



ST. ZOSIMA AND ST. MARY OF EGYPT

CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

30838 Vines Creek Rd.; Dagsboro, DE 19939
302-537-6055 (church) / 302-988-1138 (rectory)
orthodoxdelmarva.org / frjohn@orthodoxdelmarva.org

BULLETIN OF APRIL 5, 2009

SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH

SUNDAY OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour

MONDAY, APRIL 6TH

7:00p.m. Reading Group

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8TH

7:00p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH

7:00p.m. Matins

SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH

LAZARUS SATURDAY

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
6:00p.m. Great Vespers

SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH

PALM SUNDAY

8:40a.m. Hours
9:00a.m. Divine Liturgy
Coffee Hour
7:00p.m. Bridegroom Matins

Previously, I wanted everything to go my way, but seeing that nothing was done as I wanted, I began to wish that everything be done as it is done; so it was that everything started to be done as I wanted.

Elder Joseph of Optina

Please Remember in Prayer

Carole Boris (newly-departed), Nadia, Kathy & Bill Parrish, Diane Evanusa, Marie, Raymond, Thomas, Judith Kocinski, Jane Koshutko, Robert Evanusa, Nicholas & Linda, Nicholas, Anna, Yvonne, Katherine, Michael, Gregory, Todd & Olga Leisure, Nina Gordon, Fr. Christian, Constantina & Christos. Requests? Please let Fr. John know.

Reading Group – Monday, April 6th

The next Reading Group will meet on Monday, April 6th at 7pm at the church. The texts will be the Life of St. Mary of Egypt and Selections from the Ladder of Divine Ascent. Copies are available for pickup at the candle stand. All are encouraged to pickup the reading and attend the group for discussion.



Pre-Sanctified Liturgy – Wednesday, April 8th

The last Pre-Sanctified Liturgy will be served this Wednesday at 7:00pm. Those wishing to receive Holy Communion should prepare themselves by fasting from at least noon and reading the appointed prayers from the prayer book. Should you have any questions about fasting or anything else regarding this special service, please speak with Fr. John. There will be a lenten pot-luck offered after the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy for those who are able to attend.



The Mysteries of Confession and Communion

should be received by all Orthodox Christians on a regular basis and at the very least during Great Lent and Pascha. If you have not availed yourself of these life-giving sacraments, please be sure to do so. Likewise, frequent communicants should make a confession during this and all lenten periods, and whenever the conscience is burdened.

Confession Times

Fr. John is available for Confession following any church service or educational opportunity – a listing of these times is available in every weekly bulletin and on the monthly calendar. If you would like to have Confession at another time, please speak with Fr. John and he will do his best to accommodate you. Pascha is April 19th, only two weeks from today.



Holy Week & Pascha Sign-Up Sheet

In the back of the church there is a sign-up sheet for those interested in helping with the preparations for Pascha. There are many tasks which need to be done, both during Holy Week and Pascha itself. Please do your best to offer your time as we need all hands on deck.

The Next Parish Council Meeting

Will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2009, following the coffee hour.

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 12th

Kathy Parrish

Sunday, April 19th

Jen Alexion



The Paschal Meal

will be held immediately following the "Midnight Service", which concludes with the Pascha Divine Liturgy. Everyone is invited! If you are able to bring food to share, please sign your name on the sheet in the coffee hour room to let us know what you can bring.



The Mystery of Holy Unction

will be served on Great and Holy Wednesday, April 15th, at 7:00pm. The Church's practice of anointing with holy oil for the healing of soul and body dates back to Apostolic times, when St. James wrote, "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the presbyters (priests) of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14) According to Church discipline, those who wish to receive this Mystery should approach only after having first made a recent Confession, usually this means during Great Lent.



Out of Town for Pascha?

Be mindful to let the priest of the parish you are visiting know beforehand who you are. If you are prepared to receive Holy Communion, you should let him know. This should not be done at the time you approach for Communion, but before the Liturgy. A phone call or email is in good order.



Financial Update

A financial summary covering the first three months of 2009 can be found on page two of this bulletin. If you have any questions regarding the summary, please see Fr. John, Susan Pappas, last term's treasurer, or one of the Council Members.



