



# Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church CROSSINGVILLE

Lord's Day **05-08-2022**



Christ is Risen!  
Indeed He is Risen!

(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing:)

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:  
"Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: Rejoice,  
your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!  
With Himself He has raised all the dead."  
Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!  
The glory of the Lord has shone on you.  
Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!  
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,  
in the Resurrection of your Son!

**3rd SUNDAY OF PASCHA – Tone 2. Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian (98-117). Myrrhbearing Women.** Ven. Arsenius the Great (449-450). Ven. Arseny the Lover-of-Labor (14th c.) and Pimen the Ascetic, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves–12th c.).

## HOLY HYMNS

Priest: "Blessed is the Kingdom..."  
Choir: "Amen."  
Priest: "Christ is risen... " (2 ½ times)  
Choir: "and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!"  
(...until the Leavetaking of Pascha.)

**Tone 2 Troparion** (Resurrection)  
When You descended to death, O Life Immortal,  
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.  
And when from the depths You raised the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
"O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!"

**Tone 2 Troparion** (Pentecostarion)  
The noble Joseph, when he had taken down Your most pure Body from the Tree, wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices, and placed it in a new tomb. But You rose on the third day, O Lord, // granting the world great mercy.

**Tone 2 Troparion** (St. John)  
Beloved Apostle of Christ our God,  
hasten to deliver a defenseless people!  
He Who allowed you to recline on His breast,  
receives you as you bow before Him.  
Implore Him, O John the Theologian,  
to disperse the persistent threat from the heathens, //  
entreating for us peace and great mercy!

**Tone 2 Kontakion** (St. John)  
Who shall declare your greatness, O virgin disciple,  
for you pour forth wonders and are a source of healings, //  
and pray for our souls as theologian and friend of Christ.

**Tone 2 Kontakion** (Pentecostarion)  
You commanded the Myrrhbearers to rejoice, O Christ God.  
By Your Resurrection, You stopped the lamentation of Eve, the first mother. You commanded them to preach to Your Apostles: //  
"The Savior is risen from the tomb!"

**Tone 6 Prokeimenon**  
O Lord, save Your people, / and bless Your inheritance! (Ps. 27:9a)  
V. To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me! (Ps. 27:1a)

**Tone 8 Prokeimenon** (St. John)  
Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, / and their words to the ends of the universe. (Ps. 18:4)

**Tone 8**  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. O Lord, You have been gracious to Your land; You have turned back the captivity of Jacob. (Ps. 84:1)

V. Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other. (Ps. 84:10)

**Tone 1**  
V. The heavens will praise Your wonders, O Lord; and Your truth in the congregation of the saints. (Ps. 88:5)

## HOLY SCRIPTURE

### 1 John 1:1-7 (Epistle, St. John)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life – the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us – that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full. This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

### Acts 6:1-7 (Epistle)

Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

### John 19:25-27; 21:24-25 (Gospel, St. John)

Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home. This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

### Mark 15:43-16:8 (Gospel)

Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent council member, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, coming and taking courage, went in to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Pilate marveled that He was already dead; and summoning the centurion, he asked him if He had been dead for some time. So when he found out from the centurion, he granted the body to Joseph. Then he bought fine linen, took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen. And he laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out of the rock, and rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph observed where He was laid. Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had

been rolled away – for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you.” So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

## HOLY WORDS

**Saint John the Theologian, Apostle and Evangelist**

**Commemorated May 8/21, June 20/July 3, September 26/October 9**

The Apostle and Evangelist St. John, called the Theologian, was the son of Salome and Zebedee. Zebedee was a fisherman of Galilee who possessed rather vast holdings with workers. He was a member of some importance in the Jewish community, having access to the high priest. John's mother Salome is mentioned as being one of the ranks of women who served God with their possessions. John was at first the disciple of St. John the Baptist. Listening to his witness of Christ as the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world, he, together with Andrew the First-Called, followed the Saviour. Being a steadfast disciple of the Lord, he and his brother James were called by the Lord Himself at a later time after a successful catch of fish in the sea of Galilee. Together with Peter and James, John was deemed worthy to become close to the Lord, being with Him during the most important and triumphant times of His earthly life. Thus, he was worthy to be present at the resurrection of the daughter of Jairus, to see Christ's transfiguration on Mount Tabor, to hear the discourse on the signs of His second coming, and to witness to His prayer at Gethsemane. At the Last Supper he was so close to the Lord that in his own words, he lay his head upon Christ's bosom, whence originated his name "bosom-friend," which has since become a name for someone who is especially close.

