

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2024

April 28th – 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 Joseph, Archpriest Samuel, Archimandrite Joseph, 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, Maria Higginbotham, 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, Helen Schweizer, Zoran Pejovic, Sunny Hunsicker, Ioana, Carmen, Michael, John, Sarah, Linda, Pamela Anne and Kimberly Marie, JoAnne, Beatrice, Christina, Orestes, Julia, Adrian, Sonya, Biljana, Dorothy, Pauline, Brandy, Makenzie, Tyler, Anna, Alksei, Elena, Denis, Nadezhda, Izabella, Olga, Rita, Olga, Olga, Sofia, Iosif, John, Dawn, Pavel and Elena

Holy Spirit Orthodox Church
102 Route 284, Wantage, NJ 07461

Father Michael - Priest-in-charge
(848)228-1563

holyspiritwantagej@gmail.com
www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org
<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/>
<https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/weeklybulletins>

The WEEKLY BULLETIN **HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH**

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

April 28st, 2024

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 an 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 meditation 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 attain 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

Saturday 27th of April – LAZARUS SATURDAY

Divine Liturgy at 9 am
Great Vespers at 5 pm

**Sunday 28th of April – PALM SUNDAY
ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSSALEM**

Divine Liturgy at 10 am
Bridegroom Matins at 5 pm

Monday 29th of April – Great and Holy Monday
Bridegroom Matins at 6:30 pm

Tuesday 30th of April – Great and Holy Tuesday
Bridegroom Matins at 6:30 pm

Wednesday 1st of May – Great and Holy Wednesday
Holy Unction at 6:30 pm

Thursday 2nd of May – Great and Holy Thursday
Vespers Divine Liturgy at 9 am
Matins with 12 Passion Gospels at 6:30 pm

Friday 3rd of May – Great and Holy Friday
Holy Friday Vespers at 3 pm
Matins with Lamentations at 6:30 pm

Saturday 4th of May – PASCHA OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
Vespers Divine Liturgy at 9 am
Paschal Nocturnes, Matins and Divine Liturgy at 11:30 pm
Blessing of Baskets and Agape Meal

Sunday 5th of May – PASCHA OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
Pascha Vespers at 11:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Visitors Welcome

Everyone is welcome to visit and worship with us, and especially during Holy Week, to experience the beauty of the Holy Week's services. Please follow our bulletin on: <https://www.holyspiritorthodox.org/weeklybulletins> for more information.

Lazarus Saturday, April 27th

Following Divine Liturgy, palms and pussy willows will be assembled by our Sunday School helpers for distribution on Palm Sunday.

Ground Clean Up

Due to the tireless efforts of Joan Santiago, Maritza Farren and Olivia Perez, our Church needs only light cleaning. However, spring is in the air and our church grounds need some tender loving care. We're looking for volunteers for a spring clean up on Lazarus Saturday, following Divine Liturgy. Together we can create an inviting environment for all who wish to visit our church.

Confessions

As we are approaching Holy Week, we are all to confess our sins. Confessions will be heard before any Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, of after Great Vespers or before Divine Liturgies.

Pascal Flowers

Donations for flowers to adorn the grave are requested and very much appreciated. This is an opportunity to remember a departed loved one or to remember and honor a family member, relative or friend. Please mark your check or note with cash, "Pascal Flowers."

Pray for our Catechumens

Please remember in your prayers Joan, Edgar, Travis, Olivia and Finlay as they are preparing for the sacrament of Baptism and Holy Chrismation which will take place prior to the Divine Liturgy on Great and Holy Saturday, May 4th, 2024.

Sussex Help Center Announcements

We have received three very generous food drives, and our shelves are bulging! So just now (upon request), we also give pet food (cat and dog, wet and dry), baby stuff – diapers (to size 6), oil, lotions, food (no jar food please!), laundry and dish detergents and basic cleaning supply. Thank you all for your generous donations. Joan

Have an item for the bulletin?

Please email Father Michael at holyspiritwantage@gmail.com or Mary Osinski at mary.osinski@gmail.com