the Apostle is commemorated by the Church on October 6.

was raised up from the dead..... even so we also should walk in newness of life....that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in oldness of the letter."

Christ has Risen! Truly He has Risen!

In Christ's Resurrection
Fr. Costa

Χριστος Ανεστη! Αληθως Ανεστη!

Εχαρησαν ουν οι μαθηται ιδοντες τον Κυριον. Και ειναι υποθεσις χαρας και αγαλλιασεως δια τους χριστιανους η Αναστασις του Σωτηρος. Η Αναστασις ειναι ο πανηγυρικός επιλογος του δραματος αυτου. Και μεσα εις το φως της Αναστασεως ολα τα σημεια του Παθου παιρουν αλλην εννοιαν. Και ο σταυρος και η λογχη και ο ακανθινος στεφανος, ολα παιρουν τωρα αλλην οψιν.

Και καλουμεθα και ημεις να χαρωμεν, διοτι η Αναστασις, οπως ειπομεν, αποτελει την δικαιοσιν του μαρτυριου του Κυριου και την νικην κατα του θανατου, κατα του κακου και της αμαρτιας. Αλλα η Αναστασις του Κυριου αποτελει γεγονος κοσμοχαρμοσυνον και δι αλλον σοβαρωτατον λογον. Διοτι αυτη η σωτηρια μας δεν νοειται ανευ της Αναστασεως.

Η Αναστασις του Κυριου ειναι γεγονος του οποιου αι συνεπειαι επεκτεινονται προς παντας τους χριστιανους. Ο Κυριος δεν ειναι ξενος προς ημας ειναι η Κεφαλη μας και ημεις ειμεθα το Σωμα Του. Ολοι οι χριστιανοι αποτελουμεν, ως γνωστον, τα επι μερους μελη του σωματος του Χριστου. Αφου λοιπον η κεφαλη, δια της αναστασεως, εισηλθεν εις την δοξαν και την αθανασιαν, ειναι επομενον οτι η κεφαλη εσυρε μαζι της ολα τα μελη του σωματος. Δια τουτο λεγει ο αποστολος οτι ο Θεος και ημας συνηγειρε και συνεκαθισεν εν τοις επουρανιis εν Χριστω. Ειναι δυνατον ποτε να αναστηθη μονον η κεφαλη χωρις το σωμα; Και ειναι δυνατον να ζηση το σωμα χωρις την κεφαλην; οχι βεβαιως. Εφοσον λοιπον η κεφαλη ηγερθη ο Χριστο και ημεις ειμεθα πλεον τεκνα της αιωνιοτητος και της αθανασιας. Χριστος εγηγερται εκ νεκρων, απαρχη των κεκοιμημενων εγενετο. Ανεστη ο Κυριος ως απαρχη και εγγησις της αναστασεως και της αθανασιας ολων των μελων του μυστικου Αυτου Σωματος. Πως λοιπον να μη χαιρουν οι μαθηται, ιδοντες τον Κυριον ανασταντα; Αλλα και πως να μη χαιρων και ημεις; Ανεστη Χριστος, και ενεκρωθη ο Θανατος. Ανεστη Χριστος, και κατεγγυθη την σωτηριαν μας. Ανεστη Χριστος, απαρχη των κεκοιμημενων εγενετο. Αυτου η δοξα και το κρατος εις τους αιωνας. Ο Ανασταντα Κυριος να ειναι παντα μαζι σας και ταις οικογενειας σας.

Χριστος Ανεστη ο Κυριος

RELIGIOUS SERVICES FOR MAY 2021

Saturday, May 1 - **Holy Saturday**

The First Resurrection Service 9:30-11:15 a.m.

Holy Resurrection Service 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 2 - **PASCHA**

Holy Easter Agape Service 11:00 a.m.

Monday, May 3 - **Renewal Monday**

The Feast Day of St. George

Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:30-11:15 a.m.

Tuesday, May 4 - **Saints Raphael, Nicholas and Irene**

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Sunday, May 30 - **The Sunday of the Samaritan**

Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:30-11:15 a.m.

The Philoptochos Society is still collecting for the **Epitaphio flowers**. All donations are appreciated! Please send checks payable to *the Philoptochos Society* to Mary Aros at 284 Edgewood Drive, Southington, CT 06489.

Also, please note that **The Feast Day of Saint George**, usually held on April 23, will be held on Renewal Monday. Additionally, **Saints Nicholas, Rafael** and Irene have been displaced as well. They will be honored on Renewal Tuesday.

the monks of the invasion. The cruel Hagarenes cut off one of her arms and threw it down in front of her parents. Then the pure virgin was placed in a large earthen cask and a fire was lit under it, suffocating her within. These torments took place before the eyes of her parents, who were also put to death. Her grave and the earthen cask were found on May 12, 1961 after Saints Rafael, Nicholas and Irene had appeared to people and told them where to look.

