

THE PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM



○ Lord and Master of my
life, take from me the
spirit of sloth, despondency,
lust for power and idle talk.
But grant unto me, Thy
servant, a spirit of
chastity, humility, patience
and love.
Yea, ○ Lord and King, grant
me to see mine own faults
and not to judge my broth-
ers and sisters. For
blessed art Thou unto ages
of ages.
Amen





Holy Assumption Orthodox Church

OCA - Diocese of the Midwest

V. Rev. Archpriest Andrew Bartek, Rector Parish Council President: Ron Royhab



APRIL Bulletin Sponsor:

Fr. Andrew in memory of my mother Dorothy on the occasion of her birthday

Liturgical & Events Schedule

Sunday, April 17 / Palm Sunday

9:10 am: Hours/ Divine Liturgy / Social
6:00 pm: Bridegroom Matins

Monday, April 18 / Great & Holy Monday

9:30 am: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
6:30 pm: Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 19 / Great & Holy Tuesday

9:30 am: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
6:30 pm: Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 20 / Great & Holy Wednesday

9:30 am: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
6:00 pm: Sacrament of Holy Unction (*NOTE: Please note the time change. Please fast as you would for Pre-Sanctified Liturgy. Also, please be prepared by receiving Holy Confession*)

Thursday, April 21 / Great & Holy Thursday

9:30 am: Vespers Liturgy commemorating the Last Supper
6:30 pm: Matins of Great & Holy Friday w/ the reading of the 12 Passion Gospels
(*NOTE: We will be setting up the grave following the Service.*)

Friday, April 22 / Great & Holy Friday

9:30 am: Royal Hours
3:00 pm: Burial Vespers
5:30 pm: Lamentations

Saturday, April 23 / Great & Holy Saturday

4:00 pm: Vespers Divine Liturgy

Sunday, April 24 / Pascha

8:00 am: Nocturns followed by Resurrection Matins, Paschal Hours, Divine Liturgy.
Blessing of baskets after Liturgy will be followed by the Agape Meal (Meal of Love) in the Church basement.

SUNDAY APRIL 17, 2022

Gospel: John 12: 1-18

Epistle: Phillipines 4:4-9

Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem / Palm Sunday.

Hieromartyr Simeon, Bishop in Persia, and those with him: Martyrs Abdechallas and Ananias the Presbyters, Usthazanes, Fusicus (Pusicius), Ascitrea, Azades the Eunuch, and many others. Martyr Adrian of Corinth. St. Agapitus, Pope of Rome. St. Acacius, Bishop of Melitene. Ven. Zosima, Abbot of Solovetsky Monastery. Uncovering of the Relics of Ven. Alexander Svirskii. Repose of Ven. Macarios of Corinth.

APRIL BULLETIN / CANDLE SPONSORS

Bulletin: (\$50) From Fr. Andrew for my mother, Dorothy, on the occasion of her birthday

Chandelier: (\$50) From Laura Kovach in Memory of her mother Margaret / From Joe & Valerie in memory of LaVerne Schutt & Violet Bargdill

Altar Candles: (\$50) From Fr. Andrew for my Godfather Andrew & Grandfather Matthias

Candles on the Tomb: (\$25) From Fr. Andrew for His Eminence Archbishop John & Mitred Archpriest Basil (FP)

Eternal Light & Icon Screen: (\$25) From Joe & Valerie for the health of Archpriest Andrew on the occasion of his birthday

Candles @ the Cross: From Laura in memory of my mother Margaret & Russ

Candles @ St Tikhon's Icon: For the Health of His Grace Bishop Matthias on the occasion of his birthday; For the Health of Tim & Cami & safety of Nicholas, Tikhon & Gleice

APRIL: MONTHLY TITHE ONLY

Goal Pledged per month: \$5,667
(average of \$1,307 per week)

April 3: \$1,695

April 10: \$1,605

TOTAL FOR MONTH: \$3,300

APRIL: OTHER INCOME

Goal for the month in this category:
\$4,000 (Average \$923 a week)

April 3: \$5 Vigils; \$20 donations; \$150 holy day donation; \$50 Chandelier; \$30 Candles at the cross

April 10: \$35 Vigils; \$20 donations; \$200 Holy day donation; \$50 Bulletin; \$50 Chandelier; \$25 Candles on the tomb; \$50 Altar Candles; \$25 Eternal light; \$15 St Tikhon's Icon

TOTAL FOR MONTH: \$725

APRIL: RESTRICTED FUND DONATIONS

April 3: \$65 Building Restoration; \$50 Flower; \$20 Mission Boxes (March); \$10 St Vladimir Seminary (Feb); \$250 Lions Club (April)

April 10: \$100; \$100 Cemetery; \$415 Flowers; \$100 Mission Boxes (March); \$50 Lions Club (April)

CATASTROPHIC RELIEF FUND

Purpose of fund: To provide some small financial assistance to a parishioner, family member or community member who has suffered a catastrophic event.

