

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION, IN LIGHT OF THE HOLY WEEK, THE PASSION OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, IN THE PASSING OF OUR DEAR BROTHER THE READER BRIAN JOHN:

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:4-9 (Palm Sunday Epistle)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God . . . For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

. . . Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion.

Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men.

If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.

Romans 12:1-2, 4-5, 9-18

THE LORD'S ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

Today Christ enters the path not only of His sufferings but of that dreadful loneliness which enshrouds Him during all the days of Passion week. The loneliness begins with a misunderstanding; the people expect that the Lord's entry into Jerusalem will be the triumphant procession of a political leader, of a leader who will free his people from oppression, from slavery, from what they consider godlessness – because all paganism or idol-worship is a denial of the living God. The loneliness will develop further into the dreadful loneliness of not being understood even by His disciples. At the Last Supper when the Saviour talks to them for the last time, they will be in constant doubt as to the meaning of His words.

And later when He goes into the Garden of Gethsemane before the fearful death that is facing Him, His closest disciples, Peter, John and James – whom He chose to go with Him fall asleep, depressed, tired, hopeless. The culmination of this loneliness will be Christ's cry on the cross, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" Abandoned men, rejected by the people of Israel He encounters the extreme of forsakenness and dies without God, without men, alone, with only His love for God and His love for mankind, dying for its sake and for God's glory.

The beginning of Christ's Passion is today's triumphal procession; the people expected a king, a leader – and they found the Saviour of their souls. Nothing embitters a person so much as a lost, a disappointed hope; and that explains why people who could receive Him like that, who witnessed the raising of Lazarus, who saw Christ's miracles and heard His teaching, admired every word, who were ready to become His disciples as long as He brought victory, broke away from Him, turned their backs on Him and a few days later shouted, "Crucify Him, crucify Him." And Christ spent all those days in loneliness, knowing what was in store for Him, abandoned by every one except the Mother of God, who stood silently by, as she had done throughout her life, participating in His tragic ascent to the Cross; she who had accepted the Annunciation, the Good Tidings, but who also accepted in silence Simeon's prophecy that a sword would pierce her heart.

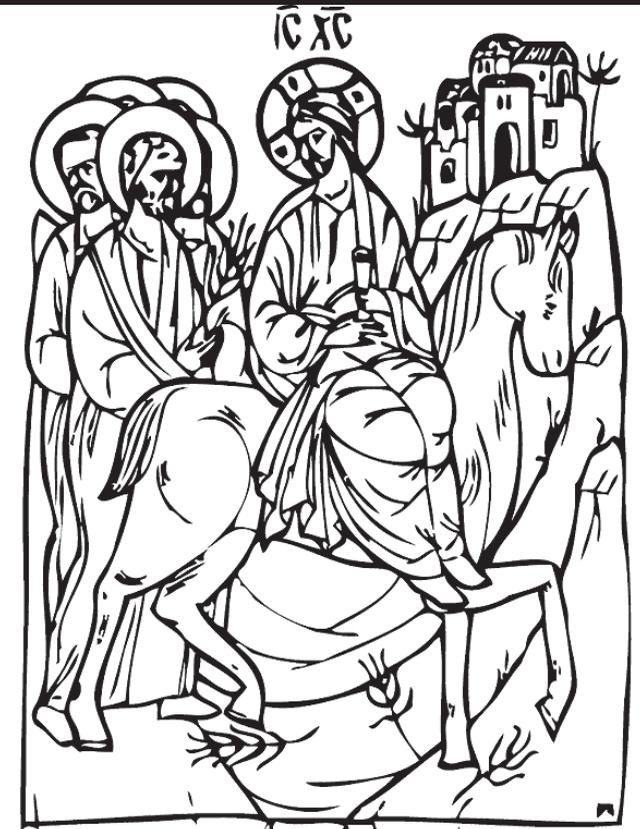
During the coming days we shall be present – not just remember, but be present – at Christ's Passion. We shall be part of the crowd surrounding Christ and the disciples and the Mother of God; as we hear the Gospel readings, as we listen to the prayers of the Church, as one image after another of these days of the Passion passes before our eyes, let each one of us ask himself the question, "Where do I stand, who am I in this crowd? A Pharisee? A Scribe? A traitor, a coward? Who? Or do I stand among the Apostles?" But they too were overcome by fear. Peter denied Him thrice, Judas betrayed Him, John, James and Peter went to sleep just when Christ most needed human love and support; the other disciples fled; no one remained except John and the Mother of God, those who were bound to Him by the kind of love which fears nothing and is ready to share in everything.

