

SAINT JAMES ORTHODOX CHURCH

كنيسة القديس يعقوب الأرثوذكسية المقدسية

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Sundays – Matins 8:00 a.m.
Sundays – Liturgy 10:30 a.m.

Issue No. 688 – Sunday April 16 (4/3), 2017

The Bright Resurrection of Christ, The Passover of the Lord (Pascha)
Passion Week – St. Nicetas the Confessor, abbot of Medikion (824)

أحد الفصح المجيد المقدس

اسبوع الالام – تذكار أبينا البار نيقيطا المعترف رئيس دير ميديكيون

Matins: Mark 16:1 – 9

Epistle: Acts 1:1 – 8

Gospel: John 1:1 – 17

Holy Week Services

Monday 4/10

Presanctified Gifts – 11:00am

Bridegroom Service – 7:00pm

Tuesday 4/11

Presanctified Gifts – 11:00am

Bridegroom Service – 7:00pm

Wednesday 4/12

Presanctified Gifts – 11:00am

Holy Unction (Blessing of the Oil) – 7:00pm

Thursday 4/13

Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper – 10:00am

The Twelve Passion Gospels and Crucifixion – 7:00pm

Friday 4/14

Royal Hours – 4:00pm

Lamentations & Procession – 7:30pm

Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday – 12:00am

Saturday 4/15

Matins & Rush Service – 8:30pm

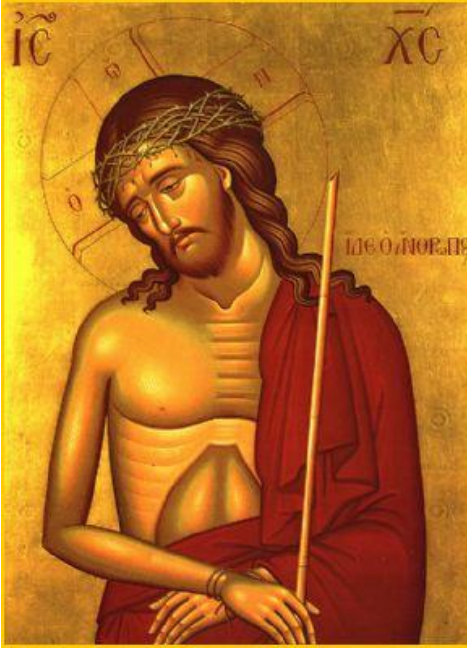
Followed by the Divine Liturgy of the Bright Resurrection of the Lord

Sunday 4/16

No Services

Have a blessed Holy Week!

Pressing on to the Resurrection



Brothers and sisters in Christ, Lent is almost over and the prize of Pascha now lies plainly in sight just beyond the finish line! Nothing can stop us now from claiming the prize if we do not stumble in carelessness, or become distracted, or simply quit. Band together for this final push. Ignore the distractions, lay aside all problems, and avoid all temptations that compete for your love. This week, there is simply no room in our hearts for anything other than death and resurrection in Christ.

If you have persevered well in the fast, guard your heart and mind from pride lest you fall so late in the race! Remember, "It is not what goes into the mouth but what comes out of the heart that defiles a man" (Matt. 15:11). If you have stumbled and risen repeatedly during Lent, don't despair, keep on getting up! To stumble is human; to rise up again is divine. "He who endures to the end will be saved" (Matt. 10:22). If you have not even begun to fast, start today! Keep the remaining fasting days strictly and attend services during the Holy Week and Pascha. The joy of the Resurrection can still be yours! "For the Lord is gracious and receives the last even as the first" (Paschal homily of St. John Chrysostom). This week, let prayerful words always be on your heart and lips as we go about our secular obligations: "O Lord, grant me the joy of Your Resurrection... O Lord, let me die and rise with You... O Lord I believe, help my unbelief!"

We, the faithful Orthodox Christians, are called to recommit our lives in Christ and renew our baptismal vows in our hearts. For if our praises of Hosanna on Palm Sunday lack sincerity or perseverance, we may find ourselves among those who cry, "Crucify Him!" in the end. The majority of this journey is over! The finish line of the marathon is in sight! A crown of victory awaits us all! Let us press onward now, not holding back. After our rest on Palm Sunday, we strive vigorously through Holy Week. It is almost time to use the reserve energy that we have wisely guarded for the final push. Let us hail Christ with the branches of victory and enter together with Him into the days of His voluntary passion, purifying ourselves by participation in His suffering, bearing our own crosses, and thereby entering equally into the eternal glory of His Resurrection.