Funds will be offered at the discretion & blessing of the Rector and the discretion of the Board.

This money can also be used for outreach programs in the parish. Thank you and God bless!

APRIL LITURGICAL ATTENDANCE

Wednesday, March 30: 8 attended Pre-Sanctified

Friday, April 1: 8 attended Akathist

Saturday, April 2: 15 attended Mem. Sat (6 being guests)

Saturday, April 2: 13 attended Vespers

Sunday, April 3: 19 attended Liturgy (1 was a guest) 16 communicants

Wednesday, April 6: 11 attended pre-sanctified

Friday, April 8: 6 attended Akathist

Saturday, April 9: 10 attended Vespers

Sunday, April 10: 19 attended Liturgy (4 being guests) / 17 received communion

BUILDING / RESTORATION FUND

Our 125th Anniversary is coming!

Fund Purpose: To collect funds to pay for the restoration, repair and beautification of the building and parish room. This will avoid using general funds which are earmarked for budgetary items.

Please consider contributing generously to the *Building/Restoration Fund*.

VIGILS- APRIL 3

Susan Guzy 3: In loving memory of Fran Mitchell, Eva Pondillo, Carole Woodward Vechnaya Pamyat, Special intentions, Special intentions

Jean Hileman 1: For the health of my brother, William

Sandy Martin2: In loving memory of Marguerite, special intentions

Natalie Twarek 4: Birthday blessing to Father Andrew, For God's grace for the health and recovery of Archbishop Paul, For the health and recovery of Nancy, For the health of Amber, Tim, Dottie, Joe Schutt, Jamie, Jim, Stephanie, Ron, Ezra, David, Helen Lis and Tina's dad, Earl, Matt, Tom, Loren, Joe, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Betty, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Chuck, Bohdi, Diane, Stella, Jake, Cheryl, Pat and Karen

Pascha Flowers



Fr. Andrew: (11 Flowers)

- ◆ For the health of his family & friends
- ◆ For the health of all the parishioners, their families & all priests who have served this community
- ◆ For the health of all first responders especially Summit Fire & Police, Marblehead Police & Danbury Fire
- ◆ For all those suffering in the War in Ukraine
- ◆ For all the friends of this parish, the Administration, businesses and residents of this Village
- ◆ For the health of His Eminence AB Paul
- ◆ In memory of my ordaining bishop His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas
- ◆ In Memory of my parents George & Dorothy
- ◆ In Memory of my family & friends
- ◆ In memory of those who lost their lives in the war in Ukraine
- ◆ In memory of the deceased Hierarch's of the Diocese & the Carpatho-Russian Diocese & the Priests of this parish

Kowal Family: (4 Flowers)

- ◆ In memory of Mary Christos, Triantafilos, Marika & mother, Theopheny and her father Triantafilos, Daniel, Marjorie & Peter

Guzy Family: (4 Flowers)

- ◆ For the Health of my Parish Family
- ◆ For the Health of my brother Gary and all my relatives
- ◆ In memory of departed members of the Guzy and Felenchak Families
- ◆ In memory of Frank, Julia, Bill and Carole & Jay

Martin Family: (3 Flowers)

- ◆ For the Health of the Elchisko & Martin Families
- ◆ In loving memory of Marguerite
- ◆ In loving memory of the Elchisko & Martin Family

Twarek Family: (4 flowers)

- ◆ Paschal blessings & good health to our family & friends
- ◆ In loving memory of our parents, grandparents, godparents & all departed family & friends

Kovach Family: (3 flowers)

- ◆ For Health & thanksgiving of family and friends
- ◆ In memory of departed family & friends

VIGILS- APRIL 10

Susan Guzy 2: Special intentions, Special intentions

Sandy Martin 1: special intentions

Natalie Twarek 5: In loving memory of Nancy Sitzler, For God's grace for the health and recovery of Archbishop Paul, For the health and recovery of cousins Carole Conaway, and Sharon and Charlie Dietrich, For the health of Amber, Tim, Dottie, Joe Schutt, Jamie, Jim, Stephanie, Ron, Ezra, David, Helen Lis and Tina's dad, Earl, Matt, Tom, Loren, Joe, Sonya, Margi & Joe, Betty, Jackie, MaryAnn & Bob, Chuck, Bohdi, Diane, Stella, Jake, Cheryl, Pat and Karen, special intentions

APRIL CHURCH CLEANING SCHEDULE

Week of April 17: Stephanie

Week of April 24: Laura



FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Diane Tryon
109 Joslyn Street
Arcadia, OH 44804

Metropolitan Tikhon makes Primateal Visit for the Enthronement of His Grace Bishop Alexis of Sitka and Alaska

On Friday March 25th 2022, His Beatitude Metropolitan Tikhon traveled to the Diocese of Alaska to preside at the Enthronement of His Grace Bishop Alexis, Bishop of Sitka and Alaska.