Once more let us ask ourselves who we are and where we stand, what our position in this crowd is. Do we stand with hope or despair, or what? And if we stand with indifference, we too are part of that terrifying crowd that surrounded Christ, shuffling, listening, and then going away; as we shall go away from church. The Crucifix will be standing here on Thursday and we shall be reading the Gospel about the Cross, the Crucifixion and death – and then what will happen? The Cross will remain standing, but we shall go away for a rest, go home to have supper, to sleep, to prepare for the fatigues of the next day. And during this time Christ is on the Cross, Christ is in the tomb. How awful it is that, like the disciples in their day, we are not able to spend one night, one hour with Him. Let us think about this, and if we are incapable of doing anything, let us at least realize who we are and where we stand, and at the final hour turn to Christ with the cry, the appeal of the thief, Remember me, Lord, in Thy Kingdom. Amen.

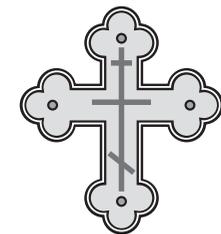
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SS. Constantine and Elena Orthodox Church

April 9 2017



PALM SUNDAY



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PARISH LIFE

PALM SUNDAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2017: PALM SUNDAY (FESTAL TONE AND GOSPEL)

- 8:30 am Festal Matins
- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy (St. John)
- 4–8 pm Visitation for Brian McDonald
in the nave and the hall
- 6:00 pm Bridegroom Matins
- 7:30 pm Wake for Brian McDonald

HOLY WEEK APRIL 10 – 16

Great and Holy Monday, April 10:

- 6:30 am Presanctified Liturgy
- 10:00 am Funeral for Brian McDonald
travel to Dormition Monastery for burial following
- 6:30 pm Bridegroom Matins (Fr. Gabriel Monforte serving)

Great and Holy Tuesday, April 11:

- NO Presanctified Liturgy in the morning – this is a change
- 6:30 pm Bridegroom Matins

Great and Holy Wednesday, April 12:

- 6:30 am Presanctified Liturgy
- 6:30 pm Service of Holy Unction
- 8:30 pm Bridegroom Matins

Great and Holy Thursday, April 13:

- 9:00 am Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil (Mystical Supper)
- 6:30 pm Matins of Holy Friday (Twelve Gospels)

Great and Holy Friday, April 14:

- 9:00 am Royal Hours
- 4:00 pm Vespers of Holy Friday (Winding Sheet)
- 6:30 pm Matins of Holy Saturday (Lamentations)
- 10:00 pm Vigil at the Tomb of Christ

Great and Holy Saturday, April 15:

- 9:00 am Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil (with the 15 Old Testament Readings)
- 11:30 pm Midnight Office

The All-glorious and Holy Pascha, April 16:

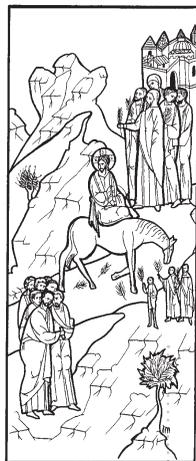
- 12:00 am: Paschal Matins, Liturgy and Basket Feast
- 3:00 pm: Agape Vespers and Festal Pitch-in

PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND OF OUR PARISH:

Victor Cosgarea, Denise Halman, Jay Hanko, Jan Isham, Zachary Waltz and Margaret Wey.

LOOKING AHEAD...

Next Sunday's readings (Pascha): Philippians 4:4-9; John 12:1-18.



FUNERAL SERVICES FOR THE READER BRIAN JOHN MCDONALD

Following is the schedule of funeral services for our dear brother in the Lord:
Tonight, 4 pm to 8 pm

Viewing will be in the temple of the church. Family will be optionally available in the church hall if anyone wishes to visit with one or more of them.

6 pm and around 7:30 pm

We will serve the Bridegroom Matins, followed by the wake service (somewhere around 7:30 pm).

Brian will lie in state in the church overnight. If anyone is interested in helping to keep vigil with the reading of the Psalms, etc., please let myself, Dn. Paul or Susan know.