We have reached the holiest of holy days in our pilgrimage to the Resurrection of Christ. Let's walk with our Savior through the last week of His earthly life. This is the week of weeks, and the Lord is calling us to fix our attention completely upon Him. If we successfully submit ourselves to the spiritual therapy of the Holy Week, we will know what it means to share the "fellowship of Christ's sufferings." As we enter into the Holy Week, remember this: the disciples were not very successful at being with our Savior in the last week of His life. Many protested when He wanted to return to Jerusalem because they didn't understand the inevitability and importance of the Holy Cross. Some grumbled when St. Mary anointed Jesus with fragrant myrrh because they did not understand the significance of the act as a preparation for our Lord's Kingly and Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem for His burial. And in our Savior's hour of dire need at a time when He even solicited the companionship and vigilant help of the disciples, what did they do? They fell asleep! As we enter into the Holy Week beware of sleep. This is not a week for sleep but for vigil. You would do well to keep your sleeping to a bare minimum in order that you might be watchful with our Savior. God is with us!

The Meaning of Holy Week Services

Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday

The first thing that must be said about these services, and most of the other services of Holy Week, is that these services are "sung" in anticipation. Each service is rotated ahead 12 hours. The evening service, therefore, is actually the service of the next morning. Understanding that, let's turn to the Services of Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. The services of these days are known as the Bridegroom Services.

Each of these Bridegroom services has a particular theme. On Holy Monday (observed on Palm Sunday evening), the Blessed Joseph, the son of Jacob the Patriarch, is commemorated. Joseph is often seen as a Type of Christ. Joseph was betrayed by his brothers, thrown into a pit and sold into slavery by them. In the same way, our Lord was rejected, betrayed by His own, and sold into the slavery of death. The Gospel reading for the day is The Barren Fig Tree, which Christ cursed and withered because it bore no fruit. The fig tree is a parable of those who have heard God's word, but who fail to bear the fruit of obedience. Originally the withering of the fig tree was a testimony against those Jews who rejected God's word and His Messiah. However, it is also a warning to all people, in all times, of the importance of not only hearing God's word, but putting it into action.

The Parable of the Ten Virgins is read on Holy Tuesday (observed on Monday evening). It tells the story of the five virgins who filled their lamps in preparation for receiving the bridegroom while the other five allowed their lamps to go out and hence were shut out of the marriage feast. This parable is a warning that we must always be prepared to receive our Lord when He comes again.

Great and Holy Wednesday – Holy Unction (Blessing of the Oil)

The Mystery or Sacrament of Holy Unction is celebrated on Holy Wednesday evening. This is not historically part of Holy Week. Actually this service can be celebrated any time during the year, especially when one is ill. However, because of our need for forgiveness and spiritual healing, we offer this service during Holy Week for the remission of our sins.

Great and Holy Thursday

On Holy Thursday we turn to the last events of our Lord and His Passion. Thursday morning begins with a Divine Liturgy commemorating the Mystical Supper. Everyone who is able should make an effort to receive Holy Communion at this service as it was at the Mystical Supper that our Lord instituted the Holy Eucharist.

Holy Thursday evening

The service of the 12 Passion Gospels commemorates the solemn time of our Lord's Crucifixion. After the reading of the 5th Gospel, the holy cross is carried around the church in procession, and Christ's body is nailed to the cross in the center of the church.

Great and Holy Friday

This is a day of strict fast. As little as possible - preferably nothing - should be eaten on this day. It is the only day in the entire year that no Divine Liturgy of any kind can be celebrated. In the morning we celebrate the Royal Hours. These solemn hours are observed as we read the various accounts and hymns concerning the crucifixion. In the afternoon we celebrate the Vesper service of the taking down of Christ's body from the cross. During the Gospel reading, our Lord's body is taken off the cross and wrapped in a new, white linen sheet. This act commemorates the removal of Christ's body from the cross by Joseph. Later in the service, the winding-sheet, with Christ's body on it is carried in procession and placed in the recently decorated tomb. In the evening the Lamentation service is sung. This service begins in a solemn manner, but by the end of the service we are already anticipating the Resurrection of our Lord. Keep in mind, that the Holy Friday evening is in anticipation of the first service of Holy Saturday, the day in which we commemorate our Lord's body resting in the tomb while His all-pure soul descends into Hades to free the faithful of the Old Covenant.

