

April 10, 2022

The Journey of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ into Jerusalem



SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fighting the Good Fight with Faith

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory Forever! ~ Slava Isusu Christu! Slava Na Viki!

Propers for Palm Sunday: pp. 235 - 241

Divine Services for the Week:

SUN., APRIL 10
8:30 A.M.

PALM SUNDAY, Blessing of palms and pussy willows
DIVINE LITURGY

+ Marge Raychevich, offered by Sr. Mary Virginia

4:00 P.M.

SUNDAY EVENING VESPERS for the GREAT FAST

(See center of bulletin for Holy Week and Pascha Schedule)

There will be a Reception in the Center following the Saturday, April 16 Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy. Join us as we break the fast and indulge in our traditional Easter foods!

Hosanna! Save us Now! - Is this the crowd who would applaud His crucifixion? How was their hatred earned from his grace? Even the words of their commendation pointed to the power of redemption. "Hosanna" in Hebrew signifies the redemption of the house of David. They are calling upon the Son of David. They are celebrating the inheritance of the eternal kingdom. They are proclaiming the blessing in the name of the Lord. Soon their shouting of "Crucify Him!" would be blasphemy. But at present, the deeds he was doing there were exhibiting the form of the future. It is granted that the crowd was doing these things with very confused emotions. The things that would follow would be different. Nevertheless they were, inadvertently and without willing it, pointing to heavenly things unfolding. In this way the whole city of Jerusalem was stirred.



Happy Birthday Greetings This Week:

April 10: Mary Salamon, April 12: Nathaniel Hersh, April 13: Erik Fetkovich,
April 15: Butch Dzumba, John Simunick

Wedding Anniversaries this Week:

April 15: Richard & Judy Dzumba, April 16: Francis & Connie Hersh

Please Pray For Our Sick and Shut-ins

Eileen Batcha, Rebecca Dickun, Marianne Dove, Jean Herdt, Rebecca Hutcheon, Kevin Joray, Mary Ann Jugan, Neil Jugan, Mary Salamon, John Simunick, Marian Yurosky

Ann Trombulak – **Rochester Manor:** (174 Virginia Ave., Rochester, PA 15074)

Josephine Maruhnich – **Beaver Elder Care** (616 Golf Course Road, Aliquippa, PA 15001)

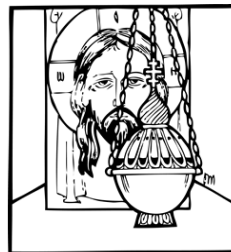
Betty Polas – **Apple Blossom Senior Living** (125 Apple Blossom Wy, #307, Moon Twp., PA 15108)

Carol Huchko – **Concordia at Villa St. Joseph** (1040 State St, Baden, PA 15005)

Epistle Readers– April 10: JoAnn Hersh – April 16: Cantors

Ushers – Stand in as needed

Troica Holders – April 10: F. Hersh – April 16: R. Mudron



THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP

April 10 - 16, 2022

Burns before the real presence of our Lord for:

+ Lori Dickey Stevic

(In Loving Memory)

Offered By:

Eleanor, Larry, & Bonnie



Hosanna in the Highest!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Easter Nut Roll Pick up

Nut roll orders are available for pick-next **TODAY** in the Center following Divine Liturgy.

Helpers Needed to Decorate: Help is needed to decorate the Church for Pascha. Decorating will be done following the 9:00 A.M. Jerusalem Matins service this **Saturday, April 16**. We need as many helpers as possible to get the Church ready for the Resurrection Matins service that night. Thank you in advance for all your help!



Church Store Easter Items: If you need items for Pascha or your Easter Basket, our Church store in the Center has egg wraps, butter molds, books, crosses, incense, jewelry, and other Easter items. You can look



following Divine Liturgy today or after any services this week. See JoAnn Hersh to purchase.

It's St. George Flea Market Time!

We will again be having a Flea Market here at St. George Church this summer, date to be announced. Consider donating items you no longer need to our flea market. Items can be brought to the Center every Saturday from 9:00 A.M.- 11:00 A.M. You may also bring items on Sunday when you come to Church. Ask family and friends to consider donating items to our Flea Market. *Thank you!*

Pascha Altar Candles - A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex to donate altar candles for Pascha.

Church Mice

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Fellowship Coffee and Doughnuts to Return

Coffee and Doughnut hour will return on Sunday, May 1, following Sunday Divine Liturgy. We invite everyone to join us every Sunday following Divine Liturgy in the Center for fellowship, coffee, and doughnuts!



