

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, April 8, 2012

Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem



- 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.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- Lazarus Sat., April 7: 9 AM, Baptism of Jean Elizabeth Share, Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday to follow
1 PM, *church decoration & cleanup (polishing, sweeping, etc.)*
5 PM, Vigil with blessing of Palms (**confessions during the Service**)
- Sunday, April 8: 9 AM, Confessions
10 AM, PALM SUNDAY Liturgy, concluding with a Procession
- *Holy Monday • Holy Tuesday • Holy Wednesday*
Strict Fast Days 6:30 AM, Bridegroom Matins
4:30–6 PM, *Confessions* (if you need a different time, please call to arrange)
6:15 PM Presanctified Liturgy with Gospel reading
- Holy Thursday, April 12: 11:30 AM, Vespereal Liturgy of the Mystical Supper
7 PM, Matins of Holy Friday ~ with the **Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels**
- Holy Friday, April 13: *Strict Fast Day – all day*
9 AM, Royal Hours of Great & Holy Friday
3 PM, Great Vespers
7 PM, Matins of Holy Sat., Lamentations & Procession / Psalms read all night

- Holy Saturday, April 14: *Strict Fast Day*
 12 Noon, Exorcisms of Catechumens (Godparents must be present)
 1 PM, Vespers Liturgy of St Basil & Baptisms
 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 (bring a Pascha Food Basket, paper plates, utensils)

- **PASCHA, April 15:** 1 PM, Agape Vespers, **Potluck BBQ** (see below on what to bring)
- Bright Mon., April 16: 9 AM, Paschal Matins & Liturgy, His Grace Bishop Benjamin may be here
- Bright Tues., April 17: 9 AM, Paschal Matins & Liturgy
- Bright Wed., April 18: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy, at **Kazan Skete** / 6 PM, Paschal Vespers here

- HYMNS FROM MATINS, WED. OF THE 6th Week:

With the Children let us go and meet Christ our God, bringing works of mercy instead of palms, and prayer in our hearts instead of branches; and let us cry: “Hosanna! Bless and supremely exalt Him unto the ages. Weaving branches of palms, both inwardly and outwardly let us make ready to meet the Master that comes to us: for blessed is He that comes as true Son in the Name of the Lord and Father.

- CONFESSIONS

Once again, I am moved, humbled and inspired at the frequency, the sincerity, depth and the seriousness of the confessions of our Parish members. In this simple, yet profound act—the Holy Mystery of repentance and renewal, one meets the Lord, and each person goes away having received gifts from God: forgiveness and absolution of sins which come about when the Lord sends His Uncreated and Divine Energies/Grace into our souls and bodies. Perhaps some in the Parish have procrastinated or maybe forgotten how central Confession is to the Lenten effort, at the beginning, the middle and end, and how good it is have burdens lifted at Confession? I ask you to please keep in mind that **Confessions will not be heard after Holy Wednesday**. Brothers and Sisters: “Now is the acceptable time,” now is the day of repentance—once we get to Holy Thursday, then it is time strictly devoted to the Lord’s passion. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- **PARENTS**, please bring your children (age 7 and up) to confession—and you come too in order to encourage them, and show them your humility and faith.

- SPECIAL OFFERING TODAY:

Four years ago, our parishioners—the Shipley family (Ian, Priscilla and their children)—went off to St. Tikhon’s Seminary in Pennsylvania to study theology. Ian—Father Ian—was ordained priest late last year, and has only a short time left at the Seminary before he moves on to serve a Parish. Father Ian and Priscilla have done remarkably well at Seminary—excelling in academics and community service. During their time there, our Parish has financially, although sporadically, supported the Shipleys. They have deeply appreciated our help, but truthfully we can recognize that whatever we have sent was not nearly enough to cover the high cost of living while at seminary. With the agreement of our Treasurer Petar Griovski, I hereby propose that in recognition of the Shipleys’ sacrificial service to the Lord, the Protection of the Holy Virgin being their home parish, this Palm Sunday we take the opportunity to collect funds for the Shipley family. Please make out checks to “Protection of

the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church” and indicate in the *memo* line “Shipley/seminary fund.” May the Lord multiply our gift. I ask you to be generous. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- SIGN UPS FOR HOLY WEEK:

Your participation is requested and appreciated. We need help in the following areas:

- Readers for the Psalms and Book of Acts on Friday and Saturday, respectively
- Set up and clean up on Holy Saturday for the meal after Liturgy
- Cleaning the Church on Pascha morning (about 11 AM)
- Set-up and clean-up for the Pascha BBQ

- MATINS OF GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY:

Served by “anticipation” on Thursday evening at 7 PM, the Matins of Holy Friday is one of the most beloved Services in the Orthodox Church. Our faithful people look forward each year to hearing hymns such as “When the Glorious Disciples,” “Today He Who Hung the Earth upon the Waters,” and “The Wise Thief” to mention but three. We look forward to hearing about—more than that, being present at—the Passion of our Savior Jesus Christ—that is, His suffering and death for our salvation—when the Twelve Passion Gospel selections are chanted.

