

And he shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one he gives, and upon the other he bestows gifts. And he both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fattened; let no one go hungry away.

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. Let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

ON PASCHA

From a sermon by St. Gregory the Theologian

It is the Day of the Resurrection, and my Beginning has good auspices. Let us then keep the Festival with splendor, and let us embrace one another. Let us say Brethren, even to those who hate us; much more to those who have done or suffered anything out of love for us. Let us forgive all offenses for the Resurrection's sake: let us give one another pardon, . . .

Yesterday the Lamb was slain and the door-posts were anointed, and Egypt bewailed her Firstborn, and the Destroyer passed us over, and the Seal was dreadful and reverend, and we were walled in with the Precious Blood. Today we have clean escaped from Egypt and from Pharaoh; and there is none to hinder us from keeping a Feast to the Lord our God— the Feast of our Departure; or from celebrating that Feast, not in the old leaven of malice and wickedness, but in the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, (1 Corinthians 5:8) carrying with us nothing of ungodly and Egyptian leaven.



Yesterday I was crucified with Him; today I am glorified with Him; yesterday I died with Him; today I am quickened with Him; yesterday I was buried with Him; today I rise with Him. But let us offer to Him Who suffered and rose again for us— you will think perhaps that I am going to say gold, or silver, or woven work or transparent and costly stones, the mere passing material of earth, that remains here below, and is for the most part always possessed by bad men, slaves of the world and of the Prince of the world. Let us offer ourselves, the possession most precious to God, and most fitting; let us give back to the Image what is made after the Image. Let us recognize our Dignity; let us honour our Archetype; let us know the power of the Mystery, and for what Christ died.

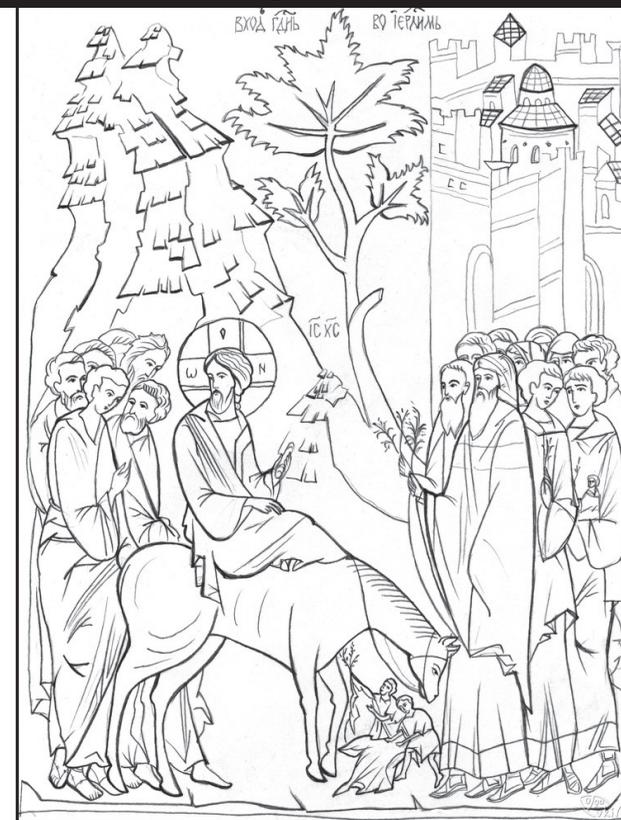
Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us. Let us become God's for His sake, since He for ours became Man. He assumed the worse that He might give us the better; He became poor that we through His poverty might be rich; (2 Corinthians 8:9) He took upon Him the form of a servant that we might receive back our liberty; He came down that we might be exalted; He was tempted that we might conquer; He was dishonored that He might glorify us; He died that He might save us; He ascended that He might draw to Himself us, who were lying low in the Fall of sin. Let us give all, offer all, to Him Who gave Himself a Ransom and a Reconciliation for us. But one can give nothing like oneself, understanding the Mystery, and becoming for His sake all that He became for ours.

