

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wed. April 17	6:30 pm	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy w potluck
Sat. April 20	3:30 pm	<i>Understanding the Times class</i>
	5 pm	Great Vespers
	6 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sun. April 21	9 am	Divine Liturgy - St. Mary of Egypt
Wed. April 24	6:30 pm	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy w potluck
Sat. April 27	9:30 am	Holy Baptism
	5 pm	Great Vespers
		<i>LAST DAY FOR CONFESSIONS</i>
	6 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sun. April 28	9 am	Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy

HOLY WEEK BEGINS

Sun. April 28	6:30 pm	Bridegroom Matins
Mon. April 29	6:30 pm	Bridegroom Matins
Tues. April 30	6:30 pm	Bridegroom Matins
Wed. May 1	6:30 pm	Matins of Holy Thursday
Thurs. May 2	6:30 pm	Matins of Holy Friday <i>w/12 Passion Gospels</i>
Fri. May 3	11:30 am	Decorating the Tomb
	2:30 pm	Vespers of Holy Friday
	3 pm	<i>Beginning Vigil at the Tomb</i>
	6:30 pm	Matins of Holy Saturday <i>w/ Lamentations</i>
Sat. April 23	10 am	Vesp. Liturgy for Holy Saturday
	11:30 PM	PASCHAL VIGIL



ASONA TEXT ALERTS

Sign up easily! **Text ASONA to 84576**

And get on our parish text alerts list, and stay up to date via email or text alerts. Text STOP to 84576 to stop text notifications at any time. There is no charge for this service, but carrier message and data rates may apply.

ALL SAINTS OF
ORTHODOX



NORTH AMERICA
CHURCH

SUN. APRIL 14, 2024

SUNDAY OF ST. JOHN OF THE LADDER

TONE 4



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Prokeimenon in Tone 4 (Ps 103)

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 7th Tone

Let the saints exult in glory; let them sing for joy on their couches!

EPISTLE : HEBREWS 6:13-20; EPHESIANS 5:9-19

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 forever after the order of Melchizedek."+

Brethren, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.+

Alleluia in Tone 4 (Ps 44)

Go forth and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness!

You love righteousness and hate iniquity!

And in the 4th Tone

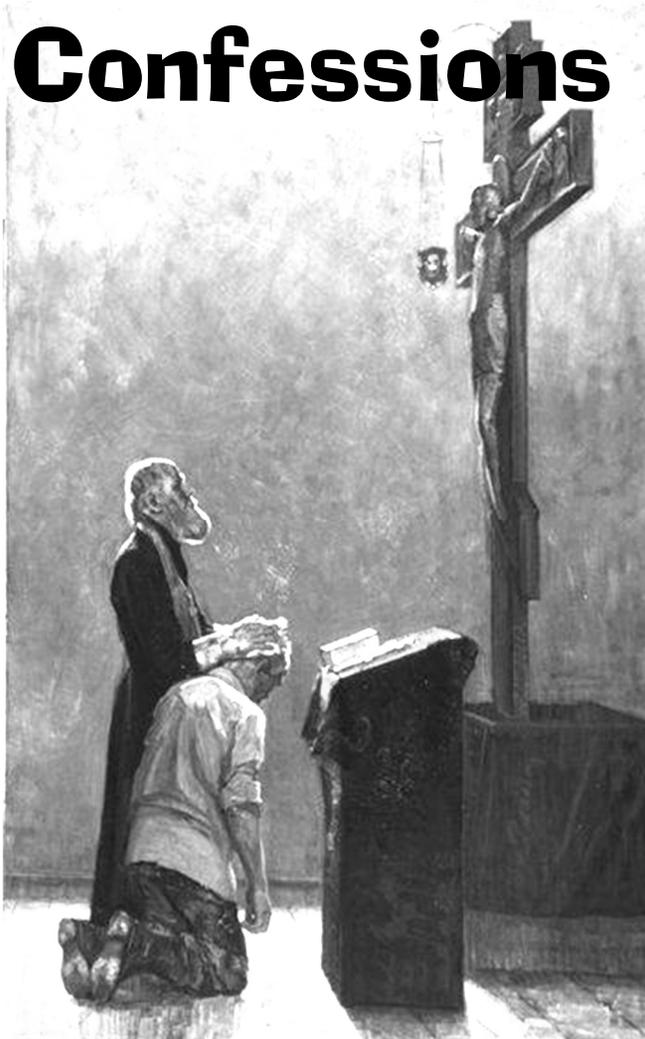
They that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

