

# Saints Peter and Paul Orthodox Church

Albanian Archdiocese - OCA

9230 Old Bustleton Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19115

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Rev. Nicholas Dellermann – Rector (860-861-7468)

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Palm Sunday

## The First Antiphon

I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication. (Ps. 114:1)

**Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!**

Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live. (Ps. 114:2)

**(Refrain)**

The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me. (Ps. 114:3) **(Refrain)**

I suffered distress and anguish, then I called on the Name of the Lord. (Ps. 114:4a) **(Refrain)**

I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. (Ps. 114:9) **(Refrain)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **(Refrain)**

## The Second Antiphon

I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted." (Ps. 115:1)

**Refrain: O Son of God, seated on the colt of an ass, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!**

What shall I render to the Lord for all the things He has given me? (Ps. 115:3) **(Refrain)**

I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. (Ps. 115:4) **(Refrain)**

I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people. (Ps. 115:5) **(Refrain)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*("Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God...")*

## The Third Antiphon

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Ps. 117:1)

### **Tone 1 Troparion**

*By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion,*

*Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God.*

*Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death:*

*"Hosanna in the highest!!"*

*Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord."*

Let the house of Israel say that He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Ps. 117:2)

### **Troparion of the Feast**

Let the house of Aaron say that He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Ps. 117:3)

### **Troparion of the Feast**

Let those who fear the Lord say that He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Ps. 117:4)

### **Troparion of the Feast**

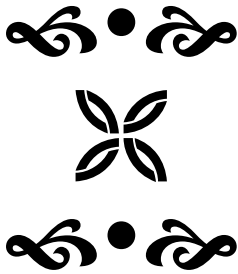
**Tone 1  
Troparion**

*By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy  
Passion,  
Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O  
Christ God.  
Like the children with the palms of victory,  
we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death:  
“Hosanna in the highest!”  
Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.”*

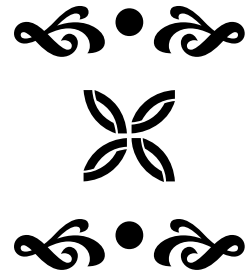
**Tone 4  
Troparion**

*When we were buried with Thee in baptism, O  
Christ God,  
we were made worthy of eternal life by Thy  
Resurrection.  
Now we praise Thee and sing:  
“Hosanna in the highest!”  
Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!”*

**Tone 6  
Kontakion  
(Resurrection)**



*As God, Thou didst rise from the tomb in glory,  
raising the world with Thyself.  
Human nature praises Thee as God, for death has  
vanished.  
Adam exults, O Master!  
Eve rejoices, for she is freed from bondage and cries to  
Thee:  
“Thou art the Giver of Resurrection to all, O Christ!”*



**Prokeimenon**

**Tone 4**

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. / God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.  
*(Ps. 117:26b, 27b)*

V. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. *(Ps. 117:1)*

**Palm Sunday**

The feast of Christ's triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, Palm Sunday, is one of the twelve major feasts of the Church. The services of this Sunday follow directly from those of Lazarus Saturday. The church building continues to be vested in resurrectional splendor, filled with hymns which continually repeat the Hosanna offered to Christ as the Messiah-King who comes in the name of God the Father for the salvation of the world.

The main troparion of Palm Sunday is the same one sung on Lazarus Saturday. It is sung at all of the services, and is used at the Divine Liturgy as the third antiphon which follows the other special psalm verses which are sung as the liturgical antiphons in the place of those normally used. The second troparion of the feast, as well as the kontakion and the other verses and hymns, all continue to glorify Christ's triumphal manifestation "six days before the Passover" when he will give himself at the Supper and on the Cross for the life of the world.

*Today the grace of the Holy Spirit has gathered us together. Let us all take up Thy cross and say: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest! (First Verse of Vespers).*

## ✠ The Epistle Reading ✠

## SCRIPTURE THIS WEEK

### Philippians 4:4-9

*(Epistle)*

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.

