

MOTHER
MARY OF
EGYPT



CHRIST THE SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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BULLETIN OF APRIL 6, 2014

A Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all of our visitors. It's good to have you with us!

Last Chance!

The final Presanctified Liturgy will be served on Wednesday, April 9.



Holy Week & Pascha Sign-Up Sheet

In the back of the church there is a sign-up sheet for helping with the preparations for Holy Week and Pascha.

Altar Server / Usher Meeting

For Holy Week and Pascha Sunday, April 13th, after coffee hour.

The Mysteries of Confession and Communion

should be received by all Orthodox Christians on a regular basis and at the very least during the Great Fast 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, as well as whenever the conscience is burdened. To schedule a confession, please just ask Fr. John.



SUNDAY, APRIL 6TH

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

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

MONDAY, APRIL 7TH

7:00p.m. Vespers

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9TH

6:00p.m. Presanctified Liturgy

FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH

7:00p.m. Matins

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH

Lazarus Saturday

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 13TH

Entrance into Jerusalem

One of the Twelve Great Feasts

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



The Mystery of Holy Unction

will be served on Great and Holy Wednesday, April 16th, at 7:00pm. The Church's practice of anointing with holy oil for the healing of soul and body dates back to Apostolic times, see James 5:14. Those who wish to receive this Mystery should first have made a recent Confession.

Don't Wait Until It Is Too Late

Start arranging your schedule now for Holy Friday through Pascha. Put God first: take off work and stand by the Cross of Christ.

Flyers for Holy Week and Pascha

Are available in the back of the church. Please take and post them.

The Paschal Meal

If you are able to bring food to share, please see the list in the back

Did You Know?

Usually children make their first confession around age 7 or 8. If you have any questions about this, please just ask Fr. John.

Church Clean-up Day – Saturday, April 5th

Sincere appreciation is expressed to all who helped clean the Parish Center and grounds yesterday. May the Lord bless you!

Choir Practices

Thank you to all who attended last Sunday's choir practice for Holy Week and Pascha. May the Lord bless you for your dedication!

READER SCHEDULE

Sunday, Apr. 13th

Joanne Patrick

Sunday, Apr. 20th

Gabriela Jones



CASH FLOWS THROUGH 2/28/14					CASH FLOWS IN MARCH 2014					FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT		
OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	OPERATING		OTHER		ALL	ASSETS & LIABILITIES – 4/6		
Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Net	Checking	Overdue	Mortgage
11,272	13,411	2,200	2,348	-2,287	8,363	2,912	1,000	2,570	3,881	7,400	0	360,326

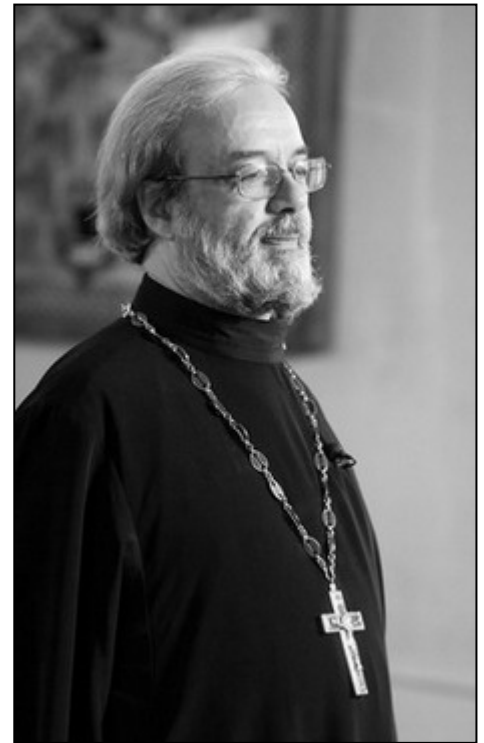
TEN IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO BEFORE THE END OF LENT

By Archpriest Alexander Iliashenko / From pravmir.com

One week of Great Lent remains. The week after is Holy Week, for which we have been preparing for so long, and which will be dedicated entirely to the remembrance of the Savior's Way of the Cross to Golgotha and the Resurrection.

Lent, as always, flies by imperceptibly, so before it is over we need to stop and break away from the vain bustle that absorbs our energies and consumes our time, so that we might manage to fulfill at least a portion of what we had planned. In these final days of Lent we need to mobilize. A list of things that should be completed during Lent might look something like this:

1. Pray fervently that the Lord would grant you to see your sins, so that you might prepare for a thorough Confession; ask your spiritual father to find time to hear it.
2. Attend the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts, which is served on Wednesday and Friday, and receive Holy Communion.
3. Begin to read the morning and evening prayers in full, or at least increase your prayer rule a bit; or resolve to pray with greater attention than usual.
4. Read at least one Gospel. During Great Lent the faithful try to read all four Gospels, but if you have not succeeded, then you should manage to read at least one.
5. Complete whatever pressing business you have kept putting off, so that you will be completely free on Great Thursday and Great Friday of Passion Week.
6. Visit your relatives and give some attention to your household: at least talk with them and listen to them lovingly and without haste.
7. Fulfill at least one long-standing promise: nail a picture to the wall, sort through the mess in the closet, or do whatever else you have been promising to do for weeks but have kept putting off.
8. Limit your online communication: using will power or a special program, control the amount of time you spend on a particular site; minimize your use of social sites and online diaries for at least these two weeks.
9. Ask forgiveness and be reconciled with whomever you have offended, either long ago or recently.
10. Take part in some act of charity, at least something within your powers or that does not take too much time; most importantly, take the first step towards someone who is having a hard time and stands in need of your help.



