



**Raising of  
St. Lazarus**  
*(after Four Days  
in the Tomb)*  
سبت العازر

**The Glorious and Triumphant Entrance of our Lord  
Jesus Christ into Jerusalem (*Palm Sunday*)**  
شعنية مباركة



His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE  
OF NORTH AMERICA**

**Prot. no.:** 157/2024

Palm Sunday  
April 28, 2024

Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and Christ-loving Faithful of this Archdiocese,  
May you have much joy on this glorious feast of Palm Sunday!

Today we see Christ riding triumphantly into the Holy City of Jerusalem and the crowds welcoming Him with praise and loving service, as they shout “Hosanna!” and lay down palm branches and even their own clothes as a carpet for His entrance. Let us likewise open our hearts to Him and welcome Him into our lives. Let us praise Him not just with hymns at church but also by confessing His goodness in our daily prayers and in our conversations with others. Let us lay down for Him a welcoming carpet of generous deeds toward our neighbors and faithful obedience toward Him. May we thus receive Him to rule in our hearts as our delivering King, and may we remain loyal to Him in word and deed—not betraying and abandoning Him, like the crowds in Jerusalem long ago.

As is our custom in this archdiocese, today we also remember our Father in Christ, His Beatitude Patriarch John X, and all our brothers and sisters of the Patriarchate of Antioch in its historic homeland of the Middle East. As we proclaim this ancient Faith in the New World, they are keeping it alive in the apostolic and historic places of its beginnings. Yet many of them continue to suffer from the aftermath of wars, disasters, and economic collapse. For this reason, we invite you to contribute today toward the patriarchate and its humanitarian work. Through your donations you can provide some comfort to our brothers and sisters in need, showing solidarity with them as one Body in Christ. Please give generously.

Wishing you all a deeply meaningful Holy Week and a glorious Pascha, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'T. Saba'.

✠ SABA  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

*“The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch” (Acts 11: 26)*

358 Mountain Road, P.O. Box 5238, Englewood, NJ 07631-5238  
(201) 871-1355 T Archdiocese@antiochian.org (201) 871-7954 F

## Live Streaming of Divine Services

St. George is open for all parishioners and visitors. If you cannot attend, please pray with us through our livestream which can be seen on our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/SaintGeorgeOrthodoxChurchFlintMI>

If you have a smart TV, you actually have a web browser and YouTube app built in. All you have to do is start the browser app for YouTube and put the link in the address bar.

**Welcome to St. George!** Thank you for attending today's Divine Services. We believe Holy Communion to be a sign that in Christ we have all things in common, share an identical faith, and are united fully to the Orthodox Church. Anyone interested in learning more about our faith are encouraged to speak with one of our clergy. Holy Communion can be given to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves through prayer, fasting (no food or drink from midnight the night before), the Sacrament of Confession (7 years and older) within the last 2 months, being at peace with others, and attending the Divine Liturgy regularly. Everyone is invited to the final blessing and receive Holy Bread at the end of Liturgy.

In the **Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom**, we sing the following special hymns,

### First Antiphon -- Psalm 116

*Verse 1.* I will love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication.

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

*Verse 2.* Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live. Refrain

*Verse 3.* The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me. Refrain

*Verse 4.* I suffered distress and anguish, then I called upon the Name of the Lord. Refrain

*Glory to the Father...*, *Now and ever and unto ages of ages.* Refrain

أحببت أن يسمع الرب صوت تضرّعي، لأنّ أوجاع الموت اكتفتني، وشدائد الجحيم صادفتني.  
بشفاعات والدة الإله يا مخلص خلّصنا.  
الحزن والوجع وجدت واسم الرب دعوت.  
سأكون حسن الارضاء أمام الرب في بلدة الأحياء.  
المجد للآب والابن والروح القدس، الآن وكلّ أوانٍ وإلى دهر الداهري ن.

### Second Antiphon -- Psalm 116

*Verse 1.* 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.

