



*Pastor:*

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*O God, You have refashioned the nature of Adam, / which had fallen into the depths of the earth. / You have led it up today above every Principality and Power, / for in Your love for it, You have seated it together with Yourself. / Since You have taken compassion on it, You united it to Yourself ... The Bodiless Ones said: “Who is this Man of beauty? / He is not only a Man; / He is both God and Man, united and manifested in One!” / Astonished Angels, some flying in glorious apparel, / and some standing near the Disciples, cried out: / “Men of Galilee, the One gone from You is Jesus, Who is both God and Man!” / The God-Man will come again as the Judge of the living and the dead,// granting to the faithful remission of sins and great mercy!*

—Fifth Litya Sticheron of the Ascension, in Tone 4

## In the Month of May

Now blessed with Paschal grace, we approach the month of May, in which, week-end after weekend, we celebrate the faithful who honored Jesus Christ, as well as His miracles.

On May 7, we celebrate the Holy Myrrh-bearers, who stood at the foot of the Cross during our Lord’s suffering and death, and went to the tomb to anoint Christ’s pure body—all at great risk to themselves, and some of whom were rewarded with being the first to know, and tell of, of His Resurrection.

Following this are the Sundays of the Paralytic (May 15), whose faith showed us how God and man work together to bring about healing—our openness and acceptance of His gifts are essential, for He requires us to voluntarily rely on Him. Sunday, May 22, brings us to the account of the Samaritan Woman, which illustrates the truth that God’s love and salvation are available to all mankind.

On May 29, the Sunday of the Blind Man brings us to the realization that God not only rewards faith with healing; He also continues the healing by taking us into His grace when we have been persecuted by those who hate His presence in us.

## The Ascension

As this year’s Paschal season extends to June, all of May continues the Paschal joy. In this light, May also presages the great feast of The Ascension, when Christ, being both God and man, lofted up to the highest Heaven, to sit at the right hand of the Father, taking His true humanity—our very nature—up to that exalted place, and reuniting the godly and the human, the heavenly and the created, so that we might become what we truly should be.

The following is a short sample of how the renowned fifth century apologist, peace-maker and Archbishop of Rome, St. Leo the Great, understood our Lord’s Ascension:

“Christ’s ascension has given us greater privileges and joys than the devil had taken from us . . . throughout the time which elapsed between the Lord’s Resurrection and Ascension, God’s Providence had this in view: to impress upon the eyes and hearts of His own people that the Lord Jesus Christ be acknowledged to have truly risen, just as He was truly born, suffered, and died. And hence, the most blessed Apostles . . . were so strengthened by the clearness of the truth,

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

that when the Lord entered the heights of heaven, not only were they affected with no sadness, but were even filled with great joy. [Because] in the sight of the holy multitude, above the dignity of all heavenly creatures, the Nature of mankind went up, to pass above the angels' ranks and to rise beyond the archangels' heights . . . until, received to sit with the Eternal Father, it was associated with His glory, and to His Nature it was united in the Son. Since then, Christ's Ascension is our uplifting, and the hope of both the Body and Soul is raised.

“Whither the glory of the Head has gone before, let us exult, dearly-beloved, with worthy joy and delight in the loyal paying of thanks. For today not only are we confirmed as possessors of paradise, but also in Christ we have penetrated the heights of heaven, and have gained still greater things through Christ's unspeakable grace than we had lost through the devil's malice. [For] the Son of God has made us members of Himself Who is so placed at the right hand of the Father, with Whom He lives and reigns, God for ever and ever. Amen.”

