

Holy Cross

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
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Weekly Bulletin

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Fr. Dan Korba
Dn. Frank Dickos
www.holycrosspgh.org
Sunday, April 9, 2017

Saints Commemorated Today

Vadim the Righteous of Persia, Raphael, Nicholas, Irene, & Olympias of Mytilene,
The Holy Martyr Eupsychius of Caesarea

Palm Sunday

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

Hymns of the Day

Apolytikion for Palm Sunday in the First Mode

In confirming the common Resurrection, O Christ God, Thou didst raise up Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion.

Wherefore, we also, like the children, bearing the symbols of victory, cry to Thee, the Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Apolytikion for Palm Sunday in the Fourth Mode

As by baptism we were buried with Thee, O Christ our God, so by Thy Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising Thee, we cry: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Second Mode

In Heaven, He is seated upon a Throne and on earth He rides upon a foal. O Christ our God, accept the praise of the Angels and the hymn of the Children who cry out to You, "Blessed are You who comes to recall Adam."

This Week at Holy Cross

Palm Sunday

8:15 am Orthros
9:30 am Divine Liturgy
Philoptochos Fish Luncheon following Liturgy
5 pm Bridegroom Service

Holy Monday

9 am Presanctified Liturgy
6:30 pm Bridegroom Service

Holy Tuesday

9 am Presanctified Liturgy
6:30 pm Bridegroom Service

Holy Wednesday

9 am Presanctified Liturgy
4 pm Holy Unction
6:30 pm Matins of Holy Thursday with His Eminence Metropolitan Savas followed by second anointing

Holy Thursday

9 am Vespers Divine Liturgy
6:30 pm Passion of our Lord - Reading of the Gospels
10 pm - 6 am Vigil by the Cross/lunches for Homeless

Holy Friday

9 am Royal Hours
11 am – 12:30 pm JOY Candle Making
3 pm Apokathelosis

6:30 pm Praises/Matins of Holy Saturday

Holy Saturday

9 am Vespers Liturgy

11 pm Nocturnes

11:30 pm Orthros and Liturgy of the Resurrection of Christ
Followed by Agape Meal in Community Center

Pascha

Noon Agape Vespers

Epistle Reading

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9.

BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Reading

The Reading is from John 12:1-18

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment 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 as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"

And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon 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 this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

A Note from Philoptochos

Philoptochos will be passing a second basket today to collect donations for the decorating of the Epitafio. Thank you for your generosity.

Please join us TODAY after Liturgy for a Philoptochos Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon. Tickets are available at the door. Adults, \$10, served Baked Cod, Rice, Green Beans, Salad, Bread and an apple or cherry cobbler for dessert. Children 5-12, \$5, 4 under/free Served peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, applesauce, chips and Oreo cookies. Volunteers are needed to serve and clean-up at today's luncheon. Please go to the community center following announcements. Thank you for supporting Philoptochos !

Pascha Bread, \$10, will be sold after Liturgy.

The next Philoptochos meeting is May 2 at 6:30PM with board elections following at 7-8:30PM. Please vote for the new board and enjoy wine and cheese to thank the old board and celebrate the new one!

There is a Philoptochos May 20 Tea flyer in today's bulletin. Gather your relatives and friends and have a wonderful time for only \$15. ALL ages welcome!

Elaine Sofis,
Philoptochos President

Circle of Angels Home-baked Cookies Needed!

While you are doing your Pascha baking, we are calling upon our Baking Angels to think of our parishioners, who are home-bound or in nursing homes. Please make an extra batch of your delicious home baked cookies for the cookie baskets and bring to the church office on Bright Tuesday, April 18th or before 10 AM on Bright Wednesday, April 19th. We will pack the cookie baskets at 10 AM on Wednesday, April 19th. The cookies should not have any nuts or be covered with powdered sugar. Monetary donations are also welcome.

Thank you so much,
Carol Halkias

FOCUS Food Drive

Thank you to everyone who donated to the three week FOCUS food drive. As always, your generosity was amazing, and so many families were helped by your kindness. May you and your families have a very blessed Pascha. - Dianne Babb



Important Food Festival Updates

Thanks again to everyone that attended food preparation for Tripta, Galatbouriko, and Scharakpita. The support and turnout have allowed us to work more efficiently with a larger group, often ending ahead of schedule.

After Pascha, we'll update everyone with the remaining schedule for food preparation – both online and in the weekly bulletins. Thanks for your continued support!

Myrophores

Holy Week is upon us! If your daughter would like to be one of the myrophores on Holy Friday Night for the procession of the Epitaphion please contact Laura Zervos 412-287-5679

| Deposit from 4/2 | |
|-------------------|----------|
| Pledges - 2017 | \$9,115 |
| Candles | \$735 |
| Loose Offerings | \$243 |
| Sunday School | \$12 |
| Special Envelopes | \$100 |
| Crown of Thorns | \$50 |
| | |
| Total | \$10,255 |

| Financial Snapshot based on \$2,239.23 daily operational needs | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| Date | Weekly Collection | Weekly Collection Total to Date | Estimated Operational Needs to Sunday | Difference |
| Total through March | \$137,788 | \$137,788 | \$190,334.55 | -\$52,546.55 |
| 4/2 | \$10,255 | \$148,043 | \$206,009.16 | -\$57,966.16 |

If you are interested in sponsoring a coffee hour - check the calendar online: www.holycrosspgh.org, click "Events", then "Coffee Hour", then scroll down to calendar, click on date to see if someone has taken it. Then email holycrosspit@mail.goarch.org or call the church office to request date.

****All entries for the Sunday Bulletin MUST be sent to Jonathan McClish by 11:59 pm the Wednesday before the Sunday you wish to have it appear. Thank you for your understanding.****

Holy Thursday

Following the service of the passion of Christ

The Vigil by the Cross

10 pm Thursday – 6 am Friday

Following a Presentation by Jonathan McClish

And

The making of bagged Lunches for the homeless

For GOYA and all who wish to attend

Holy Friday

Following the service of the Hours

JOY Candle Decorating!!

11 am – 12:30 pm

JOY children will have the opportunity to decorate candles for their use Friday or Saturday Night (you decide which).

A Lenten Lunch will be provided!

Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon TODAY!!

Sponsored by Philoptochos

***Please join us after Liturgy for
Baked Cod, Rice, Salad, bread and Green
Beans.***

A cherry or apple cobbler for dessert.

***Adults \$10 ~ Children 5-12 are \$5
4 and under/ free, served peanut butter and
jelly sandwiches, applesauce, chips and
Oreo cookies***

***Tickets will be sold at the door
Today, Palm Sunday.***



*Holy Cross Ladies Philoptochos Society
invites you to an*

Afternoon Tea

Saturday, May 20, 2017

*Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church Community Center
123 Gilkeson Road, Mt. Lebanon, PA 15228*

Doors Open 12:00 p.m.

*Tea sandwiches, fresh fruit, cookies, pastries and various teas will be
served.*

Silent Auction, Door Prizes and fashions by Trendy Trousseau

Ticket Cost \$15.00

*Contact Pam Lagios 412-276-4614 or Mary Zotis 412-835-2381
for tickets by May 12th*

All ages are welcome and hats are optional.