

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

Orthodox Church of the Mother of God

OCA – Diocese of New York-New Jersey

V. Rev. Dr. Matthew Searfoorce, Rector

Sub-Deacon Edward Dawson

Sub-Deacon Vlashi

Parish Council President: Andrew Romanofsky

Parish Council Vice President: Dean Inferrera



Sunday, April 9, 2017

Gospel: John 12:1-18

Tone

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)

Martyr Eupsychius of Cæsarea in Cappadocia (362). Martyrs Desan—Bishop, Mariabus—Presbyter, Abdieus, and 270 others in Persia (363-364). Monk Martyr Bademus (Vadim) of Persia (376).

Troparion – Tone 1

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 – Tone 4

When we were buried with You in Baptism, O Christ God, / We were made worthy of eternal life by Your Resurrection! / Now we praise You and sing: / Hosanna in the highest! / Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!

Kontakion – Tone 6

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!



*Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem
(Palm Sunday)*

Prayer Requests

For Health of:

Irene Inferrera, on her birthday (4-14), offered by her family.

Walter Romanofsky, on his 91st birthday, offered by the Romanofsky family.

Mishavonna Lucille, on her baptism, offered by the Inferrera/Bodulow families.

Through the Grace of God – Orthodox Christianity

Elder Ephraim of Katounakia: Your Salvation

“Having a peaceful and serene mind depends entirely on you. It does not depend on temptations or your fellow struggler’s behavior. You yourself will be responsible for your salvation; whether you will be saved or not depends entirely on you. When you long for your salvation and struggle hard, then the outcome will be according to your wish.”

Orthodox Quote of the Day

If one loses his cross, his life becomes cold and tepid, without cooperation with God.

Metropolitan Saba (Esber)

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, April 9th

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine
Liturgy/Baptism of
Mishavonna Lucille
McClintock

Tuesday, April 11th

6:30 pm: Liturgy/
Presanctified Gifts

Wednesday, April 12th

6:30 pm: Sacrament of
Holy Unction

Friday, April 14th

7 pm: Holy Friday Matins

Saturday, April 15th

11:30 pm: Holy Pascha Vigil
Nocturns, Matins, Divine
Liturgy

Saturday, April 22nd

6:30 pm: Vespers

Sunday, April 23rd

9:30 am: Sunday School
9:40 am: Hours
10:00 am: Divine Liturgy

Bulletin Sponsors

*The Inferrera Family,
Romanofsky Family and
Inferrera/Bodulow
Families*

Readings:

The Prokeimenon in the 4th Tone:

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us! (*Psalms 117:26-7*)
vs. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever!
(*Psalms 117:1*)

Epistle: 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 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.

Alleluia in the 1st Tone:

O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!
(*Psalms 97:1*)
vs. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.
(*Psalms 97:3*)

Gospel: John 12:1-18

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.



Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (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).

Very Rev. Paul Lazor

Bulletin Sponsor: Use the sign-up sheet at the candle stand for the health of, eternal memory of or a Pannikhida for a loved one or friend, for a donation of \$10. Sponsors will be remembered during Divine Liturgy for the day/week that you signed up for.



Memorial Candles: Candles be purchased at the candle stand, suggested donation of \$10 for a large one.

Private Confessions: Can be heard a half hour before any service. See Father Matthew for other times.

General Confession: Will be at 9:45 am on the first Sunday of the month.

Pannikhida Service: The third Sunday of each month there will be a Pannikhida after Divine Liturgy. If you would like your loved ones to be remembered please give a list of names to Father Matthew before that Sunday for those to be remembered in the month.

Special Announcements for the bulletin can be submitted by E-Mail:

OrthodoxChurchMotherOfGod@outlook.com ; reader.charles@hotmail.com or rsub-deacon.vlashi@outlook.com

The Living Clean Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Friday from 8-9:15 pm downstairs in the community room.

The Grey Book Step Meeting Group of Narcotics Anonymous meets every Tuesday from 7-8:00 pm downstairs in the community room.



Orthodox Church of the Mother of God: Parish News

There will be a special collection taken today after the Liturgy to cover the cost of flowers for Pascha. Please be generous in your donation. Thank you!

McClintock, Bodulow & Inferreras' would like to invite all the parishioners and their families of Mother of God Church to attend the Baptism Of Mishavonna Lucielle McClintock Sunday April 9, 2017 and the celebration after Divine Liturgy at 1 pm at the Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Church, 2211 West Landis Avenue (Church Hall in Back), Vineland NJ.

Thank you
Luba Bodulow
any questions call 856.297.5364

The Protection of the Mother of God Sisterhood News:

The Sisterhood's Paschal basket raffle will be held today after the Divine Liturgy. If you still need to purchase your tickets, please see Lore Stefy. Tickets are \$1.00 each and everyone is requested to sell 10 tickets. Thank you and good luck!