*Verse 2.* What shall I render to the Lord for all the things He has given me? Refrain

*Verse 3.* I will receive the cup of salvation and call on the Name of the Lord. Refrain

*Verse 4.* I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people. Refrain

*Glory to the Father... Now and ever...* "Only begotten Son..."

أمنت لذلك تكلمت وأنا اتّضعت جدًّا.  
خلّصنا يا ابن الله يا من جلس على جحش بن آتان، إذ نرتل لك هليلويا.  
بماذا أكافئ الرب عن كلّ ما أعطاني، كأس الخلاص أقبل واسم الرب أدعو.  
أوفي ندوري للرب أمام كلّ شعبه.  
المجد للآب والابن والروح القدس، الآن وكلّ أوانٍ وإلى دهر الداهرين، أمين.  
يا كلمة الله الابن الوحيد...

### Third Antiphon -- Psalm 118 (Verses) and Troparion of St. Lazarus—Tone 1

*Verses:* O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever. Let the house of Israel,

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

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!*

أيها المسيحُ الإله لما أقمْتَ لعازرَ من بين الأمواتِ قَبْلَ آلامِك. حَقَّقْتَ القيامةَ العامة. لذلك ونحنُ كالأطفالِ نحملُ علامةَ الغلبةِ والظفر. صارخينَ إِلَيْكَ يا غالِبَ الموت. هوشعنا في الأعالي مباركُ الآتي باسمِ الرب.

### Entrance Hymn

Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the Lord's house. God is the Lord and hath revealed Himself to us. O Son of God, who did sit upon the foal, save us who sing unto Thee: Alleluia.

مباركُ الآتي باسمِ الرب. الله الربُّ قد ظَهَرَ لنا. خلصنا يا ابن الله يا من جلس على جحش أتان ، إذ نرتل لك هلوليا.

### Hymns after the Entrance with the Gospel

#### **Troparion of Lazarus—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!*

أيها المسيحُ الإله لما أقمْتَ لعازرَ من بين الأمواتِ قَبْلَ آلامِك. حَقَّقْتَ القيامةَ العامة. لذلك ونحنُ كالأطفالِ نحملُ علامةَ الغلبةِ والظفر. صارخينَ إِلَيْكَ يا غالِبَ الموت. هوشعنا في الأعالي مباركُ الآتي باسمِ الرب.

#### **Troparion of Palm Sunday—Tone 4**

When we were buried with Thee in baptism, O Christ God, we became deserving of the resurrection to immortal life. Wherefore, we praise Thee, crying unto Thee: *Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord!*

أيها المسيح الإله لما دفنا معك بالمعمودية، استحققتنا بقيامتك الحياة الخالدة مسبحين وصارخين: هوشعنا في الأعالي مبارك الاتي باسم الرب.

#### **Kontakion of Palm Sunday—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!”

أيها المستوي على العرش في السماء. لَقَدْ رَكِبْتَ جَحْشاً على الأرضِ وَقَبِلْتَ تسابيحَ الملائكةِ ومدائحِ الأطفالِ الهاتفينَ إِلَيْكَ أيُّها المسيحُ الإله. مباركُ أَنْتَ الآتي لِتُعِيدَ آدمَ ثانية.

### **Epistle for the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem**

*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. (Psalm 117:26)  
Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures for ever. (Psalm 117:1)*

**The Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians (4:4-9)**

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplications with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 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. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the peace of God will be with you.

**Priest:** Peace be to you reader.

**Reader:** And to your spirit.

*(Refrain)* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*(verse)* O sing to the Lord a new song. (Psalm 97:1)

*(verse)* All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Then, *(Refrain)* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

