

**Today's Bulletin Sponsors are:**

**For the health of:**

**Walter** Romanofsky on his 88<sup>th</sup> birthday, father of Andrew, offered by his family.

**Andrew** and **Robert** Morris on their birthdays, offered by Grandmother and Mother-in-law Lore Stefy.

**Nicholas, Joanne,** and **Nick** on their birthdays. Great Grandson and his Mother, and Son-in-law of Elena Wolff, offered by their family.

**David** Seaman, brother-in-law of Linda Jankowski

Our parish is also praying for: **MaryAnn, Kyra,** and the **Archpriest Vincent**

**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.

<b>Saturday service: Vespers – 6:30 PM</b>	
<b>Sunday service:</b>	
<b>Hours – 9:40 AM</b>	<b>Divine Liturgy – 10:00 AM</b>
<b>Private Confession – Half hour before any service. See Fr Matthew for other times.</b>	
<b>General Confession – 9:45 AM on the first Sunday of each month</b>	
<b>Pannikhidas – after Divine Liturgy 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month</b>	

**Coffee hour – after Liturgy, downstairs in the Community Room**

**Church School - Sunday 9:30 AM (no classes 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month)**

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

**Holy Week Services and Pascha Services:**

- **April 16 (Wednesday) 7:00 PM - Sacrament of Holy Unction – Healing Sacrament, open to all Orthodox Christians (no fasting required before)**
- **April 18 (Friday) 3:00 PM - Holy Friday Vespers**
- **April 18 (Friday) 7:00 PM - Holy Saturday Matins (served Friday evening)**
- **April 19/20 (Saturday/Sunday) 11:30 PM Holy Pascha Vigil (Nocturns, Matins, Divine Liturgy)**
  - After Liturgy - Blessing of Paschal Food Baskets

**Announcements:**

- Thank you to all who supported the Sisterhood Cheesecake Fundraiser. We raised \$125.00! Cheesecakes are in the kitchen freezer, ready for you to take home.
- **The Sisterhood's Paschal basket raffle** will be today at coffee hour. **See Lore Stefy to purchase raffle tickets, priced at \$1.00 each.**
- **Reader Charles** has accepted the call to serve with an **OCMC Youth Outreach Mission Team** going to Albania June 16 to July 1, 2014. Please remember him in your prayers in his many preparations. If your heart is moved to support him financially, please speak to him for information on how to do so.

**Special Announcements:**

- Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail to: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**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.

**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](http://ChurchMotherOfGod.org/bulletin)  
E-Mail us at: [Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org](mailto:Bulletin@ChurchMotherOfGod.org)

**Orthodox Church of the Mother of God**

*"The Joy of All the Sorrowful"*

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Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem

Hosanna in the  
highest!

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

*Sitting on Your 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 that comes to recall Adam!*

Kontakion -Tone 6

**Today the Church remembers:**

THE ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

● PALM SUNDAY

- Hieromartyr Artemon, Presbyter, of Laodicea in Syria (303)
- Martyr Crescens, of Myra in Lycia
- Woman Martyr Thomaïs, of Alexandria (5th c.)

**April 13, 2014**

Triodion week 10

Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem