



St. Mary Orthodox Church

WEEKLY BULLETIN | APRIL 13, 2025

Palm Sunday

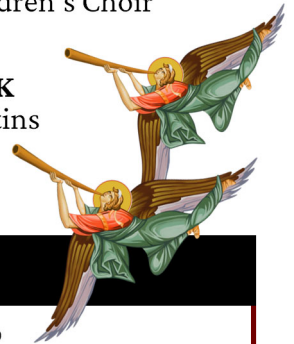
ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM

Today's Schedule

9am — Matins with Blessing of Palms
10am — Divine Liturgy with Children's Choir

Following the service:

Coffee Hour, hosted by **Group E-K**
7pm–8:30pm — Bridegroom Matins



This Week at St. Mary's — HOLY WEEK & PASCHA

HOLY MONDAY & TUESDAY, APRIL 14–15

Pre-sanctified Liturgy | 10:30am–12pm
Bridegroom Matins | 7pm–8:30pm

HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

Pre-sanctified Liturgy | 10:30am–12pm
Bridegroom Matins & Holy Unction | 7pm–9pm

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 17

Vesperal Liturgy of the Last Supper | 11am–12:30pm
Matins with Passion Gospels | 7pm–10pm

HOLY FRIDAY, APRIL 18

Royal Hours | 10am–12pm
Unnailing Vespers | 6pm
Matins with Procession | 7pm–9:30pm
Vigil at the Tomb | 10pm–10am

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Vesperal Liturgy of Pascha with Reception of Converts | 10am–12:30pm (*Blessing of Baskets/Pasti (Artos) following Liturgy*)
Acts of the Apostles | 10pm–11:30pm
Midnight Rush | 11:30pm–12am

PASCHA, APRIL 20

Paschal Matins & Liturgy | 12am–1:30am
Blessing of Baskets & Agape Meal | 1:30am–2:30am
Agape Vespers with Multi-lingual Gospel Readings | 12pm–1pm
Egg Hunt & Lamb Roast | 1pm–3:30pm

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication.

Refrain: *Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!*

∿ *Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live. (Refrain)*

∿ *The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me. (Refrain)*

∿ *I suffered distress and anguish, then I called on the Name of the Lord. (Refrain)*

∿ *I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. (Refrain)*

Glory; both now. (Refrain)

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."

Refrain: *O Son of God, seated on the foal of a donkey, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!*

∿ *What shall I render to the Lord for all the things He has given me? (Refrain)*

∿ *I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. (Refrain)*

∿ *I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people. (Refrain)*

Glory; both now. (Refrain)

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

Festal Troparion (Tone 1): BY raising Lazarus from the dead before Your Passion, * You confirmed 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."

∿ *Let the house of Israel say that He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Festal Troparion)*

∿ *Let the house of Aaron say that He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Festal Troparion)*

∿ *Let those who fear the Lord say that He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Festal Troparion)*

Entrance Verse: Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. We bless you from the house of the Lord. God is the Lord and He has revealed Himself to us.

HYMNS OF THE DAY

Tone 1. Troparion of the Feast

BY raising Lazarus from the dead before Your Passion, * You confirmed 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."

Glory. Tone 4. Troparion.

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!"

— *The Trisagion in Other Languages (Transliterated)* —

Romanian: Sfinte Dumnezeule, Sfinte Tare, Sfinte Fără de moarte, Miluiește-ne pe noi

Church Slavonic: Svyati Bozhe, Svyati Kreпки, Svyati Bessmertni, pomiluy nas

Arabic: Qudduson illah, Qudduson ilqawi, Qudduson illadhi, la yamoot urhamna

Greek: Agios O Theos, Agios Eeskhros, Agios Athanatos, eleison imas

Both now. *Tone 6. Kontakion of the feast*

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 Who comes to recall Adam!”

PROKEIMENON

In the fourth tone: Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. The Lord is God and has revealed Himself to us.

✠ *O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.*

EPISTLE

The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians (4:4-9)

Brethren, rejoice always in the Lord, and again I say, rejoice! Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think about these things. Such things which you have both learned and received and heard and seen in me, do, and the God of peace shall be with you.

