

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 21, 2013 ~ St. Mary of Egypt

head-scarf, and this is entirely in keeping with Tradition of the Church. St. Paul seems to strongly suggest wearing one (see 1 Cor. 11: 10). However, just to be clear, it is certainly not obligatory here, nor will anyone give those who do not wear the head-covering a pharisaically-critical look down their noses. Let common sense, tastefulness and good manners prevail. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- IVERON MYRRH-STREAMING ICON OF HAWAII:

What a great blessing is coming to us. On Bright Saturday, May 11, at the 5 PM Vespers, we will welcome the Holy Myrrh-streaming Icon of the Theotokos, brought to us from Hawaii. There will be an Akathist during the Vespers, and each person will be anointed with the myrrh that miraculously flows from the icon itself.

- VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP BENJAMIN:

Bright Monday, May 6. The rather short Paschal Matins begins at 9 AM followed by the Paschal Liturgy.

- PUTTING CHRIST FIRST FOR HOLY WEEK:

“Indeed I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as dung, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, based on law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith; that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” —St. Paul, Philippians 3:8ff. Fr. Stephen Freeman wrote that “St. Paul seems to have lived his life in a perpetual Holy Week—pressing forward—pushing past exhaustion—and reaching for Christ in a Pascha that reaches back and captures the soul for God. Nothing to be earned, but everything to be gained.”

- TROPARION OF ST. MARY, Tone Eight:

In thee the image was preserved with exactness, O Mother; for taking up the Cross, thou didst follow Christ, and by thy deeds thou didst teach us to overlook the flesh, for it passeth away, but to attend to the soul, since it is immortal. Wherefore, O righteous Mother Mary, thy spirit rejoiceth with the Angels.

- KONTAKION OF ST. MARY, Tone Three:

Thou who once of old wast filled with all manner of fornication, art now seen today to be a bride of Christ by thy repentance. Thou didst live and emulate the life of the Angels. By the Cross, thou didst annihilate the hordes of demons; for this cause art thou a bride now in the Kingdom of the Heavens, O Mary, thou all-modest one.

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Saturday, April 20: 10:30 AM, Extended Choir Rehearsal
5 PM, Great Vespers / Confessions
- Sunday, April 21: 9–10 AM, Confessions
10 AM, Divine Liturgy / 11:45 Church School
Noon, Agape luncheon in Hall
12:45 PM, Sisterhood Meeting
- Tues., April 23: 8 AM, Matins
- Wed. April 24: 8 AM, Matins / 6:15 PM, Presanctified / Meal
- Thurs., April 25: 8 AM, Matins
- Friday, April 26: 8 AM, Matins
7 PM, Matins for Lazarus Saturday
Final Catechism to follow

- Sat. April 20: 9 AM, Baptism, followed by the Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday
Breakfast reception after Liturgy
5 PM, Vigil for Palm Sunday with the Blessing of Palms (Confessions during the Service)

- TODAY'S USHERS:

James Hood and Alexander Stameroff.

- CHURCH SCHOOL:

Father Lawrence will be teaching some of the Church School children about Confession directly after Liturgy. Parents are welcome to participate.

- SISTERHOOD MEETING TODAY:

Sunday, April 21, at 12:45 PM. Most of the agenda will be focused on the organization for Holy Week (candle-desk duty, church cleaning after Services, Holy Saturday, Pascha Agape and BBQ). **The Parish Sisterhood needs participation of the Parish men in the planning and work, and requests their attendance at the Meeting.**

- NEW CHAIRS:

Please do not move or relocate chairs in the Church. They should stay just where they are. If you need assistance, an usher will provide a metal folding chair for you.

- LAZARUS SATURDAY ~ April 27:

The baptism of Ryan, Meghan, Honor and Lahana will take place on Lazarus Saturday, at 9 AM. The Divine Liturgy will directly follow. After the Liturgy there will be a breakfast reception to honor the newly-illuminated, hosted by those who were baptized last year. Everyone is invited. Here are some thoughts on the meaning of that day: Lazarus, a friend of Jesus, was sick; he died. Seeing all the friends of Lazarus grieving and weeping, Jesus also wept and grieved, sharing and bearing their grief, as He does for us each day —as He suffers along with us. Seeing His own beautiful creation in bondage to the law of death, the tomb, to injustice, abuse, sorrow and despair, the One who created all things out of non-

existence weeps. And He raised the stinking corpse of Lazarus (John 11:39). Remember, we are never too far gone, too far out of the reach of God's power, never too sinful, never too dead, never too corrupt for God's power to reach us. With Lazarus we see the sign of God's coming at the end of time, and God's holy plan for salvation and resurrection for the rest of us. Not a resuscitation to the same life—but a resurrection of the body, the *whole person*—to life eternal, and the renewal of His entire creation. —
Fr. Lawrence

- CLEAN-UP AND DECORATION:

Next Saturday, April 27, about 2 PM, there will be a **Church Cleaning Work Party** in preparation for the Palm Sunday Vigil, Holy Week and Pascha. Inside the Church we will be polishing, cleaning windows, light fixtures, scraping wax, and decorating the Church for Palm Sunday. Outside, provided there is enough help, we will start to prepare for the Paschal Potluck. Let Father Lawrence know that you will be coming to help.

- PALM SUNDAY:

Palm Sunday is so-called because we hold palms, blessed at the Vigil on Saturday, in imitation of those who acclaim Jesus as Christ and King. More properly, the feast is called the *Entrance of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into Jerusalem*, for it was there that our Savior was going to be enthroned on the Cross, to reveal God's glory, humility, love and Kingship. Please come to the Vigil on Saturday, April 27, to receive a blessed Palm, sing "Hosanna in the Highest" and prepare ourselves for the Holy Week ahead. Please bring your palm to the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, since we have a limited amount to distribute. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy we will go in procession around the Church.

- SOME REMINDERS:

This Church is the Holy Place of God and the people of God, so we comport ourselves accordingly. During services please observe silence. Carry on conversations outside. Please show your respect for time and place by dressing appropriately. Common sense prevails. Something a little nicer than jeans and sneakers is the norm, and a nice suit for men and a skirt or dress for women is quite tasteful. Many women choose to wear a