

## Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 \* Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

**Sunday, April 24, 2016 | Palm Sunday**

**The Entrance of Our Lord Into Jerusalem**

Martyr Sabbas Stratelates (“the General”) of Rome and 70 soldiers with him (272)

### **V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Acting Rector**

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*Parish President – Matthew Andrews*

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### **Weekly Schedule (Passion Week!)**

Today: Bridegroom Matins – St Stephen Orthodox Cathedral  
8598 Verree Rd | Philadelphia, PA 19111 Phone: 215.342.0866  
Time: 4:00pm Website: [www.ststephenscathedral.org](http://www.ststephenscathedral.org)

Monday: Bridegroom Matins begins at 6:30pm

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Wednesday: Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with Holy Unction at 6:30pm

Thursday: Vespers Divine Liturgy of St Basil begins at 10:00am

Thursday: Friday Matins with reading of the 12 Passion Gospels at 6:00pm

Friday: Royal Hours Service begins at 10:00am

Friday: Vespers (with Procession & Reading of Ezekiel) at 6:00pm

Saturday: Holy Saturday–Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great  
(with all 15 Readings) begins at 10:00am

Sunday: May 1 – Pascha Service (Procession, Matins & Divine Liturgy)  
beginning at 8:30am  
(Note: Philadelphia Broad St Run is also occurring on this day!!)

Sunday: May 1 – Pascha Vespers approximately 15 minutes after the Blessing of  
the Easter Baskets

No Services to be held at the parish during Bright Week. Vespers on Sat at 5pm

## Texts for the Liturgical Service

### **Troparion (Tone 1)**

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 cometh in the Name of the Lord.”

### **Troparion (Tone 4)**

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 cometh in the Name of the Lord!”

### **Kontakion (Tone 6)**

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 cometh to recall Adam!”

### **Prokeimenon (Tone 4)**

Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord! / God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

*v.* O give thanks to the Lord for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever!

### **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.

Alleluia (3x's) (Tone 1)

*v.* O sing to the Lord a new song, for He hath done marvelous things! Alleluia (3x's)

*v.* All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia (3x's)

### **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 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.

### **Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing the following**

God is the Lord and hath revealed Himself to us! / Celebrate the feast and come with gladness! / Let us magnify Christ with palms and branches, / singing: "Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, our Savior!"

### **Communion Hymn:**

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Alleluia (3x's)

### **Announcements**

**A Warm Welcome to all of our visitors & guest** who worshiped with us today and who have joined us in celebrating the Divine Liturgy. Please join us in the church basement for our Fellowship and Coffee Hour.

## Announcements (cont.)

**PASCHA FLOWERS.** Today is the last day we are collecting for Pascha (Easter) flowers! There are special envelopes available to use for your offering for Pascha flower donations. Please give the envelopes to Debbie Kavalkovich or to a member of the parish council for your offering.

**Property Committee Update:** The Property Committee met last Sunday (April 17) and toured/inspected both houses and the Hall. There were nine members who performed a walk thru of the aforementioned properties to identify concerns and list problems that need addressing and/or repairing.

Each member will submit a report to the committee about their tour, the potential of each of the properties, what area(s) of concern each one has, and improvement(s) that they feel need to be addressed. There was even one member who provided pictures from their phone while on their walk thru.

The committee will gather together sometime after Pascha to coordinate their findings and establish some type of a priority list as to which property needs addressing first. The committee will provide a report to the parish during its next Spring General Parish Meeting on May 22.

The parish has decided to purchase a new vestment robe for Reader Daniel (Kenneth) Kavalkovich. Kenny has only two robes to wear during services (a gold and a reddish/purple vestment) and they have become pretty worn over the years. We have requested Ivan Adamovich to tailor Kenny with a new robe that will fit his build. Ivan (who only does tailoring work part time now) has made vestment covers and robes for our parish in the past. Ivan is only charging the parish for the cost of materials (high quality materials); he is donating his time and labor. The cost for the materials to tailor a new robe (along with cuffs and a stole) is \$800. Parish is requesting donations to assist in offsetting some of the cost for the new vestment set. Thank You!!!

This month's Sunday Charity collection taken Today will be earmarked for the Father Matthew Baker Fund. As many of you remember, a little over a year ago, Father Matthew passed away after a terrible automobile accident while driving during a winter storm. All six of his children were in the vehicle at this time and God's will, they all survived. This parish provided a donation to a fund in memory of Father Matthew last year and we received a lovely thank you note from his family. Today, the family is doing well. The thank you note is posted on the bulletin board in the basement above the display counter.

