

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Wed. April 21 6:30 pm Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
w/ Lenten Potluck following

April 24 - Lazarus Sat. 10am Baptismal Liturgy
1pm Holy Baptisms
6:30pm Great Vespers
(last time for confessions)

April 25 - Palm Sunday 10 am Festal Liturgy
with Procession of Palms

HOLY WEEK BEGINS

6:30 pm Bridegroom Matins

April 26 - Holy Monday 6:30 pm Bridegroom Matins

April 27 - Holy Tuesday 6:30 pm Bridegroom Matins

April 28 - Holy Wed. 6:30 pm Bridegroom Matins

April 29 - Holy Thurs. 6:30 pm Matins of Holy Friday
(12 Passion Gospels)

April 30 - Holy Friday 2:30 pm Vespers of Holy Friday
6:30 pm Matins of Holy Saturday
(with Lamentations)

May 1 - Holy Saturday 10 am Harrowing of Hell Liturgy
(cloths go from black to white)

11:30 PM PASCHAL VIGIL
*and blessing of Pascha Baskets
followed by the Paschal Feast*

PASCHA 12 Noon Paschal Vespers



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Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone

O Lord, how manifold are Thy works; / in wisdom hast Thou made them all.
Bless the Lord, O my soul! O Lord, my God, Thou art very great!

In the 4th Tone

God is wonderful in His saints, / the God of Israel.

EPISTLE : HEBREWS 9:11-14: GALATIANS 3:23-29

Brethren, when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

Brethren, before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.+

Alleluia In the 4th Tone

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of truth,
and meekness, and righteousness!
For Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity.

In the 1st Tone

I waited patiently for the Lord; He attended to me and heard my supplication.

GOSPEL: MARK 10:32-45: LUKE 7:36-50

At that time, Jesus taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise." And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him, and said to him, "Teacher, we want

you to do for us whatever we ask of you." And he said to them, "What do you want me to do for you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?" And they said to him, "We are able." And Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared." And when the ten heard it, they began to be indignant of James and John. And Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be so among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of man also came not to be served, but to serve, and give his life as a ransom for many."

When one of the Pharisees asked Him to eat with him. And He went to the Pharisee's house, and sat down to eat. And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil. Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner." And Jesus answered and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." So he said, "Teacher, say it." "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. And when they had nothing with which to repay, he freely forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?" Simon answered and said, "I suppose the one whom he forgave more." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged." Then He turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Then He said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."+

FINAL WEEK FOR 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 Tithing Envelopes. Just be sure to include PASCHAL FLOWERS on the envelope. Likewise for Memorial Donations.

TITHE	Name: _____
	Address: _____
	Amount: _____
For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:21	



UPCOMING SUNDAYS

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

TODAY:



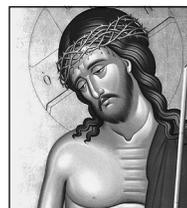
Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt - The theme of this final Lenten Sunday is the story of St. Mary, a great sinner who became a great saint, and teaches us that the time to repent is now. Even at the eleventh hour, God receives those who repent, and lovingly grants them great grace to overcome every adversity!

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.

Thomas Sunday



Bright Week

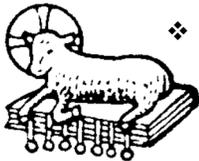
Christ is Risen! And all of Bright Week we sing the Paschal hymn! On Thomas Sunday, which bookends Bright Week with Pascha, we once again pick up the festal celebration and remember that Thomas' doubt led to the surety of his hope - Jesus Christ, Risen from the Dead!

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!