

Assumption of the Holy Virgin Orthodox Church

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Philadelphia, PA 19145 * Church Phone: (215) 468-3535
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Mailing Address: PO Box 20083 * Point Breeze Station | Philadelphia PA 19145-0383

* Serving the Orthodox Community in South Philadelphia for 110 years! *

Sunday, April 9, 2023

Palm Sunday

The Entrance of Our Lord Into Jerusalem

Martyr Euppsychius of Caesarea in Cappadocia (362)

V. Rev. Mark W Koczak, Rector

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

Weekly Schedule

Today: Bridegroom Matins Service at 4:00PM at Saint Stephens Orthodox Cathedral located at 8598 Verree Road in Philadelphia, PA 19111
Phone: 215.745.3232 9Rectory) Website: <https://www.ststephenscathedral.org>

HOLY WEEK Service schedule at the parish is on page 7 of Bulletin

Sunday: April 16 – PASCHA Services beginning at **8:30AM**
(Blessing of Easter Baskets in basement after Liturgy)

Sunday: April 16 – PASCHA VESPERS approximately 15 minutes after the Blessing of the Easter Baskets

REMINDER: Bible Study will be held next Tuesday, April 18 at 6:30PM since the second Tuesday is Holy Week! Bible Study will still be held on the ZOOM media platform only!

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

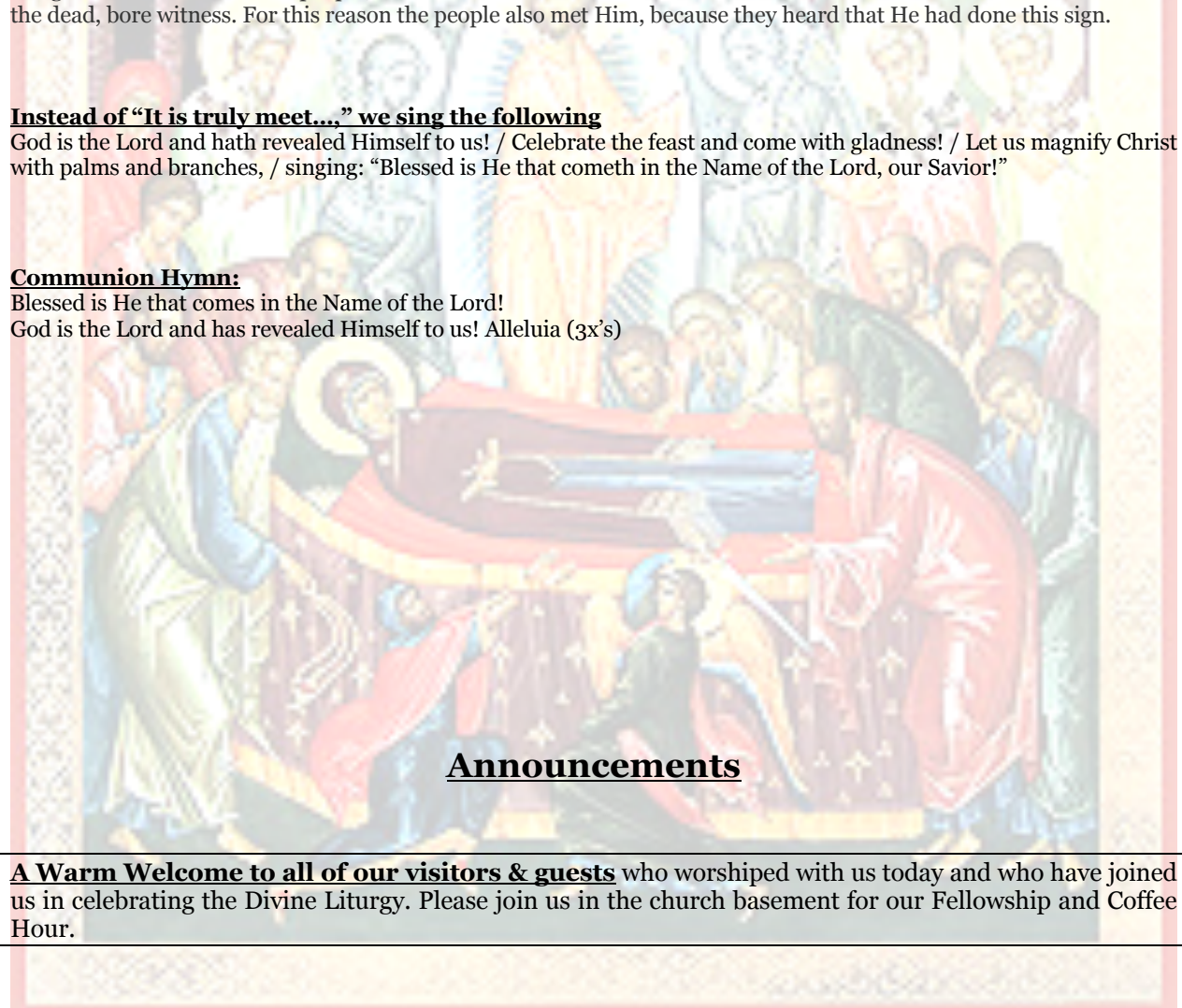
Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed 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 * THANK YOU * THANK YOU”

