

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem, Palm Sunday

SUNDAY, April 21, 2019

- TROPARION OF THE FEAST, Tone One:

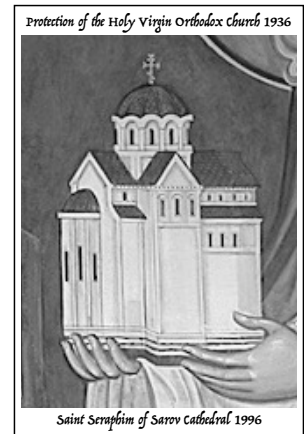
By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou hast confirmed the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the Highest, blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

- 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

- Sat., April 20:
 - 9 AM, baptisms of Catechumens
 - 10 AM, Divine Liturgy for *Lazarus Saturday*, Children's Choir will sing
Agape Reception for the Newly-Illumined
 - Afternoon: cleaning/decorating for Palm Sunday
 - 5 PM, Vigil for Palm Sunday with blessing of Palms
- Sun., April 21:
 - 10 AM, Divine Liturgy and Procession
 - Noon, Agape Meal
 - 12:45 PM, Procession Rehearsal for Pascha, in St. Seraphim
- Holy Mon., April 22:
 - 6:30 AM, Bridegroom Matins, Confessions after Matins
 - 5 PM, Confessions
 - 6:15 PM, Presanctified Liturgy
- Holy Tues., April 23:
 - 6:30 AM, Bridegroom Matins, Confessions after Matins
 - Confessions by appointment from Noon–3 PM
 - 5 PM, Confessions
 - 6:15 PM, Presanctified Liturgy
- Holy Wed., April 24: *same as Holy Tuesday*, **Last day for Confessions**

- Holy Thurs., April 25: 11:30 AM, Vespereal Liturgy of the Mystical Supper ~ institution of the Holy Eucharist
6:15 PM, Matins of Holy Friday ~ Reading of Twelve Passion gospels
- Holy Fri., April 26: Great & Holy Friday: *Strict Fast Day*
9 AM, Royal Hours (First and Ninth)
3 PM, Great Vespers with bringing out of Shroud
6:15 PM, Matins of Holy Saturday, Lamentations & Procession ~ Reading of Psalms
- Holy Sat., April 27: Strict Fast Day
1 PM, Vespereal Liturgy of St Basil, blessing of bread and wine
5 PM, Reading Book of Acts
11:30 PM, Nocturn Service
Midnight: PASCHA—Paschal Procession, Matins, Liturgy
Agape Meal in Hall to follow (bring your Pascha basket)
- PASCHA, April 28: 1 PM, Agape Vespers, Potluck BBQ
- Bright Mon., April 29: 9 AM, Paschal Matins and Liturgy, Archbishop Benjamin, meal to follow
- Bright Tues. April 30: 6 PM, Paschal Vespers

• CONGRATULATIONS AND MANY YEARS:

We prayerfully congratulate the Newly-illuminated baptized on Lazarus Saturday: Harriette Lucy; James and his son Harvey Nicholas (named after the Passion Bearer Tsar Martyr); Aaron and Alejandra Wilkerson and their children Aaron, Xavier Alexander (after Nevski), Paloma Theophania, Belén Noelle, Celeste Lucia; Otto Ignatius, son of Nathan and Christine Molcillo.

• HOLY MONDAY–WEDNESDAY, BRIDEGROOM MATINS, 6:30 AM / PRESANCTIFIED, 6:15 PM:

“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 Mon–Wed.)

At Monday Matins: Matthew 21:18–43; the story of the fig tree, the symbol of the world created to bear spiritual fruits and failing in its response to God. At the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts in the evening: Matthew 24:3–35—the great eschatological discourse of Jesus; the signs and announcement of the End. Jesus exclaims “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.”

At Tuesday Matins: Matthew 22:15–23:39; condemnation of Pharisees — “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.” At the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts: Matthew 24:36–26:2; we hear of the End and the parables of the End, that is, the ten wise virgins who had enough oil in their lamps and the ten foolish ones who were not admitted to the bridal banquet; the parable of the ten talents. “Watch, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” And, finally, the Parable of the Last Judgement.

