

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

2101 South 28th St. (corner of 28th St. & Snyder Ave.)
Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
Website: <http://www.holyassumptionphilly.org>



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

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Palm Sunday

The Entrance of Our Lord Into Jerusalem

Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark (1st c.)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

615 West 11th Street | New Castle, DE 19720-6020
Phone: Home: 302.322.0943 | Mobile: 302.547.4952
Email: mwkoczak@gmail.com

Deacon – Michael McCartney Choir Director – Nina Patterson
Subdeacon – Daniel (Ken) Kavalkovich Reader – Mark Klus
Parish President - Matthew Andrews [Phone: 856.217.8075]

Weekly Schedule

- Monday: Bridegroom Matins at **6:00PM**
Tuesday: Bridegroom Matins at **6:00PM**
Wednesday: Bridegroom Matins at **5:30PM** and then Holy Unction at **7:00PM**
at **St Stephens Cathedral!!!** (No Services at our Parish on this day)
Thursday: Holy Thursday Vesperal Divine Liturgy at **10:00AM**
(His Grace, Archbishop MARK will be in attendance at our parish)
Thursday: Holy Friday Matins with Reading of 12 Gospels at **6:00PM**
Friday: Holy Friday Vespers & Matins - Lamentations at **4:00PM**
Saturday: May 1 - Vespers with Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great
along with ALL 15 Old Testament Readings at **9:00AM**
Sunday: May 2 – PASCHA Services beginning at **8:30AM**
(Blessing of Easter Baskets in basement after Liturgy)
(**NO** Vespers Service this year after basket blessing)

No Services to be held at the parish during Bright Week.
Vespers next Saturday, May 8 at **4:00PM**

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: Phillipians 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 & guests 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

THANK YOU

Deacon Michael and Matushka Janine would like to thank all who donated to our Lenten projects. We raised \$97 from Mother Catherine's candy sales, which is going towards the Sidewalk Project. We raised \$270 for the Homeless project. Proceeds will go to Touch NJ and Soup and Song. The money donations were in lieu of purchasing items on the list for the Homeless Project.

We also would like to thank the entire Parish for the generous donations of food and clothing for the Homeless. We will deliver the donations to Mother Catherine this week so she can distribute them prior to Pascha.

We thank everyone for your continued generosity and support for our Community Projects. May God bless you with everything you need so that we all can continue to serve those who are in need.

Have a blessed Holy Week and Pascha with your loved ones.

Deacon Michael and Matushka Janine

Vigil Cross Candles – Accepting Donations (Lazarus Saturday to Pascha)

As we approach Pascha, we have received a number of donations to burn Vigil Cross Candles. The following services have already been reserved to burn Vigil Cross Candles:

Both Palm Sunday (April 25) and Pascha (May 2) - Both Large Votive Crosses have been reserved!!
Thursday, April 29 – Holy Thursday Evening – 1 Large (or 2 Small) has been reserved. 1 Large Vigil Cross is still available for this service.

Friday, April 30 – Holy Friday Service – 1 Small Cross has been reserved.

See Simon Herbert for Vigil Cross donation information & date availability.

Next Sunday - Resumption of the Collection during Divine Liturgy

Beginning on Pascha (Sunday, May 2), the parish will resume the collection of donations using the baskets. As a reminder, the parish has two collections, one after the sermon (earmarked towards a specific fund collected on a specific Sunday (see page 6 of the bulletin)), and one before the Lord's Prayer (general donation offering).

For those in the choir loft, a basket will be placed in its usual location. Just drop off your donation in that basket & it will be picked up during the collection. Thank You!

