

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 an 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.

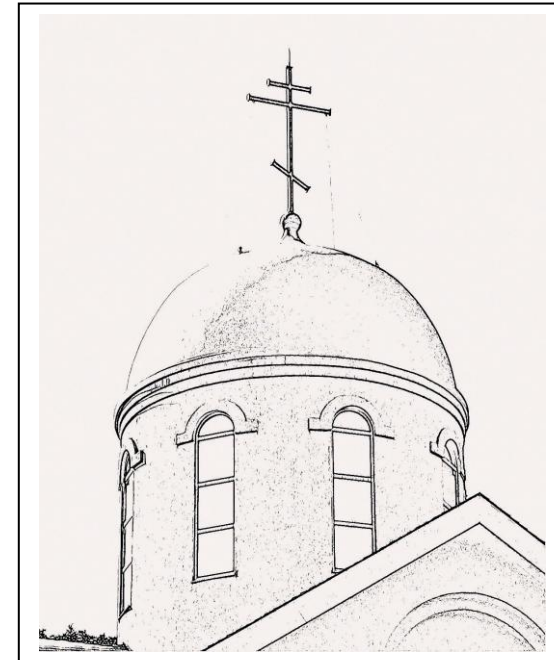
On Palm Sunday palm and willow branches are blessed in the Church. We take them in order to raise them up and greet the King and Ruler of our life: Jesus Christ. We take them in order to reaffirm our baptismal pledges. As the One who raised Lazarus and entered Jerusalem to go to His voluntary Passion 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).

Fr. Paul Lazor

WEEKLY



BULLETIN

Today is the beginning of our salvation, the revelation of the eternal mystery. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin as Gabriel announces the coming of Grace. Together with him let us cry to the Theotokos: Rejoice O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!

Troparion of the Annunciation to the Theotokos

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

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

360 Van Zile Road, Brick, New Jersey 08724

Phone: (732) 458-9032

Email: orthodoxbrick@gmail.com

Fax: (732) 295-0007

Website: www.orthodoxbrick.org

Very Rev. Fr. Gary Joseph Breton, *Rector*

Very Rev. Fr. Paul Kucynda, *Retired Attached Priest*

Rev. Fr. Michael Pejovic, *Attached Priest*

Matthew Petrides, *Senior Warden*

Christian Gamboa, *Choir Director*

April 13, 2025

ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM - Palm Sunday

Hieromartyr Artemon of Laodikeia in Syria (303). Martyr Crescens, of Myra in Lycia. Martyr Thomais, of Alexandria (5th c.).

Today's Readings:

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18

Upcoming Service Schedule:

Today – 12noon Bridegroom Matins

Monday – 9:00am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Monday – 6:00pm Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday – 9:00am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Tuesday – 6:00pm Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday – 9:00am Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Wednesday – 6:00pm Holy Unction

Thursday – 9:00am Vespers w/Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Thursday – 6:00pm Matins of Holy Friday w/12 Gospels

Friday – 2:00pm Vespers of Great and Holy Friday

Friday – 6:00pm Matins of Holy Saturday w/Lamentations

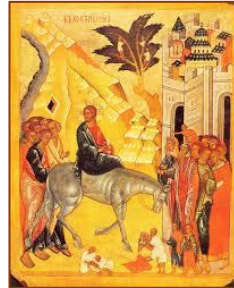
Saturday – 10:00am Holy Saturday Vespers w/Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Saturday – 11:30pm Vigil and Divine Liturgy for HOLY PASCHA

Sunday – 11:00am Vespers of Pascha

Next Sunday's Readings:

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



*Entry of Our
Lord into
Jerusalem*

We are happy that you have joined us for worship today and hope that you will join us for Coffee Hour after Divine Liturgy. **The reception of the Holy Eucharist** is only for baptized members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared with prayer, fasting, and periodic confession. You are encouraged to receive the blessed bread that is **offered at the end of the service and which may also be offered to you by one of your neighbors during Communion.**

Special Prayers

We pray for **all** our parish family members, but we pray especially for those who are ill and afflicted. Among them are **Fr. Paul Kucynda, Brian Price, Victorianne Vessio, Mary Herelick, Betty James, Manya Shark, Deryl Tczap, Mary Tczap, George Stavrou, Margaret Makara, Dennis & Ann Marie Gahr, Michael Getmanov, Alan Diaz, Ellen Norman, Maryann Sivilic, Lia Eickhorn, Jack Rinderer, and Lori Ratushnuk.**

Annunciations

TODAY – Please join us for **Coffee Hour** in the Parish Hall after the Veneration of the Cross. **Team #4** is in charge.

TODAY – **Church School** class will be held during Coffee Hour.

TODAY – The **Lenten Food Drive** ends today. Many thanks to project coordinator Martha Christos and all who participated in this effort of love.

TODAY – **Blessed palms and willows** will be distributed after the Divine Liturgy.

TODAY – After a brief Coffee Hour following Divine Liturgy, the **Bridegroom Matins** of Holy Monday will be served.

TODAY – A **Grave Watch sign-up sheet** is located in the narthex for Holy Friday night into Holy Saturday morning.. Please consider taking a 2-hour slot to keep vigil at the Tomb of Our Lord after His burial.

TODAY – **Dessert Rolls** are available for sale. Please see Cathy Berger or Olga Pasick to make your purchases. These are great items to place in your Pascha basket!

Please consult the **Holy Week and Pascha schedule** located on the opposite page. As we enter into the most **solemn time of Holy Week**, please take advantage of the opportunities the Church gives us to participate in Our Lord's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. Please come to as many services as you are able.

Father Gary will hear **confessions** on Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 5-5:45pm and immediately after the evening services. Except for extreme exceptions, NO confessions will be heard after Holy Wednesday evening.

Pascha baskets will be blessed in the Parish Hall early Sunday morning after the Paschal Divine Liturgy **and** after the Vespers of Pascha later Sunday morning.

At the Vespers of Pascha on Sunday morning, we will read the Gospel lesson (John 20:19-25) in as many languages as possible. A **sign-up sheet** is located in the narthex for those willing and able to read the Gospel in a different language

An **Easter egg hunt** will be held following the Vespers of Pascha on Sunday morning (weather permitting). All children are welcome to participate in this annual event

Many Years! – Birthdays

Monday, 4/7 – Debbie Alpaugh

Wednesday, 4/9 – Cynthia Stavrou

Wednesday, 4/9 – Nicholas Christos

Thursday, 4/10 – Sever Ciorlian

Tuesday, 4/15 – James Petrides

Thursday, 4/17 – Debbie Anderson

Condolences to Tami Economou on the falling asleep of her brother, +Walter this past week. Memory Eternal!

***Please pray for vocations
to the Holy Priesthood!***