



# Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church



A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese, Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

Reverend Dave Urban, *Pastor*  
Very Reverend John Brancho, *Pastor Emeritus*  
Timothy Martin, *Reader*  
Matthew Peifer, Stephen Brancho, & John Radick, *Cantors*  
Matthew Peifer, *Church Council President*  
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FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY!



GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

## ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Reading: Philippians 4: 4-9  
Gospel: John 12: 1-18

Place your palm branches  
and pussywillows behind  
an icon at home  
and in your car!

Liturgical Color: **Gold**

**April 1st**

GREAT WEEK BEGINS

9:30 am – Divine Liturgy (for Kvitna Nedilja) Tone 2

*Blessing of Palms and Pussy Willows*

## SERVICES, SAINTS, AND READINGS FOR THE HIGHER FAST OF GREAT & HOLY WEEK

*Walk with Christ.*

*(All Services will be on the North Side)*

*The services of Holy Week offer us an opportunity to go with Christ to Jerusalem, the Judgment before Pilate, the Cross, the Tomb, and the Resurrection. It is the holiest time of the year, and one in which we have both a duty to God and to ourselves to attend as many of the services as possible. Make every effort to attend these services, and be fed by the holiness of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ.*



### Holy Monday – 7pm Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

New Martyr Myron of Crete (1793) / Matthew 24: 3– 35

*(Fast from Noon if you are able or at least 3 hours before service when receiving Holy Communion)*

### Holy Tuesday – 7pm Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

St. Thomas, patriarch of Constantinople (610) / Matthew 24: 36– 26: 2

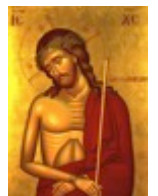
### Holy Wednesday – 7pm Mystery of Holy Unction (Anointing)

Martyrs Callinica and Basilissa of Rome (2nd c.) / Matthew 26: 6– 16

*\*Final day for Holy Confessions before Pascha*

### Holy Thursday – 9:30am Vespertal Liturgy of St Basil 7pm Matins with the 12 Passion Gospels

Monk-martyr Nicon and 199 disciples, in Sicily (251) / 1 Cor 11:23–32; Mt 26:1–20; Jn 13:3–17; Mt 26:21–39; Lk 22:43–45; Mt 26:40–27:2 MATINS: PASSION GOSPELS: John 13:31-18:1; John 18:1-28; Matthew 26:57-75; John 18:28-19:16; Matthew 27:3-32; Mark 15:16-32; Matthew 27:33-54; Luke 23:32-49; John 19:25-37; Mark 15:43-47; John 19:38-42; Matthew 27:62-66



GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

**APRIL 6th**



GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS

CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR  
ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE

Refrain from TV, Internet, &  
Phones to honor Christ's Death.

### # Holy & Good Friday – 9:30am Royal Hours 7pm Vespers and Procession with the Holy Shroud

Martyrs Stephen and Peter of Kazan (1552) / 1 Cor 1:18-2:2; Mt 27:1-44; Lk 23:39-43; Mt 27:45-54; Jn 19:31-37; Mt 27:55-61; ROYAL HOURS: Galatians 6:14-18; Matthew 27:1-56; Romans 5:6-11; Mark 15:16-41; Hebrews 2:11-18; Luke 23:32-49; Hebrews 10:19-31; John 18:28-19:37

### # Holy Saturday – 9:30am Vespertal Liturgy 7pm Resurrection Matins / Blessing of Paschal (Easter) Baskets

New Hieromartyr Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and All Russia (1925) / VESPERS: (1) Genesis 1:1-13; (2) Isaiah 60:1-16; (3) Exodus 12:1-11; (4) The Book of Jonah; (5) Joshua 5:10-15; (6) Exodus 13:20-15:19; (7) Zephaniah 3:8-15; (8) 1 Kings 17:8-24; (9) Isaiah 61:10-62:5; (10) Genesis 22:1-18; (11) Isaiah 61:1-9; (12) 2 Kings 4:8-37; (13) Isaiah 63:11-64:5; (14) Jeremiah 31:31-34; (15) Daniel 3:1-23 and the Song of the Holy Children (Apocrypha). LITURGY: Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 28:1-20

*# Days of Strict Fasting - Let us Imitate Christ and the Saints and Fast as they did!*

FEAST OF FEASTS!