مباركُ الآتي باسمِ الرب  
اعتَرَفُوا لِلرَّبِّ فَإِنَّهُ صالِحٌ وَإِنَّ إِلَى الأبدِ رَحْمَتَهُ  
\* فصلٌ من رسالةِ القديسِ بولسِ الرسولِ إلى  
أهلِ فيلبي (4:4-9) \*  
يا اخوةُ افرحوا في الرَّبِّ كُلَّ حينٍ وأقولُ أيضاً  
افرحوا \* ولْيَظْهَرْ جِلْمُكُمْ لِجَمِيعِ الناسِ. فإنَّ الرَّبَّ  
قريبٌ \* لا تَهَنُّمُوا البتَّةَ بل في كلِّ شيءٍ فلتَكُنْ  
طَلِبَاتِكُمْ معلومةً لدى الله بالصلاةِ والتَّصَرُّعِ مَعَ  
الشكرِ \* وَلِيَحْفَظْ سلامُ الله الذي يفوقُ كُلَّ عَقْلِ  
قلوبِكُمْ وبصائرِكُمْ في يسوعِ المسيحِ \* وبعْدُ أيُّها  
الاحوةُ مَهْمًا يَكُنْ مِنْ حَقِّ وَمَهْمًا يَكُنْ مِنْ عَفَافِ  
ومَهْمًا يَكُنْ مِنْ عَدْلِ وَمَهْمًا يَكُنْ مِنْ طَهارةِ وَمَهْمًا  
يَكُنْ مِنْ صِفَةِ مُحَبِّبَةٍ وَمَهْمًا يَكُنْ مِنْ حُسْنِ صِبِيَةٍ  
إِنْ تَكُنْ فضيلةً وَإِنْ يَكُنْ مَدْحٌ ففِي هذِهِ افْتَكِرُوا \*  
وما تَعَلَّمْتُمُوهُ وَتَسَلَّمْتُمُوهُ وَسَمِعْتُمُوهُ وَرَأَيْتُمُوهُ فِيَّ  
فَبِهَذَا اَعْمَلُوا. وإلهُ السلامِ يَكُونُ مَعَكُمْ.

## Gospel for the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem

### The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. John (12:1-18)

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus who had died was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. 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. But Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, one of his disciples [he who was to betray Jesus], said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not because 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. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus. The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. 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, the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass's colt!" 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. The crowd that had been with Jesus when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Jesus was that they heard he had done this sign.

### فصلٌ شريفٌ من بشارة القديس يوحنا الإنجيلي البشير والتلميذ الطاهر (12:1-18)

قبل الفصح بستة أيام أتى يسوع إلى بيت عنيا حيث كان لعازر الذي مات فأقامه يسوع من بين الأموات\* فصنعوا له هناك عشاءً وكانت مرتا تخدم وكان لعازر أخذ المتكئين معه\* أما مريم فأخذت رطل طيب ناردين خالص كثير النمن ودهنت قدمي يسوع ومسحت قدميه بشعرها\* فامتلاً البيت من رائحة الطيب\* فقال أخذ تلاميذه يهوذا بن سمعان الاسخريوطي الذي كان مزمعاً أن يسلمه لم يبع هذا الطيب بثلاث مئة دينار ويعط للمساكين\* وإنما قال هذا لا اهتماماً بالمساكين بل لأنه كان سارقاً وكان الصندوق عنده وكان يحمل ما يلقي فيه\* فقال يسوع دعها إنما حفظته ليوم دفني\* فإن المساكين هم عندكم في كل حين وأما أنا فلست عندكم في كل حين\* وعلم جمع كثير من اليهود أن يسوع هناك فجاءوا لا من أجل يسوع فقط بل لينظروا أيضاً لعازر الذي أقامه من بين الأموات\* فأنتم رؤساء الكهنة أن يقتلوا لعازر أيضاً\* لأن كثيرين من اليهود كانوا بسببه يذهبون فيؤمنون بيسوع\* وفي الغد لما سمع الجمع الكثير الذين جاءوا إلى العيد بأن يسوع أت إلى اورشليم أخذوا سعف النخل وخرجوا لقاؤه وهم يصرخون قائلين: هوشعنا مبارك الآتي باسم الرب ملك إسرائيل\* وإن يسوع وجد جحشاً فركبه كما هو مكتوب\* لا تخافي يا ابنة صهيون. ها إن ملكك يأتيك راكباً على جحش ابن أتان\* وهذه الأشياء لم يفهمها تلاميذه أولاً ولكن لما مجد يسوع حينئذ تذكروا أن هذه إنما كتبت عنه وأنهم عملوها له\* وكان الجمع الذين كانوا معه حين نادى لعازر من القبر وأقامه من بين الأموات يشهدون له\* ومن أجل هذا استقبله الجمع لأنهم سمعوا بأنه قد صنع هذه الآية.