Therefore, brothers and sisters, we see that the bright grace of Pascha looks forward to the glory of Christ's bodily Ascension, previewing that time when such ascension will be OUR ascension, body and soul, to Paradise. With the Leavetaking of Pascha on June 1, and the Feast of Ascension on June 2; and the

Leavetaking of Ascension on June 10, and the Feast of Pentecost on June 12; we can see that these three mighty acts of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ are interwoven, and a continuation of grace. This arrangement is such that we unite with the source of our own resurrection at Pascha, we understand it more deeply in being blessed by the Feast of Ascension, and we are given the grace of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to help us live such lives as to make it all part of our personal salvation. Such an arrangement! There is only one answer to it: “Rejoice!”

In Christ,  
Fr. Andrew

### St. Susanna Cleaning Team Schedule

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

**Team 1—May 21st; 9:00 a.m.**

*Thank you everyone for your help  
in beautifying our temple*

### MANY YEARS

**Birthdays:**

Sasha Worth	May 14
Mark Sevick	May 17
Catherine Weightman	May 31

**Anniversaries:**

Nicolas & Rebecca	May 26
Leslie & Joe Hurst	May 28

**Namesdays:**

Fr. Tom Renfree	May 1
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## Liturgical Schedule for May, 2011

Bright Saturday, April 30	6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for <b>St. Thomas Sunday</b>
St. Thomas Sunday, May 1	9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for <b>St. Thomas Sunday</b> Scripture Readings—Acts 5:12–20 and John 20:19–31
Saturday, May 7	6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for <b>Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday</b>
Sunday, May 8	9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for <b>Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday</b> Scripture Readings—Acts 6:1–7; 1 John 1:1–7 and Mark 15:43–16:8; John 19:25–27; 21:24–25 <i>Note: There will be a potluck following Divine Liturgy, followed by a Parish Council Meeting.</i>
Saturday, May 14	6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for <b>The Sunday of the Paralytic</b>
Sunday, May 15	9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for <b>The Sunday of the Paralytic</b> Scripture Readings—Acts 9:32–42 and John 5:1–15
Saturday, May 21	6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for <b>The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</b>
Sunday, May 22	9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for <b>The Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</b> Scripture Readings—Acts 11:19–30 and John 4:5–42 <i>Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.</i>
Saturday, May 28	6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for <b>The Sunday of the Blind Man</b>
Sunday, May 29	9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for <b>The Sunday of the Blind Man</b> Scripture Readings—Acts 16:16–34 and John 9:1–38
<b>June</b>	
Wednesday, June 1	6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/ Litya for <b>The Ascension</b>
Thursday, June 2	6:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for <b>The Ascension</b> Scripture Readings—Acts 1:1–12 and Luke 24:36–53
Saturday, June 4	6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for the <b>Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council</b>
Sunday, June 5	9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for the <b>Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council</b> Scripture Readings—Acts 20:16–18, 28–36 and John 17:1–13
Saturday, June 11	6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers with Litya for <b>Holy Pentecost</b>
Pentecost Sunday, June 12	9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for <b>Holy Pentecost</b> Scripture Readings—Acts 2:1–11 and John 7:37–52, 8:12 <i>Note: The Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost and a potluck luncheon will follow Divine Liturgy.</i>

*(Liturgical schedule, continued on back)*

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**Saturday, June 18** 6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **All Saints**

**Sunday, June 19** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **All Saints**  
Scripture Readings—Hebrews 11:33–12:2 and Matthew 10:32–38, 19:27–30  
*Note: A **parish picnic at Hurst Ranch and the blessing of Leslie’s vineyard** will take place after Divine Liturgy.*

**Monday, June 20** **The Apostles’ Fast (June 20–28) begins this day.**



## **Prayer List** *(To ask us to pray for you, your family, or friends, please call Alex Teshin at 209-536-9999.)*

### ***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 people of foreign lands.
- To safeguard all the troops who remain in heathen lands.
- To help us forgive 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.
- To bless our monasteries and the men and women who dwell in them.
- For the healing of Matushka Anna.
- For health for Shay.
- For the healing of Bishop Nikolai.
- For health and strength for Athena.
- For health and wisdom for Dolly.
- For health for Natasha.