

Parish Offerings – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt – Mar. 18, 2018

“Everyone must give according to whatever he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor 9:7)

Holy Ghost Church, McKees Rocks

Regular Offering (\$1,984) YP (\$16.90)	\$2,000.90
Eastern Europe	50.00
Easter Décor (\$472) Initial (\$5)	477.00
Votive Candles	95.80
	<hr/>
	\$2,623.70

Holy Ghost Church, Northside

Regular Offering	\$713.00
Easter	10.00
Easter Décor	80.00
Votive Candles	75.50
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	\$878.50

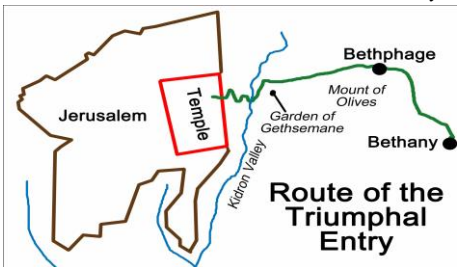
Church Attendance Last Week

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (55);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (93); (NS) 11:00 am (44)

6th Great Fast Wednesday — (MR) 7:00 pm (13); 6th Great Fast Friday — (NS) 6:00 pm (11)

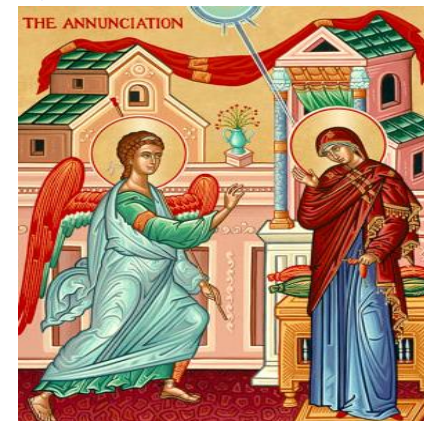
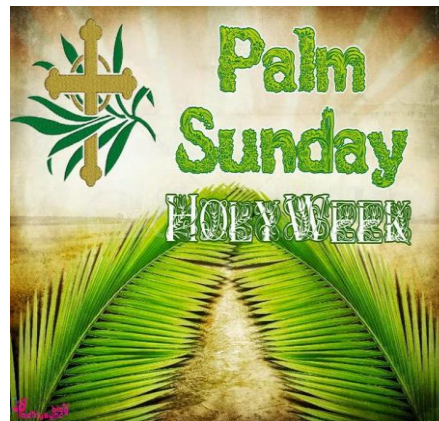
Lazarus Saturday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (4)



HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH
 225 OLIVIA STREET
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE
 McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

THE ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Palm (Flowery) Sunday — Annunciation Feast
March 25, 2018



Catholics of the Ruthenian – Byzantine Rite in full communion with the Pope of Rome

The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko, Pastor
The Reverend Deacon Michael Meaders (NS)

Rectory: (412) 771-3324; Church Fax: (412) 331-1870
 MR School Hall Kitchen: (412) 331-5155

Web-site: www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org – E-Mail: ffaf334@verizon.net

SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY
All Liturgical Services LIVE on UStream: www.Ustream.tv/channel/holy-ghost-church

Valerian F. Szal
 238 Helen St.,
 McKees Rocks, PA 15136
 Phone: (412) 331-9713
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Michael P. Ferrell,
 Supervisor, CFSP
Our Family Still Serving Yours Since 1953



DESIGNS BY NANCY
 235 McCartney Drive,
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 Phone: (412) 262-9141
 Nancde@aol.com
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Sewing, Alterations, Custom Embroidery and Unique Gifts

Sunday Divine Liturgies
 Saturday (MR) 4:00 pm
 Sunday (MR) 9:00 am
 Holy Ghost (NS) 11:00 a.m.

Holy Day Divine Liturgies
 w/Great Vespers (Oblig)
 (MR): 7:00 pm
 Holy Day (MR) 9:00 am; (NS) 6:00 pm

Daily Divine Liturgy
 M-F (MR) 8:00 am
 Sat. (NS) 9:00 am.