**APRIL 8th**  
NO FASTING!



BRIGHT WEEK

**HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)**

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1: 1-17

Greet everyone with  
"CHRIST IS RISEN!"  
& say it before  
good morning and goodnight!

9:30 am – Paschal Divine Liturgy

Epistle: Acts 1: 1– 8; Gospel: John 1: 1– 17

Liturgical Color: **White**

*Parish Family Photo / Children's Egg Hunt following Liturgy / Beginning of a Fast Free Week*

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## A Warm Welcome To Our Visitors!

**Glory Be To Jesus Christ! (Glory Be Forever!)  
Slava Isusu Christu! (Slava na v'iki!)**

We are happy that you have joined us today! Please join us downstairs for coffee and a bite to eat. It is our pleasure to have you in our presence this morning and we wish God's Blessings to all who visit with us today and hope you stop in again soon! If you have any questions in regards to our worship or Orthodoxy, please see Fr. Dave and he will gladly answer any of your questions to the best of his ability. He looks forward to meeting you!

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*This Bulletin Is Offered:*  
In Memory of  
+Stefan Gaydos.  
May His Memory  
Be Eternal!

## LOOKING AHEAD LOCALLY

- Monday, April 8 – 9:30am Paschal Divine Liturgy with Gospel Procession
- Wednesday, April 10 – 7pm Akathist to St Panteleimon with holy anointing
- Friday, April 12 – 9:30am Paschal Divine Liturgy, "Life-Giving Spring" of the Theotokos
- Sunday, April 15 – St. Thomas Sunday / YOUTH Sunday / Semi-Annual Meeting
- Tuesday, April 17 – 9:30am Akathist to the Holy Resurrection of Christ
- Sunday, April 22 – Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women – 9:30am Deacon's Service with Eucharist



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## BULLETIN BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Please have submissions for this section to Father by Wednesday.)

Weekly Candle Intentions/Memorials were offered last week by Tim Martin; Melanie Shuster; Lawrence Martin; Olga Radick; Eleanor Sanger; Barbara Kirish; Joanne Nelson; Theresa Sharpless; Jane Barrett; Julie Potoski; Cindy Pavilonis; Patty Watson.

**"I am the light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."** - John 8:12

The Eternal Lamp was offered last week by John Gaydos, Jr., in Memory of Mother, Catherine. May Her Memory Be Eternal! Vičnaya Pamjat!

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**Holy Week, the Higher Fast** – With Great Lent behind us, we sense the nearness of Pascha, the Feast of Feasts! After the

'bridge' of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we'll arrive at the distinct point of Holy Week. It will be time for all of us to "go up to Jerusalem," sharing in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ's Passion, Crucifixion, & triumphant Resurrection! The watchful disposition of the Church is, especially at this time, reflected in the home. Holy Week is a week that calls for prayer, focus, stamina, and, for most of us, planning and preparation! Arrange your schedules and come to as many services as you can! Continued Prayers to you on your spiritual journey - Fr Dave

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**Confessions** – will be heard following services THRU HOLY WEDNESDAY. The side gate and side door will be open. Other times are available by appointment. Contact Fr Dave to arrange this.

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**Thank you!** – to everyone who helped out with the preparation before the Mission Vespers last week, with the meal for after the service, and everyone who helped clean up!

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**Thank You!** – to everyone who took care of food for our fellowship meal following the Wednesday night Presanctified Liturgies. The food was awesome and this meal is a very important act of stewardship that is important to the mission of our parish!

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**Easter Raffle** – Please note that we will NOT be having the ACRY Easter Raffle this year.

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**Egg Hunt** – We WILL be having the Easter Egg Hunt. Prizes are kindly requested for this.

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**Black Bag Challenge** – If you participated in the black bag challenge placed at the beginning of Lent, you are welcome to bring your bag in for our garage sale in August. Please leave the bag (or box) in the storage room at the bottom of the men's room steps. Thank You!