A Note from Father Geoff

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Today we enter into the holiest and most solemn of the days of our Christian calendar. Yesterday we watched - with the eyes of faith - as our Lord wept at the tomb of his friend, Lazarus, and raised him from the dead, foreshadowing his own resurrection to follow. Today we hear the Hebrew children chant and exclaim their loud "Hosannas!" as we welcome our King and Savior into Jerusalem. Soon we will watch our Lord wash his disciples' feet, we will keep vigil with him in the Garden of Gethsemane, behold his unjust trial and, on Friday, see him set forth before our eyes on the Cross of Calvary.

St. Andrew of Crete wrote, "Let us go together to meet Christ on the Mount of Olives. Today he returns from Bethany and proceeds of his own free will toward his holy and blessed passion, to consummate the mystery of our salvation... Let us run to accompany him as he hastens toward his passion..."

I would like to encourage you, as you are able, to sanctify the time of this sacred week. There are several opportunities for worship throughout the week at both St. Mary's and St. George's. But even when not at church - in your homes, in your cars, in your workplaces, and wherever you happen to be this week - keep the mystery of our redemption before your mind. Take some time in silence to consider the great love that God has shown us in the saving work of Jesus.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." (John 12.32). As the English hymnographer Charles Wesley wrote,

*See him set forth before your eyes;
behold the bleeding sacrifice;
his offered love make haste to embrace,
and freely now be saved by grace.*

Let us be quick to give glory to Jesus Christ for his life-giving death even as we look forward with great anticipation to the celebration of his glorious Resurrection.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Geoff

Great and Holy Week

In the Eastern Christian Church the last week of Christ's life is officially called Passion Week, though it is often today called Holy Week. Each day is designated as "great and holy" with special services every day of the week. For us as Byzantine Catholics, earthly life ceases as we "go up with the Lord to Jerusalem". The services of Passion Week have a sacramental aspect to them and offer us an opportunity to follow Jesus Christ in the final week of his life on earth.



By the grace of the Holy Spirit we are no longer separated by time from the life of Christ as recounted in the Gospels. Through the services of Passion Week we are there when Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead and when he enters Jerusalem on the donkey. We are there at the Mystical Supper as he gives us his precious Body and Blood. We are witnesses in the Garden as he is betrayed by a kiss from Judas and we are present in Pilate's court as he is denied by Peter. We stand with Mary and the beloved disciple at the foot of the Cross. All this reaches its splendid climax as we rejoice in the harrowing of Hades and the destruction of death as we share in Christ's glorious resurrection on the third day.

Let us resolve to make this Passion Week our fervent desire to be with our Lord during his great and long suffering: before Great and Holy Thursday let us read together in our families an entire Gospel up to the point where the passion begins; let us try to be a little more strict in our fasting and sacrifices; let us make every effort to participate fully in all the services of Passion Week; let us find the determination and commitment to spend private time with our Lord and stand guard over his tomb following the Great and Holy Friday service.

Let us enter the deep waters of true Eastern Catholic worship and engage ourselves totally in this Passion Week ... foremost as a means of uniting ourselves with our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ and also as an expression of our Byzantine authenticity and identity.

Holy Week Schedule Published - The Holy Week schedule is published in the center of this bulletin. Fr. Geoff has generously scheduled multiple services and opportunities during Holy Week. During this time, we are called to make every effort to "lay aside all earthly cares", to devote ourselves to contemplate the central Mysteries of our Faith which are revealed in the liturgical services of Passion Week: the Cross, the Tomb and the Resurrection of Christ. So significant is Holy Week that "time seems to stand still and earthly life ceases for the faithful, as they go up with the Lord to Jerusalem" (*Fr. Thomas Hopko*). May we all look upon the days ahead as sacred and dedicated to our Lord. Put God first and stand by the Cross of Christ.

Holy Week Resources

Whatever this Great Fast has been like for you, whether it has gone as expected or not, we invite you to draw ever closer to the Lord in these coming holy days. Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday announce for us "the universal resurrection of mankind." In Lazarus, as the great Fr. Alexander Schmemmann explains, all of fallen mankind is represented. The tears which Christ sheds over the death of his friend are tears which God sheds over the state of his creation dislocated from him. Today Christ calls Lazarus out of death. Today, Christ calls *all of us* toward his Holy Third Day Resurrection.



You are encouraged to read the reflection **Lazarus, Arise!** (available on the bulletin table), a special reflection from the Very Rev. Alexander Schmemmann's essays on Holy Week, in which he offers powerful insights on the raising of Lazarus and its important connection to Great & Holy Pascha, as well as **On the Palm Branches**, a beautiful homily by St. Proclus of Constantinople for Palm Sunday. Kindly bring these resources and your Church bulletin home with you weekly for **deeper review** and family discussion. *Many thanks!*

It is the voice of the Lord, the proclamation of the King – an authoritative command.