Many miracles have taken place on Lesbos, and throughout the world. The saints hasten to help those who invoke them, healing the sick, consoling the sorrowful, granting relief from pain, and bringing many unbelievers and impious individuals back to the Church. Saint Rafael is tall, middle-aged, and has a beard of moderate length. His hair is black with some grey in it. His face is majestic, expressive, and filled with heavenly grace. Saint Nicholas is short and thin, with a small blond beard. He stands before Saint Raphael with great respect. Saint Irene usually appears with a long yellow dress reaching to her feet. Her blonde hair is divided into two braids which rest on either side of her chest.



O mother's love, sweet mothers love, the gift divine from heaven above,
It lifts our thoughts to realms of light & bids us see the good & right;
God knew the need of humankind, the depths of sin our souls might find,
And so to keep us pure and fair, we have a mother's love and prayer.

O mother's love, the sweetest known, the richest earthly gift we own,
For it our thanks shall clearly wing to reach the throne of God, our King;
Our praise shall seek the Lord of power for blessing known this festal hour;
Ah, far above all gifts divine, the love of mothers brightly shine.

O mother's love, so blest & true, that guides & keeps our lifetime through:
Through sacrifice & service dear, its depth & sweetness shine more clear:
It is to us a precious gift that lives to bless & bends to lift;
With lifted hearts we send above our gratitude for mother's love. ✿

*** **Happy Mother's Day!** ***



Rafael, Nicholas and Irene

The holy, glorious and right-victorious New Martyrs Rafael (*also Raphael*), Nicholas and Irene suffered martyrdom by the Turks on the island of Lesbos, Greece, on Bright Tuesday (April 9, 1463), after the fall of Constantinople.

Rafael was the abbot of Karyes near the village of Thermi on the island. Nicholas was a deacon at the monastery, and Irene was the 12 year old daughter of the mayor of Thermi. The saints were all at the monastery with the village teacher and St Irene's father when the Turks raided it.

These saints were unknown for about 500 years after their martyrdoms during the Turkish occupation of Lesbos. In 1959, a pious man named Angelos Rallis decided to build a chapel near the ruins of the monastery. On July 3 of that year, workmen discovered the relics of Saint Raphael while clearing the ground. Soon, the saints began appearing to various inhabitants of Lesbos and revealed the details of their lives and martyrdom. These accounts form the basis of Photios Kontoglou's 1962 book *A GREAT SIGN* (in Greek).

Saint Rafael was born on the island of Ithaka around 1410, and was raised by pious parents. His baptismal name was George, but he was named Rafael when he became a monk. He was ordained to the holy priesthood, and later attained the offices of Archimandrite and Chancellor. In 1453, Saint Rafael was living in Macedonia with his fellow monastic, the deacon Nicholas, a native of Thessalonica. In 1454, the Turks invaded Thrace, so the two monks fled to the island of Lesbos. They settled in the Monastery of the Nativity of the Theotokos near Thermi. In the spring of 1463, the Turks raided the monastery and captured the monks. They were tortured from Holy Thursday until Bright Tuesday. Saint Nicholas appeared to people and indicated the spot where his relics were uncovered on June 13, 1960.

Saint Irene was the twelve-year-old daughter of the village mayor, Basil. She and her family had come to the monastery to warn

REMINDER: The deadline for getting written materials into the monthly bulletin is always the 15th of the month prior.

MAY MEETING TIMES

> New Britain AHEPA Dinner Meeting

Honors Lt. Col. Stavros Mellekas

At 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4, the New Britain Chapter of AHEPA will have members from the Supreme Lodge as guests as they honor **Lieutenant Colonel Stavros Mellekas**, recently promoted from Major, Commanding Officer of the State of CT Western District, to Lt. Col., Commanding Officer of the CT State Police Office of Field Operations. The business meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m.

> Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 11 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

SCHOLARSHIPS

> AHEPA/DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE SCHOLARSHIPS

To all members of the New Britain and Meriden AHEPA Family: Scholarship applications are now available to students who are members or children of members of the AHEPA or Daughters of Penelope.

The Scholarship application deadlines are below:

- ◆ The AHEPA/Daughters of Penelope District 7: July 31, 2021;
- ◆ Demetrius Kounaris Memorial: September 15, 2021; and
- ◆ Elpis Chapter No. 117: September 15, 2021.

Applications can be found in the hallway between the church and the hall, on the church website *organizations* page.

> THE PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIP

The Euphemia Chapter No. 72 Ladies Philoptochos Society of New Britain is pleased to announce that they will again be granting a scholarship to a deserving student within the Saint George Church community. The application deadline is Sunday, June 6, 2021.

Applications can be found in the hallway between the church and the hall, on the church website *organizations* page.

