



# St. Susanna Orthodox Church

The Diocese of the West  
The Orthodox Church in America

[www.stsusanna.com](http://www.stsusanna.com)

10825 Robinwood Lane\*  
Sonora, CA 95370 U.S.A.  
209-536-0701



## CHRIST IS RISEN! Indeed He is Risen!

April 2010

*Pastor:*

Fr. Andrew Jacobs  
(209) 533-4836

Deacon Elias Union  
(209) 532-7899

Natalie Teshin  
(209) 536-1495

*Before the dawn, / Mary and the women came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb. / They heard the angelic voice: / "Why do you seek among the dead as a man the One who is everlasting light? / Behold the clothes in the grave! / Go and proclaim to the world: The Lord is risen! / He has slain death, as He is the Son of God, // saving the race of men."*

*—The Hypakoe of the Paschal Canon*

### **Holy Pascha**

Christ is Risen! Brothers and sisters, as we celebrate Holy Pascha, we must not lose awareness of the truth of what we are celebrating. This most holy feast day unites us with eternity, reminds us of whom we are—a particular people, adopted and brought into the family of the King of kings, Lord of Lords and God of gods. And yet, even as Christ Himself asserted while He was yet physically on Earth, His will is that none should be left out of this familial relationship.

It is a great irony that mankind, given the free will to choose true immortality—transcending physical death—should so often choose those paths that guarantee the triumph of death. In particular, this very feast, Holy Pascha, has been reduced from its ancient understanding to an affair catering mainly to the tastes of children and their parents' indulgence. Instead of the truly good news that even children might understand—God having triumphed over the most powerful enemy of mankind—the Easter holiday now consists only of the words "Happy

Easter" and candy, bunny rabbits and Easter-egg hunts, for the sole purpose of providing their children a happy if basically meaningless day.

These things are perfectly fine, if seen as the add-ons that they are: toys and games meant to augment the more serious, and truly joyful, business of the holiday, which is: worshipping God and giving thanks to Him, and receiving the true food of immortality, the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ, for ourselves, and making sure to the best of our ability that our children receive as well.

The disturbing fact is that Easter has passed from being "Pascha" for many, and has become a day solely for fancy clothes and for children's appetites, and not truly for the children—or the adults—at all. All too often, many "Christian" denominations ignore the season altogether, making excuses that pagans worshipped gods, and so, these feasts of ours—Nativity, Pascha, Pentecost and others—are just more pagan events. However, if worshipping God is pagan (if

\*Corner of Jamestown Rd.  
& Robinwood Ln.  
(2 blocks north of  
Racetrack Rd.)

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centering a celebration around God) is pagan, then what about golf tournaments? Football games? Tennis matches? The theater? Birthday parties? Aren't these all pagan, then? Of course this is absurd.

The point of it is that we must never forget what our Feasts are about—God's love for us and our love for Him. Our extreme good fortune that we have found Him and He has opened the door for us! That He has given us the great power to inform a benighted world that God is real, and that it's more than OK to celebrate Him—it is required. For He says that, at the Dread Tribunal, He will be ashamed of those who are ashamed of Him. We are told that if we are going to boast, we should boast of Him! And, so we do. For He is the One worthy to be boasted of; and as He is One of the Godhead, He, and the Father and the Holy Spirit are jealous of our boasting—so we boast of the Trinity.

In just these next two months, we will worship and boast of Jesus Christ, at Pascha and Ascension, and the Holy Spirit as One of the Trinity, at Pentecost—and, “horror of horrors” as the unfortunates who fear celebrating that which is holy might say—we will boast of the holy Apostles (but not worship them) as those who first carried God's Good News to the next generation.

As for those who fear celebrating the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, St. Irenaeus of Lyons, (who had known St. Polycarp who had been appointed Bishop of Smyrna by the Apostles) in his *celebrated* treatise *On the Apostolic Preaching*, has this to say—for even in his day, heretics, sectarians and schismatics were gainsaying the true Christian teaching and practice:

“This, beloved, is the preaching of the truth, and this is the manner of our redemption, and this is the way of life, which the prophets proclaimed, and Christ established, and the apostles delivered, and the Church in all the world hands on to her children. This must we keep with all certainty, with a sound intent that is pleasing to God, with good works and right-willed disposition.

“So that none should imagine God the Father to be other than our Creator, as the heretics imagine; (for) they despise the God who is, and make gods that exist not; and they fashion a Father of their own above our Creator, and imagine that they have found something greater than the truth...others again reject

the coming of the Son of God and the dispensation of His incarnation, which the apostles delivered and the prophets declared beforehand, even such as should be the summing up of mankind. [A]nd others receive not the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and cast away from themselves the prophetic grace, whereby man bears the fruit of life unto God: and these are they of whom Isaiah speaks: *For they shall be, saith he, as an oak that is stripped of leaves, and as a garden that hath no water.* And such are in no wise serviceable to God, seeing that they cannot bear any fruit.

“So then in respect of the three points of error [they have] strayed widely from the truth. For either they reject the Father, or they accept not the Son and speak against the dispensation of His incarnation; or else they receive not the Spirit...”