Come out! Leave corruption behind and receive the flesh of incorruption.

Lazarus, Come out! Let them know that the time has come when those in the tombs will hear the voice of the Son of man. Once they have heard they will come alive.

Come out! The stumbling block is taken away. Come to me – I am calling you.

Come out! Covered with the burial cloth so that they won't think you were only pretending to be dead. Let them see your hands and feet bound and your face covered. Let them see if they still do not believe the miracle.

Come out! Let the stench of your body prove the resurrection. Let the burial linen be undone so that they can recognize the one who was put in the tomb.

Come out! Come alive and be alive! Come out of the tomb. Teach them how all creation will be enlivened in a moment when the trumpet's voice proclaims the resurrection of the dead.

Come out! Leave behind the burial cloth and glorify the miracle. Leave the revolting stench of death and proclaim the strength of my power.

Come out! I, who said, "Let there be light, let there be firmament."

(St. Andrew of Crete)

St. George Patronal Feast Day Weekend Celebration (Save the Dates!)

There will be a Divine Liturgy on our Patronal Feast Day, **Saturday, April 23 at 9:00 A.M.** The next day, **Sunday, April 24**, we will continue our celebration here at St. George Church with a **Liturgy at 10:00 A.M.** **This will be the only Liturgy that weekend for both parishes. A luncheon will follow.** The parish family of St. Mary in Ambridge is also invited to attend Liturgy along with staying for the breakfast/luncheon. We welcome all parishioners and guests to come and honor our Patron, St. George the Great Martyr and to celebrate together as a parish family. **A sign-up sheet for the luncheon is in the Narthex.**

What is a Patronal Feast?

All Catholic and Orthodox Churches are dedicated to the worship of God, of course, and when Christians first became able to build Churches they built them on Holy sites associated with events in scripture, the life of Christ, or over the tombs of the martyrs. And if there was no Holy site at hand, nonetheless a Church would be dedicated in the name of a person or an event marked on the Church calendar. ***We continue this tradition.***

In short, our Churches always have their own special feast day. This is sometimes called the Altar Feast or the Feast of Dedication or the Patronal Feast. The celebration of a parish feast ought to be something special, full of prayer and good fellowship. It is kind of like a birthday party. **It is something that every parishioner should participate in**, giving thanks to God for our place of worship, for His innumerable mercies to us, for the intercession and protection of the Mother of God on our walk through life, for our parish family and our fellowship.

Rejoice and Be Glad!

The Pittsburgh Byzantine Catholic Archeparchial Choir returns to St. John's Cathedral in Munhall on April 24 for prayer and a program of hymns of the glorious Resurrection of our Lord. The afternoon will begin at 3:00 PM with a Moleben for the Living, in celebration and gracious thanks for the much-anticipated return to social events after a 3-year hiatus due to pandemic concerns. The Choir's presentation "Rejoice and Be Glad" will immediately follow, featuring many beloved and seldom-heard renditions of the Paschal greet, "Christ is Risen! Christos Voskrese!" A cake and coffee reception will follow.

Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!



Palm (Flowery) Sunday

From ancient times, palm branches were symbols of victory and triumph, and were used by Romans in celebration of both military as well as civic and sporting events. Thus, when Jesus arrived the people took branches of palms and went out to greet him. In the New Testament, palm branches became a symbol of martyrdom, meaning victory over death.

The Feast of Palm Sunday dates back to at least the third century, having been celebrated first in Jerusalem and quickly spreading to all of the churches in the East, reaching Constantinople by the fifth century. It was also known as Flowery Sunday, since in and near Constantinople spring flowers (lilac, olive, or elder) were distributed to the faithful. Between the sixth and seventh centuries the feast spread to the western church. In the West, the palms are kept for an entire year, then burned, with the ashes spread on the foreheads of the faithful on Ash Wednesday as a sign of penance.



In many countries of Europe the Feast is known as Willow Sunday or Pussy Willow Sunday. Since palms do not grow in northern climates and may not be available, pussy willows, being the first flower to blossom in Spring, were often distributed. Depending on local customs, churches today may distribute palms, pussy willows, spring flowers, or a combination.

The blessed branches should be carried home as a sacramental and visible symbol of Christ's presence. They should be entwined on the crucifix or used to decorate an icon, and to serve as a "sign of salvation," and a "pledge of protection and blessing" during the coming year as invoked by the second Prayer of Blessing*.

** The second Prayer of Blessing alludes to the olive branch brought to Noah by a dove at the end of the deluge as a token of divine protection and blessing (peace). Therefore, in prayer, the priest asks divine protection and blessing on every home where the blessed branches will be reverently preserved.*

The Holy Spirit reminds us "not to reject the traditions of our elders, which they have learned from their fathers" (Sirach 8:9).

