

spiritual analogies, and hymns exhorting the faithful to be watchful, we gain the momentum needed for the celebration of Pascha. The Bridegroom Matins are served early, 6:30 AM, to allow most all of us to attend. —*Fr Lawrence*

- WEEKEND OVERVIEW

Lazarus Saturday is upon us. The children's choir will sing the Divine Liturgy, which begins at 9:30 AM. In preparation, the children will gather in St. Seraphim at 9 AM with Nicolas Custer (the Antiochians will be in the Protection church). After liturgy Kendra has volunteered to cook pancakes for everyone (she is requesting some help). We will serve the children the breakfast first, and then the adults. This is the children's first time singing the Liturgy and we would like to honor them. At 3 PM there will be egg-dying for the children. Perhaps some parents would like to help out in Church during this time to decorate for Palm Sunday. At 5 PM we begin Great Vespers, which leads into Matins and the *Prayer for the Blessing of Palms*. Sunday is Palm Sunday, the *Feast of the Entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem*. Divine Liturgy begins at 10 AM (Matins will have been served already on Saturday). At the end of Divine Liturgy we have a procession. Father Lawrence has asked that the children **proceed after the clergy in the procession**. To help organize that, after communion I will come stand towards the middle of church with Carmen. Please send your children to stand with me and we will fall in line after the clergy. I will have extra palms for children who have not gotten one yet. It would be helpful if the older kids and teenagers came to stand with us to help the younger ones sing. There will be a short church school after the procession. Next Sunday is Pascha, after the Agape Vespers there will be fun activities for the children at the BBQ including an egg hunt. —*Gloria*

- Pascha BBQ! Sunday, May 1 after Agape Vespers:

*The parish provides the following:* the BBQ and BBQ-ers, paper plates, cups, napkins, tables, and Pascha cheese. *Each family or single is asked to bring 3 items:* meat to BBQ, a side dish to share with 8-12 others (such as salad, chips & dip, deviled-eggs, etc), beverages (soda, wine, beer, etc.)—enough to share. Please do all your food prep for side dishes at home. *Schedule for the day:* 11 AM, Clean the Church, Set-up for the BBQ, 1 PM, Paschal Vespers, following Vespers, Blessing of the food. Please allow the children to get their food first, accompanied by an adult.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Entrance into Jerusalem ~ April 24, 2016

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- TROPARION OF THE FEAST, TONE ONE:

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou hast confirmed the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the Highest, blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

- SECOND TROPARION, TONE FOUR:

When we were buried with Thee, in baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by Thy Resurrection. Now we praise Thee and sing: Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

- KONTAKION OF THE FEAST, TONE SIX:

Seated upon Thy throne in heaven, and on earth upon a foal, O Christ our God, Thou hast accepted the praise of the angels and the songs of the children who cried out to Thee: Blessed art Thou that comest to call back Adam.

### ACTIVITIES & EVENTS THIS WEEK

- Sat., April 23: 9:30 AM, Divine Liturgy for *Lazarus Saturday*, pancake breakfast to follow  
Afternoon: egg dying, church decorating and cleaning  
5 PM, Great Vespers and Matins for Palm Sunday with blessing of Palms
- Sun., April 24: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy and Procession  
Church School, Agape Meal

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Protection of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church • 90 Mountain View Ave • Santa Rosa  
707-584-9491 • [LMargitich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LMargitich@sbcglobal.net) • [saintseraphim.com](http://saintseraphim.com)

- Holy Mon., April 25: 6:30 AM, Bridegroom Matins  
4 PM, Confessions  
6:15 PM, Presanctified Liturgy
- Holy Tues/Wed: same as Holy Monday
- Holy Thurs., April 28: 11:30 AM, Vespereal Liturgy of the Mystical  
Supper—institution of the Holy  
Eucharist  
7 PM, Matins of Holy Fri. ~ 12 Gospels
- Holy Fri., April 29: Great & Holy Friday: Strict Fast Day  
9 AM, Royal Hours  
3 PM, Great Vespers  
7 PM, Matins of Holy Sat., Lamentations &  
Procession / Reading of Psalms
- Holy Sat., April 30: Strict Fast Day  
12 Noon, Exorcisms & Blessing of Water for  
Baptism  
1 PM, Vespereal Liturgy of St Basil  
5 PM, Beginning reading of Book of Acts  
11:30 PM, Nocturn Service  
Midnight: PASCHA—Paschal Procession,  
Matins, Liturgy  
Agape Meal in Hall to follow (pot-luck)
- PASCHA, MAY 1: 1 PM, Agape Vespers, Potluck BBQ
- Bright Mon., May 2: 9 AM, Paschal Matins and Liturgy, *Archbishop  
Benjamin to preside*. Meal to follow
- Bright Tues., May 3: 9 AM, Paschal Hours and Liturgy  
6 PM, Paschal Vespers
- *Bright Wed., May 4: At Kazan Skete: Divine Liturgy at 9:30 AM*
- Bright Thurs, May 5: 6 PM, Paschal Vespers
- Bright Friday, May 6: 6 PM, Paschal Vespers
- Bright Saturday, May 7: 9 AM, Paschal Liturgy (we will also celebrate  
the memory of St. George the Great  
Martyr)

- CONFESSIONS:

Please make your Holy Week Confession before Holy Thursday. Because of the great number of services and activities, Confessions will not be heard after Holy Wednesday.

- BRIGHT MONDAY, MAY 2:

His Eminence Vladyka Benjamin plans to be with us on Bright Monday for the Paschal Matins and Liturgy. We begin at 9 AM with the singing of the Paschal Canon (May 1 is the birthday of Archbishop Benjamin).

- PASSION WEEK (METROPOLITAN ANTHONY OF LONDON):

*“Behold, the Bridegroom cometh at midnight and blessed is he whom He shall find watching, but unworthy is he whom He shall find heedless. Beware, therefore, O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep, lest you be given up and shut out from the Kingdom. But, rouse yourself crying: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O God. Through the Theotokos, have mercy on us.” (Hymn of Holy Mon–Wed.)*

The “Bridegroom Matins” are served on **Holy Monday–Wednesday mornings at 6:30 AM**. The name of the service is derived from the Parable of the Ten Virgins, in which Christ speaks of mystical marriages in which the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night. Some of the virgins in the bridal party were prepared with lamps to receive Him; others had come unprepared and consequently were left out of the wedding feast (Matthew 25:1-13). The term “Bridegroom” suggests the unifying intimacy of Christ’s divine-human love for us all and is of great significance; in the parable He compares the Kingdom of God to a bridal chamber. The coming “at midnight” suggests the Second Coming: spiritual vigilance is something in which Christians are actively involved—we must always be prepared to receive Christ, Who is the predestined Bridegroom of all humanity. The Services present to us an array of Gospel themes based chiefly on the last days of Jesus’ earthly life (the barren fig tree, the Bridegroom Parable, the Parable of the Sheep and Goats, the devastating words against the Pharisees: “Woe to you, scribes and pharisees, hypocrites,” the weeping for Jerusalem, the description of the Second Coming, the woman who anointed the feet of the Savior). Some of the most profound spiritual treasures of hymnography of the entire year are found in these Matins services. The worshipper is led by these sacred rites and hymns to begin to understand a little of the love of the Savior and the depth of His suffering. Through images, metaphors,