## Icons, Palms, Ferns, and Holy Bread Offerings

- The *Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday Icons* are offered by **Ayman** and **Wafaa** Elias for the health of Dr. **Matthew, Christine, Maximus, John, and Mariah** and in loving memory of children **Joselyn** and **Elias**.
- The *Palms* are offered by **Amer** and Dr. **Melissa** Bathish for the health of their family especially children **Madison, Emil, Julia, and Lindsey** and in loving memory of **Emil** Bathish (father of Amer) and **Jim** and **Carolyn** Gorr (parents of Melissa).
- Two *Fern Arrangements* are offered by **Khader** and **Lucy** AbuAita and Family for the health of their family.
- A *Fern Arrangement* is offered by **John** and Dr. **Lauren** Zerka for the health of their family especially **Daniel** and **Nazera** Czerniak, **Milad** and **Georgette** Zerka, **Korey** and **Lindsay** Lester, **Danny** and **Asmahan** Zerka, **Ryan** and **Joyce** Seklee and their families and in loving memory of **Leonard** and **Evelyn** Czerniak, **Andrew** and **Jeanette** Cassis, **George** and **Nazera** Zerka, **Antoine** and **Leila** Nehme, and **Michael** Zerka.

- A *Fern Arrangement* is offered by **Hiam Bathish** for the health of her family especially **Rudaina, Lubna, Areen, Reem, and Amer**, her **grandchildren**, and **great-grandchildren**, and in loving memory of **Emil, Dannie, Jose, Yacoub, Marie, Naif, and Julia**.
- A *Holy Bread Offering* is offered by **Khaled and Sally Abuaita** for the health of their children **Watan, Karim, Ayham, and Majd**, Fr. Joe, and the suffering children of Gaza, and in loving memory of grandmother **Rahma**, aunt **Mary**, aunt **Androlla**, and friend **Sahar Abuaita**.

#### **BAPTISM/CHRISMATION DAYS**

The Church School offers the Holy Bread for our students who are celebrating the day of their *New Birth* {Baptism and/or Chrismation} into the Church this coming week:

- **Romanos and Rubina AbuAita** ~ April 29<sup>th</sup>
  - **Lily Rishmawi** ~ May 2<sup>nd</sup>
- May they be children of the Light and heirs of eternal good things. {Baptismal Service}*

- Prayers are offered for our parishioners who are ill, recovering, or in need, especially His servants: **Archbishop Nathaniel** (Romanian Diocese of the Orthodox Church in America), our **Bishop Anthony, Fr. Joe Abud, Sahar Abdallah, Abeer Abuaita, Reader Fouad & Soad Abuaita, Philip & Janett Abuaita, Rasha Abuaita, Sami & Shafiq** Abuaitah, **Laila Abud, George Abueita, Georgette Abueita, Jane Abueita, Youssif Abousamra, William Alsahouri, Naila Banna, Vera Daoud, Said Farah, Joseph Gagne, Elias Gantos, Subdeacon George & Suad Gantous, Phyllis Good, Ronald Haddad, Daisy Isaac, John Joseph, Danny Mortensen, Karen Mortensen, Laura Nassar, Jeanette Nassif, Adam Odeh, Rahmeh Rashmawi, Elaine Shaheen, and Michael Silpoch; Danial, Casandra**, and newborn **Isla Danial Burbar and Josh, Andrea**, and newborn **Suraya Hanna Jones** who will be brought back into the life of our parish through the *Prayers of Churching*; **Luay, Vera**, and newborn **Lucas Sababa** (April 10<sup>th</sup>); your servants **Jaden Turner, Evan Sandford, and Maria Kirk** who are in catechism (under instruction) to become members of our Orthodox Faith.
- We also pray for the servants of God who have fallen asleep in the Lord: **Jameela Al-Sumairat** (+March 24<sup>th</sup>, grandmother of Dania Hanna ) and **Marwan Al-Sahouri** (+April 14<sup>th</sup>, brother-in-law of Issa Odeh and George Ishaq) ~ *may their memory be eternal!!*
- We also pray for our expectant parents: **Stephanie and Nadim Burbar & Natania and Rene Hanna**.