Great and Holy Saturday

This day is a day of hope and waiting. In the morning (Friday Mid-night) we celebrate Divine Liturgy which commemorates Christ's victory over death. Bright vestments are worn as we anticipate Christ's Resurrection. The Old Testament story of Jonah in the belly of the whale is read at this service because Jonah is seen in the Church as a Type of Christ. As Jonah was three days in the belly of the great fish, and was then safely deposited back onto land, so our Lord was three days in the tomb before His glorious Resurrection. The Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday concludes the services of Holy Week, and brings us to the eve of Great and Holy Pascha.

For Orthodox Christians around the world, we celebrate these events as they happened not only in the past, but as they also happen today. We celebrate Christ as the king who enters our hearts, our own personal Jerusalem. But is Christ able to enter? Is there room in our hearts for Christ to rule as king? Often the doors of our hearts are locked. Often Christ is unable to enter because there is already another king of the heart—ourselves. And how do we solve this problem of trying to let Christ in? How do we instill within ourselves the one thing that is missing—God?

What is Happening on Great Friday 4/14

Bier of Christ will be decorated with flowers around 10:30am in the church hall.

Royal Hours services (1st, 3rd, 6th, and 9th hours) will start at 4pm. During the Gospel reading, our Lord's body is taken off the cross and wrapped in a new, white linen sheet.

Processions and Lamentations start at 7:30pm. After that we will have Divine Liturgy at midnight. There will be an all-night vigil and readings from the Old Testament and Psalms on Friday night through Saturday morning. The church will remain open all night. Please feel free to stay in church at this beautiful, quiet, and fully spiritual night. Feel free to bring comfortable clothes and sleeping bags.

أخطأتُ اليك ايها الصالح اكثر من الزانية ولم اقرب لك فيضان دموع قط لكن بصمت وسكون
اجتو لديك طالباً وأقبل قدميك الطاهرتين بشوق لكي تمنحني ايها المخلص بما انك السيد محو
خطاياي صارخاً: انقذني من حماة افعالي.

CONFESSION

Whoever confesses his sins with simplicity of heart, with feelings of compunction and humility and the desire to correct himself, will receive forgiveness of sins and peace of conscience through the power of the grace of God acting in the Mystery.

- St. Nikon

Pascha Potluck



Easter Potluck Dinner – Saturday Night April 15 after Easter Liturgy. Please bring your favorite dish to celebrate Pascha and end the fasting.

Bier of Christ – FINAL WEEK

We will purchase the flowers for the Bier of Christ this Thursday. Flowers donation forms for the Bier of Christ are still available at the church entrance and in this bulletin. Please write the names of your living and departed loved ones very clearly so they can be commemorated during the Holy Week services.

The Fast of Great Friday

Great Friday is the strictest fast day of the year. We do not eat on this day of the Crucifixion. Only the infirm and aged take bread and water after the setting of the sun. Even today Christians strive not to eat at least until after the brining out of the Winding Sheet (late Friday afternoon), and then only enough to gain strength for the long services of Friday night and Saturday.

Congratulations

Iyad & Norma Al-Batal

For presenting their new-born baby-boy

Lana Al-Batal

To the Holy Altar on Thursday April 6

May our Lord grant Lana and family with His blessings and grace for a holy life and good health.

+++++

Joachim & Anna Perry

For presenting their new-born baby-boy

Morwenna Perry

To the Holy Altar on Sunday April 9

May our Lord grant Morwenna and family with His blessings and grace for a holy life and good health.

Congratulations



Yannis & Konstantina Kepesidis

For the Holy Baptism of their daughter, the child of God

Maria Anna Kepesidis

on Sunday April 9, 2017. May our Lord grant Maria and her family with blessings and grace for holy life and good health.