### Filipianeve 4:4-9

Gëzohuni përherë në Zotin; përsëri do të them: Gëzohuni. Butësia juaj le të njihet në të gjithë njerëzit. Zoti është afër. Mos u shqetësoni për asgjë; po në çdo gjë kërkesat tuaja le t'i bëhen të njohura Perëndisë me falënderime me anë të faljes e të lutjes. Edhe paqja e Perëndisë që kapërcen çdo mendje do të ruajë zemrat tuaja dhe mendimet tuaja me anë të Jisu Krishtit. Prandaj, o vëllezër, sa janë të vërteta, sa janë të hijshme, sa janë të drejta, sa janë të pastra, sa janë të dashura, sa janë me emër të mirë, nëse ka ndonjë virtyt, edhe nëse ka ndonjë lëvdim, këto mendoni. Ato që edhe mësuat edhe morët edhe dëgjuat e patë tek unë, këto bëni; edhe Perëndia i paqes do të jetë bashkë me ju.

### К Филиппийцам 4:4-9

Радуйтесь всегда в Господе; и еще говорю: радуйтесь. Кротость ваша да будет известна всем человекам. Господь близко. Не заботьтесь ни о чем, но всегда в молитве и прошении с благодарением открывайте свои желания пред Богом, и мир Божий, который превыше всякого ума, соблюдет сердца ваши и помышления ваши во Христе Иисусе. Наконец, братия мои, что только истинно, что честно, что справедливо, что чисто, что любезно, что достославно, что только добродетель и похвала, о том помышляйте. Чему вы научились, что приняли и слышали и видели во мне, то исполняйте, --и Бог мира будет с вами.

### Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things!

*(Ps. 97:1)*

V. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. *(Ps. 97:5)*

### Church Lectionary

#### Today

Philippians 4:4-9  
John 12:1-18

#### Monday

Matthew 21:18-43  
Matthew 24:3-35

#### Tuesday

Matthew 22:15-23:39  
Matthew 24:36-26:2

#### Wednesday

Isaiah 58:1-11  
Genesis 43:26-31, 45:1-16  
Proverbs 21:23-22:4

#### Thursday

1 Corinthians 11:23-32  
Matt. 26:2-20;  
John 13:3-17;  
Matt. 26:21-39;  
Luke 22:43-45;  
Matt. 26:40-27:2

#### Friday

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:2  
Matt. 27:1-38;  
Luke 23:39-43;  
Matt. 27:39-54;  
John 19:31-37;  
Matt. 27:55-61

#### Saturday

Romans 6:3-11  
Matthew 28:1-20

### Reading the Bible in a Year

Apr 09: 4 Kings 29-32  
Apr 10: 4 Kings 33-36  
Apr 11: Ezra 1-5  
Apr 12: Ezra 6-10  
Apr 13: Nehemiah 1-4  
Apr 14: Nehemiah 5-8  
Apr 15: Nehemiah 9-13

## ✧ The Gospel Reading ✧

### John 12:1-18

*(Gospel)*

Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil 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 had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on 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 these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

### Joanit 12:1-18

Jisui pra gjashtë ditë përpara pashkës erdhi në Betani, ku ishte Llazari që pati vdekur, të cilin e kishte ngjallur prej së vdekurish. Edhe i bënë darkë atje; edhe Marta shërbente; edhe Llazari ishte një prej atyre që rrinin në tryezë bashkë me të. Atëherë Maria si mori një litër miro prej nardi të papërzier, shumë të shtrenjtë, leu këmbët e Jisuit, edhe me flokët e saj fshiu këmbët e tij; edhe shtëpia u mbush me erën e miros. Një, pra, nga të dymbëdhjetë nxënësit e tij, Juda Iskarioti, i biri i Simonit, ai që kishte për ta tradhtuar, thotë: Përse të mos shitej kjo miro treqind dinarë e t'u jepej të varfërve? Edhe këtë e tha, jo se donte t'ia dinte për të varfrit, po se ishte vjedhës dhe kishte kuletën e asprave, përvetësonte çfarë viheshin në të. Jisui pra tha: Lëre, se e ka ruajtur për ditën e varrimit tim. Sepse të varfrit i keni përherë me vete, po mua nuk më keni përherë. Një turmë e madhe pra prej judenjve morën vesh se është atje; edhe erdhën jo vetëm për Jisuin, po që të shohin edhe Llazarin, të cilin e ngjalli prej së vdekurish. Po kryepërfetërinjtë morën vendim, që të vrasin edhe Llazarin. Sepse shumë veta prej judenjve vinin për atë, edhe i besonin Jisuit. Të nesërmen një turmë e madhe që kishte ardhur në të kremten, kur dëgjuan se vjen Jisui në Jerusalem, morën degë palmash, edhe i dolën përpara ta presin, edhe thërrisnin: Hosanna, i bekuar është ai që vjen në emrin e Zotit, mbreti i Izraelit. Edhe Jisui si gjeti një pulisht, ndenji mbi të, siç është shkruar: "Mos ki frikë, bijë e Sionit, ja mbreti yt tek po vjen duke ndenjmur mbi pulisht gomareje". Edhe nxënësit nuk i kuptuan këto në fillim; po kur u lavdërua Jisui, atëherë u ra ndër mend atyre se këto ishin shkruar për të, edhe se këto ia bënë atij. Turma pra që ishte bashkë me të kur thirri Llazarin nga varri, edhe e ngjalli prej së vdekurish, dëshmonte për këtë. Prandaj edhe turma i doli përpara, sepse dëgjoi se ai kishte bërë këtë çudi.



