

OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2023

APRIL 9th – PALM SUNDAY

Epistle Reading: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel Reading: John 12:1-18

Troparion – Tone 8

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your passion, / You did confirm the universal Resurrection, O Christ God! / Like the children with the palm 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 Archpriests Samuel and Joseph, Archimandrite Joseph, Protospesbyter Christos, the priest Gregory, Mark Benda, Matushka Ellen, Emily Anastasia, Gabriel, Zoe, Nadine, Michelle, Anastasia, Sophia Eptamenitis, Edward, Taisa, Konstance 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 and Adrian. Amen!!!

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

Follow us on



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The WEEKLY BULLETIN **HOLY SPIRIT ORTHODOX CHURCH**

www.HolySpiritOrthodox.org

April 9th, 2023

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: 5 pm 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 8th of April – LAZARUS SATURDAY

Divine Liturgy at 9 am
Great Vespers at 5 pm

Sunday 9th of April – PALM SUNDAY
ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Divine Liturgy at 10 am
Bridegroom Matins at 5 pm

Monday 10th of April – Great and Holy Monday
Bridegroom Matins at 6:30 pm

Tuesday 11th of April – Great and Holy Tuesday
Bridegroom Matins at 6:30 pm

Wednesday 12th of April – Great and Holy Wednesday
Holy Unction at 6:30 pm

Thursday 13th of April – Great and Holy Thursday
Vespersal Divine Liturgy at 9 am
Matins with 12 Passion Gospels at 6:30 pm

Friday 14th of April – Great and Holy Friday
Holy Friday Vespers at 3 pm
Matins with Lamentations at 6:30 pm

Saturday 15th of April – PASCHA OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
Vespersal Divine Liturgy at 9 am
Paschal Nocturnes, Matins and Divine Liturgy at 11:30 pm
Blessing of Baskets and Agape Meal

Sunday 16th of April – PASCHA OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
Pascha Vespers at 11:00 am

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Welcome

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

Paschal Flowers

Donation 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, "Paschal Flowers." God Bless and many thanks.

Donation of Red Eggs for Pashca

Please volunteer to offer red eggs to Holy Spirit Orthodox Church to be distributed at Pascha. There's sign-up sheet in the Narthex. For more information on how to dye eggs or how many eggs are needed, please speak with Mark Benda or Nadine Olsen.

Pray for our Catechumens

Please remember in your prayers Glen and Delia as they are preparing for the sacrament of the Holy Chrismation which will take place during the Divine Liturgy on Great and Holy Saturday, April 15th, 2023.

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, before or after Great Vespers or before Divine Liturgies.

Food Donation Cart

Whenever you are shopping remember those who are hungry and purchase one or more items for our donation cart. If you would like to know the current needs of the Sussex Help Center, please talk with Dan Taylor. Thank you and God bless you!

Vigil at the Tomb of Christ

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 Psalms over the tomb of Christ, please sign up at the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The time period will be divided by two hour intervals, and you are more than welcome to share your spot with another person.

Have an item for the bulletin?

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