*We Are Accepting Donations For The Flowers For The
Bier Of Christ*

*In Memory Of And/Or For The Good Health Of Your Loved Ones
To Make A Donation Please Fill Out This Form*

By:

For The Good Health Of:

And/Or In Blessed Memory Of:

Please give the form back to Treasurer Samer Aboujudom
All names of the Living and the Departed will be prayed for during the Holy Week

Colored Easter Eggs



Hard-boiled colored Easter eggs and chocolate eggs for the kids this year are donated by a parish family. They will be given out Saturday night after the Pascha Divine Liturgy. Thank you and God bless you.

E-mail sjoc@earthlink.net for your bulletin personal announcements, comments, or feedback.

Many Thanks!

Many thanks to so many people who worked very hard over the last few weeks/days:

- Many thanks to every one who helped at the church clean-up.
- Many thanks to all the Ladies for making the sweets and pastries for the Palm Sunday Bake Sale.
- Many thanks to every one who helped making the beautiful palms for Palm Sunday.
- Many thanks to every one who helped making our traditional Fish Lunch on Palm Sunday.

May God Bless you all and have a blessed Holy Week!

Have a Blessed Holy Week

من المزامير الروحية للقديس افرام السوري

المزمور رقم 10 لا أستطيع تدبير نفسي؛ امنحني روح التوبة

امام مجدك أيها المسيح سابلغ كل اساءة لي واعترف بمراحمك الغير المتناهية التي تسكبها علي بحسب رأفتك. من رحم امي بدأت بإحزانك واستخففت تماما بنعمتك لاني أهملت نفسي. وأنت يا سيدي نظرت الى شري كله بصبر ولطف بحسب كثرة رحمتك. نعمتك رفعت رأسي لكن خطاياي تنكسها يوميا. عادات سيئة تنصب لي شراكا مثل الفخاخ وانا أفرح بتقييدي هكذا. أغوص الى أعماق الشر ذاتها وهذا يفرحني. يوميا يعطيني العدو قيودا جديدة لأنه يرى كم يسرني هذا النوع من القيود. ان حقيقة تقييدي بشهواتي يجب ان تثير البكاء والنواح، الخزي والعار. والأسوأ أيضا هو اني اكبل نفسي بالقيود التي يكبلني بها العدو، وأذبح نفسي بالأهواء التي تسره. أنا أعرف كم هذه القيود مرعبة، ومع ذلك اخفيها وراء مظهر محترم امام عيون جميع الذين قد يرونها. أظهر لابسا ملابس التقوى الجميلة، بينما نفسي متورطة في افكار مخزية. اني محترم امام كل من قد يراني، اما في داخلي فانا ممتلىء من كل ضرب من البذاءة. ضميري يتهمني بكل هذا، وانا اتصرف كما لو كنت ارجب بالإنعتاق من قيودي. كل يوم اهتم واتنهد بسبب هذا، ومع ذلك ابقى بالإشراك نفسها مقيدا.

يا لبؤسي، ويا لبؤس توبتي اليومية، إذ لا اساس ثابتا لها. كل يوم أضع اساسا للبناء واهدمه بيدي المرة تلو المرة. لم تصنع توبتي ولا حتى بداية صالحة واحدة بعد؛ ومع ذلك لا نهاية لإهمالي الشرير. صرت عبدا للأهواء ولإرادة العدو الشريرة الذي يهلكني. من يعطي الماء لرأسي، وينابيع الدموع لعيني، لكي أبكي امامك دائما ايها الاله الرحيم، لكي ترسل نعمتك وتجذبني انا الخاطئ خارج البحر الهائج بأموج الخطيئة، الذي يزلزل نفسي كل ساعة؟ لأن شهواتي أسوأ من الكلوم التي لا يمكن تضميدها. أنتظر الرجاء في التوبة واخذع نفسي بهذا الوعد الباطل حتى موتي. أقول دائما: سأتوب، لكنني لا أتوب أبدا. كلماتي تصطبغ بهيئة التوبة القلبية، لكنني بالأفعال بعيد دائما عن التوبة.



Mark Your Calendar
St. James 12th Annual Food Festival
September 15, 16, 17



Therese Tawadros - 4/10 Bernadet Quiles - 4/10
Ghada Khoury - 4/12 Christina Raie - 4/13
Nadine Khadder - 4/13 Rita Saoud - 4/15
Farah Khoury - 4/16

عقبال المئة سنة!!!