### От Иоанна 12:1-18

За шесть дней до Пасхи пришел Иисус в Вифанию, где был Лазарь умерший, которого Он воскресил из мертвых. Там приготовили Ему вечерю, и Марфа служила, и Лазарь был одним из возлежавших с Ним. Мария же, взяв фунт нардового чистого драгоценного мира, помазала ноги Иисуса и отерла волосами своими ноги Его; и дом наполнился благоуханием от мира. Тогда один из учеников Его, Иуда Симонов Искарот, который хотел предать Его, сказал: Для чего бы не продать это миро за триста динариев и не раздать нищим? Сказал же он это не потому, чтобы заботился о нищих, но потому что был вор. Он имел [при себе денежный] ящик и носил, что туда опускали. Иисус же сказал: оставьте ее; она сберегла это на день погребения Моего. Ибо нищих всегда имеете с собою, а Меня не всегда. Многие из Иудеев узнали, что Он там, и пришли не только для Иисуса, но чтобы видеть и Лазаря, которого Он воскресил из мертвых. Первосвященники же положили убить и Лазаря, потому что ради него многие из Иудеев приходили и веровали в Иисуса. На другой день множество народа, пришедшего на праздник, услышав, что Иисус идет в Иерусалим, взяли пальмовые ветви, вышли навстречу Ему и восклицали: осанна! благословен грядущий во имя Господне, Царь Израилев! Иисус же, найдя молодого осла, сел на него, как написано: Не бойся, дочь Сионова! се, Царь твой грядет, сидя на молодом осле. Ученики Его сперва не поняли этого; но когда прославился Иисус, тогда вспомнили, что так было о Нем написано, и это сделали Ему. Народ, бывший с Ним прежде, свидетельствовал, что Он вызвал из гроба Лазаря и воскресил его из мертвых. Потому и встретил Его народ, ибо слышал, что Он сотворил это чудо.

*(Instead of "It is truly meet...", we sing the following)*

God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!  
Celebrate the feast and come with gladness!  
Let us magnify Christ with palms and branches,  
singing: "Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord, our Savior!"

### Communion Hymn

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.  
*(Ps. 117:26b, 27b)*  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Continued from page 2

*When we were buried with Thee in baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by Thy resurrection. Now we praise Thee and sing: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord! (Second Troparion).  
Sitting on Thy throne in heaven, and carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God, accept the praise of angels and the songs of children who sing: Blessed is he who comes to recall Adam! (Kontakion).*

At the vigil of the feast of Palm Sunday the prophecies of the Old Testament about the Messiah-King are read together with the Gospel accounts of the entry of Christ into Jerusalem. At Matins branches are blessed which the people carry throughout the celebration as the sign of their own glorification of Jesus as Saviour and King. These branches are usually palms, or, in the Slavic churches, pussy willows which came to be customary because of their availability and their early blossoming in the springtime. As the people carry their branches and sing their songs to the Lord on Palm Sunday, they are judged together with the Jerusalem crowd. For it was the very same voices which cried Hosanna to Christ, which, a few days later, cried Crucify Him! Thus in the liturgy of the Church the lives of men continue to be judged as they hail Christ with the "branches of victory" and enter together with Him into the days of His "voluntary passion."