St. George, Aliquippa

Monday, April 11: *Great and Holy Monday*

No Service

Tuesday, April 12: *Great and Holy Tuesday*

No Service

Wednesday, April 13: *Great and Holy Wednesday*

6:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Holy Mystery of Anointing

* During the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts we celebrate the Holy Mystery of Anointing during which the priest anoints us with Holy Oil that we may be healed physically and spiritually.

After Liturgy: Confessions

Thursday, April 14: *Great and Holy Thursday*

7:00 P.M. Vespers and the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

* “Accept me this day, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your Mystical Supper” is the predominate message of this Service, which commemorates the Mystical Supper and the institution of the Holy Eucharist.

Friday, April 15: *Great and Holy Friday-Good Friday* *Strict Fast*

7:00 P.M. The Office of the Burial of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

* During this Service we sing hymns that tell of Christ’s Saving Passion, of His Mother’s grief as she and her friends watch His agony, and the meaning of the Cross for all Creation.

Saturday, April 16: *Great and Holy Saturday*

9:00 A.M. Jerusalem Matins

**7:00 P.M. Resurrection Matins with Paschal Divine Liturgy
& Blessing and partaking of Paschal-Easter Foods in the Center**

* In the darkened Church, the faithful receive the Resurrection Light from the priest and form a procession out of the Church. The joyous hymn of Christ’s Resurrection is triumphantly chanted- “Christ is Risen!-Christos Voskrese!” We sing “Christ is Risen!-Christos Voskrese!” repeatedly during the Divine Liturgy. As we receive the Holy Eucharist, we share in the mystical communion with the Risen Christ, who has conquered death once and for all. Following the blessing of the Paschal foods we will “break the fast” together by partaking of our Paschal foods.

Sunday, April 17: *Great and Holy Pascha-Easter Sunday*

No Service

Monday, April 18: *Bright Monday*

9:00 A.M. Paschal Divine Liturgy with Procession

*At the end of the liturgy there will be the procession with the Icon of the Resurrection and reading of the Gospel at the four corners of the church.

St. Mary, Ambridge

Monday, April 11: *Great and Holy Monday*

6:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Holy Mystery of Anointing

* During the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts we celebrate the Holy Mystery of Anointing during which the priest anoints us with Holy Oil that we may be healed physically and spiritually.

After Liturgy: Confessions

Tuesday, April 12: *Great and Holy Tuesday*

No Service

Wednesday, April 13: *Great and Holy Wednesday*

No Service

Thursday, April 14: *Great and Holy Thursday*

4:30 P.M. Vespers and the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

* “Accept me this day, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your Mystical Supper” is the predominate message of this Service, which commemorates the Mystical Supper and the institution of the Holy Eucharist.

Friday, April 15: *Great and Holy Friday-Good Friday* *Strict Fast*

5:00 P.M. The Office of the Burial of Our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

* During this Service we sing hymns that tell of Christ’s Saving Passion, of His Mother’s grief as she and her friends watch His agony, and the meaning of the Cross for all Creation.

Saturday, April 16: *Great and Holy Saturday*

Saturday, April 16 Paschal Vigil begins....

5:00 P.M. Resurrection Matins & Blessing of Paschal-Easter Food

* In the darkened Church, the faithful receive the Resurrection Light from the priest and form a procession out of the Church. The joyous hymn of Christ’s Resurrection is triumphantly chanted- “Christ is Risen!-Christos Voskrese!”

Sunday, April 17: *Great and Holy Pascha-Easter Sunday*

10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Paschal-Easter Food

* We sing “Christ is Risen!-Christos Voskrese!” repeatedly. As we receive the Holy Eucharist, we share in the mystical communion with the Risen Christ, who has conquered death once and for all.

Monday, April 18: *Bright Monday*

No Service

Tuesday, April 19: *Bright Tuesday*

9:00 A.M. Paschal Divine Liturgy

*At the end of the liturgy there will be the procession with the Icon of the Resurrection and reading of the Gospel at the four corners of the church.

Glory to Your long-suffering, O Lord!

SAINT GEORGE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Cantors: Jo Ann Hersh, Louisa Hersh, David Klacik E.C.F. coordinator: Jo Ann Hersh

Facilities Supervisor: John Poiarkoff

- Holy Mystery of Reconciliation Before and after Liturgies
- Holy Mysteries of Initiation Contact the church office
- Holy Mystery of Anointing Ask prior to surgery or serious illness
- Holy Mystery of Marriage Contact the church office eight months prior to wedding
- Religious Education Classes September through May, following Sunday Divine Liturgy
- St. George Ladies' Guild & Men's Club Everyone welcome to participate



Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!