**Announcements** (cont.)

**Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed**

**Health for the Living:**

Matushka Jan, Daniel Herbert, Grace & Robert Corba, Helen Riley, Catherine & Albert Kavalkovich, Nina Patterson, Claire Remington, Christine Bava, Susan Freeh offered by M/M Herbert

Sean & Beth Welsh offered by Emelie Albrecht

Family and Friends offered by M/M R LeRoy

Family, Friends, and Parishioners offered by Nina Patterson

**May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!**

**Memory for the Departed:**

Nicholas King, Nicholas Varga, Julia Drimak, Peter Slivka, Sophie Drobish offered by M/M Herbert

**May Their Memories Be Eternal**

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**Please remember in your prayers:** Cantrell Family; Grace Corba; Robert Corba; Matushka Jan Koczak; Father Mark Koczak; Julia Makara; Helen Riley; Helen Wanenchak; Annamae Witiak; + Father John Udics; + Father Athanasy Mastalski; Father Vincent Saverino; Father John Bohush and the parishioners of Saint Nicholas Eastern Orthodox Church in Philadelphia; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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**Attendance: Sixth (Palm) Week of Great Lent Services**

Sunday (4/17) – Mission Service = 8 attended from our parish

Wednesday (4/20) – Presanctificied Liturgy = 18

Friday (4/22) – Akathist = 12

**Please ensure that your Mobile Phone is set to Silent (or at least set on vibrate) during the Divine Liturgy! Thank You!!!**

## Announcements (cont.)

**Sign up sheets for Coffee Hour, Cleaning and Epistle & Hours Reading.** Sign up sheets for the above items are posted on the bulletin board in the church basement. Please be considerate and volunteer to assist with some of the parish responsibilities. Your time is very much appreciated!

**Special weekly collections taken after Gospel or Sermon.** In addition to our general collection, the parish takes a special collection each week to fund certain parish projects. Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. The special collections are as follows:

- First Sunday of every month – Kitchen Fund Project
- Second Sunday of every month – Icon Fund (2016)
- Third Sunday of every month - Restoration/Maintenance Fund
- Fourth Sunday of every month – Charity Giving

**Note:** if there is a Fifth Sunday during a month, the special collection is earmarked for the Kitchen Fund Project, unless otherwise noted and stated by the Parish Council.

### **Cash Flow Activity (April)**

	<u>Week of Apr 11 to Apr 17</u>	<u>April Month-to-Date</u>
Attendance:	38	39 (average)
<i>Sat Vespers (4/16)</i>	<i>12</i>	
Funds In:	\$ 2,746.00	\$ 6,653.00
Funds Out:	\$ 1,960.40	\$ 5,833.22
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 785.60	\$ 819.78

*Thank you all for your continuous offerings to maintain the parish!*

**Shop Rite Gift Cards:** If you need to purchase Shop Rite Gift Cards, please see David Pellack to secure them. Your purchase of a Shop Rite Gift Card is an additional fundraising project that helps support the church at no additional expense to the purchaser.

## Calendar of Events

**Holy Thursday (April 28<sup>th</sup>) – Friday Matins begins at 6:00pm with the Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels.** His Eminence Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania will co-serve the service in a priest role along with Father Mark. The Archbishop is visiting the different parishes in the Philadelphia Deanery during Passion Week.

**Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup> – St Thomas Sunday (Mother’s Day)!**

After Divine Liturgy and if the weather cooperates, we will have our annual Blessing of the Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery.

**Bible Study – Tuesday, May 10 at 6:30pm in the church basement.** The Bible Study Group will gather together at this time and continue reading and discussing the Book of Genesis.

**The weekend of May 13 to May 15, the YES Group will be staying at our parish.** Just like last year, the YES Youth Group will be undertaking service projects in Philadelphia this weekend. They will be staying at our parish and attending service on Sunday. We will host a light luncheon for them after Liturgy on Sunday before they depart.

**Spring General Parish Meeting to be held Sunday May 22 after Divine Liturgy in the church basement.** Discussions will include events since the Annual Parish Meeting, activity over the next few months, and status on Property Committee and other committee reports.

**St. Herman of Alaska exhibition at Villanova University!**

In honor of the 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Glorification of Saint Herman of Alaska, an exhibition – “Russian America: The Alaskan Native Spiritual Legacy” – is being held at Villanova University and will run until **May 16, 2016**. The exhibit is organized by Archpriest John J. Perich.

Detail information:

[www.ArtGallery.Villanova.edu](http://www.ArtGallery.Villanova.edu)

[www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/artgallery/current\\_exhibit.html](http://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/studentlife/artgallery/current_exhibit.html)

Villanova University Art Gallery location  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Connelly Center (University Campus)  
800 Lancaster Avenue  
Villanova, PA 19085  
Phone: 610-519-4612  
Gallery Hours: Monday-Friday: 8am-11pm | Sat-Sun: 11am-11pm



## **Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)** [April 24<sup>th</sup>]

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 a 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).

Very Rev. Paul Lazor