Out of humility, not calling himself by name but nevertheless speaking of himself in the Gospel, he refers to himself as the disciple "whom Jesus loved." The Lord showed this love of him when He was on the cross—He entrusted His Most Holy Mother to him saying: "Behold thy mother." Zealously loving the Lord, John was filled with indignation at those who were hostile to the Lord or who estranged themselves from Him. While traveling through Samaria he prohibited those who did not walk with Christ to cast out demons in the name of Jesus Christ (cf. Mk. 9:38), and asked the Lord's permission to consume with fire certain residents of a Samaritan town for not accepting Him (cf. Luke 9:54). For this he and his brother James were called by the Lord "sons of thunder" (Boanerges). Feeling the love of Christ toward himself, but as yet not enlightened with grace by the Holy Spirit, he decides to ask for himself and his brother James a place close to the Lord in His future Kingdom and learns of the impending sufferings for both of them.

After the Lord's Resurrection, we often see Apostle John together with Apostle Peter, together with whom he is also considered a pillar of the Church, and with whom he often travels to Jerusalem. True to the Lord's command, he cared for the Holy Virgin Mary as a most devoted son, and only after her Blessed Dormition did he begin to preach in other lands. During Apostle John's ministry, one notices that he uniquely chose for himself a specific province and directed all the energy of his soul to eradicate paganism there and strengthen the holy faith. As an example of his specific care were the seven Churches of Asia Minor—in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Theatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicia. He lived mainly in Ephesus.

During the time of Emperor Domitian (81-96), Apostle John, as the sole surviving Apostle, was summoned to Rome and by the decree of this persecutor of the Church was thrown into boiling oil, but the power of God saved him unscathed just as it saved the three youths from the fiery furnace. Then Domitian sent him to the desert island of Patmos. Here John wrote the Apocalypse, or Revelations of the fate of the Church and the world.

After the death of Domitian, Apostle John returned to Ephesus from exile. The Bishops and presbyters of the Ephesian Church showed him three Gospels written by the Apostles Matthew, Mark and Luke. Having approved these Gospels, Apostle John deemed it necessary to supplement that which was lacking and which he knew well, being the last of the living eyewitnesses. This was of great importance, since toward the end of the first century there appeared in the Christian world several active gnostic sects which abused and even denied the Divinity of the Lord Savior. It was imperative to protect the faithful from that teaching.

In his Gospel, Apostle John explains the Savior's sermons given in Judea. These sermons directed at the learned scribes were more difficult to understand, and most likely due to this fact were not contained in the first three Gospels, which were designated for the newly converted pagans. Before beginning to compose the Gospel, Apostle John designated a fasting period for the Church of Ephesus and withdrew with his disciple Prochorus to the mountain where he wrote the Gospels bearing his name. From ancient times the Gospel according to John were called spirit-filled. In comparison with the other three Gospels, they contain more the sermons of the Lord regarding the deepest truths of faith—on the incarnation of the Son of God, on the Creator, on the redemption of mankind, on spiritual rebirth, on the grace of the Holy Spirit and on Communion. From the first words of the Gospel, John elevates the thoughts of the faithful to the heights of the divine emanation of the Son of God from the Father: *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God* (Jn 1:1). Apostle John expresses the aim of his Gospel thus: *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name* (Jn. 20:31).

Besides the Gospel and the Apocalypse, Apostle John wrote three epistles which were incorporated into the New Testament books as Ecumenical (universal) Epistles. The main thought in his epistles was: Christians must learn to love: *Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love* (1 Jn. 4:7-8).

*Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us. If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also* (1 Jn. 4:17-21).

Regarding the subsequent ministry of Apostle John, tradition has preserved some wonderful information showing to what extent his heart was filled with love. While visiting one of the Asia Minor Churches, John noticed among his listeners a youth who distinguished himself with unusual gifts, and he entrusted the youth to the care of a bishop as a special ward. Later on this youth got involved with unsavory friends, became debauched and the leader of a gang of bandits. Hearing of this from the bishop, John went into the mountains where the bandits were ravaging, and he was seized and brought before the chief.