We would like to say “Thank You” to all of those who spent their time yesterday morning & afternoon and brought their energy, rags, buckets, sponges, soaps, brushes, polishes, and vacuum cleaners to assist in cleaning the Church for Pascha. The whole inside area including the choir loft, altar area and vestibule look beautiful.

May God Grant You All Many Happy, Healthy, and Blessed Years!

Votive Vigil Cross Candles Scheduling

We are scheduling to have the votive vigil cross candles lit for services during the Lenten season. There is a sign-up sheet located at the candle desk in the Vestibule.

Either 1 Large or 2 Small candles per each votive vigil cross candles can be reserved
As of this morning, the following dates and cross sizes have been reserved...

- * Palm Sunday (Sunday, April 9) = 1 Large Cross is reserved
- * Holy Thursday (Thursday, April 13) = 1 Large Cross is reserved
- * Holy Saturday (Saturday, April 15) = 1 Large Cross is reserved
- * PASCHA (Sunday, April 16) = BOTH Large Crosses are reserved!

First Aid / CPR Course offering at the parish – Saturday, June 17, 2023

It has been some time since we held a First Aid/CPR course, and in the interest of helping our families and neighbors in need, the ECSI First Aid/CPR course will be offered at no charge for parishioners with the exception of the cost of the student manual of \$16.50 which includes shipping. The course will be held from **8:00 am-4:00 pm** on 6/17/2023 and taught by Matushka Janine McCartney. If you are interested, please contact Matushka Janine by **no later than May 17, 2023**. It will take some time to have the books ordered and sent. A class of at least 5 is needed to hold the class. Payment for the student manual will be expected prior to 5/17/2023.

Attendance during Lenten Services (6th Week of Lent)

Wednesday, April 5 – Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts = 11	(10 Last Year)
Friday, April 7 – Vespers (Lazarus Saturday) = 7	(12 Last Year)
Saturday, April 8 – Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy = 11	(9 Last Year)
Saturday, April 8 – Great Vespers (Palm Sunday) = 15	(14 Last Year)

Announcements (cont.)

Candles and Prayers for the Faithful and Departed

Health for the Living:

Peter Witiak on his 90th birthday offered by David Pellack
Christopher Andrews, Christopher Allen, Patricia, Catherine, Barbara, Levi,
Family and Friends offered by M/M K Kavalkovich
Family offered by Catherine Kavalkovich
Christopher Andrews offered by Barbara Andrews

May God Grant Them Many Blessed Years!

