

April 29, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Holy Archangel Michael's Serbian Orthodox Church,
Hibbing, MN,

I greet you in the name of the Risen Lord.

Christ is Risen!

Today, the first Wednesday after Pascha, we begin fasting again.

It truly seems just like yesterday that we were in the deep purple contemplation and fasting of Great Lent and Holy Week. Now, on Wednesday, after a very Bright Week we return to fasting in the glow of our Lord's life-saving Resurrection.

In so many ways, the Church in Her great wisdom tries to teach us self denial and obedience. She starts with the control of the senses because once we can pacify simple desires then we can also conquer greater ones. However, it is impossible to skip the small steps and still attain the larger ones. Everything in the spiritual life and the Church stems from the two great commandments, love of God and love of neighbor, but neither of these are truly obtained without steps of true love born of selflessness, such as self denial and obedience among many others.

So, after having wondrously and joyously partaken of all the Church's marvelous spiritual and physical Paschal delights. Let us remember that we are spiritually focused through prayer and fasting. Let us regain some sober mindedness as we return to a day of fasting, but let us also not forget that Christ is Risen!

With the blessings of God,
Father Constantine "Dean" Franck