

**Parish Offerings – Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt — March 17, 2024**

“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 (\$1,591) YP (\$9) .....	\$1,600.00
Holy Days (\$25) Easter (\$5) Easter Décor (\$445) .....	475.00
Eastern Europe Churches (\$80) B.C.W. (\$14) .....	94.00
Votive Candles .....	127.00
	<hr/>
	\$2,296.00

**Holy Ghost Church, North Side**

Regular Offering (\$651) YP (\$1) .....	\$652.00
Holy Days (\$15) Easter (\$33) Easter Décor (\$290) .....	338.00
Improvement (\$5) Utilities (\$10) Eastern Europe Churches (\$10) .....	25.00
Votive Candles .....	89.00

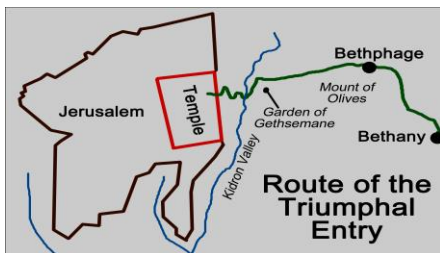
**Church Attendance Last Week** \$1,104.00

(MR) Sat., 4:00 pm (23);

Sun., (MR) 9:00 am (68); (NS) 11:00 am (22)

6<sup>th</sup> & Final Lenten Wednesday (20); Final Lenten Friday, (NS) 6:00 p.m. (10)

Lazarus Saturday — (MR) 9:00 a.m. (11)



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



**In Memory**  
**+ Anna + Michael Sejka**  
**+ Helen + Anna May Sejka**  
 By Dgtr & Sister: Alice Sejka



**GCU**  
 Greek Catholic Union of the USA  
 A Fraternal Benefit Society  
 GCU offers Insurance and Annuity Benefits greater than most financial institutions. Info call Randy (412) 973-1085

**Handyman Services**  
 North Side Parishioner  
**Alan Valeriano**  
**(412) 638-3417**  
**PA #172370**

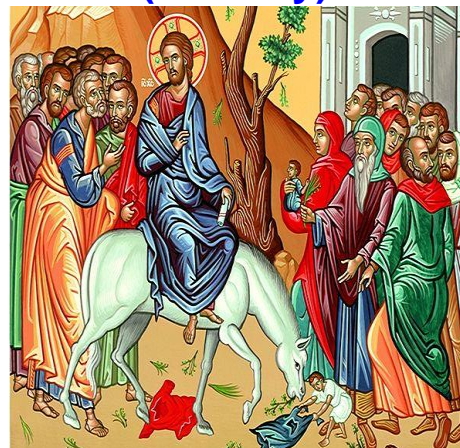
**HOLY GHOST BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

225 OLIVIA STREET  
 1437 SUPERIOR AVENUE

McKEES ROCKS, PA 15136  
 PITTSBURGH, PA 15212

**THE ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM**

**Palm (Flowery) Sunday — March 24, 2024**



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

**The Very Reverend Father Frank A. Firko**

**Pastor, Administrator & Protopresbyter**

**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](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org) – E-Mail: [ffaf334@verizon.net](mailto:ffaf334@verizon.net)

**SUNDAY RADIO (9:00 am WEDO 810 AM) & INTERNET DIVINE LITURGY**

Liturgical Services LIVE: [www.Youtube.com](http://www.Youtube.com) then type: Holy Ghost Church Live Stream

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.

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.

d. Personal Care & Hospitalized: Phone Church Office ASAP.

Sponsor of Christian Initiation: Godparents must be practicing Catholics.

Religious Education Classes: (MR) Coordinator: Subdeacon Luke Iyengar (412) 863-3285.

Carpatho-Rusyn Radio: Internet Sunday afternoon: Rusyn.fm at 3:30 pm. Archive: c-rsmedia.org.

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 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 24, 2024

Seasonal Christian Greeting: Volume XIV, Number 12



Glory to Jesus Christ! — Glory Forever!  
Slava Isusu Christ! — Slava na Viki!



## Liturgical Services for the Week

Date Time Intention Requested By

### ROYAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

**Palm (Flowery) Sunday — Solemn Blessing of Palms & Willows**

SUN., Mar 24 \*\*\* 8:45 a.m. (MR) + Dolores Kosko Luann Terabatso & Family

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

3:00 p.m. (MR) Passion Week Vespers commencing Holy Week followed by Confessions

### HOLY (PASSION) WEEK

## FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

*Solemn Holy Day — Mirovanlje*

Mon, Mar 25 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

6:00 p.m. (NS) + Ann Onesi (5<sup>th</sup> ann of passing) Family

Holy Tue, Mar 26 8:00 a.m. (MR) Bridgroom Matins

6:00 p.m. (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy



**REQUIRED SIMPLE ABSTINENCE (no meat)**



Holy Wed, Mar 27 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 28 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 29 8:00 a.m. (MR) Passion Matins w/12 Passions Gospels

12:00 nn. (MR) Royal 6<sup>TH</sup> 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 — (MR) Church Opened For Devotion**

**RECOMMENDED Simple Abstinence (no meat) on Holy Saturday**

HOLY SAT, Mar 30 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 in Church.

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 — Basket Blessing**

SUN., MAR 31 9:00 a.m. (MR) For the Parishioners of Both Parishes

11:00 a.m. (NS) + Anna + George Grazorchalk Alice Slagle



## 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 to be published.

Note: Capitalized Names designate North Side parishioners

Mar 24 – Richard Billy; Mar 25 – RUTH YANOSKO, Wallace Michalim; Mar 26 – AIMEE HELMS; Mar 28 – LEAH TRAPL; Mar 29 – EMILIA HARPER.

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

**HOME:** Margaret Beliuнас, Florence Charochak, DEACON MICHAEL MEADERS, Ilona Goyda, TAMARA HARDING, Bernice Herrick, Steve Kosko, Albert Kovacs, Sr., Kathe Kress, Julia Kutchmark, ARLENE LATTA, KIRK LATTA, Nancy Lecci, BETTY LORINC, Irene Muha, JOHN NEWPORT, Dorothy Pelescak, Kurt Perschy, MARLENE PFEIFFER, Elizabeth Poznak, Betty Spisak, Anita Wolsko.

**HIGHLAND PARK CARE CENTER** (745 North Highland Ave., Pgh, PA 15206): Linda Reiger.

**VETERANS HOSPITAL** (1010 Delafield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15215): JOHN VEREB.

**THE RESIDENCE AT WILLOW LANE** (30 Heckel Rd., McKees Rocks, PA 15136): Helen Best, Margaret Cifrulak, Mildred Terrek.

**FORBES REGIONAL HOSPITAL** (2570 Haymaker Rd., Monroeville, PA 15146): Nancy (Shanta) Wurthier.

**HERITAGE VALLEY SEWICKLEY** (720 Blackburn Rd, Sewickley, PA 15143): Diane Bell.

### Public questions on Catholic spirituality, moral & spiritual problems

**Q.** If parents are in an invalid marriage, can their children be baptized in the Catholic Church? Are there any conditions that would have to be met? **A. Catholic Answers Apologist:** If parents are in an invalid marriage, their children can be baptized in the Catholic Church provided the following conditions are met: "That the parents, or at least one of them, or the person who lawfully holds their place, give their consent; "That there be a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion. If such hope is truly lacking, the baptism is, in accordance with the provisions of particular law, to be deferred and the parents advised of the reason for this. An infant of Catholic parents, indeed even of non-Catholic parents, may in danger of death be baptized even if the parents are opposed to it.

## This Week's Sanctuary Lamps

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

**March 24 — March 30, 2024**

(MR): **In memory of Paul "Bob" Charochak**

offered by Wife: Florence

(NS): **In loving memory of Infant Vivianne Grace Trapl**

(MR) None AVAILABLE FOR 2024

offered by Mom, Dad & Sister

(NS) None AVAILABLE 2024





# General Announcements

## McKees Rocks & North Side 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.

**(MR) ECF HOLDS EGG HUNT TODAY** — Our Eastern Christian Formation Religious Program is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt today **Palm Sunday, March 24** following the 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy. It is for our children from Pre-Kindergarten to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Pysunky Paschal Eggs remind us of the New Life coming forth from the shell symbolizing Christ breaking forth from the tomb!

