



FROM THE AMBIVON

ST MICHAEL ORTHODOX CHURCH

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April 28th, 2024 ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM. Palm Sunday. Apostles Jason and Sospater of the Seventy, the Virgin Kerkyra, and those with them (1st c.). Martyrs Dada, Maximus, and Quintilian, at Dorostolum (286). St. Cyril, Bishop of Turov (1183).

Birthdays & Anniversaries for April

Birthdays: Rodion Shepherd (04/06); Maximus Shepherd (04/08); +John Snopek (04/13); Philip Pecuch Jr. (04/17);

Nameday: Marie Pasternak (04/01);

Anniversary:

Baptism:

Travelers:

Prospora Schedule: HELP! We need families to start baking prospora at home. Please sign up. *The Church has a prospora kit if you would like to borrow it. We will need more prospora during Great Lent for the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesdays.* Thank you all for your offering “for the people by the people.”

May 5th - PASCHA

May 12th -

Counting: HELP! Please sign up to help us count weekly donations!"

May 5th - PASCHA

May 12th -

Visitors: PLEASE JOIN US DOWNSTAIRS for an Agape Meal. Thank you to everyone who donated. Please donate what you would spend for lunch at the agape meal to replenish our supplies.

PLEASE SING ALONG! Singing the hymns and responses to the litanies throughout the services is encouraged!

DEAR GUESTS AND FRIENDS: *A most sincere and heartfelt welcome to you from our community. According to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared to receive themselves by prayer, fasting, and a recent (monthly) confession. If you have questions please ask Fr Michael! Visitors, if you did not introduce yourself to Fr Michael at Vespers, please refrain from Holy Communion.*



Words of Wisdom

From the Saints & Teachers

Today Readings

Epistles: (247) Philippians 4:4-9

Gospels: (41) John 12:1-18

EPISTLES

Deacon: Let us attend!

Priest: Peace be unto all!

Reader: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone, a Psalm of David: Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. / God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. (Ps. 117:26b, 27b)

Choir: Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. / God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.

Reader: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. Ps. 117:1)

Choir: O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

Reader: Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

Choir: God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Philippians.

Deacon: Let us attend!

(247) Philippians 4:4-9 Brethren: Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Priest: Peace be unto thee, Reader.

Reader: And to thy spirit.

ALLELUIA

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The Alleluia in the 1st Tone: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! (Ps. 97:1)

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Reader: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (Ps. 97:5)

Choir: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPELS

(41) John 12:1-18 Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the

fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

Philippians 4:8b–9a Think on Whatever Is Worthy of Praise. St John Chrysostom: Paul did not say "look for praise" but "do what is praiseworthy"—but do not do it merely with an eye to praise.... When he says "whatever is of good report," so that you will not suppose that he means simply from human reports, he adds, "If there be any virtue, any praise. **Homily on Philippians 15.4.9.**

Philippians 4:9 Doing as Paul Has Taught Them

Do What You Have Seen in Me. St John Chrysostom: He sees that it is impossible to give precise instructions about everything—their going out, their coming in, their words, their inner condition and their company. All of these a Christian must think about in context. He says concisely and as it were in a nutshell, "Just do what you have heard and seen me do." **Homily on Philippians 15.4.9.**

John 12:13 The Return of the King. St Irenaeus: The Lord granted, by means of his advent, a greater gift of grace to those of a later period than what he had granted to those under the Old Testament dispensation. For they indeed used to hear, from his servants, about the King who would come, and they rejoiced to a certain extent, inasmuch as they hoped for his coming. But those who have actually been in his presence and have been freed and made partakers of his gifts—they possess a greater amount of grace and a higher degree of exultation in their rejoicing because the King has arrived. This is also what David says, "My soul shall rejoice in the Lord; it shall be glad in his salvation." And for this reason, on his entrance into Jerusalem, all those who were in the way recognized David their king in the sorrow of his soul, and spread their garments for him and ornamented the way with green boughs, crying out with great joy and gladness, "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord: hosanna in the highest." ... What had been declared by David concerning the Son of God was accomplished in his own person.... It was he himself who was announced by the prophets as Christ, whose name is praised in all the earth. **Against Heresies 4.11.3.**

Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday

The week following the Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt is called Palm or Branch Week. At the Tuesday services of this week the Church recalls that Jesus' friend Lazarus has died and that the Lord is going to raise him from the dead (Jn 11). As the days continue toward Saturday, the Church, in its hymns and verses, continues to follow Christ towards Bethany to the tomb of Lazarus. On Friday evening, the eve of the celebration of the Resurrection of Lazarus, the "great and saving forty days" of Great Lent are formally brought to an end:

Having accomplished the forty days for the benefit of our souls, we pray to Thee, O Lover of Man, that we may see the holy week of Thy passion, that in it we may glorify Thy greatness and Thine unspeakable plan of salvation for our sake . . . (Vespers Hymn).