PRAYERS	Birthdays, Names-days, & Anniversaries	COFFEE HOUR
<p><i>For Those Who Have Fallen Asleep</i></p>		
<p>Newly-Departed Jonas, Newly Departed Evgeniy, Elmer, Quina, Alice, Roy, Robert, Leyla, Tamara</p> <p><i>[To be inserted after the petition for the departed]</i></p> <p>Again we pray for those who have lost their lives because of the war in Ukraine: that the Lord our God may look upon them with mercy, and give them rest where there is neither sickness, or sorrow, but life everlasting.</p>	<p><i>April 2 - 8</i> Eleni Demas (B)</p> <p><b><u>Seven-Day Vigil Candles</u></b></p> <p>Michael - health</p> <p>Seven-Day Vigil Candles are used for the Eternal Light that hangs above the Royal Doors and are often placed in front of the icons of Christ or the Birth-giver of God. Often, people will donate these candles in honor of a loved one or along with special prayers. If you would like to donate a Seven-Day Vigil Candle, Please include the name or names of those for whom the candle is donated, and we will place them in this section for special prayers.</p>	<p><b><u>April</u></b> 09 – David Lane 16 – <b>Pascha Agape Meal</b> 23 – Dellermann Family 30 – Hot Dog Sunday</p> <p>Coffee Hour is a wonderful chance for us to get together to break bread and spend time with each other, to celebrate those whom we have held memorials for, and to come together as the family of God outside of worship. To sign up, to host a coffee hour, contact Fr. Nicholas or Donna Bacon.</p>
<p><i>For Those Who Are Sick And Home-bound</i></p>		
<p>Virginia, Denise, Olvian, Marie, James, Alexandra, Andrew, Christina, Louise, Porter, Alvin, Tracy, Kathy, Andrew, Maria, Helen, John, Tom, Nina, Sophia, Jim, Spresha, Kristin, Niko, Spiro, Angjeliki, Melod, Olgay, Ruth, Fr. Milorad, Naomi, Terry, Naomi, Annette, Tatiana, Aleena, Lester Jr., Luke and his family, Natalia, Otari, Lasha</p>		
<p><i>Prayers In General</i></p>		
<p>Fr. Dennis and his family, Fr. Ioan, Christian, Michael, Erica, Kaida, DuDash family, Michael, Robert, Ally, Steve, Jake and Amanda and their children, Katherine, Ron, Anthony, Volodymyr, Nick, Sophia, Michael, Rafael, Bob, Barbara, Juliya and the child to be born of her, Isaac, Jemima and the child to be born of her, Ansley and the child to be born of her, Sandra, Enoch, John, Victoria, Melenie, Grace, Michael, Barbara</p> <p><i>[To be inserted after the petition for the living]</i></p> <p>Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, for those who are suffering, wounded, grieving, or displaced because of the war in Ukraine.</p> <p><i>[Petitions at Augmented Litany]</i></p> <p>Again we pray for a cessation of the hostilities against Ukraine, and that reconciliation and peace will flourish there, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.</p> <p>We give thanks to You, O Lord our God, Who in Your mercy and providential care, has called forth Archimandrite NIKODHIM to become a shepherd of wisdom and strength for our Albanian Archdiocese. We ask that You Bless Father NIKODHIM as he readies himself to become our future archpastor so he may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• care for our spiritual well-being,</li> <li>• unite us in a zealous confession of our holy faith,</li> <li>• commit us in loving service to one another in bright witness to the glory of Your holy Name.</li> </ul> <p>Hear us and have mercy.</p>	<p><b>Our Lenten Collection</b></p> <p>Our church has been collecting funds for the Orthodox Christian Mission Center throughout Lent as a way for us to give and support something outside of ourselves. Through its many ministries, OCMC has shared the love of Christ offering a living witness of the Orthodox Christian Faith in more than 30 countries around the world. Each of these ministries works to build up the Church and help transform the lives of people who hunger and thirst for salvation through a vibrant Eucharistic life in Christ.</p> <p>Please keep this worthy cause in mind for donations during these final Sundays of the fast. Donations can be given to Donna Bacon, earmarked for the OCMC and given to Jim Schaeffer, or given to the Sunday School children when they come around for the collection during coffee hour.</p>	

## Save Your Life!

April 3, 2023 · Fr. Barnabas Powell

Why is it I keep having to learn wisdom the hard way? I mean, it isn't like I haven't had wise men and women and friends who have offered wise counsel. I've seen how bad choices can really wreck a life and then I've watched myself make those SAME BAD CHOICES! What gives?

Well, what gives IS our common, human struggle. Our will, our "want to" is weakened by fear and death. We allow our fear of mortality to con us into believing that "he who dies with the most toys, wins" or any number of temporary delusions we tell ourselves to justify our choices. But, in the end, they all fall flat!

