

St. Michael the Archangel Eastern Orthodox Mission

Newsletter

April 2010

Christ is Risen!

Divine Liturgy or Akathist Service 10:00 A.M.

Ladder of Divine Ascent...

If you humble yourself, if you blame yourself in all temptations and believe that you suffer them because of your passions and that no one else is at fault, then immediately you will sense relief from those thoughts, and your wounds will heal. If you expect to be healed by any other means - namely, that other people change - you labor in vain.

Important Upcoming Church Dates:

April 2nd – Great Friday, Passion of Jesus Christ.

April 4th – Great and Holy Pascha!

April 6th – Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel.

April 7th – The Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady, the Mother of God and Ever Virgin Mary.

April 13th – St. Innocent of Moscow, enlightener of Alaska and Siberia (1879).

Service Schedule for April:

Fri. Apr. 2nd Great Friday, Passion of our Lord

- Royal Hours 9:00 AM

- Vespers of Holy Friday (Burial Services) 3:00 PM

- Lamentations with procession 6:00 PM

Sat. Apr. 3rd Easter Services

- Vespertal Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

- Nocturne 11:30 PM

- Midnight Matins of Pascha / Divine Liturgy

**Bring your Easter baskets to be blessed after Liturgy.*

Sun. Apr. 4th - Agape Service & Picnic 12:00 PM

The beginning of Bright Week – No fasting.

(See additional picnic information below).

Apr. 11th - Akathist Service, 10:00AM

Apr. 17th - Vespers, 6:00 PM

Apr. 18th - Divine Liturgy, 10:00 AM

Apr. 25th - Akathist Service

✠ *Confessions will be heard on Saturdays after Vespers; also on Sunday mornings before Divine Liturgy 9:30 am to 10 am.*

Father Gregory's contact info:

Home ph: 608-835-2565 & cell: 608-334-1073.

Email: frgregory@charter.net

Coffee Hour:

Apr. 4th – **The Pascha of the Lord** May 2nd – Ellis

Apr. 11th – Zarzaur

May 9th – Stine

Apr. 18th – Bergantz

May 16th – Gulas

Apr. 25th – Buska

May 23rd – Harouff

May 30th – Lee / Speir

If you will be unable to serve coffee hour on your Sunday, please make arrangements to switch with another family. Thanks!

April Birthdays:

God Grant Them Many Years!

April 10th – Elias Katsaros

14th – Matushka Anna

17th – Elena Lee

19th – Mike Jokich

19th – Eleanor Crawford

20th – Sandy Ellis

Anniversaries:

April 17th – Cindi & Dave Branham

27th – Ted & Debbie Gulas

30th – Nick & Karen Pamfilis

Church Cleaning:

April – Zarzaur

May – Patterson

This is your Church – help keep it clean!

News Items? Please send church news items to the Newsletter editor Rick Kaiser at:

rkmk2001@bellsouth.net

Picnic and Agape Service 12:00 Sunday April 4th at Cliff Cove Clubhouse followed by a Pascha Feast. Ham and Lamb will be provided. Please bring a side dish, salad, or dessert. Also, bring lawn chairs as seating is limited. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children and games for adults and children. Cliff Cove is off of Hughes Rd in Madison.

Prayer Requests: Please remember in your prayers: Child Jovana (2 years old - leukemia); Anna with child; Angela with child; Katarzyna Bazylewicz; Tatiana Kukhtareva; Mariam & Tom Calache; Mary Kochoff; Glenn Dengler (friend of Jokich family) and daughters Haley (7) and Nicole (3); Dessie Jokich (mother of Mike Jokich); Sandy & Roger Ellis; Daniel Ellis (brother of Roger); Ted Gulas; Edythe Hales; Markela Hatzakis; Brian Jokich; Elena Meagher and her son Igor; Daniel & Anne Kobasa (parents of H. Bergantz); Rhonda Lovette; Tim & Ron Waskerwitz; Evangeline Pamfilis; Pat Darzy; Mary Zarzaur; Fryne McCreary; Dick Kaiser (Father of Rick Kaiser) and Lola Gulas.