Lazarus Saturday is a paschal celebration. It is the only time in the entire Church Year that the resurrectional service of Sunday is celebrated on another day. At the liturgy of Lazarus Saturday, the Church glorifies Christ as "the Resurrection and the Life" who, by raising Lazarus, has confirmed the universal resurrection of mankind even before His own suffering and death.

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God! Like the children with the branches 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! (Troparion).

Christ—the Joy, the Truth and the Light of All, the Life of the world and its Resurrection—has appeared in his goodness to those on earth. He has become the Image of our Resurrection, granting divine forgiveness to all (Kontakion).

At the Divine Liturgy of Lazarus Saturday the baptismal verse from Galatians: As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ (Gal 3.27) replaces the Thrice-holy Hymn thus indicating the resurrectional character of the celebration, and the fact that Lazarus Saturday was once among the few great baptismal days in the Orthodox Church Year.

Because of the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead, Christ was hailed by the masses as the long-expected Messiah-King of Israel. Thus, in fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament, He entered Jerusalem, the City of the King, riding on the colt of an ass (Zech 9.9; Jn 12.12). The crowds greeted Him with branches in their hands and called out to Him with shouts of praise: Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! The Son of David! The King of Israel! Because of this glorification by the people, the priests and scribes were finally driven "to destroy Him, to put Him to death" (Lk 19.47; Jn 11.53, 12.10).

The feast of Christ's triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, Palm Sunday, is one of the twelve major feasts of the Church. The services of this Sunday follow directly from those of Lazarus Saturday. The church building continues to be vested in resurrectional splendor, filled with hymns which continually repeat the Hosanna offered to Christ as the Messiah-King who comes in the name of God the Father for the salvation of the world.

The main troparion of Palm Sunday is the same one sung on Lazarus Saturday. It is sung at all of the services, and is used at the Divine Liturgy as the third antiphon which follows the other special psalm verses which are sung as the liturgical antiphons in the place of those normally used. The second troparion of the feast, as well as the kontakion and the other verses and hymns, all continue to glorify Christ's triumphal manifestation "six days before the Passover" when he will give himself at the Supper and on the Cross for the life of the world.

Today the grace of the Holy Spirit has gathered us together. Let us all take up Thy cross and say: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! (First Verse of Vespers).

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! (Second Troparion).

Sitting on Thy throne in heaven, and carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God, accept the praise of angels and the songs of children who sing: Blessed is he who comes to recall Adam! (Kontakion).

At the vigil of the feast of Palm Sunday the prophecies of the Old Testament about the Messiah-King are read together with the Gospel accounts of the entry of Christ into Jerusalem. At Matins branches are blessed which the people carry throughout the celebration as the sign of their own glorification of Jesus as Saviour and King. These branches are usually palms, or, in the Slavic churches, pussy willows which came to be customary because of their availability and their early blossoming in the springtime.

As the people carry their branches and sing their songs to the Lord on Palm Sunday, they are judged together with the Jerusalem crowd. For it was the very same voices which cried Hosanna to Christ, which, a few days later, cried Crucify Him! Thus in the liturgy of the Church the lives of men continue to be judged as they hail Christ with the “branches of victory” and enter together with Him into the days of His “voluntary passion.”

How Much is my tithe

Weekly	2%	4%	5%	10%
\$200	\$4	\$8	\$10	\$20
\$500	\$10	\$20	\$25	\$50
\$750	\$15	\$30	\$37	\$75
\$1000	\$20	\$40	\$50	\$100
\$1500	\$30	\$60	\$75	\$150

WEEKLY GIVING UPDATE: We thank you for your continued giving in gratitude for all that our loving God does for each of us, for His Holy Church, and all the blessings we receive through her.

April Income: \$14,563.46

April Expense: \$14,763.05

Weekly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$3,740.85

Monthly Cost to Keep the Church Open: \$14,963.58

Announcements - Upcoming Parish & Diocesan Events



Silent Prayers and Confession: Every Wednesday 11:00AM - 1:30PM or after vespers. Or you can make an appt for confession.

Church Work Day: Every Friday is Church Maintenance day.

Monthly Panikhida: No Panikhida.

Mother’s Day & Blessing of the Graves: May12 - All Men to cook for Agape Meal (if it rains on this day the memorial will take place after immediately after liturgy)

Parish Council Meeting: 19May - All are invited.

Pascha Flowers: Donations towards adorning the church this Lenten season and Pascha are being accepted so that our parish will be beautifully adorned for all of the feasts. General Donations for Palm Sunday should be placed in the donation box. Please write “Flowers for Lent” in the memo. If you would like to honor a loved one by making a donation for Holy Pascha flowers “In Memory of” or “For the Health of” a loved one, please sign up in the Church Vestibule/Narthex. Please leave donations in the donation box or mail them to the

Church, OR drop it in the rectory mailbox attention "Treasurer." As always, your loved ones will be remembered in our services in prayer. Envelopes can be picked at the candle stand.

Take Out Chicken Barbeque: Hosted by Arcaro and Genells Saturday, June 22nd from 12PM-3PM. The price will be \$13 a ticket. Everyone will be given two tickets to sell (you can purchase more if you like). Sandy and Tammy will hand them out on April 14th.

Sign up Sheets: Please sign up for Tomb watch, the 12 Gospel readings, boil and dye a dozen of eggs, and Pascha Kulich

Agape Vespers Picnic: Looking for a place to have a picnic and do Vespers. Maybe McDade Park?

Bright Monday Breakfast: Please join us for Divine Liturgy on Bright Monday and afterwards we will go to Breakfast.

Parish Prayer List

Newly Departed: *Michael Brown (3/15)*

Departed: *Michael Marko (4/16); John Marko (4/18); Mary Marko (4/19); Sonia Schuster (4/24)*

Please remember in your prayers LIVING

Ill-afflicted *Archpriests Michael Evans, John Nightingale, & Theodore Orzolek*

All those caring for the sick and suffering at this time throughout the world, especially our families and friends: *David Lezinsky, John Pritchuk, Christine Sevensky, Mike Jadick, Margaret Pregmon, Daniel Jones, Matushka Paula Soucek, Michael Sokol; Michael Krenitsky; The children of God Abigail and Nathan.*

Servants of God *Mark Bezhuly, David Barsigian, Patricia Jones, Anne Buday, Mary Krevko, Gregory Krevko, Emily Krenitsky, Gregory Krenitsky, Barbara Sevensky, Bernie & Beverly Elko, Sandra Condon, Marie Pasternak, Ann Tyrpak, Sandy & Danny Pregmon, Walter Pritchuk, Michael & Euphemia Keklak, Justin & Elisabeth Kane, Maria & Vitaliy Rakovsky, Ekaterina & Anna, Joe & Kelly Cigna, George, Natasha, Rosa, & Lucia Coyoy, Paul & MaryAnn Newmeyer, Mat. Emilia, Blaise, Maximus, Rodion, Savina Shepherd, Joseph, Emilia, Judah, Nadezda, & Silas Hart, Eli & Paula Stavisky, Helen Wytovich, Tammy Wytovich, Sharissa & Debra, Nadia Macheska, Paulette Ezbiansky, Maura Elko*

Seekers - *Christopher, Eugene, Mike, Brayden, Barbara*

Catechumen - *JoAnne Snopek & Paul Dunay*

Preparing for Illumination - *Jason Vo, Santo Joseph Cerminaro, Mikayla Brown*

Show the light of thy countenance, O Master, upon those who are preparing for holy illumination and who desire to put away the defilement of sin. Enlighten their understanding. Establish them in the faith. Strengthen them in hope. Perfect them in love. Make them honorable members of thy Christ, who gave himself for our souls. For thou art our Illumination, and unto thee we ascribe glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.



ST MICHAEL'S ORTHODOX CHURCH
 DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
 & EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA
 512 SUMMER ST
 OLD FORGE, PA 18518
 CHRIST IS RISEN!



April 27 th	Lazarus Saturday Liturgy Vigil (<i>with blessing of Palms</i>)	9:00 am 5:00 pm
April 28 th	Entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem (<i>Palm Sunday</i>) Hours/Divine Liturgy Great and Holy Monday Bridegroom Matins	9:10 am 5:00 pm
April 29 th	Joint Presanctified Liturgy at St Michaels Jermyn Great and Holy Monday Bridegroom Matins	9:30 am 5:00 pm
April 30 th	Joint Presanctified Liturgy at All Saints Great and Holy Tuesday Bridegroom Matins	9:30 am 5:00 pm
May 1 st	Presanctified Liturgy Holy Anction Served by local clergy St Nicholas	9:00 am 6:00 pm
May 2 nd	Hierarchical Vespersal Divine Liturgy w/CONSECRATION OF CHRISM at St Tikhon's Monastery Matins with Twelve Passion Gospels	8:00 am 5:00 pm
May 3 rd	Great and Holy Friday Royal Hours & Typika Great Vespers (<i>with procession to the tomb</i>) Matins w/Lamentations for Holy Saturday	9:00 am 3:00 pm 7:00 pm
May 4 th	Great and Holy Saturday (<i>the Blessed Sabbath</i>) Vespersal Divine Baptismal Liturgy of St Basil Pascha	9:00 am Vigil 10:00 pm
May 5 th	Holy Pascha (<i>followed blessing of the baskets</i>) Aṡape Vespers and Pascha picnic	12:00 am 4:00 pm
May 6 th	Bright Monday Liturgy (blessing 4 corners) Breakfast	9:00 am

CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! CHRISTOS ANESTI!
 Al Maseeh Qam! Christos a Inviat!