

HOLY TRINITY HERALD



MAY 2020, №14

<http://holytrinitymission.com/index.php/ru/>
<https://www.facebook.com/russian.church/>

Rector Fr. Nikon (Kashkovalov): nikon.prst@gmail.com

Warden Andrew Semyanko: starosta@holytrinitymission.com

Editorial Board: Milla Albers, Irina Balan, Gayane Bogdanova, Ksenia Ereemeeva, Maria Kononova, Natalia Smith: vestnik-holy-trinity@googlegroups.com

FROM FR. NIKON

CHRIST IS RISEN!



Dear ones, the days of Lent have passed. Christ is Risen - the doors of Heaven open; Christ is Risen - hell is defeated. Christ is Risen - the whole world triumphs. Christ is Risen - mankind is saved.

And today I only wish for genuine happiness and hope for all. Now is a very difficult time for everyone, but let us, among everything that has befallen us, be able to discern the most important thing - God's mercy and love for us. The Lord is crucified for the human race and is resurrected, giving us all hope. Hope and

confidence in His love, in His good providence for us and that there is truly no barrier to our happiness today. After all, God Himself is Love and Joy. Christ always stands next to us; with true hope and comfort, nothing prevents us from turning our hearts to His eternal bliss. To strive towards the Savior and follow the Gospel commandments, not only attains the Kingdom of God beyond life, but also attains harmony, integrity and genuine happiness already here on earth.

INDEED HE IS RISEN, CHRIST OUR LORD AND SAVIOUR

FR. NIKON ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

Question: Is it a sin to fear contracting coronavirus when kissing icons? Is it allowed to clean the icons before and after kissing them?

Answer: In light of the current situation, disinfection facilities in the church are necessary. As for wiping the icons, it is not only possible to do this, but needs to be done constantly, not only during the coronavirus. Of course, we always try to keep holy icons clean, and church attendants periodically wipe them. Now, in this difficult time, we do it much more often and allow the opportunity to just bow to the icons and not kiss - And there is nothing shameful in that, especially during the spread of infection. We may reverently wipe the image to cleanse the icon. The main thing is to do it with heart; if we do it with fear and panic, then there is nothing good and useful for our soul in this (on the contrary, the lack of hope is destructive), but if we do it with reverence and trust in The Lord, modestly and without making it a show, but at the same time with a wise fear for health, this is correct and sincere.

MAIN HOLIDAY IN MAY



Ascension of The Lord (May 28)

After Resurrection, for forty days, our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to the apostles more than once, instructing them in the foundations of building the Church and spreading the true faith. On the fortieth day, when the last such phenomenon took place, The Lord, having promised the disciples that The Holy Spirit would soon be sent to the world, led the disciples out of Jerusalem to the Mount of Olives on the way to Bethany and, blessing them, began to ascend to heaven, "and the cloud took him from their sight" [Acts. 1, 9]

Ascension completed the earthly ministry of the Son of God. Having conquered death, He elevated human nature to the

Throne of God the Father, in the mountain cloisters, thereby preparing man's nature for the acceptance of the Holy Spirit.

MAY HOLIDAY CALENDAR

- **May 2** In memory of the blessed Matrona of Moscow (<http://svyatmatrona.ru/>)
- **May 6**, Great Martyr George the Victorious (<http://www.patriarchia.ru/db/text/907893.html>). Iveron Icon of the Mother of God (<http://www.patriarchia.ru/db/text/2206568.html>)
- **May 8**, Apostle and Evangelist Mark (<http://www.sedmitza.ru/text/689884.html>)
- **May 9** Commemoration of soldiers who laid their lives during the years of the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945.
- **May 13th** Ap. Jacob, brother of John the Theologian (<http://www.sedmitza.ru/lib/text/430595/>). St. Ignatius Brianchaninov, Bishop of the Caucasus and Black Sea (<http://www.sedmitza.ru/text/692512.html>)
- **May 14** is the Feast of the Blessed Tamara, Queen of Georgia (<http://www.patriarchia.ru/db/text/911826.html>)
- **May 15** The feast of the Blessed Princes Boris and Gleb (<http://www.sedmitza.ru/text/694133.html>)

- **May 18**, Great Martyr Irina (<http://www.pravoslavie.ru/53599.html>). Icons of the Mother of God "The Inexhaustible Chalice" (<https://www.pravmir.ru/ikona-bozhiej-materi-neupivaemaya-chasha/>)
- **May 21**, Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian (<http://www.sedmitza.ru/text/696934.html>)
- **May 22** Transfer of the relics of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker (<http://www.sedmitza.ru/text/697437.html>)
- **May 24** Equal to Opp. Methodius and Cyril, Slovenian teachers (<http://www.sedmitza.ru/text/698003.html>)
- **May 28 Ascension of The Lord**
- **May 31** Memorial Day of the Holy Fathers of the Seven Ecumenical Councils (<https://azbyka.ru/days/sv-svjatyje-otcy-semi-vselsenskih-soborov>)

PARISH LIFE



Continuation of prayer (from April 23 to June 7, 2020). During the second half of Great Lent, all willing, along with Father Nikon, performed at-home prayer. Father Nikon urged us to continue to pray together until the feast of the Holy Trinity - Pentecost (June 7). The beginning of the joint prayer is at 9 a.m. and 9 p.m, daily. The text of the prayer can be found on our website on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/russian.church/posts/3045009582229659>

Divine Liturgies in our church will continue to be performed "behind closed doors", **no more than 10 people** will be in the church at the same time: priest, readers, altars and church choir. However, after a 2-week break, starting on May 3, parishioners (for a short time, no longer than 15 minutes) can come to the church and proceed to the sacraments of Confession and Communion. To do this, you need to coordinate your arrival in the temple with Father Nikon in advance by writing to him by e-mail: nikon.prst@gmail.com.

