

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem, Palm Sunday

SUNDAY, April 28, 2024



- 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.

- TROPARION OF BRIDEGROOM MATINS (Sunday–Tuesday evenings)

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 thou be given up and shut out from the Kingdom. But, rouse thyself crying: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O God. Through the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- Fri., April 26:
 - 8 AM, Matins (final Lenten Matins)
 - 9:15 AM, 40th Day Memorial for Jeanne Elizabeth Share
 - 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions
 - 6 PM, Matins for Lazarus Saturday, followed by Baptismal Instructions
- Sat., April 27:
 - 9 AM, Baptism of Catechumens
 - 10 AM, Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday
 - Brunch and Reception for the Newly-Illumined
 - 1 PM, Decoration/preparing the Church for the Vigil
 - 5 PM, Vigil for Palm Sunday/Blessing of Palms/Confessions
- Sun., April 28:
 - 10 AM, Divine Liturgy and procession
 - 11:45 AM, Agape Meal
 - 12:30 PM or so, Rehearsal for the Paschal Procession
 - 7 PM, Bridegroom Matins, **NB time change!**

- Holy Monday–Tuesday: 10:30 AM, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
6 PM, Bridegroom Matins (*Confessions before and after Matins*)
- Holy Wed., May 1: 5 PM, Confessions (**Final day for Confessions**)
6 PM, Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
- Holy Thurs., May 2: 11:30 AM, Vespertal Liturgy of the Mystical Supper ~ Institution of the Holy Eucharist
1:30 PM, Floral Ministry Team to prepare decorations
6 PM, Matins of Holy Friday ~ Reading of Twelve Passion Gospels
- Holy Fri., May 3: *Strict Fast Day*
3 PM, Great Vespers of Holy Friday with bringing out of Shroud (*Epitaphios*)
6 PM, Matins of Holy Saturday with the Lamentations and Procession/Psalm Reading
- Holy Sat., May 4: *Strict Fast Day*
1 PM, Vespertal Divine Liturgy / Reading of Acts
11:30 PM, Nocturn Service
Midnight: PASCHAL Matins and Liturgy
Agape and Blessing of Paschal Baskets ~ Parish Hall following the Liturgy
- PASCHA, May 5: 1 PM, Paschal Vespers and *BBQ*, *see below for more info*
- Bright Mon., May 6: 9 AM, Paschal Hours and Divine Liturgy
- Bright Tues., May 7: 6 PM, Paschal Vespers
- Bright Wed., May 8: 6 PM, Paschal Vespers followed by St. Seraphim Men's Fellowship BBQ
- Bright Thurs., May 9: *Parish Feast at St. Nicholas in Saratoga*

God has richly blessed our parish with the baptisms of seventeen beautiful catechumens on Lazarus Saturday. We welcome them, rejoice with them and ask the Lord to give them many years. The prayer for the making a catechumen expresses our prayers for them well: *May Thy holy Name be glorified in them, together with that of Thy beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and of Thy life-giving Spirit. Let Thine eyes ever regard them with mercy, and let Thine ears attend to the voice of their supplication. Let them rejoice in the works of their hands, and in all his (her) generation...* Please extend your warmest congratulations to Roxanne, Liliana, Stephanie-Marie, Gigi-Gwen, Phacelia, Aly-Brigid, Faye-Lucia, Indigo-James, Joseph, Giovanni, Jackson-John, Dallas-Donnen, Noah, William-Justus, Sadik-Paisios, Raymond-Elijah, Elitsa-Lukia.

The Pascha BBQ takes place after the 1 PM Agape Vespers on Pascha. Bring a salad, side dish or dessert, the meat will be provided. Please see the sign-up sheet which lists the tasks that must be done before the BBQ, and those to be done afterwards—primarily clean up. The event cannot go on unless those slots are filled. —Fr Lawrence

On Lazarus Saturday (this coming Saturday) we will be decorating the church for the Feast with palms and flowers following the reception for the Newly-illuminated. This is a project, along with decorating the icons, that could do with some additional help. For more info, speak with Karin Crawford or George Artemoff.

Palm branches will be blessed during the 5 PM Vigil for the *Feast of the Entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem*, AKA *Palm Sunday*. We hold them throughout the Liturgy on Sunday.

We prepare ourselves for the reception of Holy Communion during Holy Week and Pascha by a recent confession. Confessions may be heard **before and after** the evening Matins on Monday and Tuesday, as well as on Wednesday at 5 PM before the evening Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts. *For those over the age of seven who wish to receive Holy Communion during Holy Week and Pascha, please arrange a confession as soon as possible.* Confessions will not be heard after Holy Wednesday (Fr. Nicholas will not be here that evening, FYI). Holy Week is the time of the Lord's Passion and our attention should be fixed on that. —*Fr. Lawrence*

Pascha Baskets will be blessed, as is our custom, in the Parish Hall after the Paschal Divine Liturgy. What's in a Paschal Basket? Whatever you like to eat that you have not had since before Lent. Some baskets contain eggs, kulich bread with candle, kielbasa, cheese, butter, ham, pizza and probably candy.

