ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sun. April 11	10 am	Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of St. John Climacus
Wed. April 14	6:30 pm	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy *w/ Lenten Potluck following*
Sat. April 17	6:30 pm	Great Vespers
Sun. April 18	10 am	Divine Liturgy for the Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt
Wed. April 21	6:30 pm	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy *w/ Lenten Potluck following*
Sat. April 24	10 am	Lazarus Saturday Liturgy and Baptism Service
	6:30 pm	Great Vespers
Sun. April 25	10 am	Palm Sunday Festal Liturgy with Festal Procession
	6:30 pm	Bridegroom Matins for Holy Monday

Donations for Altar Boy Vestments, Paschal Flowers and Memorial Offerings are now being received for Pascha 2021.

REMEMBER, PRAY FOR PEACE,
AND PRAY FOR EACH OTHER.

ASONA TEXT ALERTS

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ALL SAINTS OF NORTH AMERICA ORTHODOX CHURCH

SUN. APRIL 11, 2021 | SUNDAY OF JOHN CLIMACUS | TONE 3

9502 W. Hutton Dr. Sun City, AZ 85351 Phone: 928-910-2198 Web: arizonaorthodox.com

Prokeimenon in Tone 8 (Ps 76)
Pray and make your vows before the Lord our God!
v. In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel!

Epistle : Hebrews 6:13-20

Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."+

Alleluia in Tone 8 (Ps 95)
Come let us rejoice in the Lord! Let us make a joyful noise to God our Savior!
Let us come before His face with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with psalms!

Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able."

And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.

And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"

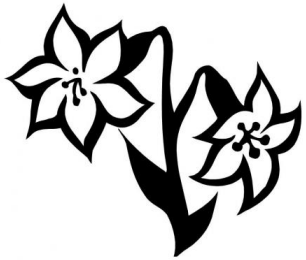
And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee.

And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."+

Paschal Preparations

Repent. (*okay, you knew that already*)



Paschal Flowers

If you would like to donate towards Paschal Flowers, or offer for the memory of a loved one, either donate online or with our Tithing envelopes. We need Pascha flowers - and lots of them (!) to decorate the Tomb of Christ on Good Friday, and to adorn the Church Temple for Pascha (Easter Lillies). We will be decorating the Tomb of Christ on the morning of Good Friday! Ladies, join us!

Pascha Baskets

See the insert on Pascha Baskets on the previous pages.

Donations can be made online or with our Tithe Envelopes. Just be sure to include PASCHAL FLOWERS on the envelope. Likewise for Memorial Donations.

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Upcoming Sundays

Each Sunday in Great Lent is devoted to a particular theme.

TODAY:

Sunday of St. John of the Ladder - On this Sunday the theme is the book by St. John "Climacus" identifying the ascent of virtue to holiness, readying us for the remainder of our Lenten journey. It is a sobering reminder of what is necessary to fulfill the Commandments of Christ, and a joyful map to holiness.

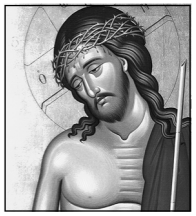
Fifth Sunday:

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt - The theme of this final Lenten Sunday is the story of St. Mary, a great sinner who became a great saint, and teaches us that the time to repent is now. Even at the eleventh hour, God receives those who repent, and lovingly grants them great grace to overcome every adversity!

Palm Sunday

Entrance of the Lord into Jerusalem - The triumphal entry of our Lord Jesus Christ is always celebrated with a grand procession of palms around the Church during the Little Entrance, and celebrates the entry into Holy Week and the Lord's Redeeming Passion.

Holy Week



Bridegroom Services of Holy Week

Holy Week begins on Sunday evening, with the Bridegroom services. These are special Matins services, each with individual themes calling to mind preparing for the coming of the bridegroom of the Church, Jesus Christ.

PASCHA!

The Resurrection!

The Great Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ! This is the King of Feasts, the Holy Day of Holy Days! This is the greatest event in the history of mankind, Christ has opened the door to Resurrection for all.

What goes in my Pascha Basket?

After the Paschal Vigil, our Pascha baskets are brought out for blessing (the origin of the "*easter*" basket) filled with the things we have fasted from for the last 40 days. These baskets have been carefully prepared and include several foods with a traditionally symbolic significance.

- **Sweet bread** is always included, leavened with yeast. This is a symbol of the New Covenant; the Jews made unleavened bread, and we, the Children of the New Covenant, make leavened bread. The braided form of this bread is a display of the Trinity.

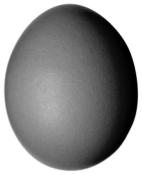
- **Pascha Cheese** is a figure of all the sweetness of the Kingdom, and remind us of the earthly gifts that come from God. Pascha cheese is normally included, and there are many good recipes for it in the parish. If you don't have one, ask someone. *(Pres. Deborah has a great recipe, too)*

- **Butter** - shaped into a figure of a lamb, or small cross. Like the Pascha Cheese, it represents the bountiful blessings poured out on us because of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God.

- **Bitter herbs,** usually horseradish, represents bondage, a reminder of the first Passover (horseradish is eaten as a traditional part of the original Passover meal) and of the bitter sufferings which Christ endured for our sake. Sometimes the herb is colored red with beets, symbolizing the Blood of Christ.

- **Meat** represents the bounty of God, and by it we remember that Christ, the Lamb of God, the New Passover has superseded the sacrifice of the Old Testament Passover. Lamb, veal, bacon and ham are favorites, as well as spicy sausage, loaded with garlic. These are usually cooked in advance so that during the festivity of the day, no one will be burdened with preparation. Meat after our 40 day fast reminds us of God's great generosity.

- **Red eggs** are likened to the tomb from which Christ arose. This is because of the miracle of new life which comes from the egg, just as Christ miraculously came forth from the tomb. Traditionally decorated "pysanki" eggs are sometimes included.



- **Wine** symbolizes spiritual knowledge, and for us, the knowledge of the Holy Resurrection of Christ our God!

- **Salt** serves as a reminder to us that we are "the salt of the earth." This feast does not end, but is completed as we share the joy of the Resurrection with the world, and all who will hear it. Salt reminds us of our duty to others, and in preaching the Gospel and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

- **An Icon** or icon card is frequently included in the basket. Usually an icon of the Resurrection or some other icon of Christ is used. After all, we are the true witnesses to His Resurrection!

- **A Candle** reminding us that Christ is the light of the world, and we must bear His light with joy especially during this "Bright" season. This candle is lit at the end of the Paschal Vigil, just prior to the blessing of baskets.

The Basket is now decorated with ribbons, usually white or festive, in honor of the Bright Feast of the Resurrection, and left open, so that during the blessing, each item in the basket may come in contact with the Holy Water. Every family brings their basket to the Vigil.

The Blessing of the baskets takes place immediately after the Paschal Vigil. The priest will indicate that it is time to bring forward the baskets, and where they are to be placed. Once they are blessed, the feast begins!

Some families include their favorite treats and candies for the children, just as has been retained in the modern "Easter" basket. Other family treats are especially appropriate, based on family favorites.

Each of the foods in the Pascha basket have a rich meaning, as does everything in Orthodox Christianity. Preparing the Pascha basket is a family affair. Take the time to prepare them together!

Be sure to bring enough to share!