

Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**For the health of:**

Walter Romanofsky, father of Andrew, on his 86th Birthday

Readings:

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

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 supplication 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 God of peace will be with you.

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus 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, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment 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 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 he 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, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon 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 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 him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

Sunday service:

Hours - 9:40 AM **Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM**
 (General Confession – 9 50 AM on the first Sunday of each month. **Except during Lent**)
 (Private Confession – Half hour before any service. Please don't delay the service.)
 (Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3rd Sunday of each month)

Church School - 9:30 AM (no classes 1st Sunday of each month when there is General Confession)

Choir practice - 9:30 AM

Coffee hour - after Liturgy

We would like to welcome all parish visitors and invite you to join us after the Liturgy, downstairs, for Coffee hour.

Announcements:

- **Holy Week Services**
Thursday, April 12, 6:00 PM - Thursday evening service (Friday Matins - 12 Passion Gospels)
Friday, April 13, 2:00 PM - Friday Vespers
Friday April 13, 6:00 PM - Good Friday Service (Saturday Matins)
- **Pascha Services**
Sunday, April 15, 2012 - PASCHA - Midnight Service and Divine Liturgy - (Saturday April 14, 2012 11:30 PM)
After Liturgy - Blessing of Easter Food Baskets
- **St. Thomas Sunday Services**
Sunday, April 22, 2012 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy (normal time)
After Liturgy - Blessing of graves
- **Today** there will be a special collection for **Easter flowers** and other related expenses for Pascha. **Please be generous.**

Special Announcements:

- **Our annual Easter basket raffle was held last Sunday.** The winners of the baskets were:
 Large basket - Lori Stefy
 Medium basket - MaryAnn Kuzemchak
 Small basket - Ted Johnson
 Congratulations to all of the winners.

Reminder:

- **Volunteers are needed to clean the church.** Please use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, downstairs, to indicate when you can help.
- **Dues and assessments are being collected for the year 2012, Total Parish Membership Fee is now \$200.** Partial payments are gladly accepted.

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.

Our Pledge

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)

See us on the web at: ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin

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Sunday Bulletin

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Glory to
Jesus Christ

Glory Forever

Palm Sunday

*By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your passion,
You did confirm the universal Resurrection, O Christ God!*

Like the children with the palms of victory,

We cry out to You, O Vanquisher of death;

Hosanna in the Highest!

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!

Troparion

On this day the Church remembers:

Entry Of Our Lord Into Jerusalem • Palm Sunday • Holy Apostles

of the Seventy: Herodion, Agabus, Asyncritus, Rufus, Phlegon, Hermes, and those with them (1st c.) • St. Niphon, Bishop of Novgorod (1156) • Ven.

Rufus the Obedient, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves-14th c.) • Martyr Pausilippus of Heraclea in Thrace (2nd c.) • St. Celestine, Pope of Rome (432)

• The SPANISH Icon of the Most-holy Theotokos

April 8, 2012

Holy Week
Triodion week 10

Palm Sunday