**PIROHI VOLUNTEER LUNCHEON SCHEDULED FOR BRIGHT (EASTER) WEEK** — To show our appreciation to all those who worked the last few weeks, a special luncheon is scheduled for Wednesday, **April 3, 2024 at Rockefeller's Grille @ 12:00 noon**. If you are a Pirohi Volunteer and have not signed the signup sheet please phone the Church office (412) 771-3324 by Noon, Monday, April 1. If you have already signed, we hope to see you at Rockefeller's.

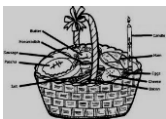
**EXTRA CONFESSOR THIS AFTERNOON** — Our pastor will be offering (NS) Confessions following the Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy and following the (MR) Passion Vespers following the 3:00 p.m. *Please make every effort to make a good and worthy confession of sins as we prepare for the salutary events of Holy Week & Easter!* Use this opportunity to fulfill your **Easter Duty Precepts (Confession, especially of mortal sins & Holy Communion)**! You may also make your confession at the ordinary times listed on the front page of the S.O.T. **There will be no Confessions on the North Side on Holy Tuesday unless requested.** A *Guide to Confession which lists an examine of sins* 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 faithful from parishes comprising the Greater Pittsburgh Protopresbytery. We are grateful to the clergy and parishes that hosted them.

## 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. Special Paschal blessings are bestowed upon them** so please do not 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. Last week's S.O.T. contained a special insert. If you would like a copy sent to you, call Church Office.



# 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; I 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 **second and third weekdays of Holy Week** center 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

March 24 .....Palm (Flowery) Sunday — All weekend Divine Liturgies commence 15 minutes earlier for Solemn Blessing of Palms & Pussy Willows  
.....*Passion Vespers inaugurating Holy Week @ 3:00 p.m. followed by Confessions*  
..... (NS) *Special Confessions following the Divine Liturgy.*

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

(March 25 through March 30)

Great & Holy Monday (Feast of Annunciation)..... (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m.; (NS) Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 p.m.  
Great & Holy Tuesday ..... (MR) Bridegroom Matins @ 8:00 a.m. & (NS) Presanctified Divine Liturgy @ 6:00 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**

(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 Saturday ..... (MR) Sepulcher (Jerusalem) Matins w/Procession @ 8:00 a.m.;  
(MR) Great Vespers w/St. Basil Vigil Divine Liturgy @ 2:00 p.m.  
\*\*\*\*\*

Vigil of the Resurrection Feast — Great & Holy Sat. Evening .... (NS) Resurrectional Matins only & 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.

**March 31 – 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 1 .. Bright Monday w/procession (Solemn): (MR) Divine Liturgy @ 9:00 a.m. & (NS) @ 6:00 p.m.

April 2 ..... 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**

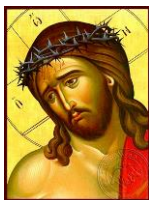
April 16 ..... Feast of St. Thomas & Feast of Divine Mercy.

## SPECIAL LITURGICAL SERVICES THIS WEEK

### Holy Tuesday & Wednesday

#### The Final Presanctified Divine Liturgies

On the evening of second and third 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!



# General Announcements

**FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION** — The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the earliest Christian feasts, and was already being celebrated in the fourth century. There is a painting of the Annunciation in the catacomb of Priscilla in Rome dating from the second century. The Council of Toledo in 656 mentions the Feast, and the Council in Trullo in 692 says that the Annunciation was celebrated during The Great Fast. Please join us in glorifying this Holy Day on Holy & Great Monday.



## Holy & Great Thursday

### Institution of the Most Holy Eucharist at the Mystical Supper

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. 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 privilege of receiving the Holy Eucharist in sanctifying grace. 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 mandated to be observed 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" (Sticheron of Great Saturday). Near the end of the Entombment Vespers the **Arimathea Procession** occurs with the Burial Shroud (Plaščaniča) 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.



## Holy & Great Saturday

### 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). **We need 4 volunteers to carry the Burial Shroud w/the celebrant.** 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).

