

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

April 13th – PALM SUNDAY

Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel Reading: John 12:1-18

Troparion – Tone 1

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your passion, / You did confirm the universal Resurrection, O Christ God! / Like the children with the palms of victory, / we cry out to You, O Vanquisher of death: / Hosanna in the Highest! / Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!

We pray for our entire church family and those who do not have a family or church family, and our special prayers are for the sick and suffering and for the health and salvation of others:

The Archbishop Melchizedek, Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, Archpriest Paul, Protopresbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Protodeacon John, Mark, Matushka Ellen, Matushka Svetlana, Matushka Irene, Matushka Katherine, Catherine Xenia, Karen, Nadine Olsen, Michael Olsen, Michelle, Alexander, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Engelsman, Valentina Bobrowski, Anna Konoleva, Erika Dobrzynski, Douglas Dobrzynski, Andrew John Lihou, Marie Biancarelli, Joshua and Daniel Buccieri, Emma Matthews, Stephanie, Kristy, Victor Szemetylo, Helen, Bonnie Shaffner, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie, Tyler, Anna, Aleksei, Elena, Denis, Nadezhda, Izabella, Olga, Rita, Olga, Olga, Sofia, Iosif, John, Dawn, Pavel, Elena, Avery, Halyna (Klima), Sergey, John, Francis, Anna, Birgin, Tanya and John Francis, Pamela, Rebecca and Maritsa.

*** To amend the prayer list, speak with Mary Osinski***

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APRIL 13th, 2025

ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM (PALM SUNDAY) - Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13). This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ's earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ's raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass" (Zech 9:9). Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are but the passage to Holy Week: the "hour" of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus, the triumph in a earthly sense is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which mostly enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom. The liturgy of the Church is more than mediation or praise concerning past events. It communicates to us the eternal presence and power of the events being celebrated and makes us participants in those events. Thus, the services of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday bring us to our own moment of life and death and entrance into the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom not of this world, a Kingdom accessible in the Church through repentance and baptism. On Palm Sunday palm and willow branches are blessed in the Church. We take them in order to raise them up and greet the King and Ruler of our life: Jesus Christ. We take them in order to reaffirm our baptismal pledges. As the One who raised Lazarus and entered Jerusalem to go to His voluntary Passion stands in our midst, we are faced with the same question addressed to us at baptism: "Do you accept Christ?" We give our answer by daring to take the branch and raise it up: "I accept Him as King and God!" Thus, on the eve of Christ's Passion, in the celebration of the joyful cycle of the triumphant days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we reunite ourselves to Christ, affirm His Lordship over the totality of our life, and express our readiness to follow Him to His Kingdom. ... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that, if possible, I may again the resurrection from the dead.

Service Schedule

Great Vespers: 5pm Saturdays

Hours: 9:45am Sundays

Divine Liturgy: 10:00am Sundays

Confessions: Will be heard every Saturday evening after Vespers or by appointment.

Call, text or email Father Michael at (848)228-1563 or holyspiritwantagenj@gmail.com

Monthly calendar at www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

Dates to Remember

**Sunday 13th of April – PALM SUNDAY
ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM**

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Bridegroom Matins at 5 pm

Monday 14th of April – Great and Holy Monday

Bridegroom Matins at 6:30 pm

Tuesday 15th of April – Great and Holy Tuesday

Bridegroom Matins at 6:30 pm

Wednesday 16th of April – Great and Holy Wednesday

Holy Unction at 6:30 pm

Thursday 17th of April

Vesperal Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Matins with 12 Passion Gospels at 6:30 pm

Friday 18th of April

Holy Friday Vespers at 3 pm

Matins with Lamentations at 6:30 pm

Saturday 19th of April – PASCHA OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Vesperal Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Paschal Nocturnes, Matins and Divine Liturgy at 11:30 pm

Blessing of Baskets and Agape Meal

Sunday 20th of April – PASCHA OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Pascha Vespers at 11:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the Sunday before Easter and when the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is commemorated. Palm Sunday marks the first day of Holy Week. Many thanks to all who coordinated the psalms and pussy willows for distribution on Palm Sunday.

Pray for our Catechumens

Daniela Hernandez Carpio became a Catechumen on St. Mary of Egypt Sunday, 6th of April 2025. Please continue to remember in your prayers Christopher Michael Spies and Alyssa Nichole Ross as they continue to pray and prepare for the sacrament of Baptism and Holy Chrismation which will take place prior to Vesperal Divine Liturgy on Holy Saturday, 19th of April, 2025.

Spring Clean Up

Many thanks for a wonderful spring clean-up! We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who generously gave their time and energy to help with the church's spring clean-up. Your dedication to beautify our Church and grounds is truly appreciated. Our Church and grounds shine better than ever and you are to thank!

Flowers for Pascha

Please donate towards the floral decoration of the Church for the Paschal season. Use the Paschal flowers envelope or put a note with your donation. Flowers may be dedicated to the departed or the health and salvation of the living.

Tomb Watching

An ancient tradition in the Orthodox Church is the Vigil at the Tomb of Christ. The Holy Friday Vigil at Christ's tomb is our opportunity to help keep watch over our Lord's body as He descends into Hell to loosen the bonds of death. What better way to understand the death and resurrection of Jesus than to participate in the Vigil by His tomb? The Church has given us this opportunity to watch and wait with the countless saints and myriads of angels as our Lord conquers death. If you would like to participate in this ancient tradition and read the Psalm over the tomb of Christ, please sign up at the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The time period will be divided by 1-hour intervals, and you are more than welcome to share your spot with another person.

Bagels at Coffee Social

For the past many years, The Bagel Station generously donated bagels to our church for the Sunday Coffee Social. With the recent change in ownership, we now need to purchase bagels, which cost approximately \$30 per week. You're always welcome to enjoy a bagel, and if you're able, we ask for donation to help cover the cost. If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to Nadine Olsen. Thank you and enjoy!

Food Donation Cart

The need to continue to assist those in need continues and we ask that when you are shopping, please remember those who are less fortunate. Dan Taylor informed us that the needs of the Sussex Help Center did not change and that they are accepting peanut butter, jelly, tuna fish cans, cereal boxes and other non-perishables. **They are also in need of donation of used shopping bags.**