

## A WORD FOR THE DAY

The Church is the entrance into the risen life of Christ; it is communion in life eternal, “joy and peace in the Holy Spirit.” And it is the expectation of the “day without evening” of the kingdom; not of any “other world,” but of the fulfillment of all things and all life in Christ. In him death itself has become an act of life, for he has filled it with himself, with his love and light. In him “all things are yours; whether..the world or life or death or the present or the future, all are yours; and you are Christ’s; and Christ is God’s (1 Cor 3:21-23). And if I make this new life mine, mine this hunger and thirst for the kingdom, mine this expectation of Christ, mine the certitude that Christ is Life, the my very death will be an act of communion with Life. For neither death nor life can separate us from the love of Christ. I do not know when and how the fulfillment will come. I do not know when all things will be consummated in Christ. I know nothing about the “whens” and “hows”. But I know that in Christ this great Passage, the *Pascha* of the world has begun, that the light of the “world to come” comes to us in the joy and peace of the Holy Spirit, for *Christ is risen and life reigns*.

**Fr. Alexander Schmemmann**

To become like Christ, then, does not require us to become something that we are not, some kind of superhuman existence, but requires instead that we use our death in the way that he has. For whether we like it or not, we are all going to die! The only question then is: how are we going to die?

Will it be with our hearts to this world, to our treasures in this world, to our career, our family, our good image of ourselves? In which case our death will be a painful separation from all that we love. Or will it be a death that we willingly embrace even now, as we follow Christ, by taking up the Cross, dying to ourselves, to our ego, to all our passions, to all that ties us to this world, to live, as he did, for others—in love, in service, in compassion? If we do that, we will, even now, begin to live the life of God, the risen Christ, manifesting him to others, and thus confirming the reality of his resurrection, making him present in this world, the world that is increasingly alienated from him, yet is also, so desperate for him.

**Fr. John Behr**

## ST. NICHOLAS ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish Of The New England Diocese ✦ Orthodox Church In America

**April 23 2017**

**ANTIPASCHA. 2nd SUNDAY OF PASCHA — Tone 1.**

**Holy Glorious Greatmartyr, Victorybearer and Wonderworker George (303).  
St. Thomas Sunday.** Martyr Alexandra the Empress, wife of Diocletian (303). Martyrs Anatolius and Protoleon, soldiers converted by witnessing the martyrdom of St. George (303).



## Divine Services of Holy Week and Pascha

Saturday, April 29th. ....Great Vespers .....6:00 p.m.  
*(followed by Confessions)*  
Sunday, April 30th .....Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.....10:00 a.m.  
*(Hours Begin at 9:40 a.m.)*

### Today's Readings

Epistle: Acts 5:12-20

Gospel: John 20:19-31

### Next Week's Readings

Epistle: Acts 6:1-7

Gospel: Mark 15:43-16:8

### For Next Week, April 30th

Hours and Thanksgiving Prayers .....Lucian Radulescu

Epistle: .....Tanya Bogaevskaya

Coffee Hour .....Matushka Mary

**For the health and well-being** of Archpriest Joseph and Matushka Julia, Abdullah, David, Tony, Stanislav, Leonard, Timothy, Helen, Fenaeda, Raya, Irina, Katia, Dennis, Svetlana, Konstantin, Vladislav, Galina, Nancy, Maria, Al, Mercy, and Michael.

### April Birthdays

April Birthdays: Serge Kim (4/29)

### Announcements

**Blessing of the Graves today.** After a brief cup of coffee, Fr. Joseph will go to Pittsfield cemetery to bless the graves of our departed loved ones.

**Charities for April** will go towards our diocesan sponsored Orthodox Youth Rally held every summer by Fr. John Hopko. Our diocese provides summer camp for Orthodox youth. This is a worthy cause. The children are the future of the Church. It is essential that we support and foster their childhood education and experience the best that we can.

**No Study Group** this week. We will continue study group after Wednesday Daily Vespers next week.

**Many Years!** to George (Joseph) Eshleman on his Feast Day.

**Catechism Sessions** will continue next week during coffee hour. Please come over to the church to listen to what our Orthodoxy spirituality and practice is all about.

4/09 Sunday's Collection .....	\$1,669
Budget 2017 .....	\$96,142
Progress Towards Budget.....	\$21,116