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**OCMC Coin Boxes** – Please do not forget to bring in your coin boxes to contribute towards our Community Outreach to Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). "Let them do good, that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share" (1 Tim 6:18)



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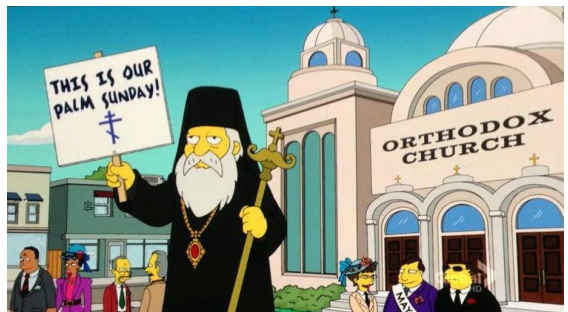
**ACRY Booklet** – The 70<sup>th</sup> National ACRY Bowling Tournament will be held in Perth Amboy, NJ (May 25-28). There is a sheet in the Church hall for anyone who wishes to be a Patron (\$10), Booster (\$5), or have a Memorial listing (\$5) in the commemorative booklet.

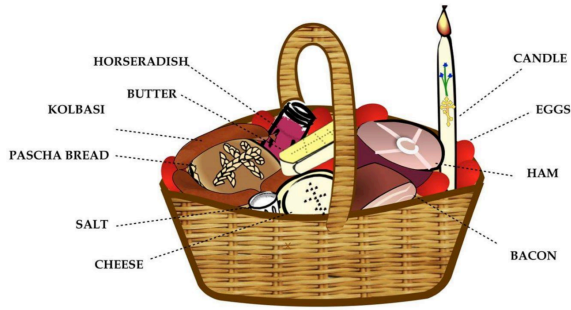


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**Panachida Offerings** – We are reminded that Panchidas (Memorial Services for the Departed) CANNOT be served on the Major Feast Days of our Lord as well as from Palm Sunday through St. Thomas Sunday.

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**Paschal (Easter) Baskets** – In the Vestibule is a description of items in the ‘t’raditional Carpatho-Rusyn (or Slavic) Paschal (Easter) Basket. All are encouraged to have these items in their baskets on Saturday evening! These are the items (*the meats and dairy products*) that the church calls for us, through all of our strength, to fast from during Great Lent. But what if you fasted and abstained from chocolate? Chewing gum? Pop? Etc.... did you ever think about including some of these in your basket? By doing this, you celebrate the difficulty and temptations that you conquered (*to the best of your abilities*) during the Great Fast! This allows us to reintroduce them into our lives (*in moderation*) and celebrate the Resurrection!

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**Family Photo** – next week after the Divine Liturgy we will have our annual Paschal Parish Family Photo! Please, everyone plan to be upstairs and in the photo!

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**Pascha cover-dish coffee social** – A quick reminder/request that we are all asked to participate and bring something in for the coffee social following the Feast of Feasts on April 8.

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**Photo Hunt** – Do you have any photos from St. John’s Parish events from between **1932 & 1937**? Please contact Fr Dave if you do.

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**Parish Stewardship Opportunities...**

*As you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. (Lk. 6:31)*

- Attend additional services
- Bring in a gift for the Egg Hunt
- Sponsor a Coffee Social

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**ORTHODOXY AROUND DA ‘BURGH**

**Diocesan Senior Retreat** – *“I consider the days of old, I remember the years long ago... I will call to mind the deeds of the Lord.” (Psalm 77:5)* The inaugural Senior Citizen’s retreat at Camp Nazareth will take place from **April 23-28!** All our Seniors, age 65 & older, are called to join Bp. Gregory at the Camp for 3 days of worship, fellowship, learning, fun, time for reflection & relaxation, and time spent together in fellowship in order to be spiritually rejuvenated. The Retreat is being offered with you, our Seniors, specifically in mind. Register online at [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org). There you will also find other necessary information about the Retreat. Alternately, you may print the Registration Form and send it in via mail. (*Please let Fr Dave know if you need one.*)

