

April 12, 2020: THE LORD'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM (PALM SUNDAY)

Epistle: Phil. 4:4-9:

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to 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 to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel: John 12:1-18:



Then, 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 the 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! 'Blessed 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.

The sixth Sunday of Great Lent is called the Sunday of the Lord's Triumphal entry into Jerusalem or Palm Sunday. This is, obviously, in remembrance of the Lord's last entry into the city of David, Jerusalem.

As He Himself revealed to His disciples (and we know from the gospel readings of the last two Sundays), this time He comes to Jerusalem ready for His voluntary and redeeming Passion. It is for this very reason that He came, riding on a donkey, to show His humility and obedience to God's eternal plan for the salvation of mankind.

The day before, on Saturday, Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. Then, Lazarus' sisters, Martha and Mary made a supper for Jesus and Lazarus, His friend. It was at this supper that *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 the oil.* When Judas the Iscariot expressed his concerns about the money spent in providing the "costly oil of spikenard," Jesus responded and said that this was a prophetic ritual, in anticipation of His burial: *"Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial."*

The news about Lazarus being raised from the dead after four days spread quickly among the people. So, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, a great crowd came to meet Him with branches of palm trees, shouting *"Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' The King of Israel!"*

Let us follow Christ, our Savior, on the way to Golgotha, partaking in His voluntary and redeeming Passion and asking Him to render us worthy to behold His third-day Resurrection!

Fr. George Bazgan

MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish, asking them to pay their membership until Easter.

This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our financial obligations during the Summer months and for the rest of the year as well.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Due to the coronavirus pandemic and, in accordance with the measures taken by our Hierarchs, for the time being, the following changes will go into effect:

1. **The Divine Liturgy is to be attended only by the clergy, the chanter and those who help with the church service.**
2. **All other services during the week are suspended, except Vespers (Saturdays at 5:00), mainly for those who come for Confession**
3. **Our Sunday fellowships are being suspended until further notice.**
4. **All Sunday School classes are suspended.**

We ask all of you to observe the recommendations made by the health experts, such as: stay home if you are not feeling well, wash your hands, keep the social distance, etc.

Don't forget to read our weekly electronic Bulletin, which comes out every Thursday at 6:00PM, for other details and updates.

We apologize for the inconvenience and thank you for the understanding!

May God keep all of us safe!

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!

During these trying times, we expect some of families (individuals) of our community to experience a higher degree of hardship, in terms of paying the rent, groceries, etc.

In order to help them cope with such difficulties, we are announcing the creation of a Humanitarian Fund, called "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR."

Fr. George is committing \$500 per month for this cause until the current situation is resolved.

Those who want to contribute, with any amount, please call Mrs. Corina Sasu (780-200-1171) to make arrangements for payment.

Thank You and God Bless!

A Message for the Season

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We hope that you are healthy and that the news from your loved ones, from near or far, continues to be good!

We live in trying times in every respect: medical, economic, social, familial and, not in the least, spiritual-religious. I don't think there is anyone who disagrees that these times of concern for us and our families, insecurity, heightened stress and anxiety, will live forever in the memory of this generation and in the history of the whole world.

One thing is clear from all this situation: man is a fragile being.

As you already know, this pandemic also had and continues to have a very negative impact on the places of worship around the world. Religious services continue, but the believers who make up the living, militant and dynamic Church cannot be present. I miss every one of you, and sorrow fills my heart when I don't see the children with the candle in their innocent hands and the timid steps approaching the Holy Chalice for communion with Christ. Sadness is amplified as we approach the Feast of Light, the Lord's Resurrection, Easter, the Feast of joy and of Christ's victory over death, sin, and hades.

I urge you, especially now, not to forget those who are in much more difficult situations and to be the good Samaritans, pouring oil and wine, multiplied by prayer, over their wounds and troubles!

In the same context, I urge you not to forget our Church where some of you have married and/or baptized your children. The Church, as you know, does not receive any financial aid from any government or organization. Times are tough, but Church expenses are the same as before. In the words of St. Paul, *"Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not with regret or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to multiply all grace in you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work..."* (II Corinthians 9:7-8). Memberships, donations and pledges can be sent by regular mail, over the internet or directly at the Church.

Don't forget to pray more diligently and thank God for all the gifts and blessings!

For now, the services will be broadcast live via the Internet, and I urge you to take part, so that the church at home may be in communion of prayer and love with the Church, the house of our salvation and comfort.

May the good and merciful God bless you with health, peace, the joy of salvation and a good heart, and may the light of Christ's Resurrection be your true guide along your earthly pilgrimage

CHRIST IS RISEN!

With much love, thanks and gratitude,

Fr. George Bazgan

CHURCH DIRECTORY PICK UP

The 2019 Church Directory is now available for those who participated in this project. If your family came to the Hall for a photography appointment or submitted your own family picture (for \$15), then you will receive a Directory. There is no rush to pick up your family directory.

Under the current unusual conditions, it is better to contact Fr. George (780-473-0029) to make arrangements for pick up.

We appologize for the delay and thank you for your patience and support for this Church project!

Have a happy and safe Spring!

Prayer at the time of pandemic

O Lord, our God, who are rich in mercy and, with Your wise care, guard our lives, listen to our prayer, receive our repentance for our sins, stop this pandemic, as You have ceased the punishment of the people in the days of King David. You who are the Physician of our souls and our bodies, give healing to those contaminated with this disease, hastily raising them from their bed of suffering, to glorify You, the Most Merciful Savior, and protect those who are healthy from any disease.

Bless, strengthen and shield, O Lord, with Your grace, all those who, with love of people and sacrifice, care for the sick at their homes or in hospitals. Remove all disease and suffering from the people and teache us to value life and health as gifts coming from You.

Grant us, O God, Your peace, and fill our hearts with unwavering faith in Your protection, with hope in Your help, and with love towards You and our neighbor.

For Yours is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and to You we give glorify: Father and Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen!

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY

Blessing of Palms, Divine Liturgy 10:00 A. M.

HOLY MONDAY

Matins of the Holy Tuesday 7:00 P. M.

HOLY TUESDAY

Matins of the Holy Wednesday 7:00 P. M.

HOLY WEDNESDAY

Matins of the Holy Thursday 7:00 P. M.

HOLY THURSDAY

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10:00 A. M.

Service of the Holy Passion (12 Gospels) 7:00 P. M.

GOOD FRIDAY

Taking down from the Cross (Vespers) 3:00 P. M.

Lamentation Service 7:00 P. M.

GREAT SATURDAY

Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10:00 A. M.

HOLY PASCHA (EASTER)

Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy 12:00 (midnight)

BRIGHT MONDAY

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM.

BRIGHT TUESDAY

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM.

BRIGHT FRIDAY

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM.