



The Sunday Messenger

HOLY TRINITY ORTHODOX CHURCH - WILKES BARRE, PA

Sun, April 25, 2021 : Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) • Saint for the day: Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark



Hymns for Today's Service

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou didst confirm 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."

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!"

Sitting on Thy throne in Heaven, 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!"

Epistle Reading - Philippians 4:4-9

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.

Gospel Reading - 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

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 the Holy Sacrament through prayer and fasting. If you have questions please let us know!*

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.

This Week's Schedule

This Weekend

SAT, April 24th: 9 AM Lazarus Sat. Divine Liturgy,
Parastas for Nancy Valletta, 5 PM Great Vespers
SUN, April 25th: 8:40 AM Hours, 9 AM Divine Liturgy for
Palm Sunday, 4 PM Bridegroom Matins

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This Week

HOLY WEEK & PASCHA

HOLY MONDAY April 26
Bridegroom Matins @ 6:30 PM
HOLY TUESDAY April 27
Bridegroom Matins @ 6:30 PM
HOLY WEDNESDAY April 28
Holy Unction (Cathedral) @ 6 PM
HOLY THURSDAY April 29
Vespers Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM
12 Passion Gospels @ 6:30 PM
HOLY FRIDAY April 30
Vespers @ 3:00 PM
Lamentations @ 6:30 PM
HOLY SATURDAY May 1st
Vespers Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 AM

HOLY PASCHA SERVICES

Beginning SAT NIGHT, May 1st
Nocturns @ 10 PM

Paschal Matins @ 10:30 PM
Paschal Divine Liturgy @ 11:30 PM
Blessing of the Baskets & *Agape Meal @ 12:45 AM

SUN MORNING, May 2nd

Agape Vespers w/ Procession @ 11 AM
followed by *Blessing of the Baskets*
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* **THE AGAPE MEAL:** Following the blessing of the baskets after Divine Liturgy on Pascha it is traditional for the faithful to break the fast by eating with one another from the baskets which have just been blessed. No food or drinks will be provided.

SCHEDULE CONFESSION BEFORE PASCHA

A friendly reminder to make a confession before Pascha to receive Holy Communion. Confession is available before and after services throughout Holy Week as time permits and also on Wednesdays during our time of silent prayer. Please come or set up an appointment for a specific time with Fr. Innocent.

FASTING FOR THE PASCHAL LITURGY: The Paschal Divine Liturgy begins at 11:30 PM on Holy Saturday. Please remember to fast, preferably six hours before receiving communion (think around 6 PM to begin fasting if possible OR unless food is needed for medications, etc). If you have any specific questions concerning your personal fast or ability to fast please speak with Fr. Innocent.

PASCHA FOR SHUT-INS: Anyone in the Parish not able to attend church at this time should contact Fr. Innocent to arrange for confession, communion and basket blessings either at your home or privately in church. It will bring me (Fr. Innocent) great joy to serve you in this way so please do not hesitate!

A 4 WEEK LENTEN BIBLE STUDY WITH FR. INNOCENT

JOURNEY THROUGH

OUR LORD'S PASSION AND RESURRECTION

This Week (Holy Tuesday) is the LAST Session @ 4 PM
Join us in person OR online • Link will be sent by email

Announcements & Meetings

ENDS TODAY - Wilkes University Food Drive: We are collecting much needed items for students at Wilkes University. Items needed include: Non-perishable foods, soups, canned fruit, Chef Boyardee meals, personal care items, household items. If anyone needs their donations or a monetary donation picked up, please contact Colleen at 570-550-7288.

SIGN-UP ENDS TODAY: Paschal Flower Donations in Memoriam and For the Health of Our Loved Ones: 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 see the signup sheets in the Church Vestibule. If able, you can mail your donations to the church OR drop it off in the rectory mailbox. Contact Father Innocent with the details if you are unable to do any of the above. The names of your loved ones will be listed in the Holy Pascha Church Bulletin and remembered in prayer. If you wish to have your offering listed in the Holy Pascha Bulletin, your loved ones name(s) and donation must be received by Palm Sunday.

"NOT YOUR MAMA'S ZITI" FOOD SALE TODAY: We have MORE Ziti on sale today at the pavilion after Divine Liturgy. Please come by and pick some up. Thank you for all who helped make our Ziti Sale a success, both those who gave of their time and through purchasing our Ziti. Anyone who would like to buy Ziti

SPONSOR A PAVILLION DOOR: One of our many spring-cleaning initiatives this year will be the repair and upgrade of the pavilion's garage doors (all 9 of them). To defray costs we are looking to the support of our parishioners. Work on each door will cost approximately \$50 and include replacement of door locks and weather stripping and a coat or two of fresh paint both inside and out. Once the repairs and facelift to the pavilion are completed, we will begin advertising our facility as an event location. Anyone interested in donating to this initiative or others that are underway or planned can give Sandy (571-274-5846) or Father a call.

FLOWER DONATIONS: Donations are being accepted towards flowers that will adorn the Palm Sunday &

Pascha Icons. To do so simply note your intention on your envelope or check. Thanks so much for your gift!

BRIGHT SATURDAY LITURGY & POTLUCK: Bright Saturday, May 8th, let's all come together as a parish community to continue the celebration of Our Lord's Resurrection. There will be a HOT grill and lot's of fun. Brings food to cook and share! Begins at 9 AM with Divine Liturgy. [More details to come!](#) Sign up sheet in the back!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

April Birthdays: Miriam Clark (4/6), Marie Dutko (4/6), Pearl Tutko (4/8), Alec Breisch (4/9), Alex Holoviak (4/9), Vladimir Holoviak (4/19), Eli King (4/21), Jordan Dutko (4/23), Debbie Greenward **Anniversaries:** Fr. Innocent & Mat. Melanie Neal (4/22), Dave & Dolores Voda, Eva & Stephen Nealon (4/29)

This Week's Anniversary: Eva & Stephen Nealon (4/29)

Altar Server Schedule

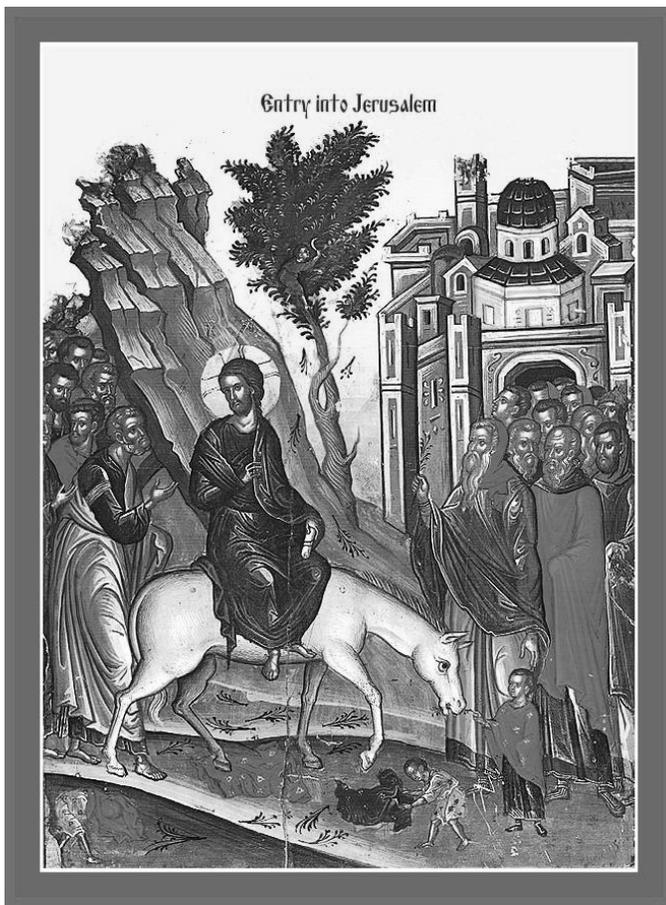
Sunday, April 25: Vladimir H, Alex H, Andrew N, Tommy D, Andrew C

HOLY PASCHA: All servers welcome

Sunday, May 9: Alec B, Kaleb D, Symeon C, Christopher D, Ephraim N

PARISH PRAYER LIST Living: Cynthia Dulsky, Theodore & Elenor Sovryda, Nadine Breisch, Rosalie Bagenski, Sonja & Leanne Kay, Josie Bissett, Lisa & Scott Harvey, Daniel & Shannon Bissett, Delores Karas, Antonette Terry, Archpriest Daniel & Matushka Myra Kovalak, Violet Filipi, Catherine, Danny Gobish, Lorraine Pace, Camden Thomas, Peter Holoviak & Family, Marni Bachman & Family, Rose Marie, Helen Gudaitis, Mahaffey Family, George Scott, Evelyn Kosmiski, Joe Sloan, Louis Gianuzzi, Betty Serafin, Matushka Elizabeth

Newly Departed: Archpriest Antonio Perdomo, Valentina Tomoshosky, Carl, James



The Triumphal Entry of Our Lord

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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.

Our Pledge

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 (Philippians 3:10-11).