Look at our lesson today in Proverbs 19:16-25:

*He who keeps the commandment keeps his life; he who despises the word will die. He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed. Discipline your son while there is hope; do not set your heart on his destruction. A man of great wrath will pay the penalty; for if you deliver him, you will only have to do it again. Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom for the future. Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will be established. What is desired in a man is loyalty, and a poor man is better than a liar. The fear of the LORD leads to life; and he who has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm. The sluggard buries his hand in the dish, and will not even bring it back to his mouth. Strike a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence; reprove a man of understanding, and he will gain knowledge.*

What wisdom our writer of Proverbs offers us today as we enter into the homestretch of Great Lent. And this wisdom lies at the heart of our weakened will and how we will escape foolish living. Look at three insights into making your life secure, wise, and eternal.

First, Know the Commandments – St. John Chrysostom declares that knowing the scriptures is absolutely necessary to know God. Of course, this means an active and diligent study of the scriptures and a love for the scriptures. But you and your children will never live the scriptures if you never know WHY they are so valuable to you. The scriptures aren't an end in themselves. No. The scriptures are valuable because they teach you about God. And that, my angels, is your true home! If you know the scriptures, you'll get to know God, and to know Him is to love Him!

Next, Embrace Discipline – I know, I know, this doesn't "feel" fun. But, hey, being a grown-up isn't easy. It is, however, worth it. Discipline sets you free to be who you were made to be in the first place. When you embrace the hard work of actively practicing the disciplines of the faith – Prayer, Fasting, and Generosity – you enable your true self to be discovered, AND you avoid the pitfalls of being enslaved by your desires. Humbly accepting instruction to learn and grow makes you like Jesus, and being like Jesus enables you to enjoy eternal life with Jesus!

Finally, Demand Truth from Yourself – When you insist on honesty from yourself, you escape the dead-end of constantly blaming all your troubles on everyone around you and even blaming God for your troubles! St. Isaac



says that “this life was given to you for repentance. Do not waste it on vain pursuits.” Of course, repentance here doesn’t just mean “feeling” sorry for wrongdoing. No, it means an active and purposeful practice of the medicine of the Orthodox Faith SO THAT you are strong enough to participate with God in His dynamic and glorious eternal life!

Today, are you able to escape bad choices in your life? Looking back, do you see the pattern of short-sighted living that causes such grief? Don’t despair! There is the remedy in the wisdom of the Church! Just be brave enough to be Orthodox on Purpose!

**O Lord of Mercy, I struggle with the consequences of my bad choices. Sometimes I know the consequences of my bad choice are coming and I make a bad choice anyway. Sometimes I am surprised by what happens after my bad choices. But most of the time, I am simply not paying attention to my choices. Please forgive me. I am not being attentive, and the fallout of that inattentiveness is the source of most of the weaknesses in my living. Please help me do that daily faithfulness that keeps me focused on You. Amen**