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**Young Adult Spring Retreat: “God’s Plan... Your Plan: Will it ever make sense?”** – Will be held at Camp Nazareth May 4-6. Keynote speakers will be His Grace, Bishop Gregory and Steven Christoforou. Open to young adults (19-35) of all jurisdictions. Fee is \$75 (Financial aid is available if needed, please contact Fr. Loposky at 724.662.4840 or [fr.stephen.loposky@gmail.com](mailto:fr.stephen.loposky@gmail.com)). Register online at [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org) and clicking the link. *The weekend event will be filled with learning, fun, fellowship, worship, and time for reflection and rejuvenation!*

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**Team IOCC at the Pittsburgh Marathon** – If you are a runner that does marathons, or one of the other events, they are trying to put together a Team IOCC for marathon weekend (May 6-7) where the runners get people to sponsor them and the money raised goes to IOCC. Any questions should be directed to: Chris Weber, [chw5017@gmail.com](mailto:chw5017@gmail.com) or 724-991-9516.

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**Our Stewardship Gift To God**

Stewardship/Dues:	\$ 460
Candles/Small C./Eternal Lamp/C. box:	\$ 137
Envelopes: Sunday/Feast Day/Special:	\$ 608
Community Outreach:	\$ 82

**Total Collections: \$ 1287**

*Collection for the Saints: “On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper.” 1 Cor 16:2*

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**2<sup>nd</sup> Official Notice** – Our Parish Semi-Annual Meeting will be on **Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>** following the Divine Liturgy. We look forward to discussing current church topics with the congregation.

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**Cemetery Grave Blessing** – We will bless graves this year on **Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**. We will celebrate a Panachida at Church and head to the cemetery after the coffee social to bless the graves.

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**Italian Feast and Basket Raffle** – This annual ACRY event will be held on **Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**. Baskets are needed. There is a sign up sheet in the Church Hall with more details. All profits will go towards our church.

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**Coffee Social Steward Schedule**

- April 8: **Pascha Cover-Dish Surprises**
- April 15: **Open / “Pot Luck”**
- April 22: **Open / “Pot Luck”**

*The Divine Liturgy concludes at the final blessing, but the liturgy continues downstairs as we gather in love and fellowship with our parish family and visiting neighbors. (Everyone is also encouraged to help clean up after.) Thank you to all those who support and keep this critical ministry alive in our parish!*

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**Visit Our Diocese On-Line**

- Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)
- Camp Nazareth: [www.campnazareth.org](http://www.campnazareth.org)
- FB: [www.facebook.com/acroddiocese](http://www.facebook.com/acroddiocese)
- Twitter: [twitter.com/acrodnews](http://twitter.com/acrodnews)
- You Tube: [youtube.com/acroddiocese](http://youtube.com/acroddiocese)

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## ST JOHN'S MONTHLY COMMUNITY OUTREACH



This month, through the efforts of our Sr. ACRY, we will be collecting donations for the **Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC)**. This is the organization that puts out the Coin Boxes that we have been using through the Great Lenten Fast. Please bring in your coin boxes on Palm Sunday. (There will also be an additional collection on our regular last Sunday of the month.) *“Let them do good, that they may be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share” (1 Tim 6:18)*



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## LIVES OF THE SAINTS

Source: [www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar](http://www.orthodoxpittsburgh.com/parish-calendar/orthodox-calendar) © 1996-2001 by translator Fr. S. Janos

### The Holy Martyr Pancharios (April 1 / March 19)

The Holy Martyr Pancharios was an official of the emperor Maximian (305-311). He abandoned Christianity and became a pagan. His mother and sister in learning of this sent him a letter, in which they urged the apostate to heed the fear of

God and the impending dread Last Judgement. Having repented himself, Saint Pancharios openly confessed his faith before the emperor Maximian, for which he suffered torture at Rome, and then was dispatched to Nicomedia and there beheaded (+ c. 302).