On seeing the Apostle, the youth became embarrassed and began to run away. John pursued him and with touching words of love encouraged him. He finally brought him to Church, shared with him the

labors of repentance, and did not rest until he had totally reconciled him with the Church. During the last years of his life the Apostle preached only one precept: *Children, love one another*. His disciples asked: "Why do you repeat yourself?" Apostle John answered: "This is the most important commandment. If you will fulfill it, then you will fulfill all of Christ's commandments."

This love would turn into a fiery fervor when the Apostle met false-prophets who corrupted the faithful and deprived them of eternal salvation. In one public building he met the false prophet Cerinthus who denied the Divinity of the Lord Jesus Christ. "Let us depart quickly" said the Apostle to his disciple "I fear this building might collapse around us."

St. John the Theologian died a natural death (the only one of the Apostles to do so), being around 105 years of age, during the time of Emperor Trajan. The circumstances of the Apostle's death appeared unusual and even puzzling. At his own insistence, the Apostle John was buried alive. On the following day, when the tomb was unearthed, it turned out to be empty. This event affirmed the belief in the conjecture of some Christians that Apostle John will not die but will live until the Second coming of Christ and that he will unmask the Antichrist. The words said by the Savior not long before his Ascension gave them cause to surmise this. When the Apostle Peter asked after turning to the Apostle John, *And what shall this man do?* the Lord answered, *If I will that he tarry till I come* (the second time), *what is that to thee? Follow thou me*. Apostle John makes a notation regarding this in his Gospel: *Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die* (Jn. 21:22-23).

1 John 3:19-23

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him. For if our heart condemns us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment.

## Parish Services and Activities

(For Calendar changes see website)

[www.orthodoxcrossingville.org](http://www.orthodoxcrossingville.org)

**TODAY – Divine Liturgy – Procession to the Parish Cemetery**

Coffee Hour – Missions Team Meeting – No Atriums today

**Wed. May 4<sup>th</sup> – Daily Vespers – St. Irene – 6pm**

**Sat. May 7<sup>th</sup> – St. Alexis of Wilkes-Barre Chanting/Readers/Altar Servers Class 2:00pm-4pm**

**Sat. May 14<sup>th</sup> – Men's Fellowship – 9-12noon**

**Sun. May 15<sup>th</sup> – Parish Council**

**Thur. May 19<sup>th</sup> – Baptism of Ophelia Lynch – 11am**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**+Parish Rummage-Bake Sale/Carwash – Fri. May 27<sup>th</sup> - 3-7pm – Sat. 28<sup>th</sup> – 9-4pm (Car wash day)**

**All proceeds benefit children for Camp  
+Items are still being collected+**

**(Please bring to parish hall)**

**\*\*\*Church Cleaning Sign-up is in the Vestibule please take time to serve and keep our parish clean.**

## Pray with out ceasing...

PLEASE INCLUDE THESE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN YOUR DAILY PRAYERS: Those in need The newly Illumined Matthew(Moses), Katherine(Isadora), Abigail(Lydia), Karis(Felicity), Josiah(Luka), Bethany(Theodulia), Brenda(Brenndan), Fr. Andrew, Fr. David, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Zachariah, Iguman Patrick, Hieromonk Herman, Fr. Dusan, Fr. Christopher, Prez. Alexandria, Mat. Gail, Mat. Donna, Mat. Pirsilla, Mat. Trudi, Isaiah, Andrew, Judy, Ophilea, John, Boris, Tamara, Susan, Mary B. Margret, Bill S., John S., Nickolas, Timothy, Preston, Olivia, Jesse, Grace, Delani, Jeremiah, Sandy, William, Steve A., Patricia, Anna, Sally, Noah, Annisatita, Paul, Irenia, Damen, Tanya The Homebound Mary G, Theodore Catechumen/Inquirers- David, Hannah & Family... Special requests... Gilbert, Joanne, Anthony, Paul, James, Sean, Liam, Kim, Loren, Janet, Helen, Dan, Gregory, Donna, Laura, Laken, Bob, Gary, Bill, Stevie, Kristen, Paul, Cletus (Add your own requests here)... Departed : James, Valentina, Proto-deacon Michael, Priest Anastacy, Marie