GCU
 Greek Catholic Union of the USA
 A Fraternal Benefit Society
 Lodge 390 offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Tina (412) 859-9597

This space available for ads for wishing someone birthday or anniversary greetings, get-well wishes, etc. Call the office (412) 771-3324

Please patronize our fabulous sponsors! They make it possible to bring you this weekly & informative S.O.T. without an added expense to the Church. New Sponsors please contact Church 9 til 1:00 p.m. Mon-Fri!

Holy Mystery of Reconciliation: Sat (MR): 3:15 to 3:40 pm & Sun (MR) 8:15 to 8:40 am.; (NS) 10:30 am
Holy Mysteries of Initiation: Contact Church Office for Baptism, Chrismation and Eucharist.
Holy Mysteries of Anointing: Ask especially prior to surgery or any other time.
Holy Mystery of Matrimony: Contact pastor one year in advance; Pre-Cana Classes required.
Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.
Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Steve Puluka (412) 897- 4650.
GCU Lodge 390: (MR) Contact Tina Burns (412) 859-9597 for membership requirements.
Slavjane Folk Ensemble: (MR) Membership requirements contact Dean Poloka (412) 877-9351.
Carpatho-Rusyn Radio Broadcast: Every Sunday from 2:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. WPIT 730 AM.
Social Hall Rental: (MR) Contact Church Office.
New & Returning Parishioners: Welcome! Please register by phoning the Church Office.
Remember the Church in Your Will: *Please be so kind as to remember the Church in your last will and testament. This helps to secure its future & a Byzantine Catholic witness to all!*

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

March 25, 2018

Christian Greeting

Volume VIII, Number 12



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!
Slava Isusu Christu!! — Slava Na Viki!



Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Palm (Flowery) Sunday — Feast of the Annunciation

SUN., Mar 25 *8:45 a.m. (MR) + Joyce Buchko (birthday 3/26) McCusker Family

*10:45 a.m. (NS) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

*2:00 p.m. (MR) Passion Week Vespers followed by Confessions w/ extra-Confessor

HOLY (PASSION) WEEK

Holy Mon, Mar 26 8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridgroom Matins
6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy



Holy Tue, Mar 27 8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridgroom Matins
*5:30 p.m. (NS) Special Confession Time
6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy



REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)

Holy Wed, Mar 28 8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridgroom Matins
6:30 p.m. (MR) Sorrowful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary
7:00 p.m. (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy



Institution of the Most Holy Eucharist

HOLY THRS, MAR 29 8:00 a.m. (MR) Betrayal Matins
7:00 p.m. (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Divine Liturgy



REQUIRED STRICT ABSTINENCE (no meat and dairy products)

HOLY & GREAT FRI, Mar 30 8:00 a.m. (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passions Gospels
12:00 nn. (MR) Royal 6TH Hour: Commemoration of Our Lord's Crucifixion
5:00 p.m. (NS) Entombment Vespers & Procession
7:00 p.m. (MR) Entombment Vespers & Procession



24 Hour Continuous Vigil Before The Tomb — Church Opened For Devotion

RECOMMENDED Simple Abstinence (no meat) on Holy Saturday

HOLY SAT, MAR 31 8:00 a.m. (MR) Sepulcher Matins w/Procession indoors
2:00 p.m. (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Divine Liturgy

Anticipated Resurrectional (Easter Sunday) Liturgical Services

5:45 p.m. (NS) Resurrectional Matins & Blessing of Paschal Foods at Center.

7:45 p.m. (MR) Resurrectional Matins w/ Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Paschal Foods

RADIANT RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Easter (PASCHA) Sunday — The Great Day — MIROVANJE

SUN., APR 1 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Michael Lorinc Wife: Betty



General Announcements

All Birthdays will be published in SOT each week so that prayers may be offered on these special occasions. Please advise the Church office if your special day does not appear or if you wish your name and date not be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

Mar 25 – Wallace Michalim, RUTH YANOSKO; Mar 26 – James Gunkel, John Harbist, AIMEE HELMS; Mar 28 – LEAH TRAPL.