Memory for the Departed:

Vito, Marc Sr., Marc Jr., Anne, Bridget, John, Carmen, David, Robert, Barbara, RitaAnne offered by Patricia Ferguson

May Their Memories Be Eternal!

Vigil Cross Candles – 4/2/23

One Large Vigil Cross – Memory of the Jugan and Zuzulock Families offered by David Pellack

One Large Vigil Cross – Health of Mary Herbert offered by Herbert Family

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Please remember in your prayers:

Christopher Andrews;; Elton Andrews; Catherine Kavalkovich; Jane Kelly; Anne (Homa) Killoran; Justine & John McCann; Sheba Patton; Dr. Gale Rutan; Joseph Rabik; Peter Witiak; and all those who are serving in our Armed Forces!

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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. By the action taken at the Fall General Parish Meeting held back on Sunday, October 10, 2021, the parish body approved that the special collection for the first three Sundays of the month be earmarked towards the repairing/fixing/replacing of the roofs of both houses that the parish owns (now known as the Row House Fund).

The fourth Sunday (and fifth, when it occurs) the special collection will be earmarked towards Charity.

This new collection schedule began back on Sunday, October 17, 2021.
Please be generous with your offering. Every little bit counts. Thank You!

Cash Flow Activity (March)

<u>Week of Sun Mar 26 to Sat Apr 1</u>	<u>March Month (Unaudited)</u>	
Attendance:	41	42 (average)
Funds In:	\$ 2,903.39	\$15,471.79
Funds Out:	\$ 3,157.30	\$11,528.22
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 253.91)	\$ 3,943.57

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 on ZOOM media platform.
- 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.
- Last Thursday of each month** – Book Club at 6:30pm on ZOOM media platform.
- 5th Sunday of each quarter** – Quarterly Parish Council Meeting after Liturgy.

Readers Schedule:

	<u>Today (Apr 9)</u>	<u>Next Week (Apr 16)</u>
3 rd Hour:	To Be Determined	PASCHA
6 th Hour:	To Be Determined	PASCHA
Epistle:	Daniel Herbert	Sbdn Daniel Kavalkovich

Fellowship Coffee Hour & Cleaning Teams:

If you have volunteered to host coffee hour, please check which Team you are on and when your Team is hosting coffee hour on the calendar printout which is located in the white/clear 3-ring binder located on the display case outside of the office room.

Please continue to check our parish website, social media pages, and your emails regularly for updated information on the parish regarding parish services & events in April 2023.

Today – Bridegroom Matins Service (for Monday) – 4:00PM

Saint Stephen's Orthodox Cathedral * 8598 Verree Road
Philadelphia, PA 19111 * Phone: 215.342.0866

HOLY WEEK Services here at the Parish!

- Monday, April 10 – Bridegroom Matins of Holy Tuesday at 6:00PM
- Tuesday, April 11 - Bridegroom Matins of Holy Wednesday at 6:00PM
- Wednesday, April 12 – Matins & Holy Unction at St Stephens Cathedral – Time TBD
- Thursday, April 13 – Holy Thursday Vespers Divine Liturgy at 10:00AM
- Thursday, April 13 – Holy Thursday - Friday Matins (12 Passion Gospels) at 6:00PM
- Friday, April 14 – Holy Friday – Vespers (Burial Service) at 3:00PM
- Friday, April 14 – Holy Friday – Matins with Lamantations at 4:00PM
- Saturday, April 15 – Holy Saturday – Vespers with Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great with All 15 Old Testament Readings) at 9:00AM
- Sunday, April 16 – Pascha Service (Procession, Matins, and Liturgy) at 8:30AM
- Sunday, April 16 – Pascha Vespers approximately 15 minutes after the Blessing of the Easter Baskets in the church basement

Tuesday, April 18 – Bible Study at 6:30PM on the ZOOM media platform only! (Rescheduled from April 11 since the second Tuesday of the month in April is Holy Week)!



Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)

[April 9th]

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