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## SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

### Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. <sup>6</sup> Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

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### Gospel: John 12:1-18

#### Mary Anoints Jesus

<sup>12</sup> Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Laz'arus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Laz'arus was one of those at table with him. <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii [a day's wage] and given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

#### The Plot to Kill Lazarus

<sup>9</sup> When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Laz'arus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So the chief priests planned to put Laz'arus also to death, <sup>11</sup> because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

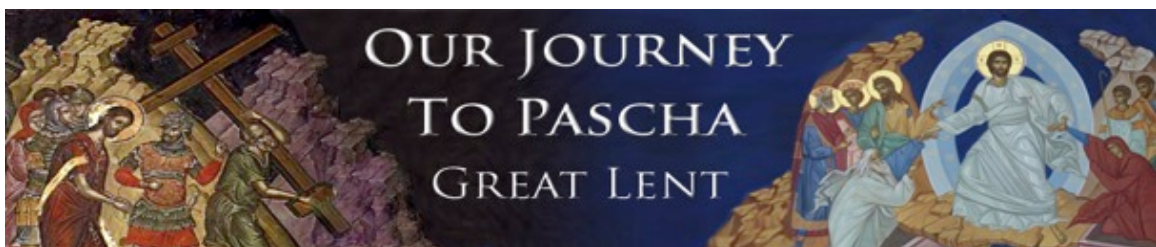
#### Jesus' Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem

<sup>12</sup> The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> 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!" <sup>14</sup> And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, <sup>15</sup> "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass's colt!"

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> The crowd that had been with him when he called Laz'arus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. <sup>18</sup> The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

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## LIVING ORTHODOXY



To assist the faithful in making the most of this holy season, additional resources have been added to our Diocesan Website. <http://acrod.org/prayercorner/lentenresources>.

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## Participating in Holy Week: Great And Holy Week Services Explained

Modified from Fr Jonathan Bannon

Here is a brief look at the services of Passion Week:



**Day:** Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday Nights

**Service:** **Bridegroom Matins**

(not currently offered at our Parish)

**Something About The Service:** In Scripture we hear the Lord's parable of the 10 wise virgins, 5 of whom prepared their lamps with oil, waiting for the Bridegroom to come for the wedding feast and 5 were not prepared and were not allowed in. No one knew when the Bridegroom would arrive so they had to be prepared and watchful. Christ as our Bridegroom marries humanity with divinity through coming to the cross and rising from the dead bringing us back to Paradise. We honor his Passion and love for us in these services that call Him the Bridegroom.

**What To Look Or Listen For:** Listen for the special Troparion sung about Christ the Bridegroom coming at Midnight and LOOK for the procession of the icon of Christ in Extreme Humility set out this evening. Each Scripture Reading on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday have a special parable or example from the Old and New Testament that helps us think about preparing for God's resurrection with love.

**Something Special About This Day:** Behold, the bridegroom comes in the middle of the night and blessed is the servant whom he shall find watching, and unworthy the servant whom he shall find heedless. Take care then, O my soul, and be not weighed down by sleep that you will not be given over unto death and be excluded from the Kingdom. But rise up and call out: Holy, Holy, Holy are You O God, by the Theotokos have mercy on us! (Troparion of the First Three Days)

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**Day:** Wednesday Night

**Service:** **Mystery of Holy Unction (Anointing)**

**Something About The Service:** Just as Christ's feet were anointed by the sinful woman who was a harlot, preparing Him for His death (as the dead were anointed) we too are invited to be anointed. In this healing service of 7 gospels and 7 epistles we hear of Christ's healing and forgiveness.

**What To Look Or Listen For:** Listen to the 7 Epistles and 7 Gospels about the healing acts of Christ. LOOK as the Gospel is held over the Faithful instead of the hand of the priest as a sign of God's Holy Word blessing us.

**Something Special About This Day:** Oil has been used for religious purposes in both the Old and New Testaments. Aaron was anointed to be set apart as a king along with David and in the New Testament the good Samaritan bound the wounds of the beggar with oil and wine. It has healing affects and in this service the oil is blessed and faithful are anointed for the healing of BODY and SOUL and the forgiveness of sins. Holy Unction prepares us just as Christ was prepared and anointed with oil by the women days before His death and burial, in this way we walk with Christ and join in the preparation for our own death to sin and life in Christ.