Parents, please keep a watchful eye on your children at all times. Children should not be playing in the vineyard, behind the parish hall or the parking lot. We ask also that children do not go up and down the stairs in St Seraphim, or sit on them; this is an accident waiting to happen. —*Fr. Lawrence*

We sing hymns during Holy Week which mention the duplicity, machinations and fears of the Judean leaders (Pharisees, Chief Priest, Scribes, etc), the Roman military authorities which crucified Jesus, and of course, Judas, who betrayed Him. A good portion of those hymns are quotes from the prophets, psalms and canticles of the Old Testament. The point of the hymnography is not to cast blame upon the Jewish people in general, but to identify the historical situation at the time and the specific religious and civil authorities that were involved. Jesus Christ was crucified at a certain time in history and a specific place, and certain people were involved—however, the hymns are not addressed to those people who are dead and long gone. This is not anti-Jewish rhetoric. The hymns identify **our** part in the betrayal of Jesus Christ. Since we are the the inheritors of the Jewish Covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob by being united to Jesus the Messiah (the Christ) in baptism, then the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms which these hymns quote, invite me into the mystery of the Passion, and reveal my betrayal of the Messiah. Christ willingly came, in His infinite love, to die for my sake; and it was my sin that He had to destroy on the Cross, and it is me and everyone else that He came to raise from death. The hymns are addressed to me. —*Fr. Lawrence*

The Resurrection is the restoration of our human nature. Such things God gives freely, for just as He forms us without us willing it, so He forms us anew though we have contributed nothing to it. On the other hand, the Kingdom and vision of God and union with Christ are privileges which depend on willingness. They are thus possible only for those who have been willing to receive them and have loved them and longed for them. For such it is fitting that they should enjoy the presence of the things for which they longed; for the unwilling it is impossible... Like a blind man he would fall out of this life into that, bereft of every sense and faculty by which it is possible to know and love the Savior and to wish to be united to Him

and to be able to achieve it. One need not therefore marvel that while all will live in immortality, it is not all who will live in blessedness. All equally enjoy God's providence for our nature, but it is only those who are devout towards God who enjoy the gifts which adorn their willingness. —St. Nicholas Cabasilas, 14th Century, *The Life in Christ*

The days of Holy Week are dedicated, as much as possible, to prayer, church services and preparing for Pascha. The work at the parish is significantly increased during these wonderful and holy days: the church needs to be cleaned after the evening services, icon-glass wiped down, tables cleaned of wine spills, oil lamps trimmed and refilled, carpets vacuumed, bits and pieces picked up, windows closed, the candle-desk staffed, and so on. Please, dear parishioners, there are so many of us: Find a slot on the Sign Up Sheet in the Narthex in which you can volunteer for one evening or morning during this week, so that each day the tasks at hand are completed.

PROTECTION OF THE HOLY VIRGIN MARY ORTHODOX CHURCH

MAY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
April 28 – Palm Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy and Procession • Noon, Agape Meal 	29 – HOLY WEEK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 AM, Presanctified Liturgy • 5 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Bridgroom Matins 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10:30 AM, Presanctified Liturgy • 5 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Bridgroom Matins 	May 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 PM, Confessions • 6 PM, Presanctified Liturgy 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM, Divine Liturgy of Great and Holy Thursday • 6 PM, Matins of Holy Friday 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Royal Hours • 3 PM, Vespers of Holy Friday • 6 PM, Matins of Holy Saturday 	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 PM, Vespers/Liturgy for Holy Saturday • 11:30 PM, Midnight Service and the Paschal Celebration
5 – PASCHA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 AM, Paschal Liturgy and Agape • 1 PM, Paschal Vespers and BBQ 	6 – Bright Monday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Paschal Hours and Liturgy • Brunch 	7 – Bright Tuesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Paschal Hours and Vespers 	8 – Bright Wednesday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Paschal Hours and Vespers • Men's Fellowship Dinner in Parish Hall 	9 – Bright Thursday <i>St. Nicholas Parish Feast, Santoga, 10 AM Liturgy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM, Bible Study 	10 – Bright Friday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Paschal Hours and Vespers 	11 – Bright Saturday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30 AM, Paschal Liturgy at Holy Trinity in SF • 5 PM, Great Vespers/Confessions
12 – Thomas Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • Mentorship 	13 <i>Preparing for scaffolding and plastering in St Seraphim</i>	14 – Radonisa <i>Blessing of Graves at Cemetery: Sebastopol, Forestville, Healdsburg, Windsor—see bulletin for times</i>	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga • 6 PM, Vespers 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM, Bible Study 	17	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
19 – Holy Myrrh-bearers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • 11:45 AM, Spiritual Lesson 	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy for the Feast of Sts. Constantine and Helen 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga • 6 PM, Vespers 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM, Bible Study 	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions 	25 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions
26 – Sunday of the Paralytic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 AM, Divine Liturgy • Noon, Agape Meal • Mentorship 	27 – Memorial Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noon, Memorial Prayers at Santa Rosa Cemetery • 4 PM, BBQ at Church 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 PM, Vespers 	29 – Mid-Feast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 AM, Divine Liturgy and Blessing of Water • 5:30 PM, Akathist to Matushka Olga • 6 PM, Vespers 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 PM, Bible Study 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11:30 AM–1 PM, Confessions 	JUNE 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 PM, Vigil/Confessions