#### **Instead of 'It is truly meet...', we sing the following in Tone 4:**

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!*

اللَّهُ الرَّبُّ ظَهَرَ لَنَا فَأَقِيمُوا الْعِيدَ وَابْتَهَجُوا، وَهَلِّمْنَا بِنَا نِعْظَمِ الْمَسِيحِ. وَبَسُغْفِ وَأَغْصَانٍ نَهْتِفُ بِالتَّسَابِيحِ قَائِلِينَ. مَبَارَكُ الْآتِي بِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ مَخْلَصِنَا.

#### **Communion Hymn** (for Palm Sunday)

(Refrain) Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. هَلُّوِيَا.

(Verse) We have blessed you out of the house of the Lord. God is the Lord, and hath appeared unto us. (Refrain)

(Verse) Ordain a feast with thick boughs, even unto the horns of the altar. (Refrain)

(Verse) Thou art my God, and I will confess Thee; Thou art my God, and I will exalt Thee. (Refrain)

(Verse) I will give thanks unto Thee, for Thou hast heard me, and Thou art become my salvation. (Refrain)

(Verse) O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever. (Refrain)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Instead of “*We have seen the True Light...*”, we sing the **Troparion of Lazarus in 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!*

أَيُّهَا الْمَسِيحُ الْإِلَهَ لَمَّا أَقَمْتَ لِعَازَرَ مِنْ بَيْنِ الْأَمْوَاتِ قَبْلَ الْآمِكِ. حَقَّقْتَ الْقِيَامَةَ الْعَامَةَ. لِذَلِكَ وَنَحْنُ كَالْأَطْفَالِ نَحْمَلُ عَلَامَةَ الْغَلْبَةِ وَالظَّفَرِ. صَارِخِينَ إِلَيْكَ يَا غَالِبَ الْمَوْتِ. هَوْشَعْنَا فِي الْأَعَالِي مَبَارَكُ الْآتِي بِاسْمِ الرَّبِّ.

The **Procession with Palms** takes place at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Please follow in an orderly, respectful, and quiet manner. Keep watch over our children so they may safely carry their candles. Also, sing along as the choir sings ‘*Holy God...*’ and the following:

تعداد طروربارية أحد الشعانين (باللحن الرابع), وتعداد قدّوس الله (مرّات عديدة)  
*Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise thy God, O Holy City!*  
*Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna to the Son of David!*  
أمدحى يا أورشلیم الرب سبحى الهك يا قدس هؤشعنا هؤشعنا هؤشعنا لابن داؤد

## **THE PALMS ARE BLESSED and are Holy Items!**

Proper disposal for old palms are to burn them or give them to Fr. Mike.

## **Announcements**

**The Great and Holy Week begins tonight!** Plan ahead to celebrate our Lord and Savior's Passion (Suffering), Death, and Resurrection by attending as many services as you can.

**Of special interest for EVERYONE, especially our children:**

- ▶ *Liturgy of the Last (Mystical) Supper* (Holy Thursday 10am)
- ▶ *Passion Gospels/Procession of the Holy Cross* (Holy Thursday 6pm)
- ▶ *Burial of Jesus/placing of the Holy Shroud in the Tomb* (Holy Friday 3pm)
- ▶ *The Lamentations & Procession of the Tomb* (Holy Friday 6pm)
- ▶ *Descent into Hades: Victory over Death (the Devil)* Liturgy (Holy Saturday 10am)
- ▶ *Pascha, the Glorious Resurrection* (begins at 11:30pm on Holy Saturday)
- ▶ *Vespers of Love/Baa'ooth* (PASCHA, Sunday 1pm)

**Parents** A letter from Fr. Joe for our children to have "excused absences" from school, music, sports, or other activities for any of the Holy Week Services is on the Lounge Bulletin Board shelf.