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**Day:** Thursday Morning

**Service:** **Vespertal Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great**

**Something About The Service:** We meet Jesus in the upper room and celebrate the moment He initiated the Mystery of the Eucharist offering

bread and wine to become His Body and Blood for the first time as He communed with His Disciples. *Take and Eat... Drink of this...*

**What To Look Or Listen For:** On this day the priest sets aside small pieces of Holy Communion to replace the older ones in the tabernacle on the altar. These are used when visiting members in the hospital or at home. The Body and Blood of Christ is always upon the altar and is renewed every Holy Thursday.

**Something Special About This Day:** Today we celebrate Christ bringing His Apostles together for a final meal before His betrayal. The Gospel of John in chapter 17 we read the High Priestly Prayer, a prayer offered by Christ to His Father that speaks of His desire that we love each other and are one together as Christ is one with His Father. Christ commands His Apostles to offer the Eucharist with Bread and Wine that will become His Body and Blood for the remission of sins. This is the initial institution of the Holy Eucharist.

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**Day:** Thursday Night

**Service:** **Matins with the 12 Gospels**

**Something About The Service:** We read every account of Christ's passion and death on the cross which was on a Friday. Each day of Holy Week is celebrated a day early because we anticipate with joy the Lord's coming.

**What To Look Or Listen For:** Listen to the 12 Gospel Readings about the betrayal, Trial, Crucifixion and Death of Christ. LOOK for Christ upon a cross brought out of the altar in this service.

**Something Special About This Day:** lowery wreaths may be placed upon the cross of Christ after He is brought out during a particular hymn. Consider making a wreath with flowers at home to place upon Christ and His cross during this service.

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**Day:** Friday Morning

**Service:** **Royal Hours**

**Something About The Service:** We hear the First, Third, Sixth and Ninth Hours read together as one service with the special Old Testament Prophecies, Gospel Accounts and Epistle Readings of Christ's death.

**What To Look Or Listen For:** Listen again of Christ's Passion in the Old Testament readings, letters of St. Paul, and the Gospel readings that relate to His suffering.

**Something Special About This Day:** Holy Friday or Good Friday should be a most sacred day in every home. Leaving the TV off along with other electronics and spending the day with reverence in our strict fasting (from food and our passions). The Church is open today with services. Find yourself by the cross.

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**Day:** Friday Night

**Service:** **Vespers with the Procession of the Holy Shroud**

**Something About The Service:** The last sad moment of Great Lent: Friday night after Christ is taken down from the cross, we place Him in the tomb after the burial shroud procession outside. This is a service to God not to be missed.

**What To Look Or Listen For:** Jesus is taken off the cross when we first read about Joseph of Arimathea in the Gospel. The burial shroud of Christ is carried over the priest and around the church.

**Something Special About This Day:** Before the service begins, a "tomb" is erected in the middle of the

church building and is decorated with flowers. Also a special icon which is painted on cloth (in Greek, *epitaphios*; in Slavonic, *plashanitsa*) depicting the dead Saviour is placed on the altar table and made ready for Church. It is sprinkled with rose water or holy water today just as Joseph anointed Jesus' body.

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**Day:** Saturday Morning

**Service:** Vespers Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great (First Resurrection)

**Something About The Service:** This morning is filled with JOY! We hear many readings of Old Testament accounts that foreshadowed Christ's rising from the dead like with Jonah and the Whale. Black vestments are changed to white and rose petals and bay leaves can be tossed showing the joy over Christ bringing His Light and Life to those in the tombs!

**What To Look Or Listen For:** How many resurrection stories can you find in the many readings offered today? Consider how Jonah was in the belly of a whale for three days and lived. LOOK at the change in the clergy vestments in celebration of Christ bringing Life to those in the tombs!

**Something Special About This Day:** Christ is keeping the Saturday Sabbath of rest by laying in the Tomb dead, but really asleep, as we know He will rise on the new day. Sunday, the unending Day as the first born of the dead! Just as God rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day in Genesis after His creation of all things... Christ rests after His passion as He refashions and redeems fallen man in Himself with His incarnation, baptism, suffering, death and ultimate resurrection allowing us to receive Him and His Life anew.

