

SS. PETER & PAUL ORTHODOX CHURCH
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March 25, 2007

SUNDAY/MAR. 25th (fish, wine & oil)
5th Sunday of Great Lent: St. Mary of Egypt; Annunciation to the Theotokos
9:10a.m. 3rd & 6th Hours
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour;
Church School; Q. & A. Period
End of the 5th and beginning of the 6th week of the Great and Holy Fast
4:00p.m. Vespers at Annunciation Ch. in Brick

MONDAY/MAR. 26th (wine & oil)
7:00p.m. Vespers

TUESDAY/MAR. 27th
7:00p.m. Vespers; Confession

WEDNESDAY/MAR. 28th
9:30a.m. Akathist to Passion; Confession
6:30p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

THURSDAY/MAR. 29th
7:00p.m. Mystery of Holy Unction

FRIDAY/MAR. 30th
9:30a.m. Work party in hall on willows and palm branches
7:00p.m. Matins; Confession
End of the 40 Day Period of Great Lent

SATURDAY/MAR. 31st (wine & oil)
Lazarus Saturday
9:10a.m. 3rd & 6th Hours
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy
3:00p.m. Confession
5:30p.m. Vigil; Confession

SUNDAY/APR. 1st (fish, wine & oil)
Entrance into Jerusalem – Palm Sunday
9:10a.m. 3rd & 6th Hours
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy; Coffee Hour
4:00p.m. Vespers at Ss. Peter & Paul Church in South River
6:30p.m. Bridegroom Matins



HYMN OF PRAISE TO THE THEOTOKOS

Oh, what wonderful news: Rejoice, All pure-one,
for us you gave birth to Christ!

Oh, joyful news: Rejoice, O Virgin, Radiant
Dove!

Rejoice O Mary, Rejoice, you who are full of
grace, you who are the golden gate!

O Burning Bush, unconsumed, the dawn of the
new splendor!

Gabriel composes the words, and he himself
rejoices; the Annunciation he proclaims!
Proclaims the Annunciation: all of heaven
listens; your soul trembles!

The Temple did you serve, you did consecrate
yourself to God, you became a temple!

Rejoice, O all-pure one, heavenly bride, you are
the Royal Throne!

Rejoice, O Meek one: to the Humble One will
you give birth, and regenerate the world!

Rejoice, O obedient one: God heard you and
crowned you with glory!

Rejoice, O tearful one: by tears softened,
luminous in the Spirit!

Rejoice, O poor one, but the wealthiest one and
brighter than the sun!

Entreat joy for us from Christ your Son, O
Virgin, All-pure one!

Let's Help Our Neighbors – Fire Victims Here in Manville – 2 blocks from church

On March 12th a devastating house fire killed a young mother (age 27) and two of her children, Tubal (age 5) and Angelina (age 4). The father and a 2 year old boy managed to escape. Lives and property were lost. Our prayers for the deceased and the remaining father and son.

The Poor Basket in the center of the church for March 25 and April 1 will be earmarked for the family. Check may be made to Ss. Peter & Paul Church.

Memorial Service

For Vladislav Syrchikov, Mar. 27th, Tues. 9:30a.m.

Parish Council Determinations

Officers – Peter Bakaletz (Sr. Warden); Edwards Sarchisian (Jr. Warden); Robert Smith (Pro-Tem Treasurer); Robert Smith (Financial Recorder); Maureen Lokos (Secretary).

Dates of Council Meetings - May 10, July 12, Sept. 20, Nov. 15 and Jan. 24. These Thursday meetings are held in the Conference Room at 7:00p.m. and are open to parishioners.

Distribution of Collections - The 2006 OCA Charities of \$1,088 to be divided between Fr. Michael Michalick (sick priest) and Kosovo Children's Fund. The 2007 OCA Missions to be divided between St. Maximus Mission in Denton, Texas (Fr. Justin Frederick) and Christ the Saviour Mission in Fenwick, Delaware (Fr. John Parsells).

Offerings for the week of March 25th

Olive Oil – in memory of Emilia; in memory of Michael; for the health of Daria and Mindy (birthday); in thanksgiving; for health and in thanksgiving, Laurentiu and Liliana.

Wine – for health and salvation of Mariana, Simona, Gabriela, Stefan, Eric, Maria, David, Leonard and David Gabriel; in honor of the Patriarch Joseph – namesday of Joseph Crichton.

Flowers - for feast of Annunciation, in memory of Joan.

Easter Candy Pick-Up – Next Sunday.

The Parish Synodicon: Memory Eternal!

John Jackowlew (40th day – March 25th) Feb. 11
Mar. 25, 1954 John Holovach
Mar. 25, 1984 Stephen Szwhala
Mar. 26, 1931 Anna Mogilevsky
Mar. 26, 1958 Henry Knaff
Mar. 27, 1971 Anna Shwhala
Mar. 27, 1985 Steven Pawlik
Mar. 29, 1942 John Kudelko
Mar. 30, 1959 Julius Kisel
Mar. 30, 1968 Pauline Bulat
Mar. 31, 1931 George Andrejko
Mar. 31, 1985 Alexander Rudzina



Lenten Charities Ends Next Sunday

OCCMC Boxes support Mission work in the USA and abroad. Please return next Sunday, April 1st.

The Church of St. Mary Magdalen in Jerusalem is helped by our parish every year on Palm Sunday.

The Mysteries of Confession & Communion

Are received by all the faithful prior to the Great and Holy Week (April 1st-7th). This is the last week

Namesday Greetings

St. Larissa/Mar. 26th: L. Mattei, L. Teselenko, L. Hansen;

St. Joseph/Mar. 31st: Joseph Crichton;
Many Blessed Years!

Great & Holy Week Help Sheet

May be found on the vestibule stand. Please sign-up and help out where and when you can.