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Daria LeRoy offered by her sister Nina Patterson
Sophie (Birthday) offered by Robert Wanenchak
John M. Pellack offered by David Pellack
Gregory David Pellack offered by David Pellack
Subdeacon Daniel (Ken), Anastasia, Colin, Alexander, Selina, Patricia, Catherine, Dr Webber, Kate, Richard, William, Allison, Allison, Christina, Barbara, Susan, Trisha, Kathleen, Michael, Merridith offered by M/M K Kavalkovich and Family

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

David O'Shura offered by M/M Herbert
Maxim Herbert offered by M/M Herbert

May Their Memories Be Eternal

Vigil Cross Candles – 4/18/21:

#####

Please remember in your prayers:

+ Metropolitan Platon (Rozhdestvensky) (anniversary of his falling asleep); + Mitred Archpriest Basil Summer (Mar 26); Basil David Stafford (**Baptized – March 27**); Jerome and Darcy Stafford; Allison (Christopher) Andrews and her unborn child; Allison (David) Andrews and her unborn child; Christina (Matthew) Andrews and her unborn child; Grace Corba; Protodeacon Joseph Edwards; The Gerty Family; Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich (recovery); Ronald Kavalkovich (continuous recovery); Jane Kelly (recovery); Sheba Patton (recovery); Fania Wanenchak; Father John Bohush (retired); and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

#####

Sidewalk Repair Donations (Week of April 11):

Sidewalk Repair Block Donation – \$76 from the Candy Sale

Sidewalk Repair Block Donation – – Anastasia Jones

Sidewalk Repair Donation: Small Block – Matthew & Christina Andrews

Announcements (cont.)

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

*******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 – Youth Fund
- 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)

Week of Sun Apr 11 to Sat Apr 17

April Month to Date

Attendance:	32	37 (average)
<i>(COVID19 Pandemic Limitations on gathering of groups of no more than 50 people)</i>		
Funds In:	\$ 1,687.00	\$ 4427.84
Funds Out:	\$ 1,629.19	\$ 5,267.79
Net Surplus/ (Deficit):	\$ 57.81	(\$ 839.95)

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 either David Pellack or Ken Kavalkovich 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

- 1st Sunday of each month** – Monthly Panikhida immediately after Divine Liturgy.
- 2nd Tuesday of each month** – Bible Study at 6:30pm in church basement.
- 2nd Sunday of each month** – Property Committee Meeting after Divine Liturgy.
- 3rd Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 4th Sunday of each month** – Currently no permanent event is scheduled.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	<u>Today (Apr 25)</u>	<u>Next Week (May 2) - Pascha</u>
3 rd Hour :	Reader Mark Klus	Hours not read on Pascha
6 th Hour:	Michael Wanenchak	Hours not read on Pascha
Epistle:	John Spack	Subdeacon Daniel Kavalkovich

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

As a result of new Covid restrictions set by City of Philadelphia officials on Monday, November 16 which went into effect on Friday, November 20, the formal coffee hour event held after Sunday Divine Liturgy has been suspended until further notice.

Once city officials ease restrictions relating to Covid, coffee hour will then resume.

When the coffee hour resumes (currently not until at least May 2021), a new coffee schedule with new team parishioners will be in the rotation as per the action taken during the Fall General Parish Meeting held back on Sunday, November 1.

REMINDER: NO Confessions will be heard during Holy Week. The last time Father Mark will hear confessions will be BEFORE Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday!

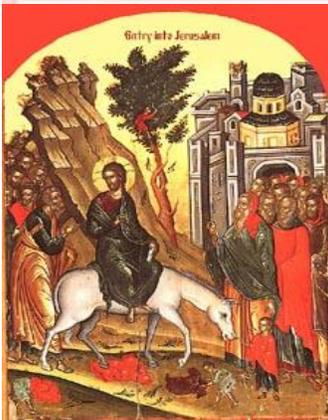
Bright Week Service Schedule at our Parish (May 3 to May 9)

No services at the parish during Bright Week (Monday thru Friday)

- Saturday, May 8, 2021 – Great Vespers – 4:00PM
- Sunday, May 9, 2021 – Saint Thomas Sunday - Divine Liturgy – 10:00AM
- Blessing of the Graves at Mount Moriah Cemetery (*Weather Permitting*)

Attendance during Lenten Services (6th Week of Lent)

- Wednesday, April 21 – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts = 16
- Friday, April 23 – Vespers for Lazarus Saturday = 16
- Saturday, April 24 – Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy = 18



Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) [April 25th]

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).

Very Rev. Paul Lazor