

Sunday, April 1, 2018 ~ Palm Sunday

Epistle 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.

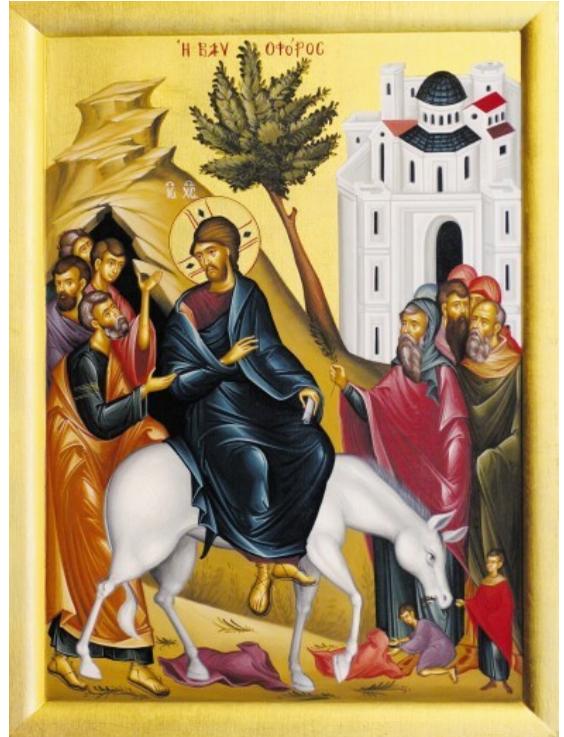
The Gospel According to John 12:1-18

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.



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Philoptochos will host a Fish Luncheon TODAY

HOLY MONDAY	April 2	ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ
Presanctified Liturgy	9:00 a.m.	Λειτουργία τῶν Προηγιασμένων
Bridegroom Service	6:30 p.m.	Ἀκολουθία τοῦ Νυμφίου
HOLY TUESDAY	April 3	ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΡΙΤΗ
Presanctified Liturgy	9:00 a.m.	Λειτουργία τῶν Προηγιασμένων
Bridegroom Service	6:30 p.m.	Ἀκολουθία τοῦ Νυμφίου
HOLY WEDNESDAY	April 4	ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ
Presanctified Liturgy	9:00 a.m.	Λειτουργία τῶν Προηγιασμένων
Holy Unction	3:00 p.m.	Μυστήριον τοῦ Ἁγ. Εὐγγελίου
Matins for Holy Thursday morning followed by 2 nd anointing with Holy Unction	6:30 p.m.	Ὁρθρος τῆς Μεγαλῆς Πεντη
HOLY THURSDAY	April 5	ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΕΜΠΤΗ
Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil	9:00 a.m.	Ἑσπερινὴ Λειτουργία τοῦ Μεγάλου Βασιλείου
Service of the Passion of our Lord	6:30 p.m.	Ἀκολουθία τῶν Ἁγίων Παθῶν
Reading of the 12 Gospels		Ἀνάγνωσις τῶν 12 Εὐαγγελίων
Vigil by the Cross	10:00 p.m.	Ὁλονυκτία
HOLY FRIDAY	April 6	ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ
Royal Hours of the Passion	9:00 a.m.	Βασιλικαὶ Ὁραὶ
Great Vespers of the Apokathelosis	3:00 p.m.	Μέγας Ἑσπερινὸς τῆς Ἀποκαθλώσεως
Fraises/Matins of Holy Saturday	6:30 p.m.	Τὸ Τρισάγιον καὶ ἡ Ἀκολουθία (Ὁρθρος) τοῦ Ἐπιταφίου Θρήνου
HOLY SATURDAY (Strict Fast)	April 7	ΜΕΓΑ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ (Νηστεία)
Divine Liturgy of St. Basil	9:00 a.m.	Ἑσπερινὴ Λειτουργία τοῦ Μεγάλου Βασιλείου
Nocturnes	11:00 p.m.	Ὁρθρος τῆς Ἀναστάσεως
“Come Receive the Light” Orthros/Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection Followed by the Agape Meal	11:30 p.m.	Θεία Λειτουργία τῆς Ἀναστάσεως Δεῖπνος τῆς Ἀγάπης
PASCHA (EASTER SUNDAY)	April 8	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ
Agape Vespers (Vespers of Love)	Noon	Μέγας Ἑσπερινὸς τῆς Ἀγάπης

We fervently request the entire Holy Cross family to share fully in the fasting, prayer and liturgical observance of Holy Week and in the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord. Please make plans also to attend the Resurrection Dinner to be held following the Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection on Holy Saturday evening. Kali Anastasi!

THERE ARE NO OTHER PARISH ACTIVITIES DURING HOLY WEEK. PLEASE KEEP THIS SCHEDULE OF SERVICES POSTED FOR EASY REFERENCE.

Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen! Χριστός Ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς Ἀνέστη!

Jim and Regina Spanos will be honored on April 21 at the St. Photios Banquet at the Doubletree Hilton in Cranberry. In addition, His Eminence is pleased to bestow the **St. Photios Award for service to the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Pittsburgh** to our parishioners **Presvytera Rozalia (Lia) Christulides and Dr. & Mrs. Peter & Theanne Gagianas**. Ticket information is in the Cross Roads.

Please join us for our Annual Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon. This is a wonderful fellowship with your church family as we begin our journey through Holy Week! Tickets are available at the door.



We will have a second collection today for flowers to adorn the Epitaphio. Please be generous and come and help on Friday morning. Thank you!

Pascha bread will be sold today after Liturgy.



Thank you for your loving support of all our events!

Kalo Paschal!

Yours in Christ,
Andrea Milinkovic
Philoptochos President

Attention parents of girls ages 8-12: if your daughter would like to participate as a **Mirafora** on Good Friday, please call Laura Zervos 412.287.5679 or laura_jz@msn.com

Good Friday: JOY will be decorating Paschal Candles in the community center from 11am to 1pm on Good Friday. Contact Stacey Chakos, Christine Chapas, or Annika Geanopulos

GAPA Scholarships (\$1000) available to **high school seniors entering college**. Applicant must be related to a GAPA member in good standing. Applications available in church office, and deadline is April 30.

CIRCLE OF ANGELS: To our **Baking Angels**...We will be packing cookie baskets during Bright Week, on **Tuesday, April 10th at 10:30 AM**. Please think of our home-bound parishioners and those in nursing homes, while you are baking for Pascha. We need lots of home-baked cookies for our 33 baskets. Please do not use nuts or powdered sugar in any of the cookies to be donated. Thank you so much and God bless you! Carol Halkias and Christine Metropulos-Steiner

TO RENEW OR JOIN PHILOPTOCHOS for 2018, please fill out the membership form below and return to the church or to Connie Carahalís, 224 Mt. Lebanon Blvd., Pittsburgh, PA 15234

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

*From your Philoptochos Stewardship donation, \$15 is sent to the National Philoptochos in NYC and \$10 is sent to the Pittsburgh Metropolis Philoptochos. Anything over \$25 goes to Holy Cross Philoptochos

Or see any Board Member to pay your dues!

All Philoptochos Members or soon to be Members,

This is a request that all current dues be paid. We are submitting our obligations to the National and Metropolis Philoptochos and would like every one to be current in their dues. You can mail them or give them to Connie Carahalís or Mimi Kontoulís or to me. Thank you for your loyalty and dedication!

Yours in Christ, Andrea Milinkovic, Philoptochos President

WELCOME – AND A FEW WORDS ABOUT COMMUNION...

We warmly welcome all visitors and seekers in our midst today, trusting that your experience here will be an uplifting and enriching one. The Greek Orthodox Churches are the ancient and native Christian communities of the biblical world, with centers in the Holy Lands, Syria, Egypt and Asia Minor, and by extension in Greece, Cyprus and throughout the world. Like the ancient Christians, we engage the whole person, heart, mind and all senses in Divine Worship. This experience has been so powerful to seekers in the past that it was often said “We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth. We knew only that there God dwelt among human beings.” (Russian Primary Chronicle) That communion experience of heaven on earth and God in our midst forms the heart of all Orthodox worship. It culminates in the sharing of Holy Communion, which not only unites us with the Divine, but also expresses the deep unity in faith and life between all Orthodox believers. Since Holy Communion expresses that deep unity in belief and practice alike, it is reserved for observant Orthodox Christians. This does not mean, however, that non-Orthodox are ‘excluded’ – rather, the Orthodox choose not to make an external display of unity when actual unity does not exist. While working to restore the full communion that did exist in antiquity, today we offer the sign of the blessed bread at the service’s conclusion as a symbolic gift of hospitality and growing unity that is offered to all present. If you would like to learn more about the Orthodox way of life, or have any questions about worship or Holy Communion, please approach Fr. Michael or one

THE CHURCH ~ A HOLY PLACE

When you enter the church building as the “House of Worship,” you are entering into the Great Throne Room of the “King of Kings” as His subjects and His soldiers. The “King of Kings,” Jesus Christ, is enthroned on the Holy Altar and all the angels, prophets, saints and the Most Holy Mother of God are present. His soldiers should be attentive and standing at attention. No one in the presence of the “king of Kings” would sit with his legs crossed, or his hands in his pockets, or chewing gum, or looking at his watch because to do any of these things would be disrespectful. The only proper disposition a soldier can have before his commander is that of reverence which is indicated by a bowed head, a submissive heart and prayer.