The Mystery of Holy Unction

Will be served this Thursday, Mar. 29th. Those who desire to participate in this sacrament must have been to Confession and Holy Communion prior to this date during the time of the Great and Holy Lent, which began on Feb. 19th.

Sign-Up Sheet for Watching at the tomb

Great & Holy Friday and Saturday (Apr. 6th & 7th). Spend some time in prayer.

Church Order – Make yourself known

Means that anyone visiting another church ought to make sure the priest knows who they are before approaching for Holy Communion. Call ahead.



The Kingdom of God

Most of Lent is behind us. Soon we will be celebrating Palm Sunday and Holy Week. As we approach the end of this period of fasting and prayer, the Church seeks to remind us of our goal, which is the Kingdom of God. How does Lent help us to obtain the gift of the Kingdom? What qualities of Christian life accented during Lent signify the presence of God's Kingdom in our midst? A beautiful hymn of the Fifth Sunday of Lent gives us answers to these questions based on biblical verses (Rom. 14:17; Mk. 10:23-25; Ps. 37:26; Jn. 11:9; 1 Cor. 10:11):

The Kingdom of God is not food and drink, but righteousness, spiritual striving (askesis), and holiness. And so the rich shall not enter into it, but they who entrust their treasures into the hands of the poor.

This is what David the Prophet teaches us, too, saying: He is righteous, who shows mercy all the day long, who delights in the Lord, who walks in the light and will not stumble.

All these things have been written for our admonition, that we should fast and practice goodness. And in exchange for earthly goods may the Lord grant us the blessings of heaven.

Doxastikon, Hymns of Praises
The Fifth Sunday of Lent

What are the signs of the Kingdom of God according to the above hymn?

The Kingdom of God is _____ ,
_____ and _____ .

What are the daily actions of a righteous person?

He shows _____ , delights _____ ,
walks _____ , and will not _____ .

What is the purpose of these admonitions derived from Scripture?

That we should _____ and practice _____ .

Food and drink are important. Without them life could not be sustained. We eat and drink two or three times each day. When time for eating arrives we do not think about whether or not we are going to eat. We simply sit down and eat. Jesus ate. The Apostles ate. St. Paul who first said those words about the Kingdom not being eating and drinking (Rom. 14:17) also ate. How blessed are they who seek spiritual food as naturally as they hunger for material food!

What St. Paul wanted to say in Rom. 14:7 is that true life is not an abundance of eating and drinking but rather it is "righteousness, peace, and joy which the Holy Spirit gives." Jesus often taught this same truth. During His temptations He declared: "Man cannot live on bread alone, but needs every word that God speaks" (Mt. 4:4). In the Beatitudes He said: "Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires [those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, RSV]; God will satisfy them fully!" (Mt. 5:6) It was His will that as His followers we should not be excessively worried about what to eat or what to drink. He cares for us more than for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. Rather our priority should be this: "Be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what He requires of you, and He will provide you with all these other things" (Mt. 6:33).

Triodion & Lent

Theodore Stylianopoulos





The Raising of Lazarus celebrated the day before Palm Sunday

St. Lazarus is on the figure on the extreme right; he is depicted at the entrance of his tomb, wrapped in his white burial shroud. Christ (third figure from the left) is depicted commanding Lazarus to come forth from the tomb. St. Peter the Disciple (on the extreme left) is depicted to represent all twelve Apostles. Some icons of the Raising of Lazarus actually show all twelve! St. Mary the Sister of Lazarus is shown, too. In the background of the icon is the walled city of Jerusalem, which Christ will enter in triumph the day following His raising of Lazarus.

(Taken from *The Icon Book*, by Boojamra, Essey, McLuckie & Matusiak.)

About the Feast

“O Lord, wishing to see the tomb of Lazarus — for You were soon to dwell by Your own choice within a tomb — You asked, ‘Where have you laid him?’ And learning that which was already known to You, You called to him whom You loved, “Lazarus, come forth.” And he who was without breath obeyed the One who gave him breath, the Savior of our souls.

O Lord, wishing to give Your disciples an assurance of Your Resurrection from the dead, You came to the tomb of Lazarus and called to him by name. Then was hell despoiled, and it released the one that had been dead four days, as he called upon You, ‘O blessed Lord, glory to You.’” (from the Vespers of Lazarus Saturday)

Lazarus Saturday is a paschal celebration. It is the only time in the entire Church Year that the resurrection service of Sunday is celebrated on another day. At the liturgy of Lazarus Saturday, the Church glorifies Christ as “the Resurrection and the Life,” Who by

raising Lazarus, has confirmed the universal resurrection of mankind even before his own suffering and death.

At the Divine Liturgy of Lazarus Saturday the baptismal verse from **Galatians 32:27**: "As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ," replaces the Thrice-holy Hymn thus indicating the resurrectional character of the celebration, and the fact that Lazarus Saturday was once among the few great Baptismal days [of adult catechumens] in the Orthodox Church year.

Because of the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead, Christ was hailed by the masses as the long-expected Messiah — King of Israel. Thus, in fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament, he entered Jerusalem, the City of the King, riding on the colt of an ass (**Zechariah 9:9; John 12:12**). The crowds greeted him with branches in their hands and called out to him with shouts of praise: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! The Son of David! The King of Israel!" Because of this glorification by the people, the priests and scribes were finally driven "to destroy him, to put him to death". (**Luke 19:47; John 11:53,12:10**)

(From *The Orthodox Faith*, Vol. II: Worship, by Fr. Thomas Hopko.)

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!

Kontakion (Tone 2)

Christ — the Joy, the Truth, and the Light of all, the Life of the world and the Resurrection — has appeared in His goodness to those on earth.
He has become the image of our resurrection, granting divine forgiveness to all mankind.