Many Thanks

to Fr. James Parsells and the parish community of Ss. Peter & Paul in Manville, NJ, for their very generous gift of \$1,335 to our Mission. May the Lord reward them with His incorruptible heavenly gifts!



Haven't Seen Someone in a While?

Why not give them a call or an email? An unexpected kind word from a friend is sometimes all that is needed to lift someone's spirits or get them back on track. Perhaps there might even be an issue that you can help them with. Care for one's neighbor is a sure sign of spiritual development, both personally and as a community. Show someone that you care and have been thinking about them, and they'll be sure to do the same for you.

WHICH IS BETTER? THE WAY OF MARY OR THE WAY OF MARTHA?

From "The Paradise of the Holy Fathers"

An anonymous Desert Father was questioned about whether it is better to live the solitary life of contemplation and poverty or to devote one's life to helping others and providing material support to the needy. His answer goes to the heart of the debate whether it is better to follow the way of Mary or that of Martha.

The brethren said, "There were two brothers who were the sons of a merchant and their father died and they divided their inheritance between themselves. Unto each one, there came five thousand dinars. One of the brothers divided his inheritance among the churches, and the monasteries, and the poor, and he himself became a monk, and he chose for himself a life of continual silence, and fasting, and prayer. Now the other one built a monastery for himself, and gathered brethren to him, and he took care of the strangers, and the poor, and the sick, whom he received and relieved.

"When the two brothers were dead, there was questioning among the brethren about them, and they went to Abba Pambo and asked him, 'Which manner of life and conduct was the more excellent and exalted?' And having learned from God, he said unto them, 'They were both perfect, and in my sight they appear to be of equal merit.' Explain to us now the old man's words, for how can the man who is destitute, and the man who hath possessions be equal in merit?' The old man said, 'Since the whole life of these brethren was please to God, and since whatsoever they did they did it for God, with an upright aim, and since the aim of each was the same, they appeared to be in the old man's opinion of equal merit before God.'"





DAILY OBSERVANCES OF THE FAITHFUL DURING HOLY WEEK

Lazarus Saturday concludes Great Lent. This celebration remembers Christ's raising of Lazarus from the dead and the promise of universal resurrection for all. Lazarus Saturday provides a bridge to Holy Week during which the Church services remember Christ's last week before His crucifixion and resurrection.

In the Orthodox Church the last week of Christ's life is officially called Passion Week. Each day is designated in the service books as "great and holy." There are special services every day of the week which are fulfilled in all churches. Earthly life ceases for the faithful as they "go up with the Lord to Jerusalem".

LAZARUS SATURDAY, THE DAY BEFORE PALM SUNDAY

Services: Friday, 4/10 @ 7:00pm and Saturday, 4/11 @ 9:00am

On this day the rising from the dead of St. Lazarus, the righteous friend of Christ, is celebrated. Holy Week begins with the phrase: "Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany", John 12:1. His arrival coincided with the Jewish Passover. It started on the 15th of the month of Nissan in commemoration of the freeing of the Hebrew people under the leadership of Moses, from the slavery of the Egyptians by the miraculous act of God. The Church relates preparation and redemption to the events of this week.

Six days before the Passover a feast was given for Christ in Bethany of Judea where Christ had stopped on His way to Jerusalem. Lazarus, His friend, and his sisters were present. A short time earlier Christ had risen Lazarus from the dead, thereby gaining the respect and faith of the people, but also the hatred of the fanatics. The Church names this day the "Saturday of Lazarus" in remembrance of the resurrection of Lazarus and its promise of universal resurrection for all men. The Church connects this celebration, by anticipation, with the Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem: "We carry the Symbols of victory and cry Hosanna in the highest".

The readings are Hebrews 12:28-13:8 and John 11:1-45.



ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM



PALM SUNDAY

Services: Saturday, 4/11 @ 6:00pm and Sunday, 4/12 @ 9:00am

Palm Sunday celebrates the glorious and brilliant feast of the Entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem. Zechariah had prophesied the entrance of the Messiah into Jerusalem, saying: "Rejoice greatly ... O daughter of Jerusalem; behold, the King comes unto Thee; he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass", Zech. 9:9. The contemporary Jews associated this prophecy with the expected Messiah. This action of Christ testifies to His nature as Savior, but with the definite declaration that His Kingdom: was not of this world. The news that Christ was in Bethany provoked a general enthusiasm of acceptance, but also of indignation among the High Priests, who had decided to kill Christ. The main road leading to Jerusalem was covered with palm trees. The multitudes, with palm branches in their hands, spread their cloaks on the road

as a show of respect, crying out: "Hosanna to the Son of David, blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord". All the actions and words of the people and, of Christ had a Messianic meaning readily recognized by the Jews of that time. As usual, Christ went immediately to the Temple, where He prayed and taught. That evening He departed for Bethany.

A custom of distributing branches of palms to the people in the Church prevails to this day, commemorating the victory of Christ against the evil powers.

The Epistle reading is Phil. 4:4-9, and the Gospel reading is John 12:1-18.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY – 1ST QUARTER 2009

ORDINARY INCOME		
<i>Category</i>	<i>Jan – Mar 09</i>	<i>Budget</i>
Stewardship	\$13,092	\$13,550
Diocese	\$1,500	\$1,500
Candles	\$589	\$875
Bookstore	\$82	\$250
Charity	\$469	\$375

ORDINARY INCOME / EXPENSES		
<i>Category</i>	<i>Jan – Mar 09</i>	<i>Budget</i>
Income	\$16,001	\$16,656
Expenses	\$15,703	\$15,942
Net Income	\$298	\$713

OTHER INCOME		
<i>Category</i>	<i>Jan – Mar 09</i>	<i>Budget</i>
Building Fund	\$735	n/a

About the Financial Summary

The **ordinary income and expenses** figures shown in the chart on the left designates those funds which are being used towards our operating budget.

The **other income** figures shown at the bottom of the chart on the left indicate those funds which were donated for a specified purpose which does not relate to our operating budget.

While our net ordinary income, as far as the budget goes, is a positive \$298, our overall net income is a negative \$394 due to expenditures for items which were donated last year.

The next financial summary appearing in the weekly bulletin will be in the month of July and will contain the half-year figures. Full financial reports are presented at every Parish Council meeting for review by the Priest and Council Members.



FOR CONSIDERATION

From the Prologue of St. Nikolai Velimirovich

Why is it that much is said and written about the sufferings of holy men and holy women? Because the saints, alone, are considered victors. Can anyone be a victor without conflict, pain and suffering? In ordinary earthly combat, no one can be considered victorious nor heroic who has not been in combat, tortured much or suffered greatly. The more so in spiritual combat where the truth is known and where self-boasting not only does not help at all but, indeed, hinders it. He who does not engage in combat for the sake of Christ, either with the world, with the devil or with one's self, how can he be counted among the soldiers of Christ? How, then, can it be with Christ's co-victors? St. Mary spoke about her savage spiritual combat to the Elder Zosimus: "For the first seventeen years in this wilderness I struggled with my deranged sexual desires as though with fierce beasts. I desired to eat meat and fish which I had in abundance in Egypt. I also desired to drink wine and here, I did not have even water to drink. I desired to hear lustful songs. I cried and beat my breasts. I prayed to the All-Pure Mother of God to banish such thoughts from me. When I had sufficiently cried and beat my breasts, it was then that I saw a light encompassing me on all sides and a certain miraculous peace filled me."

APRIL CONGRATULATIONS!

Anniversaries:

- 4/17 Philip & Gabriela Jones
- 4/19 Howard & Alice Peters

Birthdays:

- 4/10 Paul St. Germain
- 4/13 Diane Evanusa
- 4/28 George Stoicovy

Namesdays:

- 4/23 St. George
George Hamaty
George Stoicovy
- 4/23 St. Alexandra
Alexandra Boris
Alice Dzwomczyk
Sandra St. Germain

If your name is not on this list and it should be, please see Fr. John as soon as possible!