For the Departed: His Eminence Archbishop Job of Chicago. May his memory be eternal.

As we celebrate Holy Week, some points to remember

The services are longer than normal. When we enter the church and tomb with the winding sheet present, we should go to the tomb and make prostrations before the winding sheet and then venerate the winding sheet/shroud of Christ. We should never sit during the Gospels. And from Pascha to Pentecost, there is no kneeling.

Tradition of Easter Eggs

The egg occupies a central place in the Orthodox Easter holiday. The egg that has been blessed in the church is the first thing to be eaten after the Easter service. People exchange eggs, present them to relatives, friends and neighbors, and families even bring eggs to the graves of descendants.



In Russia the tradition of coloring eggs goes back to the history of Mary Magdalene, who came to Rome to meet Emperor Tiberius, and presented him with a red egg saying: "Христос Воскрес!" ("Christ has risen!"), and then started to preach about the Resurrection of Christ.

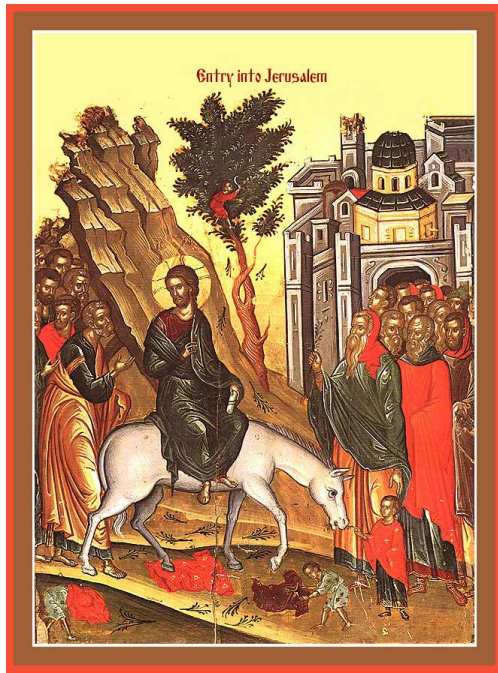
In Serbia, the first dyed egg is kept until next Easter, guaranteeing family security and health. All the rest hard boiled dyed eggs are used in a traditional game, known as egg dumping, where each player hits the other players' egg with their own. The winner is the holder of the last intact egg. The losers get to eat their eggs.

The practice of dyeing eggs red in Greece is a centuries-old tradition as well, with family members and friends attempting to "crack" the other's egg with their egg, beginning usually, at the traditional Easter Sunday dinner table.

Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem: Palm Sunday By Fr. Gregory Schultz

Palm Sunday is a pre-figuring of Pascha and has great spiritual significance as we prepare for the celebration of our Lord's Holy Resurrection.

St. Nicholai Velimirovic points out how there were two basic groups of people who reacted to Christ's entry into Jerusalem: the Pharisees & Scribes who wanted to kill Him and were filled with envy and hatred; and His disciples and the common people who welcomed Him and rejoiced with Him.



However, many of those who initially welcomed Him and proclaimed Him King later turned against Him and demanded His crucifixion. This was because they wanted to have an earthly king who would give them what THEY wanted: earthly

peace and worldly freedom from bondage to Rome. However, when they saw that Christ was to be crucified, they mocked Him and spit on Him.

We are also faced with this same choice now – we want Christ as our King and Lord, but we also want the world and its comforts and passions. Yet, to be under obedience to a King means to do the will of the King and not our own will – in other words, to obey Christ's commandments. This is what the Orthodox Church has preserved for us – the way for us to live as faithful subjects of Christ our King and God.

And yet, we are weak and sinful – but so were the disciples and apostles! They were fearful; they doubted; they abandoned and some even betrayed Christ – BUT (except for Judas), the disciples did not give up – they stuck together and kept trying – and Christ helped them and strengthened them and gave them power to be His disciples!

In this week before Holy Week as we prepare for Palm Sunday, let us turn our attention heavenward and to Christ our King and pray for His help, His strength to aid us in our weakness. Then He will arise from the sleep of spiritual death in our hearts and renew us by His Holy Resurrection! Glory be to God! In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.