Alleluia, Tone 1:

✠ *O sing to the Lord a new song, for the Lord has done marvelous things!*

✠ *All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

GOSPEL

The Reading from the Holy Gospel According to St. John (12:1-18)

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of that oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, “Why was this fragrant oil 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 had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, “Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always.” Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: “Hosanna! ‘Blessèd is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’ The King of Israel!” Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on 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 these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

INSTEAD OF “IT IS TRULY MEET”

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!
 * Celebrate the feast and come with gladness! *
 Let us magnify Christ with palms and branches,
 * singing: “Blessed is He that comes in the
 Name of the Lord, our Savior!”

COMMUNION HYMN

- ✠ Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. God is the Lord / and hath revealed Himself to us.
- ✠ Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



ENTRY OF OUR LORD IN 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, as posted on OCA.org

Your Fellowship Hour Co-Leaders



- ▶ **Week 1: A-D** — Dsa. Cathy D., Jonathan C.
- ▶ **Week 2: E-Kl** — Edward H., Allison J.
- ▶ **Week 3: Kn-Paf** — Melanie K., Tom P.
- ▶ **Week 4: Pag-Z** — Elaine P., Nathan & Charity W.
- ▶ **Week 5: Entire Parish** — Dsa. Irene L., Alyssa M.

+ BRIGHT WEEK +

BRIGHT MONDAY, APRIL 21

Bright Liturgy | 10am-11am
 Bright Vespers | 7pm-7:30pm

BRIGHT TUESDAY, APRIL 22

Bright Liturgy | 7am-8am
 Bright Vespers | 7pm-7:30pm

BRIGHT WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

Bright Liturgy | 10am-11:30am @ St. George GOC
 Bright Vespers | 7pm-7:30pm

BRIGHT THURSDAY, APRIL 24

Bright Liturgy | 7am-8am
 Bright Vespers | 7pm-7:30pm

BRIGHT FRIDAY, APRIL 25

Bright Liturgy | 10am-11am
 Philokalia Book Group | 3pm-4pm
 Women's Bible Study | 6:30pm-8pm
 Bright Vespers | 7pm-7:30pm



Save the Date

Services, holidays, and other events

APRIL

Holy Week | April 13–April 18, *see full Holy Week/Pascha schedule on the front page of the bulletin*

Pascha | Sun, April 20

Bright Week | April 21–April 26, *see full Bright Week schedule in the red box to the left* ←

Baptism: Edwards | Sat., April 26 @ 11am-2pm

Volunteer Appreciation Day | St. Thomas Sunday, April 27, following liturgy

Blessing of Graves | St. Thomas Sunday, April 27 @ 2pm–3:30pm

Men's Fellowship | Sun., April 27 @ 6pm–8pm

Parish Council | Mon., April 28 @ 7pm–9pm

Office Closure | April 29–May 6

MAY

Divine Liturgy (St. Alexis of Wilkesbarre) | Wed., May 7 @ 7am–8am

Divine Liturgy for the Midfeast of Pentecost | Wed., 7am–8am

Women's Bible Study | Fri., May 16 @ 6:30pm–8pm

Baptism: Teodorescu | Sat., May 17 @ 3pm–5pm

Men's Fellowship | Sun., May 18 @ 6pm–8pm

Visit stmaryorthodox.org/calendar to stay updated on parish events and service times.

2025 Our Big Fat Lamb Roast Extravaganza!

Opa! Register and Purchase tickets for our annual Pascha Lamb Roast!

Aunt Voula is proud to announce that our lambs will be sourced through [The Organic Butcher](#) in McLean, VA! Enjoy traditionally marinated, spit-roasted organic lamb, served with mac-n-cheese (regular and gluten-free pasta option), Greek salad, yummy condiments, and ice cream! Non-Alcoholic beverages, tea, and coffee will be served. **Indoor AND outdoor seating available.** You may also bring blankets, lawn chairs, and anything else you need for a bright and joyous Pascha afternoon!



SCHEDULE

- **12:00pm: Agape Vespers** (register to read the Gospel below)
- **1:00pm: Children's Egg Hunt** (Ages Tot-10, register below)
- **1:30pm: Lamb Roast Dinner** (register below)
- **2:30pm: Subdeacon Eugene's Quiz Bowl Challenge** (teams of 4-6 persons to win the coveted prize of "know-it-all"! Can you beat last year's winner?)

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO PURCHASE TICKETS!

Reservations for lamb are limited. We can't accept walk-ins or payment at the event, so make sure to purchase today!

