

Red Egg Volunteers Needed- Holy Thursday, April 13, 10:00 a.m. St. Andrew's Kitchen

Please join us in dyeing red eggs and wrapping them in tulle. You are welcome to bring two dozen personal eggs for your home and a Lenten dish to share. Contact Diane White at 773-837-7403 or nikonmama@aol.com. Happy Easter!

St. Andrew's has Graves for Sale @ Elmwood Cemetery, Section 3B and @ Memorial Park at the Cypress Gardens. Please call the church for additional information, if you are interested (773) 334-4515.

Holy Friday, April 14th, we are doing our annual **Feed My Starving Children** outreach program. If you would like to donate, please contact Father Athanasios at: frathanasios@standreworthodox.org

The newly-released DVD of the Greek Liturgy by Fr. Ivan Moody is now on sale for \$20.00. After Divine Liturgy today, there will be a table in the hallway between the Church and the church office where the DVD can be purchased. All proceeds are donated to St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS INITIATIVE!



PHILOPTOCHOS

Sunday, April 9th, Palm Sunday Bake Sale:

Please come by the Philoptochos table for your Easter desserts!! All your favorites will be available: Tsoureki, Galaktoboureko, Kourambeithes, Koulouri, Baklava, Lenten moustakoulouria, Lenten Melomoukarno and Diples, plus, we will have Mrs. Alexopoulos' Quince jam!!

Friday, April 28th: Sarah's Circle and Night Ministry Sandwich making: 10:30 am in the church kitchen to make sandwiches for our monthly outreach project. A \$2 donation helps make one sack lunch for a woman at Sarah's Circle, a local Edgewater woman's shelter. Please contact Vicki Karagianis at 773-327-3194 or Vonnie at vonnie@karafotias.com if you'd like to make a donation or help. The National Philoptochos has challenged all the Philoptochos chapters to collectively prepare 1,000,000 meals by the July, 2018 National Clergy Laity Meeting. St. Andrew's Philoptochos took top honors by preparing the most meals in our Metropolis, thanks to your generosity!! Please help us reach that goal again and come to assist on the 28th!!

Upcoming Philoptochos Meetings:

Tuesday, April 25th, 6:30 pm President's Room

Thursday, May 18th, 6:30 pm, President's Room: Elections for new board members and officers.

Members in good standing and who have paid their dues are eligible to vote! Members who have attended four meetings are eligible to run for the board and hold an office.

Welcome to Saint Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church
"Proclaiming Orthodoxy Since 1926"



5649 North Sheridan Road • Chicago, IL 60660
 (773) 334-4515 • Fax: (773) 334-3468
 E-mail: info@standreworthodox.org
 Website: StAndrewOrthodox.org

Fr. John N. Kalomas – Proistamenos
 Fr. John Kutulas – In Loving Memory
 Fr. Athanasios Minetos

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2017 (Palm Sunday)

STEWARDSHIP QUOTE— Our Lord's Entrance Into Jerusalem Was To Give Us Forgiveness Of Sins And Everlasting Life; What Can Our Entrance Be As Good Stewards To Give Back To Our Lord's House From Our Hearts For This Great Gift He Gave Us? A Blessed Pascha To All Stewards.

Please join us this Friday, April 14th @ 11:00 am - 2:00 pm for our annual **Feed My Starving Children Outreach Program**. We will be packaging 10,000 meals for Chicago's hungry children, families, seniors and veterans. Donations are welcome to help offset the cost. Please call the church office (773) 334-4515 if you can assist in any way.

.....
FOR NON-ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS: *We welcome those Christians not fully united with us. It is a consequence of the sad divisions of Christianity that we cannot extend to you a general invitation to receive Holy Communion. Orthodox Christians believe that the Eucharist is an action of the celebrating community signifying a oneness in faith, life, and worship. Reception of the Eucharist by Christians not fully united with us would imply a oneness which does not yet exist and for which we must all pray. We do however invite you to receive the blessed bread that is given out to all at the end of service.*

Palm Sunday: The Entrance For Our Salvation

Throughout the entire history of the known world, men have conquered other men. Rulers have conquered cities. Emperors have conquered entire nations. At times, Kings have strived to conquer the entire world. But there remains one uncharted territory that has eluded men of power all throughout history. This unconquered territory is the human heart, and its sole conqueror is Christ the king.