Monday morning at 10

Funeral for a Christian layman will be held in the church.

Burial will be at the Dormition Monastery in Michigan; dependent on travel time there, we anticipate interment around 4 pm.

6:30 pm

Fr. Gabriel will be able to serve Monday evening's Bridegroom Matins service.

The family appreciates the warm condolences, the expressions of love and shared grief, and the acts of kindness extended to them during this time.

May God rest our dear brother, the reader Brian John, in the mansions of his Father's house, and grant his great mercy to us all.

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS ...

The McDonald family requests that donations be made, in lieu of flowers or other gifts, to the Monastery of All Celtic Saints on Mull Island in Scotland. Fr. Seraphim is making an urgent appeal for help in acquiring the residence that could act as the monastic foundation house. It seems a fitting that donations be made to a Scottish Orthodox Monastery in Brian's name. Checks can be made out to the church with "Brian M. memorial gift" in the memo.

NO PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY TUESDAY

Due to the trip to the Dormition Monastery for Brian's burial on Monday afternoon, there will be no early morning Presanctified Liturgy Tuesday morning. Bridegroom Matins will be held as usual Tuesday evening.

FISH FEAST AND FUND RAISER

Sbdn. John and Patricia Rigby will host the meal after Liturgy today as a means to raise funds for the Hogar Rafael Agau orphanage in Guatemala. The orphanage has been challenged by several local ordinances which have made it more difficult to minister to the children in their care. However their work continues, and their need is great. Please consider making an offering.

PERMISSION SLIPS FOR HOLY THURSDAY AND HOLY FRIDAY

It is our long-standing custom to have our children present for the Divine Liturgy on Holy Thursday morning, followed by a pitch-in

breakfast and dy ing of eggs for Pascha. We encourage families to bring their children to this Vespertal Liturgy, and to all the activities of Holy Friday, to enter as fully as possible into the experience of our Lord's Passion. If there is any good reason for pulling a child out of school, this is it. Fr. David has excused absence forms should they be needed. Don't hesitate to ask!

PREPARATION HELP NEEDED

As many as are able or ask to come to the services on Holy Friday, and to stay through the day to help decorate for the Lamentations service that night, and the whole Paschal cycle to follow. It is always a joyous time of fellowship and expectation. Help is also needed after the Vespertal Liturgy on Holy Saturday, so that Fr. David, Dn. Paul and one or two others aren't stuck with doing everything before they can go home. Please consider helping on both of these days.

REVISIT FR. SERAPHIM'S PRESENTATION

Our good friend Theodore Nottingham recorded video of Fr. Seraphim Aldea's informative and inspiring talk in our hall last Saturday, and has enhanced it with a lot of live film footage. It's quite delightful! For those who were unable to attend, and for those who would like to relive his presentation, it is now available on YouTube under the title, "The Return of Ancient Wisdom: Building the Monastery of All Celtic Saints after 1000 years." Take a look. Let Fr. David know if you can't find it via the search feature.

REFLECTIONS ON COLOSSIANS FOUR

The final chapter of Colossians contains practical admonitions for Christian living in a "hostile" society. In the first century, the Christians were surrounded by pagans, Jews and Gnostics of various kinds, always putting pressure (subtle or not so subtle) on them to deviate from the Faith. We must recognize that we are in a very similar situation today, and so these words of the Apostle are just as pertinent now as they were when he wrote them. "Be devoted and alert in prayer with thanksgiving" (vs. 4:2; again, Greek eucharistia); "walk in wisdom toward outsiders, redeeming the time" (4:5): though we have been "set apart" from the world through baptism, we of course must interact with those not of the Faith, and should do so with sober joy, and particularly with wisdom, so as not to get caught up in the passionate debates of the day. "Let your word always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how to answer each person" (4:6): the Christian should be thoughtful in speaking, and always seek to bless rather than curse or contribute to unseemly conversation, but prayerfully looking to "speaking the truth in love" (cf. Ephesians 4:15). The final greetings and commendations include mention of many of Paul's "brothers and co-workers," some of whom we now recognize through their feast days kept on the Church's yearly calendar: Tychicus, Onesimus, Aristarchus, Mark, and of course, "Luke the beloved physician" (4:7-14).