<https://blogs.ancientfaith.com/faithencouraged/2023/04/save-your-life/>

## April Events

### April

#### SUNDAY

09 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

*Palm Sunday*

#### WEDNESDAY

12 – 6:30pm Service of Holy Unction

#### THURSDAY

13 – 10:00am Divine Liturgy

6:30pm Matins with the 12 Gospel Readings

#### FRIDAY

14 – 3:00pm Vespers

6:30pm Matins and Lamentations

#### SATURDAY

15 – 9:30am Vespers and Divine Liturgy

**PASCHA**

11:30pm Midnight Office

16 – 12:00am Matins & Divine Liturgy

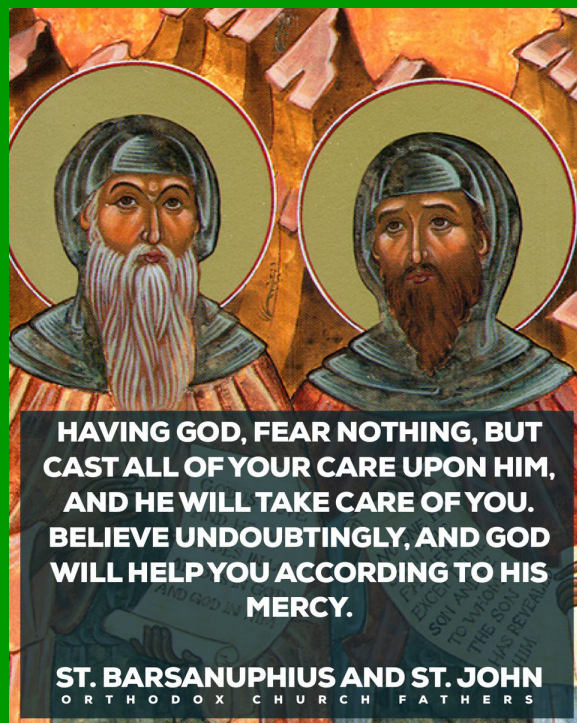
#### SUNDAY

1:00pm Vespers of Pascha

**Can't join us in person?**

We stream our services on our YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@sspeterpaulorthodoxchurch01810>



**The Church is taking donations for  
flowers for Palm Sunday,  
Decorating the Tomb during Holy  
Week, and for Pascha.**





The Theological Student Fund  
of the Albanian Orthodox Archdiocese in America  
517 East Broadway, South Boston, MA 02127

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

With the blessing of Archbishop Mark, it is with great joy that we announce the ordination of Juxhin to Deaconate. Juxhin Shkurti will be ordained during the Divine Liturgy celebrated at St. George Cathedral in Boston, Massachusetts on Sunday, April 23, 2023. This is a wonderful day of celebration for our Archdiocese and our prayers and best wishes are with Juxhin and his wife Livia on this momentous day! I Vyer! Axios!



Any diocesan clergy who would like to concelebrate at the Liturgy are welcome to do so, but please let the Diocesan Chancellor and Administrator know of your plans to serve ahead of time.

# Archpastoral Message of His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon

## Pascha 2023



To the Clergy, Monastics, and Faithful of the Orthodox Church in America,

My Beloved Children in the Lord,

Christ is risen! Indeed he is risen!

“Let us purify our senses and we shall see Christ shining in the unapproachable light of the Resurrection. We shall clearly hear him say: ‘Rejoice.’” (Paschal Canon, Ode One)

When the myrrh-bearing women came to the tomb, they were met by the words of an angel: “He is not here. He is risen.” Mary Magdalene and the other women in turn brought this message to the apostles.

And down through the centuries, that message has been passed on by their successors, even to us: the Gospel of the crucified and risen Lord.

“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”—this is the heart of the Gospel, and the Resurrection of Christ is the irruption of the heavenly kingdom into our fallen reality, the demonstration and proof that the kingdom is at hand. The Resurrection of Christ is not a distant and ancient event. It is a new reality to which we in the Church already have access.

For the message of Christ’s Rising is not merely passed down from generation to generation, like other teachings or stories. It is passed down through experience: in baptism, we die and rise with Christ. In chrismation, we receive his Spirit and share in his anointing. In the Eucharist, we eat his deified Body and Blood, offered for us on the Cross and taken up into heaven through the Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension. Through the mysteries, we enter ourselves into a personal and eternal relationship with the Risen Lord.

This is why, in Saint John Damascene’s Paschal canon, the figure who announces the Resurrection to the believer is none other than Christ himself—“we shall see Christ shining in the unapproachable light of the Resurrection. We shall clearly hear him say: ‘Rejoice.’” He has chosen mortal ministers to serve at his mysteries and offer them on our behalf, but through the mysteries—if we repent, “purify[ing] our senses” of sinful preoccupations with worldly things—then we will encounter Christ himself.

And this encounter fills us with joy, because it is a foretaste of the kingdom, where the righteous will always delight in the clear light of the Resurrection, where the Resurrection’s transformative power will be known in full, where Christ will be seen, not as in a mirror darkly, but face to face.

Christ is risen, beloved children! Death, sin, hell, the world, the devil—these are all fleeing in defeat. Christ himself goes before us into the kingdom, the new heaven and the new earth, and we sing the song of victory: “Christ is risen!”

May we, all of us, keep that anthem in our hearts all the year long, and throughout the years, knowing that Christ’s Resurrection is the conquest of all trouble and sorrow, the end of the rule of Satan and sin and brokenness, and the beginning of a new reality that knows no end: the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, lasting unto all ages.

Greeting you with the unfailing, invincible, and unending joy of the Lord’s Pascha,

I remain,

Yours in Christ,

+ TIKHON

Archbishop of Washington

Metropolitan of All America and Canada