Pray For the Ill, Infirm & Shut-ins of Our Parishes

HOME: Irene Bordas, Margaret Beliuнас, MARY ANN CONTI, Andrew Drukalsky, Ilona Goyda, Beverly Harsh, Helen Hopey, MARTHA LUCAS, OLGA MANFREDO, Irene Palahunik, Elizabeth Petruna, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Alice Sejka, ANNA TOTH, EVELYN VENTO, Julia Wovchko, SHIRLEY YANOSKO.

MAPLEWOOD PC HOME (461 Maplewood Ave. Ambridge, PA 15003): Doris Naughton.
HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.
BRIGHTON REHAB & WELLNESS CENTER (246 Friendship Circle, Beaver, PA 15009): Mary Susan Dragosh.

MASONIC VILLAGE (1000 Masonic Drive, Sewickley, PA 15143): Helen M. Kriska, Marjorie Preganz.

MARIAN MANOR (2695 Winchester Dr., Pgh, 15220): Irene Bednar, MICHAEL BARBUSH .
CHIPPEWA PLACE (7005 Stadium Dr., Apt 427, Brecksville, OH 44141): Stephen Katrenich.

FAIR OAKS ASSISTED LIVING (2200 W. Liberty Ave., Pgh, 15226): ANNA MARIE DEMIANCZYK.

LUTHERAN SENIORLIFE (500 Wittenberg Way, Mars PA 16046): William Zavidny.

CRANBERRY PLACE (5 St. Francis Way, Cranberry Twp, PA 16066): MARY SAHAYDA
VETERANS HOSPITAL (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.

OHIO VALLEY HOSPITAL (25 Heckel Road, McKees Rocks, PA 15136): John Marks.

Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

Q. Is women's long hair being the "glory of God" simply St. Paul's personal opinion, or is it an actual theological viewpoint? **A. Answer by Catholic Apologist:** "Judge for yourselves: Is it proper for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? Does not the very nature of things teach you that if a man has long hair, it is a disgrace to him, but that if a woman has long hair, it is her glory? For long hair is given to her as a covering" (1 Cor. 11:13-15). This rather ambiguous passage about a woman's hair and veiling is influenced by the customs of that time period. We know it was not an absolute rule that would apply to all ages and times for everyone. Another objection is based upon the transitory character that one claims to see today in some of the prescriptions of Saint Paul concerning women, and upon the difficulties that some aspects of his teaching raise in this regard. But it must be noted that these ordinances, probably inspired by the customs of the period, concern scarcely more than disciplinary practices of minor importance, such as the obligation imposed upon women to wear a veil on their head (1 Cor 11:2-16); such requirements no longer have a normative value (Inter Insigniores, "On the Question of Admission of Women to the Ministerial Priesthood," 4).

This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

Continue to burn before the real presence of our Lord, God & Savior Jesus

March 25 — March 31, 2018

(MR): **In memory of Anna & William Palahunik**
offered by Mike Palahunik

(NS): **Health & Welfare of Otce Duchovnj**

(MR) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018 offered by Sister: Velma Seman (NS) NONE AVAILABLE FOR 2018



McKees Rocks Announcements

SPECIAL CLASSES COMMENCES IN TWO WEEKS — For those who wish to know the fundamental teachings of the Catholic Church and to increase your knowledge of the Byzantine-Ruthenian Catholic Church, here is your chance. This 12 week format will be presented to anyone who is non-Catholic and for those who are Catholic of another Rite, and those who wish to increase their understanding of our Rite. This series (1 hour each) will commence on **Sunday, April 8, 2016 @ 6:00 p.m.** Please phone the Church Office to register: (412) 771-3324.