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### Why Do the Orthodox Sometimes Celebrate Pascha (Easter) on a Different Day from Roman Catholics?

By Fr Basil Biberdorf

It's time for that annual round of ABSOLUTELY WRONG "Why Orthodox Pascha [Easter] doesn't line up with Western Easter every year" articles.

It's very simple. The basic principle is: Pascha happens the first Sunday following the first full moon following the vernal (spring) equinox, which is assumed as the invariant date of March 21. This was established by the First Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea in AD 325.

The differences arise because: 1. The Orthodox use March 21 on the Julian (Old) Calendar, which differs by some 13 days from the

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## SPIRITUAL VITAMINS FOR THE WEEK

### SUNDAY



In heaven You are carried upon a throne; on earth You rode upon a colt, O Christ our God. You received the praise of angels and the hymns of children crying out to You: "Blessed is He Who came to restore Adam." – *Kondak for the Feast of the Entrance of our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem*

### MONDAY

"We must unreservedly surrender ourselves to God's providence, to the divine will, and God will take care of us." + *Elder Paisios of Mount Athos*

### TUESDAY

"Make your one aim in life the doing of the will of Jesus in every circumstance, however important or trifling it may seem." + *St. Ignatius Brianchaninov*

### WEDNESDAY

"Worship is primarily eschatological. It is a participation in something eternal and by extension, participation in eternity. In other words, worship is not arbitrary or involved in any way with the 'experience' of the worshipper, but is primarily concerned with glorifying God." – *Fr. John A. Peck*

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**Day:** Saturday Night

**Service:** Resurrection (Paschal) Matins

**Something About The Service:** Tonight the message of Christ's resurrection is read outside as it cannot be contained by the walls of the church! We process with candles and are watchful in hymns, wearing white vestments, the doors of the church are knocked on three times, as Christ knocked on the doors of hell that opened by His pure Life and freeing those held captive. CHRIST IS RISEN!!! CHRISTOS VOSKRESE!!!

**What To Look Or Listen For:** LOOK as the Christ is removed from the tomb and placed upon the altar for 40 days! The holy flame is brought out of the altar and shared with everyone. LISTEN for the knocking on the doors of the church outside and the singing of CHRIST IS RISEN! Also, hear the special sermon of St. John Chrysostom.

**Something Special About This Day:** A procession outside recalls the original procession of those preparing to be baptized in the early years of the church 2000 years ago. In the darkness of the night with candles we hear the gospel of Christ's empty tomb and resurrection outside for it is too great for walls to hold. The faithful enter the church completely lit with candles and decorated with flowers. Everything is sung with joy as we prepare for the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning to celebrate Christ's triumph over death!!! Following the service we will gather and bless our Paschal (Easter) Baskets as the Great Fast is over.

Most icons from [www.teshiniconographics.com](http://www.teshiniconographics.com)

Gregorian (New) Calendar. If a full moon occurs in this interval, the Paschal dates will be off by quite a bit.

2. The full moon is determined not by observation, but according to tables that say when it is according to the year in a cycle. The Orthodox have a different table than the Roman Catholics (and, consequently, the Western Protestants).

The differences have nothing to do with observing Pascha after Passover. The first Nicaean Council explicitly de-linked Pascha from Passover, which, due to Jewish rabbinical decisions could move from year to year. The Council wanted to free the Christian Church from this variability.

THURSDAY

"How is it possible for your children to become good people when you yourselves often become angry in front of them and swear by the holy things? When you take what's not yours and cheat other people? When you steal and lie, when you slander and commit perjury? When the whole of your mind and your efforts are on material things? When you take no care of your soul, don't even go to confession, take communion, don't pray or study improving or religious literature? Put all that sort of thing out of your mind. It's impossible for your children to become good people unless you, as parents, set them a good example. And if it ever happens that you get good people from bad parents, it's a rare thing indeed. A good tree produces good fruit and good parents produce good children. So if you want your children to turn out well and be a joy to you as they grow, then get them used to proper devotion from an early age. If all you care about is leaving them wealth and an inheritance, and don't pay attention to their upbringing, then you'll be unhappy and, one day, your children will also become miserable, a blight on themselves and on society." +Elder Philotheos Zervakos