The ever-memorable Metropolitan Anthony (Bloom) of London helps us to understand the profound importance of this service: “...During the coming days we shall be not just remembering, but be present at Christ’s Passion. We shall be part of the crowd surrounding Christ and the disciples and the Mother of God. As we hear the Gospel readings, as we listen to the prayers of the Church, as one image after another of these days of the Passion passes before our eyes, let each of us ask himself the question, ‘Where do I stand, who am I in this crowd? A Pharisee? A Scribe? A traitor, a coward? Who? Or do I stand among the Apostles?’ But they too were overcome by fear. Peter denied Him thrice, Judas betrayed Him, John, James and Peter went to sleep just when Christ most needed human love and support; the other disciples fled; no one remained except John and the Mother of God, those who were bound to Him by the kind of love which fears nothing and is ready to share in everything. Once more let us ask ourselves who we are and where we stand... Do we stand with hope, or despair, or what? And if we stand with indifference, we too are part of that terrifying crowd that surrounded Christ, shuffling, listening, and then going away; as we shall go away from church. The Crucifix will be standing here on Thursday and we shall be reading the Gospel about the Cross, the Crucifixion and death—and then what will happen? The Cross will remain standing, but we shall go away for a rest, go home to have supper, to sleep, to prepare for the fatigues of the next day. And during this time Christ is on the Cross, Christ is in the tomb. How awful it is that, like the disciples in their day, we are not able to spend one night, one hour with Him. Let us think about this, and if we are incapable of doing anything, let us at least realize who we are and where we stand, and at the final hour turn to Christ with the cry, the appeal of the thief, Remember me, Lord, in Thy Kingdom! Amen.”

- FASTING ON HOLY FRIDAY:

The ancient practice of the Church is to fast strictly on Holy Friday. In fact one reads that “all are to fast strictly, without any food or water—except for the sick and elderly, who may have bread and water”! The severity of these guidelines is always surprising to the modern Orthodox. One can—and should—only do what one can do, and ask the Lord to receive our labors. Why such a strict fast? We will have just laid the Body of the Lord in the tomb, and the proper human response is not to eat—for who could eat when one’s beloved has died? Instead, we grieve and sorrow for the tragedy and audacity of man to put the Creator on trial and crucify Him. Our response is the silence before the awesome glory of Jesus on the Cross and in the tomb, and so we try to set aside the socializing and eating until Pascha. It’s the human response to the Divine humiliation.

- HOLY SATURDAY REFRESHMENTS—from the Sisterhood:

Please see the handout in the Narthex.

- PASCHA, APRIL 4: PICNIC—BBQ info:

Information about the Paschal BBQ/picnic can be found in the “Sister-to-Sister” handout.

- BRIGHT MONDAY:

His Grace Bishop Benjamin is planning 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.

- BRIGHT FRIDAY YOUTH BBQ & MOVIE—April 20:

The middle school and high school youth are invited to a BBQ, here at the Parish, and a movie (parents, this will be age and morally appropriate). If your son or daughter is coming, please let either Father Lawrence, Michael Dovey, or Garrett Paul Hamner know.

- HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

Holy Week is an intense time for an Orthodox Christian. One has to really plan ahead, and struggle with many things in order to come to the many Church Services during the week (consider fasting, time for quiet, daily chores and obligations of family and work). I am unable to give you suggestions on how to manage your daily life, however, I do venture to offer a few ideas about Church attendance, which hopefully, will be of some help.

Matins is served at 6:30 AM, on Great and Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; Presanctified is at 6:15 PM on the same days. Pick one of each of these to attend. These services are about an hour and fifteen minutes long, and if you must leave early, do so. The hymns and Gospels of these days (we hear Christ’s last teachings before His arrest) impart a deep understanding of the Lord’s teaching and life. More importantly, liturgically, we live those days with the Lord as He prepares for His death and resurrection—and we, ours.

On Holy Thursday at 11:30 AM we enter into a whole new dimension when we gather as the Church to celebrate the Liturgy of the Last Supper, the Mystical Supper. The source of all our Liturgies is here on this day.

On Thursday night at 7 PM, we serve Matins of Holy Friday (by anticipation) to hear the Gospels of the arrest, trial, suffering and crucifixion of Jesus (see above for more on this). By now we have—*we must*—set aside every obligation and care in order to be together and with Jesus Christ.

On Holy Friday, at 3 PM, we celebrate the Vespers and venerate the life-giving Body of the Lord in the Tomb. *By no means should we miss this awe-inspiring Vespers.*

Again we gather on Friday at 7 PM for the Matins of Holy Saturday (anticipated, rather than having it at 2 AM) to sing the lamentations, the resurrectional hymns, and to carry the Holy Shroud Icon around the Church. This is a long Service, but filled with *so much* that we may take little notice of the time.

Saturday, the Great and Holy Sabbath, Vespersal Liturgy at 1 PM: we sing hymns which tell of Jesus smashing of the gates and bars of death/hades; 15 readings of the Old Testament which foreshadow it all and our own integration into the mystery; we witness baptisms of Catechumens who enter into the mystery of the resurrection; we change the purple to white to match the Catechumens; we sing the hymn “Let all mortal flesh keep silence, pondering nothing earthly minded, for the King of kings, and Lord of lords, comes to be sacrificed as food for the faithful.” Then we commune of the Life-creating Body and Blood of the Lord. After some modest refreshments, we fast once again—most people start this final Paschal fast about 7 PM.

We wait for the celebration of the Lord’s resurrection, when we will come back to Church at 11:30 PM for the Paschal Matins and Liturgy, and the experience of gratitude that we are grafted, joined, united, to Him, Who sits at the right hand of the Father. We are entering Holy and Great Week—it is not something to pop in, toward the end of the week, how would we understand that it was all done “for us and for our salvation?” —*Fr. Lawrence*