ECF HOLDS EGG HUNT TODAY — Our Eastern Christian Formation Religious Program will be sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt today **March 25**. It is for our children from Pre-Kindergarten to 5th grade. Paschal Eggs remind us of the New Life coming forth from the shell.

BYZAN-TEENS HOLD CANDY SALE — Our Holy Ghost Youth Group is holding a fundraiser for the Youth Rally this July. They are selling Sarris Candy Bars from **March 24 through April 8 for \$1.00 each**. Youth Group members will be available following the Divine Liturgy.

Northside Announcements

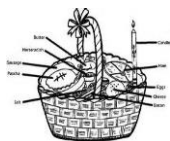
THOMAS SUNDAY 50/50 RAFFLE — Since we do not have the Ham & Turkey Bingos any longer, we will take up a few 50/50 raffles to bring in a little more income. We will also work with GCU Lodge 390 to have funds matched! Tickets are \$1.00 each; 6 for \$5.00; and 13 for \$10.00. Please support this project! Drawing on **Thomas Sunday, April 8, 2018**.

EXTRA CONFESSOR THIS AFTERNOON — Our pastor is conscripting an additional Confessor to aid in hearing Confessions Palm Sunday afternoon following the 2:00 p.m. Passion Week Vespers. *Please make every effort to make a good and worthy confession of sins as we prepare for the salutary events of Holy Week & Easter!* Use this opportunity to fulfill your **Easter Duty Precept!** You may also make your confession at the ordinary times listed on the front page of the S.O.T. A *Guide to Confession* is available in the narthex and vestibule of the Church.

SPECIAL GRATITUDE FROM THE PROTOPRESBYTERY (DEANERY) — A special thank you is extended to those who attended our Deanery Penitential Vespers these past five Sundays of The Great Fast. Each Sunday had app. 60-80 faithful from parishes comprising the Greater Pittsburgh Protopresbytery. We are grateful to the pastors and parishes that hosted them, especially our (MR) Holy Ghost Church.

Sanctification of Paschal Foods

REQUESTING ALL HOUSEHOLDS TO BRING AN EASTER BASKET — Following the Resurrectional Matins/Divine Liturgy on Holy Saturday Evening and Easter Sunday Morning, Paschal Foods will be solemnly blessed. All households are highly recommended to bring an Easter Basket with some traditional foods (cf. insert). **Special Paschal blessings are bestowed upon them** so please don't deprive yourself or your family and friends of God's blessing as you partake of this sanctified food in the joy of the Radiant Resurrection of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.



Please attend Holy Week Services all week, especially on Holy Thursday, Great Friday and Holy Saturday!

PALM (FLOWERY) SUNDAY

Significance of Palms & Pussy Willows in Byzantine Rite (John 12: 1 – 18)

The Triumphal Entry of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem before His Passion was celebrated with particular solemnity since the first centuries of Christianity. In the Byzantine

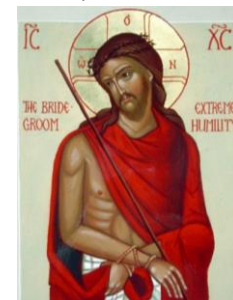


Rite it is considered one of the twelve Major Feasts of the liturgical year. Its official name is the "**Royal Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem.**" It is always celebrated on the Sunday before Easter with the solemn blessing of branches (Palms, Willows & Olive Branches). Popularly it was also called Willow Sunday (*Verbna Ned'Ilja*) because in Europe, pussy-willows were blessed instead of palms. It is also known as Flowery Sunday (*Cvitna Ned'Ilja*) since in and near