So then, brothers and sisters, let us boast of God and His Church, and let us show others the right understanding, for inasmuch as we love to treat our children to candy and Easter egg hunts in good measure, so let us love even more leading them to the greatest of all treasures, which neither adult nor child, angel or human being or any of the hosts of heaven, would ever fail to recognize, having even once felt or seen or understood of it. Let us adore and celebrate our Lord and God and Savior.

### ***CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!!!***

May God Bless You in this Most-joyous Season!  
*Fr. Andrew*

### **St. Susanna Cleaning Team Schedule**

*Blessed are those who love  
the beauty of God's house*

**EVERYONE — March 27<sup>TH</sup>  
9:00 am to prepare  
for HOLY PASCHA**

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**Team 2—9:00 am, April 17th**

## Liturgical Schedule

### March

- Wed., March 24** 6:00 p.m.—**Presanctified Liturgy** followed by a Lenten soup dinner
- Thurs., March 25** 6:00 p.m.—**Vespertal Liturgy of The Annunciation of the Most-holy Theotokos, Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel**
- Sat., March 27** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/Litya for **Palm Sunday**
- Sun., March 28** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **Palm Sunday**  
Scripture Readings—Philippians 4:4–9 and John 12:1–18  
*Note: There will be a Lenten potluck following Divine Liturgy.*

### Holy Week to the Apostles' Fast

- Holy Mon., March 29** 6:00 p.m.—**Bridegroom Matins**
- Holy Wed., March 31** 6:00 p.m.—**Presanctified Liturgy** followed by a Lenten soup dinner
- Holy Thur., April 1** 6:00 p.m.—**Matins w/Passion Gospels**
- Holy Fri., April 2** 9:00 a.m.—**Royal Hours**  
3:00 p.m.—**Vespers w/ Plaschanitsa procession**  
6:00 p.m.—**Matins with Lamentations**
- Holy Sat., April 3** 9:00 a.m.—**Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil**  
11:30 p.m.—**Nocturnes**  
*And immediately after Nocturnes, we joyously celebrate:*
- Pascha Sun., April 4** Midnight—**THE FEAST OF FEASTS: HOLY PASCHA!**  
**Matins, Paschal Hours and the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, followed by the Paschal Feast**  
Scripture Readings—Acts 1:1–8 and John 1:1–17  
1:00 p.m.—**Paschal Vespers**

### Bright Week and Following

- Bright Wed., April 7** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/Litya for **Bright Wednesday**
- Bright Sat., April 10** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **St. Thomas Sunday**
- Antipascha Sunday April 11** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **St. Thomas Sunday**  
Scripture Readings—Acts 5:12–20 and John 20:19–31  
*Note: There will be a Parish Council Meeting and a potluck luncheon following Divine Liturgy.*
- Sat., April 17** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday**
- Sun., April 18** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday**  
Scripture Readings—Acts 6:1–7 and Mark 15:43–16:8
- Sat., April 24** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **The Sunday of the Paralytic**

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*(Liturgical Schedule continued)*

**Sun., April 25** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **The Sunday of the Paralytic**  
Scripture Readings—Acts 9:32–42 and John 5:1–15  
*Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.*

## May

**Sat., May 1** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**

**Sun., May 2** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman**  
Scripture Readings—Acts 11:19–30 and John 4:5–42  
*Note: There will be a Parish Council Meeting following Divine Liturgy.*

**Sat., May 8** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers **The Sunday of the Blind Man**

**Sun., May 9** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy **The Sunday of the Blind Man**  
Scripture Readings—Acts 16:16–34 and John 9:1–38  
*Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.*

**Wed., May 13** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/ Litya for **The Ascension** (Leavetaking of Pascha)

**Thur., May 14** 6:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **The Ascension**  
Scripture Readings—Acts 1:1–12 and Luke 24:36–53

## Prayer List

### *PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING THANKS TO GOD:*

- For the skill and devotion of those beautifying our temple and gardens.
- For the beauty of the Mother Lode, and for the privilege we have been given to live here.
- That the Holy Mother of Jesus continues to care for the unborn.
- That many of our petitions are being answered.

### *PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR GOD'S HELP:*

- “St. John, please intercede for us before God for the membership growth of St. Susanna.”
- That St. Susanna Mission may receive a Church Planting Grant.
- For repose of the souls of our service men and women who have given their lives for the people of Iraq.
- To safeguard all the troops who remain in heathen lands.
- To help us forgive the heathen fanatics who continue to murder our soldiers and their own citizens and children.
- That many may come to Orthodoxy through our witness and example.

### MANY YEARS

#### Birthdays:

Nicolas Teshin	April 1
Jeanne Harmer	April 4
Alex Jacobs	April 11

#### Namesdays:

Mat. Elizabeth Jacobs	April 24
Mark Sevick	April 25

#### Anniversaries:

Dn. Elias & Mat. Anna Union	April 12
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- To bless our monasteries and the men and women who dwell in them.
- For the healing Matushka Anna.
- For health for Shay.
- For the healing of Bishop Nikolai.
- For health and strength for Ron and Judy.
- For comfort for the family of Jack.
- For the healing of Christina.

To ask us to pray for you, your family or friends, please call Alex Teshin at 209-536-9999.