

## Announcements

- **Welcome Guests and Visitors.** We are delighted to have you join us at our service today in worshipping the Risen Lord! Thank you for following all of the temporary health and safety protocols. We look forward to getting to know you and answering any questions. To get on the e-mail list of our warm community, just send a short note to Fr. Kirill: frkirill@holy-trinity.org . Thank you!
- **Blood Drive.** *Save the Date* - Sunday, May 23, 11:30 am - 3:30 pm. We are hosting a blood drive in our Library (center where we usually have coffee). To make an appointment visit vitalant.org and click donate, use sponsor code: Give Life HTC. Details will follow via email. If you have any questions please reach out to Deanna or Steve Micros.
- **Pascha Continues.** Easter is the real encounter with Him whom our hearts long ago knew and encountered as the life and light of all light. Pascha testifies that Christ is alive and with us, and that we are alive in Him. We celebrate the Resurrection every Sunday but in a particular way for forty days following Pascha. Our energy “ebbs and flows”, of course, but I look forward to continuing the celebration *with you* as May and June unfold. After this week’s Bright Saturday, we will take a pause on having Liturgies on Saturday but we’ll otherwise continue a full schedule including Wednesday Vespers, Saturday Vespers, and Feast Days such as Mid-Pentecost.

## This Week at Holy Trinity

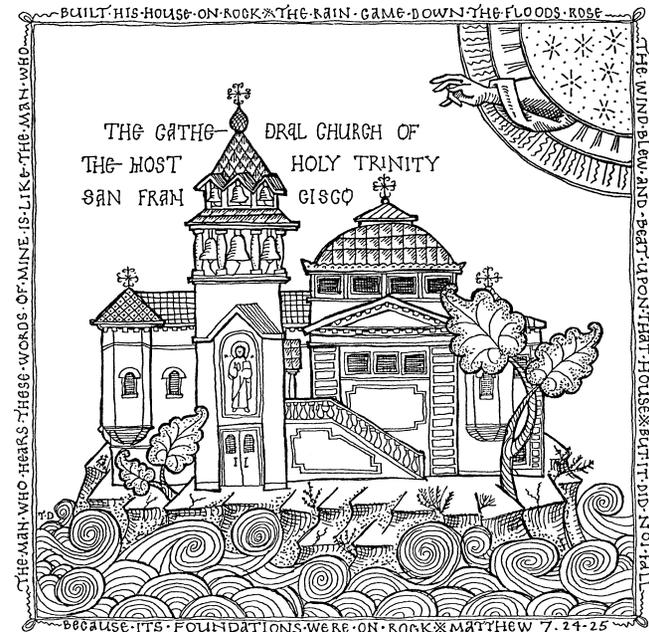
To attend a service, fill out the registration/health screen form available on our web site under “Calendar”. Our church is open for private prayer before scheduled services and by appointment.

- Mon. May 3:**     **Bright Monday**  
9:00 am Paschal Divine Liturgy
- Wed. May 5:**     (no vespers this week)
- Sat. May 8:**     **Bright Saturday**  
9:00 am Paschal Divine Liturgy  
6:00 pm Great Vespers
- Sun. May 9:**     **ANTIPASCHA. 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF PASCHA.**  
10:00 am Divine Liturgy  
*Parking available Sunday morning at St. Brigid’s*

### Contact Fr. Kirill

Question? Want to talk? Or be on the email list?  
FrKirill@holy-trinity.org • 415-673-8565

# Holy Trinity Cathedral



## PASCHA

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Most Reverend Benjamin,  
Archbishop of San Francisco and the West

Very Reverend Dr. Kirill Sokolov, Dean

1520 Green Street  
San Francisco, California  
holy-trinity.org

Orthodox Church in America  
Diocese of the West

We are delighted to be together with you in worshipping the Holy Trinity.  
Please follow all signs and instructions from greeters. We wear face coverings, maintain physical distance, and use hand sanitizer. Welcome!

CHRIST IS RISEN! ХРИСТОСЪ ВОСКРЕСЕ!  
ქრისტე აღდგა! HRISTOS A ÎNVIAT! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ἌΝΕΣΤΗ!

At Vespers  
John 20:19-25

Holy PASCHA  
The Resurrection of Our  
Lord and Savior Jesus  
Christ

PASCHA 2021  
To the Reverend Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of the West

Dearly beloved:  
Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

*...if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith also is empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ, whom He did not raise up — if in fact the dead do not rise. For if the dead do not rise, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most pitiable.*

*But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.*

(1 Corinthians 15:13-22)

St. Paul, in very simple, logical, plain language states the fundamental struggle that we face daily. If there is no resurrection, then Christ is not risen. If Christ is not risen, then our preaching and faith are "empty." For more than a year, each of us has been questioned by life itself: Is there a resurrection? It has sometimes been hard to see with the difficulties that many people, and even the Church, have endured. No one expected to still be dealing with the fallout from the pandemic today. But underneath it all is the simple fact that Christ **is** risen, our faith **is not** futile and "pardon has shown forth from the grave." (Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom)

As we and the Church inch our way back to "normal" (whatever that is), we must be reminded that "resurrection" is not something that we anticipate, or await only in the future. The very first words that our Lord uttered in His public ministry were "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven **is at hand**." To be sure, our hope is that life eternal in the Kingdom is our destination after our own falling asleep. But resurrection in Christ begins for each and every one of us with our deaths in baptism and is experienced in the ongoing life of the Church. That resurrection is to a resurrected and transfigured life here and now. Dying and rising with Him in the waters of baptism is supposed to change the way we live our lives. Walking

with Him through His Passion and then Cross allows us to die with Him. There is no other path to resurrection. The various sufferings and "crucifixions" that we have endured, are enduring, and will endure in life purify us and open us to the new life in His Resurrection.

More than anything else, the Resurrection of Christ, and our experience of that resurrection, pierce the struggles and difficulties of life with light and hope. To focus on the risen Christ is to know His love. One who knows the resurrected Son of God sees His hand, will, and care in the various moments of life, both difficult and easy. But knowing Him requires discernment. Have we used the past year to move away from Him and the Church or closer? Have we grown accustomed to "watching" Church instead of "being" Church? Have we feared a virus that can kill our bodies more than the demons that can kill our souls? St. Paul does remind us that "in Christ all shall be made alive." The liberation that comes with knowing the risen Christ can only be experienced by those who recognize they have been imprisoned.

As we continue back and forth from Bethany to Jerusalem with our Lord during Passion Week, may our fears and concerns all be assuaged by the knowledge that we will, on that Day without end, come to the Empty Tomb. May the joy, peace and light of the Resurrection fill each of your hearts and souls and carry us through whatever remains of these difficult times.

Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!

Yours in the risen Christ,

†BENJAMIN

Archbishop of San Francisco and the Diocese of the West



## Gratitude

I am grateful to God for all who have worked so hard this Passion Week and Pascha. There were moments during the past year, months, and even days when the weight seemed perhaps too heavy for us to bear, but with God's help so many of you chose, in small moments and large, to "run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:1-2). We are grateful for a peaceful and joyful celebration of Pascha and we ask that God continue to strengthen us in all of our work and life together so that we may hear: "Enter into the joy of your Lord" (Matthew 25:23).

With Love in the Risen Lord,  
Father Kirill