GOSPEL: MARK 9:17-31; MATTHEW 4:25-5:12

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."+

In those days, And great crowds followed him from Galilee and the Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan. Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you."+

Confessions



If you have not yet arranged for Confession sometime during Lent, please take the time **now**.

Make time now - repent, examine your conscience, and schedule or come to confession after a Saturday vespers. It's later than you think.

There will be no Confessions heard after Lazarus Saturday, so follow the ancient Christian practice of confessing at least once during the fasting periods. Those who ignore confession will not be able to commune on Holy Pascha!

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.

Book of Needs

We are still in need of sponsors for the following items.
Please be as generous as you can and help us elevate the experience of everyone who attends Divine Liturgy at ASONA.



Sticharions (vestments) for Altar Servers

White for Pascha
\$200/vestment

We will also collect for vestments for the following Festal Periods:

- ~~Purple for Great Lent~~
- Green for Palm Sunday/Pentecost
- Black for Holy Week
- Red for Apostles Fast
- Blue for Dormition



And He came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and He said...

"So, could you not watch with me one hour?"



READER'S VIGIL AT THE TOMB

Every year, following the Vespers of Great and Holy Friday, we begin to keep vigil at the tomb of Christ by taking turns chanting the Psalms, the entire time leading up to the Paschal Vigil, interrupted only by services.

That sign up sheet is now up.

This is the time to get together with a few friends, and select a block of hours to stand at the Tomb of Christ, before His Shroud, and recite the Psalms. We want to fill all the slots, and keep a constant vigil over the Tomb of the Lord. This is the annual tradition at ASONA.

Make a commitment to come and pray for a few hours, and get others to join you. This opportunity only comes once a year. If you have any questions, see any of the clergy. Take part in this beautiful tradition, and allow your children to join you also.

Vespers Good Friday	
7:00	8:00
8:00	9:00
9:00	10:00
10:00	11:00
11:00	12:00
12:00	1:00
1:00	2:00
2:00	3:00
3:00	4:00
4:00	5:00
5:00	6:00
6:00	7:00
7:00	8:00
8:00	9:00

The sign up sheet should be hanging by the Candle table.



Catechumens

Many of you will be preparing for Holy Baptism on Lazarus Saturday this year, and are in the process of completing the list of items to complete before baptism.

Be sure to:

- Fill out all of the required forms and return them to the priest (return the Personal Information form right away. The others as they are completed). The Prayer Rule should be filled out as soon as possible and approved by Fr. John so that this Orthodox practice can be formed as part of preparation for being received.
- Prepare to make a Life confession to establish a regular confession practice.
- You will need to find a Godparent/Sponsor. You must discuss your choice with the Priest prior to asking the potential sponsor. The sponsor will need to be approved to be your sponsor by the Priest. If you have not done so, accomplish this in the next two weeks.



ASONA Bookstore

Bibles, workbooks, patristics, history, theology, prayerbooks, icons

Purchases can be made by seeing Barbara Gill or by using the Tithely giving app at the church Web site and writing that it goes to a bookstore purchase.

(But really, it's best to do purchases through Barb so she can keep an accurate inventory.)

Also, you can email - bookstore@arizonaorthodox.com for questions, comments, and requests.

PASCHAL PREPARATIONS

Repent. (okay, you knew that already)



PASCHAL & MEMORIAL 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.



What goes in my Pascha Basket?

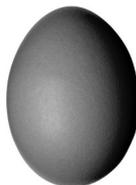
After the Paschal Vigil, our Pascha baskets are brought out for blessing (the origin of the “easter” basket) filled with the things we have fasted from for the last 40 days. These baskets have been carefully prepared and include several foods with a traditionally symbolic significance.



- ❖ **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. (Join our Pysanki making class!)



- ❖ **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!