As you see, He offers you a Shepherd; for this is what your Good Shepherd, who lays down his life for his sheep, is hoping and praying for, and he asks from you his subjects; and he gives you himself double instead of single, and makes the staff of his old age a staff for your spirit. . . These are the gifts given you by this august Abraham, this honourable and reverend Head, this Patriarch, this Restingplace of all good, this Standard of virtue, this Perfection of the Priesthood, who today is bringing to the Lord his willing Sacrifice, his only Son, him of the promise. Do you on your side offer to God and to us obedience to your Pastors, dwelling in a place of herbage, and being fed by water of refreshment; knowing your Shepherd well, and being known by him; (John 10:14) and following when he calls you as a Shepherd frankly through the door; but not following a stranger climbing up into the fold like a robber and a traitor; nor listening to a strange voice when such would take you away by stealth and scatter you from the truth on mountains, (Ezekiel 34:6) and in deserts, and pitfalls, and places which the Lord does not visit; and would lead you away from the sound Faith in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the One Power and Godhead, Whose Voice my sheep always heard (and may they always hear it), but with deceitful and corrupt words would tear them from their true Shepherd. From which may we all be kept, Shepherd and flock, as from a poisoned and deadly pasture; guiding and being guided far away from it, that we may all be one in Christ Jesus our Lord, now and unto the heavenly rest. To Whom be the glory and the might for ever and ever. Amen.

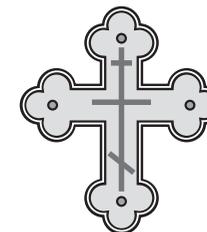
<https://preachersinstitute.com/2010/04/02/on-pascha-st-gregory-the-theologia/>

SS. Constantine and Elena Orthodox Church

April 1, 2018



PALM SUNDAY



Romanian Orthodox Episcopate of America, OCA
3237 West 16th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46222
317.638.4162 • saintsconstantineandelena.org

The Reverend Father David T. Wey, *Parish Priest*
317.484.1288 (home) • 317.627.2282 (cell)
Rev. Dn. Paul McDonald, *attached* 317.696.0079 (cell)

PARISH LIFE

GREAT AND HOLY WEEK: APRIL 1-7

SUNDAY, APRIL 1, 2018: ENTRANCE OF THE LORD INTO JERUSALEM (PALM SUNDAY – FESTAL TONES AND GOSPEL)

- 8:30 am Matins
- 10:00 am Divine Liturgy
- 12:00 pm Memorial for Reader Brian John McDonald (1 year)
and James Barnes (40 days)

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Great and Holy Monday, April 2:

6:30 am Presanctified Liturgy

6:30 pm Bridegroom Matins

Great and Holy Tuesday, April 3:

6:30 am Presanctified Liturgy

6:30 pm Bridegroom Matins

Great and Holy Wednesday, April 4:

6:30 am Presanctified Liturgy

6:30 pm Service of Holy Unction

8:30 pm Bridegroom Matins

Great and Holy Thursday, April 5:

9:00 am Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil (Mystical Supper)

6:30 pm Matins of Holy Friday (Twelve Gospels)

Great and Holy Friday, April 6:

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 7:

9:00 am Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil (with the 15 Old Testament Readings)

11:30 pm Midnight Office

The All-glorious and Holy Pascha, April 8:

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:

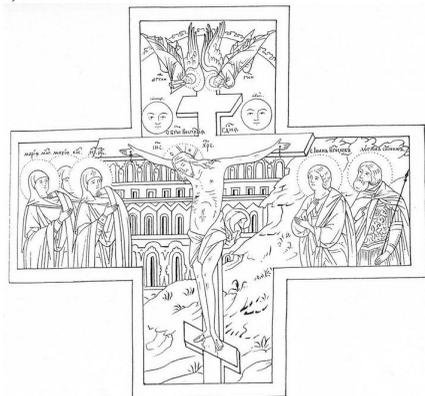
Victor Cosgarea, Jay Hanko, Jan Isham, Zachary Waltz, Margaret Wey.

