



Archpriest Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
Deacon Luke Loboda, *Attached*

Lazarus Saturday/Palm Sunday

McKees Rocks/Pittsburgh, PA
OrthodoxPittsburgh.org April 24-25, 2021

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!

This Week's Schedule

Saturday, April 24 Lazarus Saturday

10:00 am Divine Liturgy/Church School
5:00 pm Festal Vigil

Sunday, April 25 Palm Sunday

10:00 am Festal Divine Liturgy/Church School
7:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Monday, April 26 Holy Monday

7:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 27 Holy Tuesday

7:00 pm Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 28 Holy Wednesday

6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, April 29 Holy Thursday

9:30 am Vespers Divine Liturgy
7:00 pm Matins with Passion Gospels

Friday, April 30 Great and Holy Friday

9:00 am Royal Hours
3:00 pm Great Vespers
7:00 pm Matins with Procession

Saturday, April 24 Great and Holy Saturday

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

Sunday, April 25 Great and Holy Pascha

12:00 pm Paschal Vespers

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! This week we are called to walk in the Spiritual strength we have developed during the Great Lent. We turn our thoughts from our own spiritual development to the Lord's Passion and Resurrection. 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 and Resurrection.

➤ **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 or sign up today.

➤ We are in need of **red dyed hard-boiled Easter Eggs** to distribute after the Paschal Liturgy. Please see the sign-up sheet if you can help! We would greatly appreciate it!

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

➤ There will be **no Church office hours** during Holy Week or Bright Week.

➤ Attention all men! **Mother's Day Brunch** on Sun. May 9. Please see the email from Fr Thomas

➤ The **annual Soroka Pascha Party** is being postponed this year to Friday, June 25. Mark your calendars! We look forward to seeing you there!

Prayers

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

➤ **Vigil Lights** From **Lindy Hamilton** for the health of Elaine Hamilton; for special intentions. From **Kristie Mertz** for the health of Mary, John, and Katie. From the **John Mahalchak family** for the health of friends and family, especially John, Cheryl, and Gregory. From **John Kowalcheck** for the health of Galina, Xenia, and Elizabeth. From **Doris Wasilko** for the departed servants (father) Charles (4/20/2001) and (aunt) Ann Wasilko; for the health of the Wasilko family and Helen Billak on her birthday. Many Years!! From **Mat. Nancy and Gregory Mell** for the departed servant of God Dn Joseph Mell; for the health of family. From **George and Nancy Shaytar** for the departed servants Jack Saban and Christina Saban; for the health of Steve Shaytar. From **Nancy Shaytar** for the health of husband George. From **Charles Wasilko** for the departed servant (father) Charles. From **Marsha Wasilko** for the departed servant (father) Charles (4/20/2001) and for the health of Susan Porter. From **Sandi Tirpak** for the health and salvation of my family; for the departed servant Amelia; for special intentions. From **John and Nancy Pravlochak** for the departed servants our parents; for the health of our grandchildren and children.

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 **Lindy Hamilton** for sponsoring all categories of monthly donations for in April, in memory of her twin brother, Russell: (Bulletin \$60, Holy Bread \$50, Communion Wine \$40, Altar Candles \$25, Incense \$10).

This Week in Church School

Today's lesson: Three Youths in the Fire

Scripture reference: Daniel 3

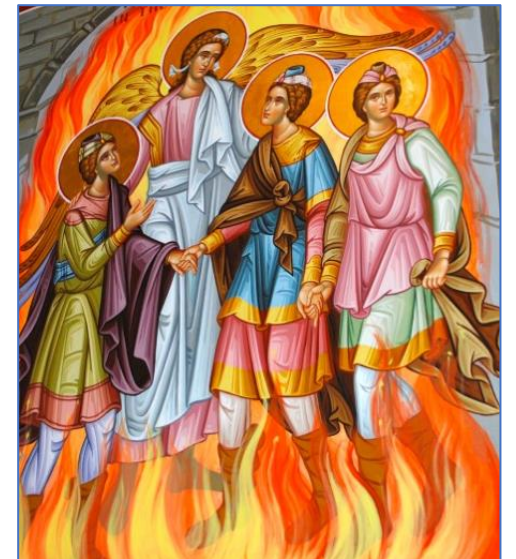
Questions to ask/review:

- ✧ Who were the three youths? What were their names?
- ✧ What did they refuse to do? Why?
- ✧ What does this story foreshadow that happens during Pascha?
- ✧ Who was in the fire with them?
- ✧ Describe the bravery and faith of the Holy Youths. Do we have the same bravery and faith?

