



SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ΙΕΡΟΣ ΝΑΟΣ ΑΓΙΟΥ ΓΕΩΡΓΙΟΥ

THE VERY REV NEKTARIOS COTTROS, PRESIDING PRIEST
ΑΡΧΙΜΑΝΔΡΙΤΗΣ ΝΕΚΤΑΡΙΟΣ ΚΟΤΤΡΟΣ, ΙΕΡΑΤΙΚΩΣ ΠΡΟΪΣΤΑΜΕΝΟΣ



Pascha 2022

My beloved in the Lord,

Our spiritual journey, which began with start of the Triodion, is slowly coming to an end. This spiritual exercise resembles, somewhat, with the trip that the Myrrh Bearing Women made, when they were going to the Empty Tomb, full of love and respect, in order to anoint the Sacred Body of their Teacher, and thereby showing Him due honor. Now, we are about to stand before the Empty Tomb of our Lord, and we are anxiously waiting to hear the Good News, that our Saviour, Jesus Christ, is risen from the dead, and that His ever-wanning Light is illumining all of the world and all of our hearts.

For close to two years, the pandemic did not allow us to come together for the celebration of Holy Week and Pascha. We did not know how things were going to be, from one day to the next. In 2021, we were somewhat in a better position, albeit with many limitations and restrictive measures. However, our faith sustained us, through it all. Our hope in the Lord never went away. God blessed us, and, this year, we are able to celebrate without all of the protocols and restrictions. A new era has dawned, in terms of the pandemic. With God's help, we have passed all of those difficulties and are now in position to finish the Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha, together. Perhaps some of you are still wish to be cautious and wear the mask, which is fine. We know that, while your smiles are hidden by the masks, as we approach the Resurrection, we can see the joy in your eyes, which are shining with the Light of Christ, along with everyone else, as all of our hearts are beating as one heart, awaiting to receive the Victor over death, Christ, the Giver of Life.

Our paschal candles which are lit symbolize, in some ways, our own victory... a victory over the pandemic. Perhaps, there are those who are no longer physically with us, this year. However, let us find comfort in the knowledge that they are celebrating Pascha with the Risen Saviour. Along with them, we, too, become witnesses to the Light

of the Resurrection. With Pascha, we celebrate “the death of death, the expulsion of hades, the beginning of a new, eternal life.

The Resurrection of our Lord and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, brings hope, peace and joy to all of the world. Please join me in making known this message to all those that you come into contact with. Please join me and the rest of your fellow parishioners, in celebrating Pascha, this year.

Praying that the Giver of Life, the Risen Lord, blesses you and your family, I remain

With love in the Risen Lord,

Fr. Anthony Nektarios



METROPOLIS OF
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ΠΑΣΧΑ 2022

Αγαπητοί μοι ἐν Χριστῷ,

Τό πνευματικό ταξίδι, τὸ ὁποῖο ξεκινήσαμε μὲ τὴν ἀρχὴ τοῦ Τριωδίου, φτάνει πρὸς τὸ τέλος του. Αὐτὸ τὸ πνευματικό ταξίδι μοιάζει, κάπως, μὲ τὴν πορεία τῶν Μυροφόρων Γυναικῶν, αἱ ὁποῖαι ξεκίνησαν τὴν πορεία των μὲ καρδιές γεμάτες ἀπὸ ἀγάπη καὶ δέος διὰ τὸν Διδάσκαλον, διὰ νὰ μυρώσουν τὸ Ἄχραντό Του Σῶμα καὶ διὰ νὰ Τὸν τιμήσουν. Τῶρα, καὶ ἐμεῖς στεκόμαστε ἐνώπιον τοῦ κενοῦ Τάφου, καὶ περιμένουμε νὰ ἀκούσουμε τὰ καλά νέα, τὸ ὅτι ὁ Σωτὴρ Χριστὸς Ἄνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν καὶ τὸ ἀνέσπερο Φῶς κατακλύζει τὰ σύμπαντα τῆς οἰκουμένης καὶ τὰς καρδίας μας.

