



*Message from Fr. Nick:*

After having celebrated the beautiful pageantry of Easter with all of its splendor and magnificence, we mustn't fail to be ever mindful of our Lord's glorious victory. It is of the utmost importance that His defeat of death through His life-giving resurrection remains as the central theme of our spiritual lives. This most vital and essential truth is crucial to our spiritual awareness and our growth as Orthodox Christians.

Jesus' revolutionary view of reality did not die on the day that He was crucified. Jesus continues to call all of us to have an intimate relationship with God as our Father, and with our fellow man as brothers and sisters. This bond to one another through Jesus is the pearl of great price, the treasure worth far more than all of the world's gold.

But just as the disciples were called to "die" to illusions and old self-understandings and to live in the new reality that Jesus had introduced them to, we too are called to walk in newness of life. The crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus reveals to us how to live an authentic human life even in the midst of all difficulties. We are no longer hapless victims to the circumstances of life. God's presence is with us, God's power emboldens us, and in the midst of our journey through this complex life God's wisdom guides us. The resurrection of our Lord teaches us that God is always with us and that He never abandons us. We now know that even death itself cannot separate us from His love.

To take seriously the universality of the resurrection is to grasp that one encounters Jesus in one's own existence every day. To live in the ethos of the Orthodox faith is to know in one's heart the sacred worth of every creature, and therefore to know also the obligation to treat every human being with dignity and honor. To understand the resurrection of Jesus Christ is to know the dramatic power of God's goodness. To know the power of the resurrection is to know that Jesus' name is exalted above every name and no other. To live in the glory of the resurrection is to know no other reality than Reality itself, and that reality which faith perceives is none other than the Reality of Jesus and His third day resurrection. The resurrection that we worship and glorify.

*Father Nick*