PRAY FOR THE NEWLY ILLUMINED OF OUR PARISH:

Rocio Carrasco, Chris Hohne, John Minniear, and Chuck & Kitty Ryerson.

PRAY FOR OUR CATECHUMENS:

Sophie Cannon and Miriam Fakhoury



LOOKING AHEAD...

Next Sunday's readings (All-Bright Pascha): Acts 1:1-8; John 1:1-17.

Monday, April 9 – Bright Monday

10:00 am Divine Liturgy concelebration at St. George Church, Fishers
(no services at Saints Constantine and Elena; see announcement)

Friday, April 13 – Bright Friday, the “Life-giving Font”

8 am Paschal Matins

9:00 am Paschal Liturgy at our parish

Monday, April 16

6:30 pm Parish Council Meeting (Church Hall)

VIGIL AT THE TOMB/HOLY SATURDAY EVENING

Every year we invite parishioners to sign up to read through the Gospels and Epistles as an “all-night vigil” before the Tomb of Christ, from after the service on Holy Friday evening until the beginning of Holy Saturday services. Some even choose to sleep over in the church, and take their turn in the middle of the night. Consider being a part of this experience. A sign up sheet is available at the book kiosk.

PREPARING FOR THE TRIDUUM/PASCHA

As many as are able to come to the services on Holy Friday, are asked 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 Vespers 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.

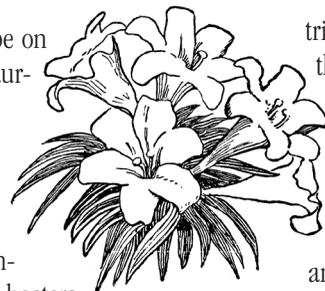
SECURITY AND SAFETY DURING HOLY DAYS

All those attending the services next week are reminded of a few simple and practical measures to take: 1) be sure to lock your car, and don't leave any valuables in plain sight; 2) those leaving the church (especially women and children) should not do so alone – and others (men in particular) should be ready to escort them; 3) be mindful not to leave valuables (e.g. car keys, cell phones) in coat pockets if hung up in the hall.

The parish council will provide a security guard to be on site through the Friday night vigil (10 pm - 6 am) and during the Paschal services on Saturday (11 pm - 6 am).

PASCHA LILIES

Beautiful lilies are available all over town! Please pick up one, two, or more, and keep them in your home until Thursday or Friday of this week. Lilies enjoy indirect sunlight and moderate temperatures – avoid cold drafts and heaters. The church does not buy lilies for celebrating Pascha since they are readily available in retail; let's make the temple lovely and fragrant!!!



HELP WITH CLEANUP AFTER THE FEAST

The sharing of feasting at Pascha surpasses all other joys that we experience together as a community. The basket feast after the Paschal Liturgy is always so bright and light-hearted, and the festal pitch-in after Agape Vespers recaptures the spirit of the Feast in a beautifully mellow way.

While we enjoy each others company and fellowship together, all are encouraged to help out with picking up the hall after these meals, so that it is not left to a mere few, and the hall is kept ready for the next event. Please be sure to do your part, and remember to help pick up after the children in particular. (Older children can be included in these tasks as well!)

BRIGHT MONDAY LITURGY AT ST. GEORGE

Our sister parish of St. George in Fishers will have their hierarch, Bp. Anthony, with them for the Paschal celebrations, through Bright Monday. All Orthodox faithful have been invited to join them for the Divine Liturgy on Bright Monday, which will include an ordination to the priesthood. Thus, in lieu of our usual Bright Monday Liturgy here in our parish, all are encouraged to attend St. George and to celebrate with them. Divine liturgy begins at 10 AM there. We will not have a Liturgy here in our parish that day.

We do plan to keep the Paschal celebration of Bright Friday, the “Life-Giving Font” on Friday, April 13, with Paschal Matins at 8 AM and the Divine liturgy at 9 AM.

PERMISSION SLIPS FOR HOLY WEEK

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 dying of eggs for Pascha. We encourage families to bring their children to this Vespers 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!

THE PASCHAL SERMON OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in nowise be deprived thereof. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; he gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour.