

Saint Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church

(Saint Mary's Ruthenian Greek Catholic Church, Inc.)

On the Corner of East 15th Street and Second Avenue

Father Edward G. Cimbala, MAOL, D.Min. ~ Pastor

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April 20, 2025

The Great Day/Easter

April 27, 2025

Thomas Sunday

LITURGICAL SERVICES

Sunday, April 20

Easter Sunday - 10:00 AM

**Resurrection Matins
and Divine Liturgy**

**For the Parish Families of St.
Mary's and Holy Cross**

Festal Anointing

**Followed by the Blessing
of Baskets**

Monday, April 21

Bright Monday

6:30 PM

Divine Liturgy
and Gospel Procession
For the Parish Families
of St. Mary's and Holy Cross

Wednesday, April 23

Bright Tuesday

Fest of St. George

Funeral of Thomas Flanagan

9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Viewing

10:00 Funeral

Sunday, April 27

10:00 AM

Thomas Sunday

Festal Anointing

O'Brien and Rossiello Families
by John Rossiello

Saturday, May 3

3:00 PM

**Celebration
of the Mystery of Crowning
Reilly Sinanan
and
Dasha Nekrassova**

Sunday, May 4

10:00 AM

Sunday

of the Ointment -Bearers

+Vasil Vira

by Helen Sikoryak

PROPER POSTURE FOR PRAYER DURING THE EASTER SEASON

From Resurrection Matins until the Kneeling Prayers of Pentecost, the proper posture for **all** prayer is to stand rather than kneel. Standing is a sign of joy. And what greater joy do we have other than the Resurrection of Christ? After the celebration of Pentecost, the proper posture for prayer during the celebration of the Divine Liturgy is to stand during the times St. Mary's has been accustomed to kneeling. This is because each Divine Liturgy is a celebration of the Resurrection. **Additionally, if we adhere to the established norms of the Byzantine Catholic Church in America, it will be less confusing to our many visitors. If it is not physically possible for you to stand, please feel free to kneel or sit. If you have any questions about this, please do not hesitate to ask Fr. Ed.**

WELCOME VISITORS!

**“MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER
FOR ALL PEOPLES.”** - Isaiah 56: 7

If you are a visitor to St. Mary's, we want you to know how welcome you are, whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another parish. We hope you find our worship to be true and reverent, and that our people here are friendly and cordial. If you are seeking a spiritual home, we would be honored by your presence in our community. For more information about becoming a parishioner, please see Fr. Ed.



**Christ is Risen!
Indeed, He is Risen!
Christos Voskrese!
Voistinu Voskrese!
Feltamadt Krisztus!
Valoban Feltanadott!
Al Massih Kam!
Hakkan Kam!
Christos Anesti!
Alithos Anesti!
¡Christo Es Resucitado!
¡En Verdad Es Resucitado!**

MAY HIS MEMORY BE ETERNAL – Thomas Flanagan was called home to the Lord on April 12 (Lazarus Saturday). His funeral will be on Wednesday, April 23 (Bright Wednesday and the Feast of St. George), and the viewing will be held in church from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM. The funeral services will begin at 10:00 AM. In your charity, please pray for the repose of his soul and the consolation of his family. In blessed repose, grant O Lord, eternal rest to the soul of your departed servant Thomas and make his memory eternal.

Sharing of the Easter Basket



After blessing the Easter Foods following the Divine Liturgy on Easter Sunday, everyone is invited to stay and share the foods from their basket. This gives those unfamiliar with the tradition of blessing Easter

Foods an opportunity to experience, taste, and see how excellent everything is. Everyone is encouraged to make up a basket consisting of the foods they gave up during the Great Fast – your basket doesn't have to have Eastern European foods. Did you give up your favorite wine, cheese, meat, dessert, or candy? That's what you put in the basket! If you are making a basket for the first time, please see Fr. Ed. He has a few Easter Basket covers, and he will give you one.

What is the Tradition of The Artos?

In the Byzantine Catholic Church and other Eastern Christian



Churches, it is the custom for a single loaf of blessed bread (Greek Artos) to be placed in front of the Iconostasis throughout Bright Week in memory of the Risen Christ before it is shared among the whole congregation. Depicted on the top of the Artos is an icon of the Resurrection of Christ. On Easter Sunday, during the Liturgy,

after the Prayer Before the Ambo, the Artos is blessed with a special prayer and sprinkled with Holy Water. On Thomas Sunday, it is distributed as a blessing to the congregation.

The significance of the Artos is that it serves to remind all Christians of the events connected with the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ. While still living on earth, the Lord called Himself the Bread of Life, saying: I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and He who believes in Me shall never thirst (John 6:35). After His Resurrection, more than once Jesus appeared to His disciples, ate before them and blessed their food. For example, as evening fell on the first day of His Resurrection, He was recognized in Emmaus by two of His disciples as He blessed and broke bread (Luke 24:13-35).

