

- PREPARATION FOR PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA:

The Holy Week and Pascha **Sign-Up Sheets** are posted in the Narthex. Let each one of us take on a small responsibility.

- LAZARUS SATURDAY DECORATING AND CLEANING:

Next Saturday, April 8, about Noon, the church will be decorated in preparation for the Palm Sunday Vigil, Holy Week and Pascha—see Denise Pelizzier to help. Inside the Church we will be cleaning windows, light fixtures, scraping wax—see Fr Lawrence to assist.

- SUGGESTIONS FOR HOLY WEEK:

Attend as many services as you can. We have two each day (except Wednesday). Plan ahead. If you cannot attend a service, set aside time to read the scriptures and the main hymn of that day, posted [HERE](#). It is in the liturgical worship that we become participants rather than spectators in events of the Lord's Passion and Resurrection. The services of Holy Week are neither dramatizations of sacred history or spiritual entertainment. Holy Week is a single unbroken sacred Service that carries us through ten days of the saving acts of Jesus Christ—it's all about Him. In the words of Fr Stephen Freeman, our liturgical worship is "according to Tradition and focuses its attention on God. It is not there for you to 'get something out of it.'" It's only when we approach worship in that way do we actually *receive more* than we could hope for. Does it seem unreasonable to attend Church so much in a single week, twice a day? It is absolutely extravagant and outrageous! But Christ's love for us is extreme and intense. And so we return that love during Holy Week in a way that is beyond reason! Let us all submit ourselves to the spiritual therapy of Holy Week. —*Fr Lawrence*

- CHAIRS:

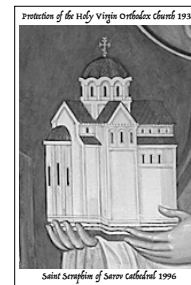
Please do not move or relocate chairs in the Church. They should stay just where they are. If you need assistance, an usher will provide a folding chair for you. —*Fr Lawrence*

- CONFESSIONS:

We look forward to Holy Week and especially our participation in Holy Communion on Great Thursday and Saturday and the Paschal Divine Liturgies. An important—essential—part of our preparation for entering into those holy days is the Sacrament of Confession. Please come before Holy Wednesday, after which no Confessions will be heard. *Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of repentance* (2 Cor. 6:2). —*Fr Lawrence*

ST. SERAPHIM CATHEDRAL

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN ORTHODOX CHURCH



April 2, 2023

The Fifth Week of Lent: St. Mary of Egypt



- TROPARION OF THE RESURRECTION, Tone One:

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews, while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life: Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ; glory to Thy kingdom; glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou who lovest mankind.

- TROPARION OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT, 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

- Friday, March 31: 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
6 PM, Small Compline/Akathist to the Theotokos
- Sat., April 1: 9 AM, Gardening Work Party
11 AM, Baptism of Nicholas Flood
3:30 PM, Catechism: *On Death and the Funeral*
5 PM, Great Vespers/Confession
- Sunday, April 2: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy
11:30 AM, Church School
Noon, Agape Meal
- Tues., April 4: 8 AM, Matins
- Wed., April 5: 8 AM, Matins
5 PM, Confessions
6 PM, 9th Hour, Presanctified Liturgy, Meal
- Thurs., April 6: 8 AM, Matins
5 PM, *Angels Unawares* guests arrive
7 PM, On-line Bible Study with Fr. James
- Friday, April 7: 8 AM, Matins ~ *Last day of Lent*
6 PM, Matins for Lazarus Saturday and Baptismal Instruction talk
- Sat., April 8: 9 AM, Baptisms (Alandrea M. and Andrew G.)
10 AM, Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday
Brunch Reception for newly-baptized to follow
Noon, Church decoration and clean up
5 PM, Vigil for Palm Sunday
- Sun. April 9: 10 AM, Divine Liturgy and Procession
Noon, Agape Meal
6 PM, Bridegroom Matins (Holy Week begins)

• BLESSING BAGS:

This Sunday, towards the end of the Agape Meal, we will be assembling ***Blessing Bags*** for the homeless: water, snacks, toothbrush...simple necessities for those in need. I encourage all to take some bags with you to offer to those who beg for help at our shopping malls, at the arterial road crossings and on our sidewalks. If you encounter someone holding a sign that says “Anything Helps” then they are in need. Better yet, you can buy a few things at the store and assemble some ***Blessing Bags*** at home. We normally have four or five bags in our cars for the numerous occasions we encounter those asking for help on any given day. A smile, a kind word and a ***Blessing Bag*** will most certainly reward you with a sincere “Thank You! and God Bless You!” from the receiver. —*With love in Christ, Thomas Steven and Denise Anna Pellizzer*

• LAZARUS SATURDAY:

Christ—the Joy, the Truth and the Light of all the Life of the World and the Resurrection—has appeared in His love to those on earth. He has become the Image of our Resurrection, Granting divine forgiveness to all. (Lazarus Saturday hymn). Christ comes to raise His friend, dead four days already. This important day in the history of salvation reveals the enemy—death—and announces the victory to come. And so we also baptize catechumens then. Fr Alexander Schmemmann wrote: “The power of Resurrection is not a Divine ‘power in itself,’ but power of love, or rather love as power. God is Love and Love is Life, Love creates Life... It is Love that weeps at the grave and it is Love that restores life. This is the meaning of the Divine tears of Jesus. In them love is at work again—recreating, redeeming, restoring the darkened life of man: ‘Lazarus, come forth...’”

• BRIDEGROOM MATINS:

This unique Matins will be served on Sunday–Tuesday evenings (April 9–12) of Holy Week at 6 PM. These are the *Services of the Bridegroom*. The name comes from the central figure in the well-known *Parable of the Ten Virgins* (Matthew 25:1–13). The title *Bridegroom* suggests the intimacy of love. It is not without significance that the kingdom of God is compared to a bridal feast and a bridal chamber. The Christ of the Passion is the Divine Bridegroom of the Church. The imagery connotes the final union of the Lover, Christ and the beloved, His Church. See the link [here](#) for a full description of Bridegroom Matins.