

# ARCHPASTORAL PASCHAL MESSAGE

Christ is risen!

Dearest Beloved,

Today is the holy Resurrection Day – the Feast of the Feasts, the Solemnity of Solemnities! It surpasses not only those that are secular and worldly in character, but even excels, as the sun outshines all stars, those feasts which are dedicated to and are celebrated in honor of Christ, Himself.

Today we gather in our Orthodox Churches on the holiest day in the Orthodox Christian year. We affirm that our Lord Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God the Father. We sing: “Christ is risen!” to reaffirm that no one else is more important than Him and no event more significant than His Resurrection.

All of history is divided into two parts – B.C. or Before Christ, and A.D. – Anno Domini or “In the Year of our Lord”.

Let us look at it this way. Every one of our lives is divided into B.C. and A.D. Until every one of us meets Christ, every one of us is living a B.C world. The Holy Pascha is our chance to meet Christ. Will we? Will we cross over today into the land of Anno Domini?

As your Diocesan Metropolitan I want you and your families to think about that profound message today.

Please, don't leave that message in your parish church. Don't leave it in the empty tomb. Live the message. Teach it to your children. Don't alter the message. Don't water it down. Let no person, no persuasion, no allegiance, no ideology, no friendship, no promise, no temptation ever get in the way of that saving message.

Let us be like Christ, for He was like unto us. Let us become divine since He became man for our sake.

Christos Voskrese!

Chestito Voskresenie Hristovo!

With love in the risen Lord,

+ Metropolitan JOSEPH