Constantinople they used to distribute early spring flowers, such as branches of lilac or elder, to the faithful, (cf. Constantine Proph. in P.G. 112, 412). From ancient times, **Palm-branches were symbols of victory and triumph.** The Romans used to reward their champions of the games with palm-branches. Also military triumphs, i.e. the celebrations of victory, were observed with palms. It seems that the Jews followed the same custom (Lev. 23:40; 1 Mace. 13:37) of carrying palm-branches on their festive occasions. That is what happened during the solemn entry of Jesus into the Holy City before His last Passover (Jn. 12:13), **Pussy Willows signify 'new life'** and **Olive Branches signify 'peace.'** In the New Testament, the palm-branches become a symbol of martyrdom (Rev. 7:9) meaning victory over death. For this reason in Christian art martyrs were usually represented with palms in their hands. Thus, since the end of the fourth century, the palm-branch also became a symbol of the Resurrection. (P.G. 33, 1025-1028). Jesus Christ, after raising Lazarus (Jn. 11:1-44), was finally recognized by the Jewish people as their Messiah. When He arrived in Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover, they greeted Him with a triumphant welcome. The Evangelist, however, hastened to remark that it was done in fulfillment of a prophecy (Mt. 21:4-5).

FINAL DAYS OF CHRIST THE BRIDEGROOM

The **first three weekdays of Holy Week** centers its theme upon **Christ the Bridegroom**. The special Matins services offered a commemoration of the last days in the earthly life of the Lord are recounted. We are vicariously present as Christ presents His last teaching discourse to the disciples. As such, these services incorporate readings and hymns inspiring this theme. The mood of the services is to experience sorrow and to feel Christ's voluntary submission to His passions and highlight the purpose behind the evil that is about to take place against the Lord. The atmosphere is one of mourning (for sins) and is symbolic of the shame the Christian should feel for the Fall of Adam and Eve, the depths of hell, the lost Paradise and the absence of God. The main emphasis of the Bridegroom Matins is metanoia (a complete change of direction in following Christ) and each service has its own particular theme of repentance and watchfulness. One of its primary features is its Troparion: *Behold, the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is the servant He shall find vigilant; but unworthy is he whom He shall find neglectful. Beware awake therefore, O my soul, lest you be weighed down by sleep, and be given over to death and be closed out from the kingdom; rise up crying out: Holy! Holy! Holy are You our God; through the intercession of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.*



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS INCLUDING HOLY WEEK & EASTER

March 25 Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 2:00 p.m. followed by Confessions by extra Confessor.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (March 26 through March 31)

Great & Holy Monday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Tuesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.
..... (NS) Confessions @ 5:30 p.m.
Great & Holy Wednesday (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Thursday ... (MR) Betrayal Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (MR) Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy @ 7:00 p.m.
Great & Holy Friday .. (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passion Gospels @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Royal Hours @ 12:00 noon

**(MR) CHURCH WILL REMAIN OPEN FROM 12:00 NOON UNTIL 3:00 pm
FOR PRIVATE DEVOTION FOLLOWING THE 6TH ROYAL HOUR**

(NS) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 5:00 p.m. & (MR) Entombment Vespers w/Procession @ 7:00 p.m.

ALL NIGHT VIGIL BEFORE THE TOMB (Please Signup)

Great & Holy Sat. (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m. — (MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m. — (NS) Resurrectional Matins & Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 5:45 p.m. — **(MR) Resurrectional Matins & Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods @ 7:45 p.m.**

APRIL 1 – EASTER SUNDAY — THE RADIANT RESURRECTION — THE GREAT DAY
(MR) 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods — (NS) 11:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom followed by Solemn Blessing of Paschal Foods.

BRIGHT WEEK

* The Bright Hours will be celebrated at the Empty Tomb 15 minutes before each Bright Week Divine Liturgy

April 2 .. Bright Monday w/procession (Solemn): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.

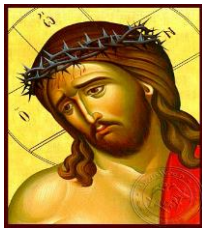
April 3 Bright Tuesday (Simple): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.