## **Traditional Fasting Rules for the Great and Holy Week**

1. The traditional fasting rules are for all who are physically able.
2. Meals are to be less frequent and less filling.
3. During the days of Holy Week The traditional fasting discipline (*no meat, poultry, fish, eggs, dairy, wine, and olive oil*) is observed on all days, except Palm Sunday when fish, wine, and olive oil are allowed and Holy Thursday morning after Divine Liturgy when wine and olive oil are allowed.
4. On Great and Holy Friday, no meal is eaten the rest of the day after breakfast. After the morning Divine Liturgy on Great and Holy Saturday, a light lunch may be eaten, then a total fast until after Paschal Divine Services on Saturday night/Sunday morning.
5. The full strictness of the fast is lessened for the aged or those in poor health.

## **Holy Week notes and activities:**

- The **Sacrament of Holy Repentance** (*Confession*) will be heard before and after Divine Services from this evening until Holy Tuesday.
- You must be an Orthodox Christian and have a recent Confession to partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Holy Unction (Holy Wednesday evening).
- **KEEPING VIGIL AT THE TOMB OF CHRIST** - Beginning about 4pm following Great Vespers on Holy and Great Friday afternoon, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will keep watch (vigil) over the tomb of Christ. We will be reading (English and/or Arabic) from the Psalms until *Matins of Holy Saturday with the Lamentations & Procession of the Tomb* at 6pm ~ you are encouraged you to sign up for 30 minutes. Others may be in church to listen and keep watch. Please sign-up on the poster in the Lounge.

**PASCHA BREAKFAST** It's always a joy for us to break the fast together during our celebration of our Lord's Resurrection. Our Ladies Auxiliary will be preparing and serving the breakfast and are looking for donations for this joyous occasion. If interested, please see Hiam Bathish or any member of the Auxiliary.

**VESPERS OF LOVE (BAA'OOTH)** on Pascha, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. During the service, the Gospel is read in different languages ~ want to read?, speak with Fr. Michael or come to church by 12:45pm.

**ST. GEORGE ALTAR SOCIETY** God bless our Altar Society which was formed in September of 1997 with the general purpose of cleaning and decorating the church for Pascha, Christmas, and feast days. They will be cleaning and decorating for Pascha this Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 1pm after the morning Vespers Divine Liturgy which begins at 10am ~ everyone is welcome to come and help!

**OUR STEWARDSHIP, OFFERINGS, AND DONATIONS** Though you might not come to church, **our stewardship, offerings, and donations are still very badly needed.** PLEASE help your parish by continuing to offer! If you cannot come to church, you can simply go to our parish website (<https://saintgeorgeflint.org/>) and donate on-line (use the QR code to the right) or you can bring or mail your offerings to St. George, 5191 Lennon Road, Flint, MI 48507. As always, THANK YOU for your generosity and love of our St. George!



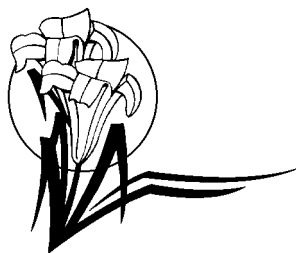
## **Divine Presence ~ In Eternity, God's love consumes all**

*by Abbot Tryphon, head of All-Merciful Savior Monastery on Vashon Island, Washington*

According to Saint Gregory of Nyssa, heaven and hell are not about location, but about relationship. God is everywhere, and He did not create a heaven for some, and a hell for others. If we love God, His fire will be a comforting warmth, but if we choose not to have a relationship with Him, His fire will be as hell fire. We choose how we will experience the presence of God in the afterlife, and since God can not be absent from anywhere, those who have chosen to ignore Him, will, nevertheless, be in His presence for all of eternity.