Church School News:

There will be two Paschal baskets for children raffled off today after the Liturgy. The baskets include a great selection of candy & toys. [Children have been earning tickets for the raffle by attending church and Sunday School during Great Lent](#)

Services of Great Lent 2017

April 11 Tuesday: 6:30 pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
April 12 Wednesday: Sacrament of Holy Unction – Healing Sacrament, open to all Orthodox Christians
April 14 Friday: 7 pm Holy Friday Matins
April 15 Saturday: 11:30 pm Holy Pascha Vigil Nocturns, Matins, Divine Liturgy

NY/NJ Diocese News



ROCHESTER NY: “The Home as a Little Church”

On Saturday, 1 April 2017, Saint John the Baptist Orthodox Church in Rochester NY sponsored a Lenten Retreat: “*The Home as a ‘Little Church.’*” The day featured presentations by **Dr. Mary Ford and Dr. David Ford** of Saint Tikhon’s Orthodox Theological Seminary. “*We were inspired and enlightened by the insights and perspectives presented,*” said Father Ken James Stavrevsky (parish rector). “*It was an incredible joy to have these two gifted professors, who exhibit genuine humility and living faith, in our midst.*” Parishioners were delighted to have David and Mary also join them for the Divine Liturgy the following day.

PASCHAL OPEN HOUSE at SAINT ANDREW'S CAMP

Clergy and faithful of the diocese are invited to a Paschal Open House at **Saint Andrew's Camp (Jewell NY)** on **Bright Saturday, 22 April 2017**. Festivities will begin with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy at 9:30

a.m. in the camp chapel. A celebratory luncheon will follow along with tours of the camp and other activities. The event flyer may be found at the Dioceses web site.

Congratulations to:

Presbyter Gregory White, awarded the nabadrenik, by His Eminence, Archbishop Michael, on Sunday, April 2, in Holy Spirit Church, Wantage NJ. "Axios! Axios! Axios!"



Orthodox Church in America (OCA) News

Planting Grant Missions: Embracing the unknown

Priest David Bozeman of Saint Nektarios Mission here recalls how in seminary, he had stated that he definitely did not want to become a mission priest.

“It was very clear in my mind that I was not cut out for that kind of work,” Father David admitted. “This is kind of humorous now because after five years of being a mission priest at Saint Nektarios, I can’t imagine doing anything else. In fact, the temptation is now to swing the pendulum the other way and resist the idea of being anything other than a mission priest!”

Saint Nektarios Mission is one of several communities to receive an OCA Planting Grant for 2017—in this case, for its second year.

But Father David admitted that there were so many unknowns in seminary.

“You really can’t even begin to imagine what your life will look like afterwards, or at least I never could,” Father David recalled. “One of the biggest surprises for me here at Saint Nektarios has been the work that I have been doing outside of the mission. I was never a person all that interested in monasteries, and I had virtually no experience of them. And so, it was a little unsettling when I was asked to start serving Liturgy occasionally for the sisters at the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Monastery in Kemp, TX.”

Living within an hour’s drive of the monastery, Father David also offers classes to the nuns several times each month.

“We often forget that priests—even mission priests—regularly provide care and pastoral service for many people outside of their own mission or parish,” Father David continued. “Some work with chaplaincy or hospice or provide services for the poor. And many serve at monasteries around the country. While this was not something I had envisioned before I arrived in Waxahachie, the benefits are enormous for both me personally and for our community.”

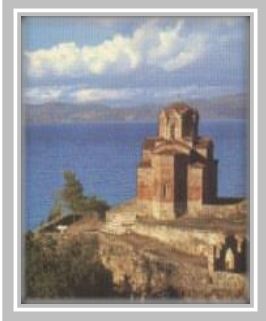
Father David added that, while Planting Grant funds are uniquely allocated to provide an income mission priests, their ministries extend beyond their mission communities.

“I have tried to make sure that whatever service I give to the monastery—whether it is liturgy, classes, or care for the people they receive—is directly tied to the work I do at Saint Nektarios,” he said. “Many of the classes I teach at the mission are first ‘tested out’ on the sisters, who provide important feedback for what works and what doesn’t. And as a newer priest—I served my first Pre-Sanctified Liturgy and celebrated my first funeral at the monastery—the opportunity to do the work of a priest more often has been invaluable, while the constant encouragement and genuine love I and the members of our mission receive bolster our work and ministry in ways that otherwise would not be possible.”

Father David is quick to note how much he appreciates sharing the experience and wisdom of the Dallas-area clergy who assist the monastics, especially Archimandrite Gerasim, the monastery’s spiritual director, and Archpriest John Anderson of Saint Seraphim Cathedral.

“Just something as simple as sitting down for coffee, or hearing stories from Mother Barbara and Sister Susanna about life around the Orthodox world, has given me such a broad experience and offers further encouragement in my ministry,” Father David added. “This, combined with their prayers and support for our mission community, really infuses what we do at Saint Nektarios with life and spiritual vitality. There is always a need at the mission or the monastery, and this keeps me from being idle.

“One of the most beautiful things about the Planting Grant is that it allows mission priests to have a lot of flexibility with their time and commitments while opening up new possibilities to serve,” Father David concluded. “And sometimes, those possibilities are things you never imagined!”



Prayers by the Laker, St. Velimirovich, II:

Who put me in this bed of worms? Who buried me in the dust, to become a neighbor of snakes and a banquet for worms?

