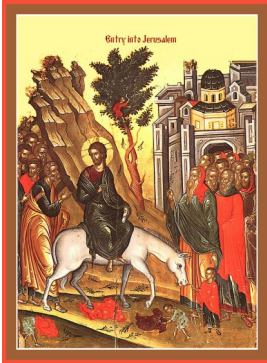


Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday)

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 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.

(Taken from <https://www.oca.org/saints/lives/2021/04/25/20-entry-of-our-lord-into-jerusalem-palm-sunday>)



ST. PHILIP ORTHODOX CHURCH

A Parish of the
Antiochian Archdiocese

His Eminence Metropolitan SABA



His Grace Bishop THOMAS



Father Noah Bushelli, Pastor
215-954-9286



Father James Thayer
215-692-0890

April 28, 2024

PALM SUNDAY:

**THE GLORIOUS AND
BRILLIANT FEAST OF THE
TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF OUR
LORD AND GOD AND
SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST INTO
JERUSALEM**

Old Testament Readings:

Gen 49:1-2, 15-17; Zeph 3:14-19;
Zech 9:9-15

Orthros Gospel:

St. Matthew 21:1-11, 15-17

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Liturgy Gospel: St. John 12:1-18

APOLYTIKION OF LAZARUS SATURDAY - Tone 1 - O Christ God, when Thou didst raise Lazarus from the dead, before Thy Passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection. Wherefore, we, like children, carry the insignia of triumph and victory, and cry to Thee, O Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord.

APOLYTIKION OF PALM SUNDAY - Tone 4 - O Christ God, when we were buried with Thee in Baptism, we became deserving of Thy Resurrection to immortal life. Wherefore, we praise Thee, crying: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

TODAY: *Liturgy at Fort Washington Mission 9am*
Orthros 8:30 am & Palm Blessing 9:45 am
Divine Liturgy 10 am w/ Palm Procession
Sunday School & Coffee Hour 11:45 am

◆◆◆◆ **BRIDEGROOM ORTHROS, 6:30 p.m.** ◆◆◆◆

1970 Clearview Road, Souderton, PA 18964

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Emails: office@st-philip.net nbushelli@gmail.com frjamesthayer@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30am - 3:30pm

Fr Noah & Fr James are available for hospital visits. If you or anyone you know is in the hospital or homebound and would like a visit, please call the church office.

Weekly Ministries & Stewards:

	This Week:	Next Week (May 5):
COFFEE HOUR	ALL – POTLUCK (Fish/wine/oil)	----
PROSPHORA BREAD:	John Child	Kristi M. & Gabi and Catalin
ALTAR CANDLES:	Rice Family – Helen's birthday	Gambles – Anastasios b-day
USHERS:	Dan M. & Tom A.	----
CLEANING TEAM:	Teens; Tyson; Karsten	Hertzlars; Nick T.; Zach F.
COFFEE HOUR TEAM:	Mariya; Laura; Eric	----

YOUR FLOWER OFFERINGS support the beautification of our church during this holy season. Thank you!

APRIL OUTREACH COLLECTION:
Cleaning Supplies

Mark Your Calendar:



Mid-Pentecost
Wednesday, May 29

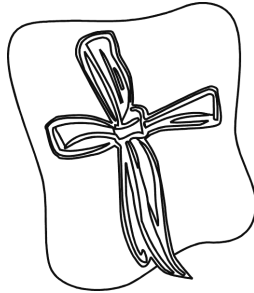
Ascension
Thursday, June 13

Pentecost
Sunday, June 23

Sts. Peter & Paul
Saturday, June 29

Save the Date!
2024 Parish Life Conference
June 27-30, 2024

VCS 2024
July 29-Aug 2



TIMELY REMINDER -- All services are OPEN to non-Orthodox visitors and friends! However, the regulations of the Orthodox Church restrict HOLY COMMUNION, HOLY UNCTION, as well as the other Sacraments (Holy Mysteries) to Orthodox Christians who are sacramentally active and/or qualified. Married Orthodox people are qualified only if their marriage has been blessed in the Orthodox Church.

To be prepared for Holy Communion & Holy Unction, an Orthodox Christian must be fasting from all food and drink (including water), and have received Confession/Absolution. If you visit another Orthodox parish, you must make it known to the priest, in advance, that you are prepared. (Don't just step into the Communion line without letting the priest know who you are and where you are from.)

PLAN TO MAKE YOUR CONFESSION BEFORE HOLY UNCTION!

Great and Holy Week - Pascha - Bright Monday

- Sun, April 28: BRIDEGROOM ORTHROS, 6:30 p.m.
- Mon, April 29: PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY, 10 a.m.
BRIDEGROOM ORTHROS, 6:30 p.m.
- Tues, April 30: PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY, 10 a.m.
Matushka Olga Sewing Club, 1 p.m.
BRIDEGROOM ORTHROS, 6:30 p.m.
- Wed, May 1: PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY, 10 a.m.
HOLY UNCTION, 4 p.m.
Fasting Potluck
BRIDEGROOM ORTHROS & Anointing, 6:30 p.m.
- Thurs, May 2: VESPERAL FOOT-WASHING LITURGY, 4 p.m.
Fasting Potluck
TWELVE GOSPELS ORTHROS, 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, May 3: ROYAL HOURS (Youth Choir), 10 a.m.
VESPERS OF BURIAL, 4 p.m.
Fasting Potluck
LAMENTATIONS ORTHROS, 6:30 p.m.
- Sat, May 4: GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY
Baptismal LITURGY & Basket Blessing, 10 a.m.
PASCHAL SERVICES BEGIN AT 11:30 p.m.
Pascha Baskets will be blessed in the Great Room following Liturgy.
- Sunday, May 5: PASCHA! CHRIST IS RISEN!
AGAPE VESPERS, 12 noon - Egg Hunt & Potluck
- Mon, May 6: BRIGHT MONDAY
PASCHAL ORTHROS, 9 a.m.
PASCHAL LITURGY, 10 a.m.
PASCHAL VESPERS & CANON, 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Vespers for Apr 20: 84 Divine Services Apr 21: NA
Wed Pre-Sanctified: 97 Fri Pre-Sanctified: 57

OFFERINGS 4/21: Candles, \$428. Collections, \$652.66. Flowers, \$130. Book Shelf Ministry, \$177. Classical School Fund, \$6,000. Food for Hungry, \$50. Mission Chapel, \$100. Needy Fund, \$6,885.28. Pastoral Discretion, \$17.68. Stewardship, \$16,447. Total received: \$30,906.43.

GOD BLESS YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS & GENEROSITY!