At Wednesday morning Matins: John 12:17–50; the rejection of Christ, the growing conflict, the ultimate warning: “Now is the judgement of this world... He who rejects me and does not receive my sayings, has a judge; the word that I have spoken will be his judge on the last day.” At the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts: Matthew 26:6–16; the sinful woman who poured the precious ointment on Jesus, the image of love and repentance which alone unite us with Christ compared to Judas the Disciple who betrays the Lord.

- CONFESSIONS

Keep in mind that **Confessions will not be heard after Holy Wednesday.** —*Fr. Lawrence*

- SIGN UPS FOR HOLY WEEK:

Your participation is requested and appreciated. Here are some specific tasks to complete: *Lazarus Saturday:* helping decorate the church for the Vigil; cleaning up after the Baptisms; cleaning the windows in St. Seraphim (lower level only); cleaning the porch lamps. *Holy Wednesday on:* There are open slots for cleaning the Church (vacuum and wipe down icons) from Wednesday—Pascha morning (11 AM); collecting candle stubs after services; set-up and clean-up for the Pascha BBQ Potluck.

- BRIGHT MONDAY, April 29:

I am soliciting help for Pascha, late afternoon as all the fun is winding down after the picnic, to clean and arrange the hall for one more celebration on Bright Monday. Archbishop Benjamin always joins us for Liturgy. Matushka Esther is planning a nice brunch afterwards so we have time with Vladyka Benjamin. Our janitors will not be coming until probably late on Monday, so we will need to have the hall presentable and festive for Monday morning. Hopefully, while the children are all still playing, a large crew of adults (men and women) could get things back in shape for Monday. If you would either sign up or let me know personally if you can be available to help with this it would be greatly appreciated. And just as a reminder to our seniors/retirees, this luncheon will be our April gathering as well. Thanking you all in advance and with Love in Christ. —*Barbara Owens*

- MAKE BELIEVE OR REAL?

Fr. Bethancourt taught us at the Lenten Retreat that at the Liturgy and the feast days, we are *inseparably separated* from the sacred event. Like a person who is triggered or taken back—emotionally and psychologically—to a traumatic event in life, in Divine Services we are not triggered, but gently invited to open our hearts and minds and *spiritually experience the power and grace of the sacred event*. Unfortunately, our attention is so fragmented by cell phones, the internet, anxiety, cares and who knows what, that we are often not prepared to experience the spiritual depths that we have been invited to enter. Offering up our weakness, we come into the Church, doing our best to pray, and find that God helps us from that point.

During Holy Week we witness the Passion of Christ—the power and redemption are given to us “today.” On Thursday night of Holy Week, we will hear the Gospel account of the Savior’s betrayal, trials (for there was not just one), beating, crucifixion and death. We will witness Judas’ betrayal, Peter’s denial, as well as the faith and courage of the Holy Women with Joseph and Nikodemus. Liturgically, by the Holy Spirit, we are brought **there** to be with them and with Christ during His suffering, even as we are still in the here and now. We find our place there in those dreadful events. We may come to understand that our Savior was crucified *because* of us, as well as *for us* and our salvation. Note well: All those hymns which mention the duplicity and fears of the Jewish leaders, the Roman authorities and Judas which led Christ to His voluntary and life-giving death, are no longer only about them—the dead and gone, historical figures. In that sense, the Church hymns are not casting blame at anyone for the Lord’s preordained and voluntary crucifixion. Rather, the hymns invite us into the mystery of the Passion to see our own sins, betrayals, denials, fears and faithlessness. The Lord redeems all that for us in His suffering, death and resurrection. I encourage you all to be present for all the Services of Holy Week. —*Fr. Lawrence*

- HUMILITY:

It happens, I do not know how, that most of the proud never really discover their true selves. They think they have conquered their passions, and they find out how poor they really are only after they die. —*John Climacus*

- PASCHA CANDLE DECORATING:

We will again decorate Pascha candles on Holy Friday in the Parish Hall. We start at 1 PM and will finish and clean up at 2:30 PM in time for vespers at 3 PM. Children and adults are invited to participate. We could use

more adults helping, so if you are free, please let me know if you can join us. Vicky Basch and I would like this activity to be a little more structured so that the kids create something beautiful to bring to Pascha. The past couple of years have been a bit of a free for all. Please let me know if you are going to come, so that we have enough candles and decorating supplies available. If you have something special you would like to put on your candle feel free to bring it. Email me at wintertonsh@yahoo.com or text me 707-331-3228 to let me know who will be coming. If you have a younger child attending, please plan to stay and assist them. —*Shannon Agni*

- HOLY SATURDAY

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, in his *Synopsis of Holy Week*, wrote that on Holy Saturday “the Church proclaims that Christ has ‘trampled death by death.’ It means that even before the Resurrection, an event takes place, in which the sorrow is not simply replaced by joy, but is itself transformed into joy. Great Saturday is precisely this day of transformation, the day when victory grows from inside the defeat [it appears that XC is defeated], when before the Resurrection, we are given to contemplate the death of death itself...all this is expressed, and even more, all this really takes place every year in this marvelous Vespereal Liturgy, in this liturgical commemoration which becomes for us a saving and transforming present....The Righteous One is crucified, abandoned by all, and endures a shameful death. He also becomes the partaker of Hades....Life enters the Kingdom of death. The Divine Light shines in its terrible darkness. It shines to all who are there, because Christ is the life of all, the only source of every life. Therefore He also dies for all, for whatever happens to His life—happens in Life itself...This descent into Hades is the encounter of the Life of all with the death of all...”

John of Damascus wrote that Christ “...brought the message of peace to those upon the earth, of release to the prisoners and of sight to the blind. He became to those who believed the Author of everlasting salvation and to those who did not believe a reproach of their unbelief; so He might become the same to those in Hades. He did this that every knee should bow to Him, of things in heaven, and things in earth and things under the earth (Phil. 2:10). After He had freed those who had been bound for ages, immediately He rose again from the dead, showing us the way of resurrection.” He took captivity captive, as St Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:8, quoting Psalm 67, which is the Psalm we sing on Pascha, Let God Arise. In “leading captivity captive” St. Paul was referring to raising the righteous out of captivity in Hades where they had been held captive awaiting their redemption. How shall we prepare ourselves for this unique day?

Upon rising, say the Prayers Before Communion, according to your rule. Normally we fast from all food and drink until after Communion. However, since we will not be receiving Communion until around 3 PM, some of us may not be able to fast so strictly. In that case, drink plenty of water, coffee if you need it, and eat something very light, but not after 10 AM. Being strict with ourselves is good, and we may surprise ourselves by what we can and cannot do. But remember that the day will be long. The Blessed Sabbath is a day of quiet. It can be proven, one would hope, that humans can live without the radio, tv, internet and news for a few days. Practice stillness. Of course, we have duties at home, but while working try not to lose sight of what the day is all about. Plan ahead, keep from rushing around, stay calm. You may have some crisis or emergency—pray for help. The work of preparation for Pascha will be going on here at the Church, and help is needed: to move picnic tables around for the Pascha BBQ, and to help decorate in the Church and set out the white icon cloths, to clean, to replace chandelier candles and many other things. Your participation is appreciated.

- BLESSING OF GRAVES—RADONITSA, MAY 7:

Tuesday, May 7 is *Radonitsa*, a “day of rejoicing.” Please join me in the blessing of the graves of our beloved parishioners and family members. I will begin the blessings at Pleasant Hills Cemetery in Sebastopol at 10 AM, move on to Forestville, Healdsburg and end up at Santa Rosa Memorial Park. What’s this all about? During Holy Week and Bright Week the Church instructs us not to sing memorial services. However, we begin those Memorial Prayers once again on the Tuesday after Bright Week, traditionally visiting the cemeteries to sing Christ is Risen at the gravesides of those departed this life. Perhaps we can have a caravan and a picnic too? —*Fr. Lawrence*