Who pushed me off the high mountain, to become a companion of bloodthirsty and godless men?

My sin and Your justice, O Lord. My sin stretches from the creation of the world, and it is swifter than Your justice.

I count my sins throughout my entire life, throughout the life of my father and all the way back to the beginning of the world, and I say: Truly, the name of the Lord's justice is mercy.

I bear the wounds of my fathers on myself-wounds that I myself was preparing while I was still in my fathers—and now they have all appeared on my soul, like a spotted hide on a giraffe, like a cloak of vicious scorpions that sting me.

Have mercy on me, O Lord, open the floodgate of the heavenly river of Your grace, and cleanse me of leprous evil, so that without this leprosy I may dare to proclaim Your name before the other lepers without them ridiculing me.

At least raise me up by a head above the rotten stench of this bed of worms, to inhale the incense of heaven and return to life.

At least raise me up as high as a palm tree so I can laugh at the serpents chasing my heels.

O Lord, if there has been even one good deed in the course of my earthly journey, for the sake of that one deed deliver me from the companionship of bloodthirsty and godless men.

O Lord, my hope in despair.

O Lord, my strength in weakness.

O Lord, my light in darkness.

Place just one finger on my forehead and I shall be raised. Or, if I am too unclean for Your finger, let a single ray of light from Your kingdom shine upon me and raise me-raise me, from this bed of worms, O my beloved Lord.

Sayings of the Ascetics of the Orthodox Church, CII:

III. Us and Our Neighbors

Should We Denounce Them that have Sinned?

It is better to pray with good will for our neighbor, rather than to denounce him for every sin.

St. Mark the Ascetic, Homilies, 1.132



The Morning Offering – Daily Inspiration by Abbott Tryphon

The Egg – The tradition of the Paschal Egg

There is a beautiful tradition within the life of the Church for believers to have as their last meal before beginning the Great Lenten Fast, to eat a hard-boiled egg, white in color. This egg represents our sinful nature, and we eat this egg with the hope that the Lenten journey will bring us to repentance, and make us worthy to receive the Risen Lord Jesus Christ.

The great and holy myrrh-bearer Mary Magdalene, equal of the apostles, during a dinner with the emperor Tiberius Caesar, was speaking about Christ's resurrection. Caesar scoffed at her, saying that a man could rise from the dead no more than the egg in her hand could turn red. Immediately, the egg turned red. This is believed to be an explanation for dyeing eggs red at Pascha.

At the end of Matins, during the Paschal service, the priest hands out a red egg, symbolizing the blood of Christ, to each worshiper. At the beginning of the Paschal feast, following the Midnight Liturgy, believers break the Lenten Fast by again eating an egg.

As we hit our red eggs together, while saying, “Christ is Risen”, we are symbolically proclaiming the truth that Christ, by his death and holy resurrection, broke the bonds and power of death. The breaking of the eggs represents the opening of the tomb, and the crashing of the doors of hell, with Christ destroying the power of darkness and death, forever.



Daily Reflection
Transitioning to Holy Week



“We have finished the spiritually-beneficial forty days! O Lover of Mankind, we ask: Grant us also to see the Holy Week of Your passion, that we may glorify Your mighty deeds, and Your ineffable dispensation for our sakes, as we sing with one mind: Lord, glory to You!” (Lenten Triodion, Friday of Week 6)

Today is a difficult day to write one of these reflections, because there is so much going on in our liturgical calendar(s). Some of us, on the Older Calendar, are celebrating the great feast of the Annunciation, or “the beginning of our salvation” (as this feast is called in its Troparion-hymn). At the same time, we are transitioning to the beginning of Holy Week, having “finished the forty days” of Lent, according to the Byzantine liturgical calendar. Today Lazarus rests in his tomb for the third day, to be raised from the dead tomorrow by the all-powerful Word of God.

As I am carried into all these mysteries, which unfold before me in our beautiful traditions, I ask in the above-quoted hymn that I be given “to see” the great, “ineffable dispensation for our sakes.” Indeed, I need to ask for this vision, lest the hustle-and-bustle of my pre-Paschal preparations distracts me from the Vanquisher of Death, Whom we now prepare to accompany into Jerusalem. Hosanna! Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord!

Holy Orthodox Quotes

“Whoever has known the love of God loves the whole world.”

- **St. Silouan the Athonite**

1 John 4:7-8, 16

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. † He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

The Philokalia: Daily Readings

This harsh hour-by-hour struggle in which so many athletes of Christ are engaged has as its aim precisely this purging of the heart.

.- **St Philotheos of Sinai, 40 Texts on Watchfulness**

Ancient Christian Wisdom

Refuse to listen to the devil when he whispers to you: give me now, and you will give tomorrow to God. No, no! Spend all the hours of your life in a way pleasing to God; keep in your mind the thought that after the present hour you will not be given another and that you will have to render a strict account for every minute of this present hour. Remember, that the time you have in your hands is priceless and if you waste it uselessly, the hour will come when you will seek and not find it.

+ **St. Nicodemus of the Holy Mountain**

Wisdom of the Church Fathers

“Truth is in the immortality of the spirit”.

Saint Gabriel the Georgian (1929-1995)