Advice to Those Living in the World

From Step 1 of the Ladder of Divine Ascent

Some people living in the world have asked me: "We have spouses and are beset with social cares, and how can we lead the spiritual life?" I replied to them: "Do all the good you can; do not speak evil of anyone; do not steal from anyone; do not lie to anyone; do not be arrogant towards anyone; do not hate anyone; do not be absent from the divine services; be compassionate to the needy; do not offend anyone; do not wreck another man's domestic happiness, and be content with what your own spouses can give you. If you behave in this way, you will not be far from the Kingdom of Heaven."

ST. PETER'S CRISIS

By VRev. Vladimir Berzonsky

"Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail; and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren" (Luke 22:31).

Jesus understood that Peter would not bring himself to confess that he was the Lord's disciple. He knew also that after a period of inner struggle, Simon would again regain his faith. Thus He doesn't say "if," but "when you have returned." When faith takes hold once again, Peter will be all the stronger for the experience. He will have compassion on others who will have fallen, then returned to the Lord.

Too often we feel that everything is lost when we fail in a crisis situation. In losing our self-confidence we lose faith in ourselves as well as in the Spirit of God Who never leaves us. Christ Jesus knows better. He can outline the broad aspects of our lives for us. He realizes that each human being is an on-going adventure in faith. We are all in the process of finding and losing, searching then rediscovering our true selves on the journey through life towards the Kingdom of God.

We also hold illusions about ourselves which we cherish. We make idols of our ideals. Like St. Peter, we think: "Even though they all fall away, I will not" (Mark 14:29). The despair that he later would experience was caused by his failure to stand by Jesus that night when He was taken prisoner. Peter's guilt was compounded by the awareness that he had failed himself. He never imagined that he would betray his Master. The idol that he had cre-

ated in his mind's eye of his invincibility had been shattered. Nobody did it to him; his will failed him. Imagine what were his thoughts as he sat warming his hands in the courtyard while Jesus was inside being tried by fire. Jesus wasn't the only one on trial that night. Peter stood accused of being a disciple of Christ. The accuser, a lowly servant girl, and Peter his own defense attorney.

Everything works for good to those who love God. Thus we may claim a blessing on St. Peter's denial for several reasons:



First, in order that he who was to be the first among the Apostles would understand and empathize with the weakness and failings of all who would look up to him for inspiration;

Second, so that he would never again rely in himself for spiritual gifts, but upon faith in the living Christ Who never forsakes or abandons those who trust in God;

Third, that we who read this intimate passage can reassure ourselves that although we fail the tests put before us, as long as our faith stays intact, we are able to gain from the experience yet another lesson about our inner composition, realizing the error of self-reliance and the need for God-reliance.

Even more important is the lesson that our integrity depends on us. Not the heavenly Father, nor the Holy Spirit, nor Christ Jesus will decide for us whether we shall respond to the delusions of Satan and trust in our own omnipotence, or if we are to crush the idol of self and live by faith in God alone.

ON THE TRULY INTELLIGENT MAN

By St. Anthony the Great

The truly intelligent man pursues one sole objective: to obey and conform to the God of all. With this single aim in view, he disciplines his soul, and whatever he may encounter in the course of his life, he gives thanks to God for the compass and depth of His providential ordering of all things. For it is absurd to be grateful to doctors who give us bitter and unpleasant medicines to cure our bodies, and yet to be ungrateful to God for what appears to us to be harsh, not grasping that all we encounter is for our benefit and in accordance with His providence. For knowledge of God and faith in Him is the salvation and perfection of the soul.





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, 4/26 @ 7:00pm and Saturday, 4/27 @ 9:00am

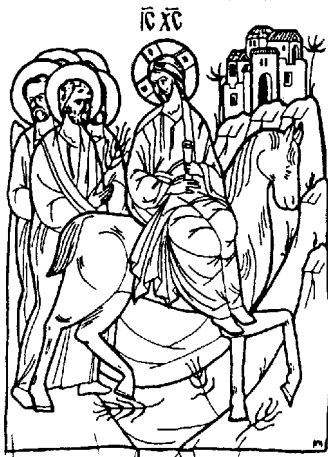
On this day the rising from the dead of St. Lazarus, the righteous friend of Christ, is celebrated. Holy Week begins with the phrase: "Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany", John 12:1. His arrival coincided with the Jewish Passover. It started on the 15th of the month of Nissan in commemoration 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, 4/27 @ 6:00pm and Sunday, 4/28 @ 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.