Today we celebrate together one of the great feasts of the Church calendar — the feast of Palm Sunday. Today we gather together to celebrate Christ's entry into the city of Jerusalem. Today we celebrate Christ as the king who enters our own personal Jerusalem- our hearts. Today's feast day is a momentary feast of joy and celebration, because tonight we begin the final leg of our journey towards Pascha. Our mood changes from one of joy this morning to one of solemnity, almost of sorrow this evening as we lead up to the great sacrifice that Christ performed for us on the cross.

The feast of Palm Sunday has been celebrated in our Church since the earliest days of Christianity, but the use of Palms in connection with religious celebrations goes all the way back to Old Testament times. Oddly enough Palm trees did not grow around the city of Jerusalem, and people would often buy imported Palms for religious celebrations, in particular The Feast of Tabernacles celebrated at the temple in Jerusalem. The Palm branch was used as a visual tool proclaiming the sovereignty of God as the true king of the Israelites.

With the expectation of the Messiah, and the events of Christ's ministry on earth, word travelled quickly around Judea that Jesus was the one whom the prophets had spoken about and whom everyone was expecting. Yesterday Christ performed a miracle by raising Lazarus from the dead, the miracle that foreshadowed his glorious resurrection next Sunday. Now everyone is convinced that this is the Messiah-king who will save the Israelites. And Christ fulfils the prophecy of Zachariah, entering Jerusalem on a donkey. All of Israel is preparing to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, and Christ enters also as the salvific king who will save Israel not from the tyranny of the Roman Empire, but from the curse of death through His own death and resurrection.

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 instil within ourselves the one thing that is missing—God?

The answer is to surrender. Surrender to the will of God. Surrender your life to the one who gave you life. We are constantly bound and held captive by the temporal things of this life. We are prisoners of our own selves, of this world, of our careers, of money, of the politicians who rule over us, we are even slaves to our own passions. The only way to find peace, to find true happiness, to experience true love is to surrender yourself to God, to make Him your king, to live in total communion with Him. And the way in which we turn our hearts from the kingdom of the self into the kingdom of God is through constant daily prayer, reflection, and meditation, frequent Holy Communion, frequent Confession, reading and understanding the Scriptures. So many people complain that they can't find time to come to Church, they can't find time to pray and read the Scriptures, they can't find time to fast, or go to Confession and Holy Communion. The reason they don't have time is that they are slaves to their own selves, to their own will. If we don't have time for God, then why on earth should God have any time for us? But God always has time for us. He is constantly knocking at the door to our hearts, to our lives and asking to come in. Some of the Church Fathers go so far as to liken God to a crazed lover who constantly seeks to be with the one that He loves- us, and who would do absolutely anything to be with the people that He loves.

Today, as we receive our Palm branches at the end of the Divine Liturgy, let us take them to our homes and place them somewhere where we can always see them. Let the Palms remind us that Christ is the king of our families, that Christ is the king of our hearts, that Christ is the only true answer to happiness and meaning in our lives. And if we do proclaim Christ as our king, let us try and make time for Him in our daily life, let us be reminded that He is the one with whom we will be spending eternity. Let us be reminded that our careers, our education, our finances, our homes, all of the basic material needs in our lives are only temporary. Let us prioritise and place Christ the king as the primary concern in our lives. It is only when we have done this that we will find true peace and happiness in such a confused and complex world.

Amen.

Taken from the writings of Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George, Brisbane QLD

EPISTLE READING: P Philippians 4:4-9

BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you

GOSPEL READING: John 12:1-18

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his

disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

UPCOMING SERVICES

Sunday, April 9th

Service of the Bridegroom 7:00 p.m.

Monday, April 10th

Service of the Bridegroom 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 11th

Service of the Bridegroom 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 12th

Holy Unction 3:00 p.m.
Mystical Supper and Holy Unction 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, April 13th

Liturgy of St. Basil 9:00 a.m.
Reading of the Twelve Gospels 6:45 p.m.
Procession of the Crucified Christ

Friday, April 14th

Service of the Great Hours 8:30 a.m.
Service of the Apokathelosis 3:00 p.m.
Service of the Lamentations 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 15th

Liturgy of St. Basil 8:30 a.m.
Preparatory Service for Pascha 11:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 16th

Resurrection Service 12:00 a.m.
Great Vespers of AGAPE 11:30 a.m.
Reading of the Gospel in many Languages.