[CLICK HERE to register](#)

PASCHA SIGNUPS

Midnight Agape Meal

Bring food to enjoy after Paschal liturgy

tinyurl.com/3mymb7ca

REGISTER

Agape Vespers

Declare the Gospel in another language

tinyurl.com/vsrukhhk

REGISTER

Lamb Roast

Our annual Paschal celebration

tinyurl.com/4ccmc44c

REGISTER

Egg Hunt

Specially designed for younger kids, tot-10

tinyurl.com/3tr9zjrm

REGISTER

Parish News & Announcements

TODAY: Last day to purchase tickets for the Lamb Roast — See details on page 6.

Sign up to read at the Vigil at the Tomb (*Holy Friday, April 18 @ 10pm until Holy Saturday, April 19 @ 10am*) — Sign up to read on the GSheet at tinyurl.com/vigiltomb25

Mega Meal Train Alert — Two baby boys arrived two weeks ago! Help our new families settle in with a kind gesture by hopping on a meal train!

- › **Abby and Tim E.** welcomed home little Harrison: mealtrain.com/ow6e81
- › **Ben and Jesse C.** welcomed home baby Roland: mealtrain.com/83gv15

Please welcome your new Communications Manager Lacie F.! — Give Lacie a warm hello and look forward to working with her! Sophia P. has also returned temporarily to onboard her. For now, please email all requests for the bulletin, newsletter, and other communications to Sophia at undertheveilofherprotection@gmail.com. We'll let you know when to begin sending items to Lacie.

Our Book Store has Pascha Gifts for You! — Stop by the church store today and check out our new Pascha items. We have Holy Week craft kits for children, Holy Week service book sets, Pascha basket covers, egg-shaped icons, and much more! Our goal is to help you prepare your home for a season of feasting and celebration!

Connect with the parish at the Connections Corner — Stop by the Connections Corner in the fellowship hall during coffee hour to check out our ministries, newsletter, or meet a couple friendly faces. Great for visitors, inquirers, or if you just want to get more involved at church.



Giving to St. Mary's

There are three easy ways to give:

- ☞ in the collection bowl in the narthex
- ☞ in the collection plate in the nave as you exit for the Fellowship Hall
- ☞ scan this QR code with your phone to give online

Thank you for your generosity!



Need something in the weekly bulletin or *The Veil*?

Contact Sophia P. at undertheveilofherprotection@gmail.com (←yes, I'm back!)

Newsletter deadline | TBA (for June/July issue)

Bulletin deadline | by end-of-day Wednesday each week (*but no bulletin for Pascha next week*)



God Grant You Many Years!

for April 13
thru April 26

- Birthdays** Jon C. Alec D., Noah D., Vasilios K., Anna L., April M., Alyssa M., Toni P., Cindy S.
- Namedays** Selene C., Calla E., April M., Georgiana P., Lailah R., Matt V., George W.
- Anniversaries** Alec & Jessica D., Daniel & Svetlana M.



Regularly Scheduled Activities

Sunday Liturgy | 9am Matins, 10am Divine Liturgy

Saturday Great Vespers | Saturday, 5pm-6pm

3rd & 6th Hours | Monday–Friday, 7:30am–8am

Men’s Fellowship | Monthly on 3rd/4th Sunday, 6pm-8pm

Women’s Bible Study | 3rd Friday of the month, 6:30 PM

Fellowship of Moms | 4th Friday of the month

Philokalia Book Group | Fridays, 3pm-4pm

Are you visiting? Welcome to St. Mary Orthodox Church!

We’re delighted that you’ve joined us! Please feel free to watch, participate, or ask the person next to you if you have any questions. Here are a few things you can do to get acquainted with us:

- ☞ sign the **visitor’s log** at the entrance of the church (called the “narthex”)
- ☞ check out the **Connections Corner** in the fellowship hall to learn more about us, Orthodoxy, pick up a copy of our **newsletter** and **ministry brochure**, and meet a few friendly faces

We try to avoid entering or exiting the nave during readings, processions, or the sermon. Please note that to receive Holy Communion in our church, one must be baptized Orthodox, recently-confessed, and at peace with one’s fellows. At the end of the service, everyone is welcome to come up to kiss the Cross, greet the priest, and receive blessed bread.

*Please join us for fellowship hour downstairs in the fellowship hall after liturgy.
We’d love to meet you!*