Πρὸ δύο ἐτῶν, ἀκριβῶς, ὁ κόσμος εὐρίσκετο εἰς σημεῖον στερήσεως τῆς δυνατότητος νὰ ἐορτάσουμε τὴν Ἁγίαν καὶ Μεγάλην Ἑβδομάδα καὶ τὸ Πανάγιον Πάσχα. Δὲν ξέυραμε τὴν ἐξέλιξιν τῶν πραγμάτων. Ὁ φόβος καὶ ἡ λύπη χτυπούσαν τὴν πόρτα τῶν καρδιῶν μας. Τό 2021, ἤμαστε, κάπως, εἰς καλύτερην κατάστασιν, ἀλλὰ μὲ πολλοὺς περιορισμούς. Ἡ πίστη μας, ὅμως, δὲν ἔσβησε. Ἡ ἐλπίς μας δὲν ἀτόνησε. Ὁ Θεὸς δὲν ἐπέτρεψε νὰ βιώσουμε καὶ πάλιν ἐφέτος τὰς ὁδηγὰς καὶ αὐστηρὰς ἀπαγορεύσεις. Ἀνέτειλε καλύτερη ἐποχὴ, ἐν σχέσῃ μὲ τὰ θέματα τῆς υγείας μας καὶ τῆς πανδημίας. Μὲ τὴν βοήθειαν τοῦ Θεοῦ, ἔχουμε περάσει τὴν Μεγάλην Τεσσαρακοστὴ μαζί. Μάλιστα, ἀντέξαμε ὅλας τὰς δυσκολίας διὰ δύο ἔτη, εἴαν καὶ ἀκόμη ὑπάρχουν κρούσματα τινα. Δόξα τῷ Θεῷ, λιγοστεύουν τὰ κρούσματα, καὶ ἡ ἐλπίς μας γίνεται πῖο στέρεη. Διὰ μερικῶν, πιθανόν νὰ κρῦβουν οἱ μάσκες τὰ χαμόγελα τῆς χαρᾶς πού ἔρχεται μὲ τὴν Ἀνάστασιν, ἐν τούτοις ὅμως, τὰ μάτια πάντων τῶν τοῦ Θεοῦ πιστῶν λάμπουν μὲ τὸ Φῶς τοῦ Χριστοῦ καὶ αἱ καρδίαι των χτυποῦν μαζί, σάν μία καρδιά ἡ ὁποία περιμένει νὰ ὑποδεχτεῖ τὸν Νικητὴ τοῦ θανάτου, τὸν Ζωηφόρο Χριστό.

Οἱ ἀναμμένες πασχαλινές λαμπάδες μας εἶναι ἡ ἀπόδειξις τῆς πρώτης μας νίκης κατὰ τῆς πανδημίας. Πιθανόν νὰ μὴ εὐρίσκονται, σωματικῶς, μερικοὶ μαζί μας ἐφέτος, ἀλλὰ νὰ πάrouμε παρηγοριά εἰς τὸ γεγονός ὅτι εὐρίσκονται ἐνώπιον τοῦ Θρόνου τοῦ Αναστάντος Κυρίου. Μαζί τους, γινόμαστε μάρτυρες Φωτός. Μὲ τὸ Πανάγιον Πάσχα, «θανάτου ἐορτάζομεν νέκρωσιν, ἄδου τὴν καθαίρεσιν, ἄλλης βιοτῆς, τῆς αἰωνίου, ἀπαρχήν.»

Ἡ Ἀνάστασις τοῦ Λυτρωτοῦ Κυρίου δίνει ἐλπίδα, εἰρήνη καὶ χαρὰ εἰς ὅλον τὸν κόσμον. Ἄς μεταδώσουμε αὐτὸ τὸ μήνυμα εἰς ὅλους... ὁ κόσμος ἔχει ἀνάγκη ἀπὸ αὐτά! Ἐλάτε νὰ ἐορτάσετε μαζί μας τὴν Μεγάλῃ Ἑβδομάδα καὶ τὸ Πάσχα, ἐφέτος.

Ἐπί δὲ τούτοις, εὐχόμενος ὅπως ὁ Ἀρχηγός τῆς ζωῆς χαρίζεται Ὑμῖν ἔτη πλεῖστα ἐν ὑγείᾳ καὶ εἰρήνῃ, διατελῶ

Μετ' εὐχῶν καὶ ἀγάπης ἐν Χριστῷ,

† Αρχιμ. Νεκτάριος



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