Thank you!

*"Let my prayer rise like incense before You,
the lifting up of my hands
like the evening sacrifice."*

Our thanks to an anonymous donor for purchasing the beautiful Radiant Light Paschal Candle. It is with this candle that we will share the Holy Light with all who are joining us for the Resurrection Service. Our thanks also to Straty Coutsouridis and Markella Psillas for purchasing the new censer and zeon for Saint George Church. They were received just in time for Holy Week.



To the Orthodox, burning incense represents the prayers of the faithful rising towards Heaven as a sweet smelling spiritual fragrance. The censer has a bowl that holds the incense and this bowl is symbolically the **Church**. The dish holding the incense is supported by three outer chains which signify the **Holy Trinity**. There are twelve bells on the chains, which signify the **voices of the disciples**, who brought us the Gospel and the Word. The fourth inner chain attached to the lid which opens the dish is for the entirety; the Church, the disciples, **God as the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit as One** - in His amazing entirety. (Thanks Jim Beresford for that insight!) In addition, the censer is gold plated, combining in itself at the offering of incense the three gifts of the Biblical Magi: **gold, frankincense, and myrrh**.

The Zeon and its tray are used during Holy Communion to bless and pour hot water into the Holy Chalice. Symbolically, the warm water represents the **water which flowed from the side of Jesus at the time of the Crucifixion**; and also that the Body of Christ is life-giving. Orthodox Christians believe that we partake of the Resurrected Body and Blood of Christ, and the warmth of the chalice is a reminder of that doctrine.



We Give You Thanks, O God, This Easter Time

We give you thanks, O God, through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. For in his face we see the light of the knowledge of your glory; and In him You have called us out of darkness into Your marvelous light.

You gave us light in the daytime hours;
light for our work, light for our joy; for
God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.



Now we have come to the edge of the night, and
we do not lack light for evening time;
for the Lord is our everlasting light and God our forever glory.

We give thanks to God for **Light** -

The light shed by the evening lamp, in its beam we see one another.

The light that shines from the Paschal Candle, the sign of Christ our Risen Lord.

The light we give each other as we share our joy, our trust, our Easter hope.

We give thanks to God for **Words** -

for words to give and words to receive
in the exchange of meaning.

for words and signs, looks and gestures, by which we tell our story, accept each other, and share experiences together.
but more for the Word that, becoming flesh and dwelling among us,
became for us voice and meaning and experience of the living God.



We give thanks to God for **Food** -

but more for the sharing of food in love,
for this *Agape*,
but more for Christ the Bread of Life.



Let us go out and do the work He has given us to do! Let us go out now, and share the Light, share the Word, and share Christ - the Bread of Life - and remember our calling to BE the Light of the World.

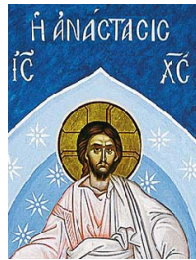
PASCHA

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the center of our Orthodox Christian faith. We have just been through twelve weeks of preparation including pre-Lenten Sundays, Great Lent, and Holy Week. We faithful have tried to make this long journey with repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation, prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and study. Now that the feast finally arrives, we celebrate!

Χριστός Ἀνέστη! He is Risen!

Hypakoe

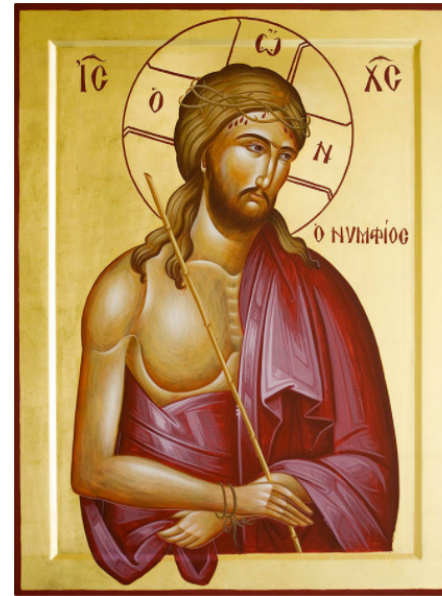
Before the dawn,
Mary and the women came and found
the stone rolled away from the tomb.
They heard the angelic voice:
"Why do you seek among the dead as a man
the One who is everlasting light?
Behold the clothes in the grave!
Go and proclaim to the world: The Lord is risen!
He has slain death, as He is the Son of God,
saving the race of men."