Each service, as before, will be broadcasted live at: [facebook.com/russian.church](https://www.facebook.com/russian.church).

Memorial notes can be sent to Father Nikon at rector@holytrinitymission.com.

More complete and up-to-date information about the life of our church will be constantly updated on the website of our parish and on Facebook: holytrinitymission.com; [facebook.com/russian.church](https://www.facebook.com/russian.church)

SISTERHOOD

In this difficult time, in small groups, in order to maintain social distancing, (under the pastoral leadership of Fr. Nikon), **the sisters came to the church** on weekdays **to upkeep it**: they cleaned and disinfected the temple building, decorated the church with flowers, and improved the flower garden near the church.



The Sisters and Fr. Nikon (who composed the text) sent **Easter greeting cards by post**, to all parishioners and friends of the church.

The sisters also prepared **Easter cakes and willow branch arrangements**, and delivered them to parishioners who were completely isolated due to the coronavirus pandemic.

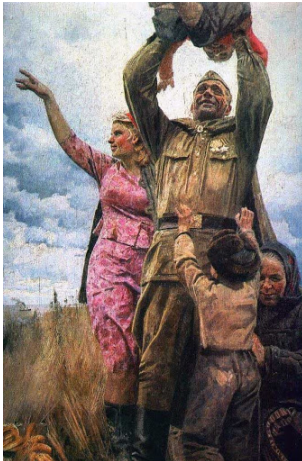
The next meeting of the Sisterhood is scheduled for **May 10th**. If the epidemiological situation does not improve, the meeting will be rescheduled or held online. The Editorial Board of the "Trinity Herald" together with Fr. Nikon have already had online meeting experience.

A request to join the Sisterhood can be obtained by writing to sisterhood@holytrinitymission.com.



WE REMEMBER

May 9, 2020, Russia celebrates the 75th anniversary of Victory in the Great Patriotic War.



On this day, the Orthodox churches commemorate deceased soldiers who laid their lives, and all those who suffered in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945.

"God bless the souls of Your servants who have laid down their life, forgive them all sins, and grant them the Kingdom of Heaven"

On Victory Day (May 9), in memory of our family and friends, and all who were affected (fallen soldiers, war veterans, partisans, underground fighters, Resistance fighters, rear workers, prisoners of concentration camps, blockades, people, who were in the occupation, children of war), in the framework of our Parish, we plan to hold a virtual "Immortal Regiment". We invite everyone to join! You can get detailed information on the page of our temple on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/russian.church/posts/3112175988846351>

WE GIVE THANKS

We are sincerely grateful to our rector, **Father Nikon**, for his selfless pastoral care for us, for his intercession for us before God, for the fact that during this difficult time, when many churches were closed, services in our church did not stop, for the invaluable opportunity to confess and partake of the Holy Communion and Holy Mysteries of Christ. Father, not

sparing his strength, nourished, consoled and instructed not only his flock, but also all the needy who turned to him, and there were many of them, and Father Nikon refused no one, but helped; and if necessary, he visited people at home, confessed and communed their Holy Mysteries of Christ. Many and good summer to you, Father Nikon!

We are deeply grateful to **our warden and regent, Andrey Semyanko**, for his concern for the temple and temple site, for the excellent leadership of our church choir, for such live broadcasts of the services. We are very grateful to our **young altars, readers and magnificent choir**, as well as to **the Sisterhood** for their work and care for the glory of God.

We also express our gratitude to **all benefactors and donors** for the needs of our temple. Good summer to all!

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Our parishioner Galina Sokolskaya, a former professional designer-florist, for many years has been arranging magnificent decorations for our church.



Our parishioner, who is in complete isolation, published this photo on her Facebook page with words of gratitude to the sisters of our parish for their care and love.

MEMBERS RECOMMEND

Our parishioner Elena Atchley, a medical professional, shares the recommendations of one doctor (Dr. Seheult), who provides a balanced and competent video regarding all the latest research and publications about COVID-19. Dr. Seheult has already posted at least 60 such videos dedicated to this issue. In particular, in the video below, the doctor gives recommendations on how to strengthen our immune system.

These recommendations in no way harm human health, but can to one degree or another help to strengthen our immunity. Many medical professionals agree that the most powerful weapon against this virus is our immune system. The virus tries to turn off the first line of defense of our immune system - it strongly suppresses lymphocytes. In general, scientists and doctors around the world have not found a cure for this virus, although many studies are currently being conducted and tests of about 30 drugs: with fragmentary, intermediate and still incomplete studies. But by and large, today we have the following picture: if a person's immunity did not cope with the virus on their own, then in the hospital, the patient can only receive supportive treatment, so very high mortality rates are observed in intensive care units.

Fortunately, 80% of the population suffers from this infection in a mild form. This virus has an amazing selectivity, even in families; with very close contact, not all family members become ill. And many do not even suspect that they are or have been ill. By the grace of God, these people's immunity worked 100%. In our location, in the areas where Duke and UNC hospitals are located, there are few serious hospitalized patients.
<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=NM2A2xNLWR4>

ASK FOR HELP

We ask for your support with prayer to God and/or material donations.

You can send your donations:

1. As a check to the church: Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, 6803 US 70, Mebane, NC 27302
2. Online through PayPal, finding the "Donate" link in the upper right corner of our website: holytrinitymission.com
3. Via Amazon Smile when shopping on Amazon. To do this, on the site smile.amazon.com in charity support you need to choose the Holy Trinity Orthodox Church, Mebane NC. A small percentage of the purchase payment will be automatically transferred (donated) to our arrival account.

CHRIST IS RISEN! THE LORD OUR JESUS CHRIST!