On the 40th day after His Resurrection, the Lord ascended into heaven. His disciples and followers found comfort in their memories of the Lord: they recalled His every word, step, and action. When they met for common prayer, they would partake of the Body and Blood of Christ, remembering the Last Supper. When they sat down to an ordinary meal, they would leave a place at the head of the table empty for the invisibly present Lord and lay bread on that place.

Remembering this custom of the Apostles, the Fathers of the Church made it their custom to put out the Artos at the Paschal Feast in memory of the appearances of the Risen Lord to His disciples and also in memory of the fact that the Lord Who suffered and was resurrected for our justification has made Himself the true Bread of Life and is invisibly present in His church always, to the close of the age (Matthew 28:20).

Whereas the special Paschal bread, called Pascha, is broken and eaten on the first day of Pascha, the Artos is kept whole throughout Bright Week as a reminder of the presence of the Risen Savior in the midst of those who believe in Him and is only divided and distributed on Thomas Sunday. In this way, Bright Week begins and ends with eating, especially baked and blessed bread.

The Easter Sermon of Saint John Chrysostom Archbishop of Constantinople (+ 400 AD)



Is there anyone who is a devout lover of God? Let them enjoy this beautiful, bright festival! Is there anyone who is a grateful servant? Let them rejoice and enter into the joy of their Lord!

Are there any weary with fasting? Let them now receive their wages! If any have toiled from the first hour, let them receive their due reward; if any have come after the third hour, let him with gratitude join in the Feast! And he that arrived after the sixth hour, let him not doubt, for he too shall sustain no loss. And if any delayed until the ninth hour, let him not hesitate; but let him come too. And he, who arrived only at the eleventh hour, let him not be afraid by reason of his delay. For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first. He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, as well as to him that toiled from the first. To this one He gives, and upon another He bestows. He accepts the works as He greets the endeavor. The deed He honors and the intention He commends. Let us all enter into the joy of the Lord! First and last, like receive your reward; rich and poor, rejoice together! Sober and slothful, celebrate the day! You that have kept the fast and you that have not, rejoice today, for the Table is richly laden! Feast royally on it; the calf is a fatted one. Let no one go away hungry. Partake, all, of the cup of faith. Enjoy all the riches of His goodness! Let no one grieve at his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one mourn that he has fallen again and again, for forgiveness has risen from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Death of our Savior has set us free. He has destroyed it by enduring it. He destroyed Hades when He descended into it. He put it into an uproar even as it tasted of His flesh. Isaiah foretold this when he said," You, O Hell, have been troubled by

encountering Him below.” Hell was in an uproar because it was done away with. It was in an uproar because it is mocked. It was in an uproar, for it is destroyed. It is in an uproar, for it is annihilated. It is in an uproar, for it is now made captive. Hell took a body and discovered God. It took earth and encountered Heaven. It took what it saw and was overcome by what it did not see. O death, where is thy sting? O Hades, where is thy victory? Christ is Risen, and you, O death, are annihilated! Christ is Risen, and the evil ones are cast down! Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice! Christ is Risen, and life is liberated! Christ is Risen, and the tomb is emptied of its dead; for Christ, having risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.



BRIGHT WEEK

Bright Week is the first week following the Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which is celebrated each year at Pascha. It ends the following Sunday, the Sunday of St. Thomas. For Eastern Christians, Bright Week begins with a celebration period that lasts fifty days until Pentecost. This celebration includes the practice of the faithful joyfully greeting each other with the salutation 'Christ is Risen,' followed by the response 'Indeed He is Risen,' as Our Lord and Savior renew the whole of creation. In churches with a proper icon screen, Bright Week services are done with the Royal Doors fully open. This unblocked view of the altar symbolizes the open door of Christ's empty tomb as well as the veil of the Jewish Temple, which was torn apart at the moment Christ died. **The entire week is considered one continuous day, which is the main reason fasting is completely prohibited during the week.**

Byzantine Ruthenian Metropolitan Church

Jubilee Year of Hope Pilgrimage

Fr. Ed, along with Archbishop William, Bishop Kurt, and Bishop Robert, and 86 pilgrims, will embark on a Pilgrimage of Hope from May 5 to 15 to some of Italy’s holiest places. The highlight of this trip will be the celebration of the Jubilee of the Eastern Churches. Throughout the pilgrimage, we will participate in various prayer services and Divine Liturgies. **If you would like Fr. Ed to pray for your special intentions, please complete this form and return it by Sunday, May 4.**



Fr. Ed, please remember my special intentions during the Jubilee of Hope 2025.

Deceased	Living and Special Intentions
Offered By	