

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthodox Church of America
A Parish of the Diocese of New York and New Jersey

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April 25, 2021

Sunday of Last-Thomas

Palm Sunday

- 9:10 am – Hours
- 9:30 am - Divine Liturgy followed by blessing pussy willow & palm branches. Phil. 4:4-9 John 102:1-18

Schedule of Services

Great & Holy Tuesday, April 27

- 6:00 pm – Holy Unction.

Great & Holy Thursday, April 29

- 9:30 am – Vesperal Divine Liturgy.
- 6:00 pm – Matins with 12 Passion Gospels.

Great & Holy Friday, April 30

- 2:00 pm – Vespers & placing the Shroud.

Great & Holy Saturday, May 1

- 9:30 am – Vesperal Divine Liturgy.

Sunday, May 2

The Holy Pascha

- 8:00 am – Nocturne
- 8:30 am – Procession & Resurrection Matins.
- 9:30 - Divine Liturgy, followed by blessing of Paschal baskets.



WEEKLY BIBLE MESSAG

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 a 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.

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

Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ: Genevieve Bobenko, Barbara Bogart, Michael Bzik, Mary Ann Dolak, Dorothy Fabian, Barbare Kay, Margaret Kovalycsik, Kathleen Lazorzcyk, Dennis Mohrman, Ebozian Nagel, Helen Rahuefeld, Anna Rozanovich, and many others. Prayers by Patricia Colley.

Birthday Greeting

Happy Birthday go out this week to **Michael Chaykivsky** – April 22. May God continue to enrich his life with the fullness of joy and happiness for many years – Mnogaya Lyeta!

Announcement

♦ **Bright Wednesday Vespers** with His Eminence Archbishop Michael will be on May 5 at Christ the Saviour Church in Paramus, NJ. The service will be held outdoors and is scheduled to begin at 6pm. As always, refreshments will be served afterward; this will also take place outdoors.

♦ **ST. ANDREW'S CAMP:** It's time to beat the quarantine blues this summer at Camp! We are very excited to be reunited with our beloved campers for our 64th Camp Season of 5 glorious weeks in the beautiful outdoors on Lake Oneida, New York! Family Week: July 5-10; Norse Week July 11-17; Mish-Mash Week July 18-24; Horse Week 2 July 25-31 and Teen Week August 1-7. Go to Diocese website: www.nynjoca.org to register your child for a summer of fun!

♦ **Bulletin Info.** Contact Father Maryan, our Bulletin Editor, if you want to include an announcement in next Sunday's bulletin.