According to Saint Gregory, Paradise and Hell do not exist from God's point of view, but from man's point of view. It is all about man's choice and condition. According to him, heaven and hell are not two different locations. They are simply two different experiences of the same place.

Everyone will spend eternity in God's presence, but how we experience the Divine Presence will depend upon the condition of our soul. Those who have been transformed by the action and work of the Holy Spirit, will experience God as light and bliss. Those who have rejected God's love will experience it as pain and suffering. For the unbeliever and the unrepentant, their sins will not allow them to enjoy the Presence of God.



*I would like to donate the  
following for Pascha. . .*

**Pascha Flowers: \$35 each**  
Number \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

Please print clearly

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

For the health of:

\_\_\_\_\_

In loving memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please use the envelope in the Pew and mark it *Pascha Decorations* and put in the Offering Tray. The names of the Living and Departed will be remembered at the Service of Preparing the Gifts (Bread and Wine) for Divine Liturgy on Pascha morning.

# Mark your Calendars and Plan AHEAD!!!

## THE GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>-MAY 4<sup>TH</sup>

### April

27	Saturday	<b>Raising of Lazarus</b> —Combined <i>Preparation of Gifts/Liturgy at Assumption</i> 9:30 am ➤ <i>Cleaning and Decorating of our Church</i> ----- 1 pm <b>Great Vespers</b> for Palm Sunday and <b>Confessions</b> ----- 4 pm
28	Sunday	<b>Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem—Palm Sunday</b> Matins – 8:50am Liturgy and Procession ----- 10 am <b>Bridegroom Matins</b> for Great and Holy Monday ----- 6 pm
29	Monday	<b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> ----- 9 am <b>Bridegroom Matins</b> for Great and Holy Tuesday ----- 6 pm
30	Tuesday	<b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> ----- 9 am ➤ <b>Confessions (Last opportunity before Pascha!)</b> ----- 4:30-5:30 pm <b>Bridegroom Matins</b> for Great and Holy Wednesday ----- 6 pm
May 1	Weds.	<b>Presanctified Liturgy</b> ----- 9 am <b>Sacrament of Holy Unction</b> ----- 6 pm ➤ <u><i>Holy Unction is a Sacrament of the Orthodox Church and for Her members. Confession is required.</i></u>
2	Thursday	<b>Celebration of the Institution of the Last Supper</b> <b>Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great</b> followed by Holy Thursday Meal ----- 10 am <b>Holy Friday Matins</b> with Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels----- 6 pm
3	Friday	<b>Royal Hours of Pascha</b> ----- 9 am Decoration of Tomb follows. <b>Vespers of the Descent of Christ from the Cross</b> ----- 3 pm Vigil at the Tomb of Christ sponsored by Teen SOYO begins at 4:30pm. <b>Holy Saturday Matins</b> with the Praises at the Tomb / Procession with the Tomb 6 pm
4	Saturday	<b>Descent into Hades—Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil</b> ----- 10 am ➤ <i>Cleaning and Decorating of the Church for Pascha follows.</i>

## PASCHA

### THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD

4/5		<b>Nocturnes/Paschal Matins/Paschal Divine Liturgy</b> ----- 11:30 pm
5	Sunday	<b>Agape (Baa'ooth) Vespers—Vespers of Love</b> ----- 1 pm Reading of the Gospel in Different Languages Paschal Egg Hunt follows

### THE NEW (BRIGHT) WEEK

6	Bright Monday	<b>Paschal Liturgy at St. Mary Magdalene</b> ----- 10 am
7	Bright Tuesday	<b>Paschal Liturgy at St. Nicholas</b> ----- 10 am
8	Bright Wednesday	<b>Paschal Liturgy celebrating the Great Martyr George at St. George</b> -- 6 pm
10	Bright Friday	<b>Paschal Liturgy at Assumption</b> ----- 10 am