Bright Wednesday through Saturday: (MR) All Morning Divine Liturgies in Main Church

Holy Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday

The Final Presanctified Divine Liturgies

On the evening of these first three days of Holy Week the Presanctified Divine Liturgy is celebrated. The Church calls us to begin our preparation for the forthcoming passion, death and burial of Our Lord Jesus and to accompany Him to the consummation of the redemptive acts by which salvation was secured for us. Let us use this time wisely and manifest our loyalty to Him Who now approaches the Holy Passion and join Him as He affects our salvation. Of the several parables that we will hear proclaimed in the Gospel, the one concerning the "wise and Foolish virgins is particularly important. It teaches us that we must always be prepared to meet the Bridegroom Christ whenever He decides to come for us!



Holy & Great Thursday

Institution of the Most Holy Eucharist

At the Mystical Supper in the Upper Room Jesus gave a radically new meaning to the food and drink of the sacred meal. He *identified Himself with the bread and wine:* "Take, eat; this is my Body. Drink of it all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant" enacts sacramentally the redemptive event of the Cross and participates in its saving grace.

Holy & Great Thursday (cont.)

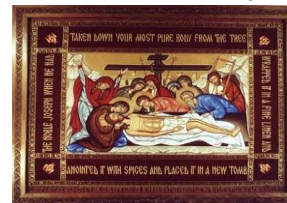
This does not suggest that the Eucharist attempts to reclaim a past event. The Eucharist does not repeat what cannot be repeated. Christ is not slain anew and repeatedly. Rather the Eucharistic food is changed concretely and truly into the Body and Blood of the Lamb of God, "Who gave Himself up for the life of the world." Christ continually offers Himself to the faithful through these consecrated Gifts. In the Eucharist we receive and partake of the Resurrected Christ. We share in His sacrificed, risen and deified Body, "for the forgiveness of sins and life everlasting" (Divine Liturgy). Make this an important event to attend rendering thanks for the Holy Eucharist. How precious our Byzantine Catholic Church truly is! This is a great opportunity to fulfill your Easter Duty Precept!



Holy & Great Friday

The Passion, Death & Entombment of Our Lord

Praying that you will join us for this historical and inspiring salvific event! On this day of **STRICT ABSTINENCE (no meat or dairy products)** is permitted as we commemorate the sufferings of Christ: the mockery, the crown of thorns, the scourging, the nails, the thirst, the vinegar and gall, the cry of desolation, and all that the Savior endured on the Cross. Great Friday and Holy Saturday direct our attention to the trial, crucifixion, death and burial of Christ. We are placed within the awesome mystery of the extreme humility of our suffering God. Therefore, these days are at once days of deep gloom as well as watchful expectation. The Author of life is at work transforming death into life: "Come, let us see our Life (Jesus) lying in the tomb, that he may give life to those that in their tombs lying dead" (Sticherion of Great Saturday). Near the end of the Entombment Vespers the **Armathean Procession** occurs with the Burial Shroud (Plaschanica) taken in procession around the Church by the priest and faithful. Near its conclusion, it is placed in the tomb near the front of the Church. It remains there for all night veneration.



SEPULCHER MATINS & GREAT VESPERS w/ST. BASIL

Holy Saturday morning prayer of the **Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins with an inside procession** commemorates Our Lord's descent into Hades to rescue the Holy & Just and takes them to the New Jerusalem (Heaven). The afternoon celebrates **Great Vespers & St. Basil Divine Liturgy** which is the initial commencement of Our Lord's Radiant Resurrection. The dark coverings and Priestly vestments are changed to bright colors announcing the destruction of death and the introduction of New Life. Let us be with our Lord by participating in these moving ceremonies! (cf. liturgical schedule for times).

Resurrectional Matins

The Myrrh-Bearers Procession to the Tomb

This is one of the most memorable liturgical celebrations ringing in the joy of the Radiant Resurrection. The faithful enter a darkened Church symbolizing the Tomb of Our Lord quietly awaiting in anxious anticipation the promise of the Resurrection. Following the **Myrrh-Bearers Procession** around the Church, the priest declares that **CHRIST IS RISEN** and while rolling back the large stone (the Church Doors) enters a radiant and brilliant Church festively singing Christ's Resurrection! Thus, it reminds us of the same joy and wonder that the women disciples experienced of the Empty Tomb.