Suggested Activities at home:

- ✧ Attend the services of Holy Week and read some of the 15 Old Testament readings (from Holy Saturday) before bed or during dinner.

Prayer: Lord help us to have the courage to stand up for our beliefs as the three youths did.



St Nicholas Church will strive to glorify God through Orthodox Christian worship, sincere love and care for one another, and service to those in need around us.

Hymns and Readings for Saturday, April 24

Tone 1 Troparion

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.”

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

Tone 2 Kontakion

Christ, the Joy, the Truth, and the Light of all,
the Life of the world, and the Resurrection,
has appeared in His goodness to those on earth.
He has become the Image of our Resurrection,//
granting divine forgiveness to all.

Instead of the Trisagion

As many as have been baptized into Christ,
have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Tone 3 Prokeimenon

The Lord is my Light and my Salvation! Whom
then shall I fear?

Epistle of the Saturday (Hebrews 12:28-13:8)

Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which
cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may
serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.
For our God is a consuming fire.

Let brotherly love continue. Do not forget to entertain
strangers, for by so doing some have unwittingly
entertained angels. Remember the prisoners as if
chained with them—those who are mistreated—since
you yourselves are in the body also.

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed
undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will
judge.

Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content
with such things as you have. For He Himself has

said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we
may boldly say:

“The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man
do to me?”

Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken
the word of God to you, whose faith follow,
considering the outcome of their conduct. Jesus Christ
is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Gospel of the Saturday (John 11:1-45)

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the
town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was that Mary
who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped
His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was
sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord,
behold, he whom You love is sick.”

When Jesus heard that, He said, “This sickness is not
unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of
God may be glorified through it.”

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.
So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two
more days in the place where He was. Then after this
He said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.”

The disciples said to Him, “Rabbi, lately the Jews
sought to stone You, and are You going there again?”

Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours in the
day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble,
because he sees the light of this world. But if one
walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is
not in him.” These things He said, and after that He
said to them, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that
I may wake him up.”

Then His disciples said, “Lord, if he sleeps he will get
well.” However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they
thought that He was speaking about taking rest in
sleep.

Then Jesus said to them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. And
I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you
may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him.”

Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his
fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with
Him.”

So when Jesus came, He found that he had already
been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near
Jerusalem, about two miles away. And many of the
Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary,
to comfort them concerning their brother.

Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was
coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in
the house. Now Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You
had been here, my brother would not have died. But
even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God
will give You.”

Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in
the resurrection at the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall
live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never
die. Do you believe this?”

She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the
Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the
world.”

And when she had said these things, she went her
way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, “The
Teacher has come and is calling for you.” As soon as
she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him.
Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in
the place where Martha met Him. Then the Jews who
were with her in the house, and comforting her, when
they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out,
followed her, saying, “She is going to the tomb to
weep there.”

Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw
Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord,
if You had been here, my brother would not have
died.”

Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews
who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit

and was troubled. And He said, “Where have you laid
him?”

They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.”

Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, “See how He loved
him!”

And some of them said, “Could not this Man, who
opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man
from dying?”

Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the
tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus
said, “Take away the stone.”

Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him,
“Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been
dead four days.”

Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you
would believe you would see the glory of God?” Then
they took away the stone from the place where the
dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and
said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.
And I know that You always hear Me, but because of
the people who are standing by I said this, that they
may believe that You sent Me.” Now when He had
said these things, He cried with a loud voice,
“Lazarus, come forth!” And he who had died came out
bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face
was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose
him, and let him go.”

Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and
had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him.

Hymn to the Theotokos for the Feast

Come, all people, let us honor the pure Theotokos!
She conceived the divine Fire within her womb, yet
was not consumed. Let us magnify her in song!

Communion Hymn for the Feast

Out of the mouths of babes and infants, Thou hast
fashioned perfect praise. (Ps. 8:2a) Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia!



Hymns and Readings for Sunday, April 25

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!

He Who has Heaven for His throne entered Jerusalem, riding on the foal of an ass. The children of the Hebrews themselves spread their garments under Him and, cutting down palm branches, threw some of them in the way and carried others in their arms, and they cried out as they escorted Him: "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel." This took place because the All-Holy Spirit moved their tongues to praise and laud Christ. Through the palms (the name given by the Hebrews to the tender branches) they signified Christ's victory over death. For it was customary for the victors of athletic contests and wars to be honored and borne about with branches of evergreen trees. The foal signified us, the people of the Gentiles, sitting and resting on whom Christ is proclaimed victor, conqueror, and King of all the earth.