



Welcome!

Whether you are searching for a new church home or just visiting, we are glad you're with us today. If you have a prayer request, are looking for more information about the Orthodox Faith, would like to join our parish, or would like to speak with Fr Thomas, we invite you to fill out a visitor's card and drop it in the offering basket as your offering today. We want to get to know you! God bless you!

Schedule This Week

Sunday, April 17 Palm Sunday

10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy/Church School

7:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Monday, April 18 Holy Monday

7:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 19 Holy Tuesday

7:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 20 Holy Wednesday

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, April 21 Holy Thursday

9:30 am Vespereal Divine Liturgy

7:00 pm Matins with Passion Gospels

Friday, April 22 Great and Holy Friday

9:00 am Royal Hours

3:00 pm Great Vespers

7:00 pm Matins with Procession

Saturday, April 23 Great and Holy Saturday

9:00 am Vespereal Liturgy

9:00 pm Nocturn, Paschal Matins, and Liturgy
Blessing of Baskets and Fellowship

Sunday, April 24 Great and Holy Pascha

12:00 pm Paschal Vespers

Archpriest Thomas Soroka, Rector

Deacon Luke Loboda, Attached

Deacon John Skowron, Attached

Entry of Christ into Jerusalem

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA

OrthodoxPittsburgh.org

April 17, 2022

Announcements

➤ This week is called “**Holy Week**” or “**Great Week**” in the Orthodox Faith. It is the most sacred week of the year. It is the week that we have been preparing for during the entire Lenten season! Make this week special!

- ✦ Disconnect from media and secular music.
- ✦ Attend the Divine Services during Holy Week.
- ✦ Fast as much as you are able, especially on Great and Holy Friday.

May God strengthen you as you accompany the Lord Jesus Christ to His Passion.

➤ Today we kick off our new **Pro-Life Ministry** led by Matushka Joni Soroka and Mary Hoffman. Support a new mom or new baby by picking up a list of items to donate and place in the accompanying bag. Your returned gift bag will help clients of the Women's Choice Network of Pittsburgh. Stop by downstairs!

➤ **Can you read in a foreign language?** We are in need of foreign language readers to **read the Paschal Gospel (John 1:1-17) at the Paschal Liturgy**. Please see Fr Thomas today.

➤ The **last day for Holy Confession** is Thursday.

➤ The schedule for Bright Tuesday has changed. We will be gathering at Holy Transfiguration Monastery for Divine Liturgy.

➤ Everyone is invited to the **Skowron residence for a Pascha Potluck on Sunday, April 23rd** from 3-8pm. Please bring a dish to share! Stop by anytime. We will have an egg hunt for the children at 4pm. See Dn. John or Mat. Kate for details.

➤ Everyone is invited to the **annual Soroka Paschal Open House** on Bright Friday, April 29. Mark your calendars! We can't wait to see you!

Prayers

➤ **Ill and infirm:** *Known to be hospitalized:* (none)
Home: George Shaytar. *Shut in, Rehabilitation, or Nursing Home:* Eleanor Kovacs, Natalie Popovich, Michael Soroka

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Mat. Nancy K. Mell & Gregory Mell** for the departed servant, Dn. Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family; Happy Birthday & Many Years to Helen Billak! From **Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of sisters, Doris & Marsha. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants, parents, Charles and Mary; for the health of the Wasilko & Dyczko families. From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; special intention. From **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends & family, John, Cheryl, Gregory, and Cindy. From **Mat. Joni Soroka** for the health of Robin Naiser, Melanie, Jacqueline, and Natalie; private intention. From **John & Olga** for the health of Galina Vilcova, Dana Emma Kowalcheck and unborn child. From **Tatyana Sechler** for the departed servants, Bruce, Diana, Luba, Polina, Slava, Galina, Marina, and Valentina; for the health of Tatyana, Veronika, Daniel, Janet, Kristofer, Valeria, Jean and Andriana.

Thank You

- to all those who helped **bind the pussy willows and palms** for the feast. God bless you!
- to those who provided the **children's breakfast** meal after the Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy.
- to our April donors, **Matushka Nancy Mell and Gregory Mell** (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Altar Candles \$50, Communion Wine \$40, and Incense \$10) for the health of and for the departed members of the Mell and Karavlan families.

To our Visitors: *Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.*

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Pascha

Questions to ask/review:

- Why is the Resurrection considered the central truth of Christianity? (because Christ conquers death, we can also be raised and live forever with Him)
- -Why do we need to be saved by Christ? (we live in a world of sin and death; Christ can save us because He is both God and man)
- -How long was Christ in the tomb? (three days)
- -What did Christ do on Holy Saturday before His Bodily Resurrection? (His soul descended into Hades and released the souls of the dead who believed)
- -How did the disciples learn of the Resurrection? (the women were told by an angel and then the disciples came and found the tomb empty)
- -How do we celebrate Pascha? (The Church is in darkness; Light spreads to all from the Trikirion, the 3 in 1 candle representing the Trinity; We process around the church like the myrrh-bearing women walking to the tomb; Eggs represent new life. We greet each other with “Christ is Risen!”)
- -What do we sing while going around the church on Pascha? (Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the angel in heaven sing, enable us on earth to glorify thee in purity of heart.)

Suggested activities at home:

- Read the scripture before bed: Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20.
- When you bring home the Palms today, help your child put them with each icon.
- Participate in as many of the Holy Week services as possible. Don't be afraid to extend bedtime or to miss school if appropriate.
- Prepare your Pascha basket together.
- Practice the Paschal Troparia and greetings:
English: Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!
Russian: Christos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!
Greek: Christos anesti! Alethos anesti!

Prayer: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, April 17

First Antiphon (Psalm 115)

v. I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication.

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

v. Because He inclined His ear to me; therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

v. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me.

v. I suffered distress and anguish, so I called on the Name of the Lord.

v. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

v. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Second Antiphon (Psalm 116)

v. I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."

Refrain: O Son of God, who sat upon the foal, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

v. What shall I render to the Lord for all the things He has given me?

v. I will receive the cup of salvation, and call on the Name of the Lord.

v. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people.

v. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Third Antiphon (Psalm 117)

v. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

v. Let the house of Israel say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Refrain: Troparion of the Feast

v. Let the house of Aaron say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Let all those who fear the Lord say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Troparion of the Feast *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 comes in the name of the Lord!"

Another Troparion of the Feast *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 comes in the name of the Lord!"

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Kontakion of the Feast *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 comes to recall Adam!"

Prokeimenon of the Feast *Tone 4 (Ps 118)*

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

Epistle of the Feast (*Phil 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.

Gospel of the Feast (*Jn 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.

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! Celebrate the feast and come with gladness! Let us magnify Christ with palms and branches singing: "Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord!"

Communion Hymn (*Ps 148*)

Praise Him in Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

Let us run to accompany him as he hastens toward his passion, and imitate those who met him then, not by covering his path with garments, olive branches or palms, but by doing all we can to prostrate ourselves before him by being humble and by trying to live as he would wish. Then we shall be able to receive the Word at his coming, and God, whom no limits can contain, will be within us.

We who have been baptized into Christ must ourselves be the garments that we spread before him. Now that the crimson stains of our sins have been washed away in the saving waters of baptism and we have become white as pure wool, let us present the conqueror of death, not with mere branches of palms but with the real rewards of his victory.