FRIDAY

"As soon as condemnation comes into your head, immediately say with attention: 'Lord grant me to see my sins and not condemn my brother.'" +St. Nektary of Optina

SATURDAY

"Prayer of the heart not only helps others but also ourselves, because it helps us to acquire inner goodness. When we put ourselves in others' shoes, love then comes naturally, as does compassion, humility, and our gratitude to God with continuous praise, and then prayer for our fellow human beings is acceptable to God and helpful to them." + Elder Paisios of Mount Athos

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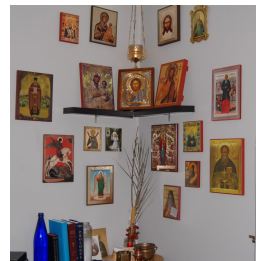
PRAYER CORNER

Our Parish Prayer List for Special Intentions and Other Needs \*



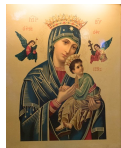
**A Prayer For The Sick:** O Christ, You alone are prompt to defend us; quickly visit Your suffering servant *name*. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, deliver *him/her* from sickness and bitter pain. Heal *him/her* so that *he/she* may sing to You and always praise You for You alone love us. Amen.

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**For the Health of...** Mildred, Anna Mae, Andrew, Julie, Jane, Eleanor D., Mark, Viola, Juliana, Fredrick, Katie, Kenneth, Michael, Roberta, Wendy, Gary, Barbara, Matthew, Patricia, Lino, Mary, Michael, Pañi Connie, Anthony, David, Fr. James, Fr. John Baranik, Edward, Fr Thomas, Joshua, Eli, Samuel, Lucy & everyone battling the flu ...through the prayers of St. Nectarios the Wonderworker; St. Luke, the Surgeon; and St. Panteleimon, the Healer.

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**For the Special Intentions of...** Bishop Gregory, Stephen, David, Joshua, Anastasia, Nicholas, Cassandra, Alexander, Nancy, Andrea, Jason, Tyrone, Sarah, John S., Ameer, Joshua, Anthony, Ashley, John, and Noella, *our seminarians:* Nathaniel, Vince, Michael, and Daniel, *and our Church Council, Curators, and Relocation Committee:* Matthew, John, Timothy, Patricia, Theresa, Lawrence, Donald, Jane, Cynthia, Katherine, Eleanor, Kenneth, Gina, Robert, Jillian, Wendy, Olga, John, Melanie, Michael, John, Richard, John, Margaret, Sarah, Patricia, *and for those working towards our Community Outreach, Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) ...through the prayers of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker; St. John the Baptist; the Archangels Michael & Gabriel; and the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary.*

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**Birthday Prayers for...** Louis Deluca (4/3) and Milena Petrovich (4/5/17) ...May God allow them to grow in peace and love all the days of their lives and may He grant them many and blessed years! Na Mnohaja I Blahaja L'ita!

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**For those preparing for Marriage...** Nicole & Seminarian Subdeacon Nathaniel, Kristyn & Seminarian Vince, and Nicole & Jeffrey ...through the prayers of Sts. Adrian & Natalia & all Holy Martyrs.

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**For Expectant Mothers...** Meredith, Brittany, Harmonie, Pañi Stacey, Aimee, and Lindsay ...through the prayers of St Anna, the mother of the Virgin Mary, & St Irene Chrysovalantou.

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DEVOTIONAL PRAYER FOR THE GREAT FAST (LENT):

The Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. + [Prostration]  
But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. + [Prostration]  
Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not judge my brother, for blessed are You forever and ever. Amen. + [Prostration]

The following triplet is recited 4 times (making a total of 12 bows):

O God, be merciful to me, a sinner. [bow]

O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me. [bow]

O Lord, forgive me, for my sins are many. [bow]

Then the prayer again with only one prostration:

O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of laziness, despair, lust for power, and vain talking. But give to me, Your servant, the spirit of purity, humility, patience, and love. Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own sins, and not judge my brother, for blessed are You forever and ever. Amen. + [Prostration]