*Let God arise, let his enemies be scattered; let those who hate him flee
from before his face! As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish; as wax
melts before the fire,
So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the righteous
be glad. This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be
glad in it!
Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death,
and on those in the grave bestowing life. Psalm 67*

The doors of the church are opened. The church is brightly lit and adorned with flowers. It is the heavenly bride and the symbol of the empty tomb. The priest changes to white vestments, the bright robes of the Resurrection. The Easter icon stands where the grave just was. It shows Christ destroying the gates of hell and freeing Adam and Eve from the captivity of death. There is the constant proclamation of the celebrant: **Christ is risen!** The faithful continually respond: **Truly He is risen!**

"O day of resurrection! Let us beam with God's own pride! Let everyone embrace in joy! Let us warmly greet those we meet and treat them all like brothers, even those who hate us! Let all the earth resound with this song: Christ is risen from the dead, conquering death by death, and on those in the grave bestowing life!"



Christ the Bridegroom

The Bridegroom Matins is a service specific to the first four evenings of Holy Week. It commemorates the last days in the earthly life of the Lord. Incorporated into these services is the theme of the first three days of Holy Week. The mood of the services is to experience sorrow and to feel Christ's voluntary submission to His passions and highlight the purpose behind the evil that is about to take place.

The icon depicts Christ as the Bridegroom, bearing the marks of his suffering, yet preparing the way for a marriage feast in his Kingdom. He is dressed according to the mockery of the Roman guards just prior to his crucifixion. The crowns - a symbol of his marriage to the Church. The rope - a symbol of bondage to sin, death and corruption which was loosed with Christ's death on the Cross. The reed - a symbol of humility; God rules his kingdom with humility.

The main emphasis of the Bridegroom Service is *metanoia* and each service has its own particular theme on repentance and watchfulness. One of its primary features is its troparion:

*"Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night,
and blessed is the servant He shall find vigilant; but unworthy is he
whom he shall find neglectful. Beware therefore, O my soul, lest
you be weighed down by sleep, lest you be given over to death
and be closed out from the kingdom; but rise up crying out: 'Holy
are You our God; through the intercessions of the Theotokos, have
mercy on us.'"*

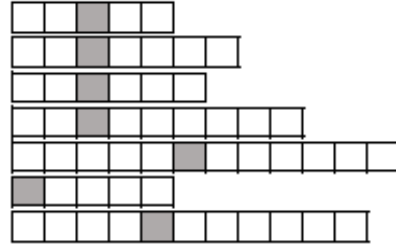
We thank Dr. Stephen Polezonis for purchasing the new Christ the Bridegroom, or **O Nymphios**, icon in memory of his mother, long-time member Alice Poulos. The beautiful icon will remain in the front of the church from Palm Sunday until Holy Thursday each year.

**A) Solve the Across and Down words;
use the Crossword puzzle to help you.**

ACROSS

1. A better word for love (*hint: Greek*)
2. What adorns the tomb of Christ at Easter
3. One of three martyrs from Lesbos, an abbot
4. A native of Samaria (*hint: May 30*)
5. The women who found the empty tomb
6. A martyred girl from Lesbos (*hint: May 4*)
7. A powerful saint celebrated with his mother

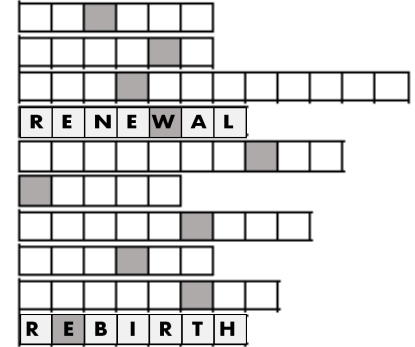
ACROSS



DOWN

1. Easter day (*hint: Greek*)
2. Season when trees & flowers bloom
3. When Jesus Christ rose again
4. Made new; refreshed
5. A time to celebrate Mom
6. The mother who found the True Cross
7. One who wasn't able to walk (*hint: May 23*)
8. The saint who defeated the dragon
9. One of three martyrs from Lesbos, a deacon
10. Born again

DOWN



**B) Use the shaded boxes with each
number to decipher these related
phrases. A couple are done for you.**

1. ___ E ___ E ___
7A/6D/10 5D/10/1A/7A/6D 2A/3A

___ E ___
7D/10/1D/7A/10/8D/5D/1A/7D 6A/1D

___ E ___
7A/6D/10 5A/6A/8D/7A/6D 2A/3A

7A/2A/5D/1A/7D

2. ___ E ___
7A/6D/10 1D/3D/2D 4A/3D/1D/7A

___ E ___ ___ E ___
1D/10/7A 7A/2A 5A/10 1A/5A/9/10

___ E ___
7A/2A 8D/6A/1D/10

3. ___ E ___ ___ E ___ E W
5A/10/6D/2A/9/5D 7A/6D/10 2D/10/4D

___ E ___
5D/1A/7D 7A/6D/10 9/2A/8/5D

___ E!
6D/1A/1D 4A/1A/5D/10

**C) Help get through all of the
challenges from Palm Sunday
to Jesus' Resurrection.**

