



DIOCESE OF NEW ENGLAND
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA
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The Right Reverend BENEDICT
Bishop of Hartford

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10 April 2026

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Christ Is Risen! Indeed He Is Risen!

To the Clergy and Faithful of the Diocese of New England
Greetings in the Lord!

A few weeks ago, the Church sang, "Let us begin the season of fasting in joy."

And so we began to run the course of the Fast with that seeming paradox of joy and asceticism, as we fasted from foods, and more importantly, from our sins and faults and habits that would rob us of eternal joy, as we looked forward to the goal of holy Pascha. Let us continue to fast from those things, even as we feast in celebration of the Lord's Resurrection!

Now that we have completed the course of the Fast and arrived at the day of Pascha, we hear the Church singing again of joy throughout the hymns of Pascha, for Christ is our eternal joy.

And we hear once again, in St John Chrysostom's *Homily*, "Enter all of you into the joy of our Lord! . . . You that have fasted and you that have disregarded the Fast, rejoice today! The table is richly laden; feast royally, all of you! . . . Let us partake of the feast of faith! . . . Let no one mourn his transgressions, for pardon has dawned from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free! . . . Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the First-fruits of them that slept. To Him be glory and might unto ages of ages!"

May the joy of Pascha remain with us always!

+ *Benedict*