Upon his arrival to Anchorage, His Beatitude was greeted at the airport by His Grace Bishop Alexis and the clergy and faithful of the diocese.

On Saturday, March 26th, His Beatitude traveled to Palmer, AK where he visited Archangel Michael Candles Church Supply. His Beatitude then continued on to Wasilla where he visited Saint Juvenaly and His Companion Mission. Priest Timothy Kolb, acting rector welcomed His Beatitude and gave him a tour of the mission.

Later that day, His Beatitude returned to Anchorage to preside at the Vigil service at Saint Innocent Cathedral followed by dinner with the local clergy.

On Sunday, March 27th, His Beatitude presided at the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and the Enthronement of His Grace Bishop Alexis. Concelebrating was also His Grace Bishop Gerasim, Bishop of Forth Worth and Auxiliary to the Diocese of the South. During the Liturgy, on behalf of His Grace Alexis, His Beatitude awarded Archpriest Stephan Heckman, Rector of Holy Transfiguration Church in Pilot Station, the right to wear the mitre.

At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, Metropolitan Tikhon welcomed all those gathered including a number of esteemed guests, and congratulated Bishop Alexis exhorting him "to always remember that he is not alone and that there is a great cloud of witnesses of Alaskan and ecumenical saints to help you. And there is the wider church in America. All of the faithful of America feel family pride and family concern for our mother diocese, and we stand ready to support you, the shepherd of Sitka and Alaska". With those words, he presented the archpastoral staff to Bishop Alexis who ascended the cathedra to bless the gathered clergy and faithful.

A festive luncheon following in the church hall along with the presentation of many gifts to His Grace

Bishop Alexis.

May God grant many years to His Grace Bishop Alexis and the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of Alaska!

Donations Closed for Ukrainian Refugee Appeal

Donations for the Ukrainian refugee appeal will close as of Friday, April 8, 2022. All donations received before then will be transferred to the Polish Orthodox Church's humanitarian agency ELEOS. If you would like to make additional donations, please send them to International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). Any donations received by the Orthodox Church in America after the close of the appeal will be sent on to IOCC.

Thanks to your generous support, the OCA was able to collect over \$700,000 to ELEOS.



Tomb Candles:

Effective in May, tomb candles will no longer be available for purchase. To prevent the build up of wax on the walls, and to preserve the new painting work, following discussion, the Parish Council, with my blessing and agreement, have decided to discontinue their use. Thank you for your understanding.

Special Meeting:

On Sunday, May 1 following the Divine Liturgy (but before blessing of graves) there will be a special meeting of the parish. Purpose: to discuss and vote on the renovation work on the outside of the parish in our preparation for the 125th anniversary of the church. Fourteen (14) members need to be present. An affirmative vote of eleven (11) is required to move forward with the renovations.

PRAYER LIST- UPDATED April 13

HIERARCH'S / CLERGY: His Beatitude, Metropolitan Herman; Archbishop Paul; Archbishop Benjamin from San Fransico; John Duranko (Father's home pastor); James Gleason (Father's Spiritual Father); Moses Berry; Gregory Grivna; Emilian Hutnyan; Joseph Von Klarr; Michael Kuzara; John Zabinko / Deacon Paul Gansle, Deacon Peter Rentsch, Deacon Michael Wilson / Sub-deacon Wylie Meath

MATUSHKII: Pani Patricia Duranko; Susan Dank; Virgina Lecko; Maura McCarnthey; Roberta Spengler; Margaret Zabinko

PARISHIONERS & THEIR FAMILIES: James Bargdill (Schutt); Jim Basala (Fr.); John Beadle (Elchisco); Kristen Cassell; Carole Conaway (Twarek); Maryann Cook (Twarek); Sharon Dietrich (Twarek); Charlie Dietrich (Twarek); Ethan Feldman (Fr); Michael Glovinsky; Heidi Golob; Shirley Gresh (Glovinsky); Joseph Habegger (Kovach); Elaine Hileman; Betty Kovach; Helen Lis; David Mazurik; Child Stella Miller (Elchisco); Nancy Naiser (Royhab); William Pipenur (Hileman); Pat Rentz; Earl Rindfleisch; Helen Jean Rofkar (Elchisco); Joe Rose; Sonya Rose; Ron Royhab; Maryann Royhab; Stephanie Royhab; Joe Schutt; Diane Tryon; Greg Tyron; Tom Twarek; Child Bodhi (Cassell); Kathryn Tryon & her unborn child

OTHER REQUESTS: Mary Dank (ABL); Layne Demkosy (Fr); Paul Demkosky (Fr.); Marge Dziama; Child Ezra; Zoe Finley (ABL);; Ruthe Flewelling; Ben Franklin (Kovach); Dorothy Goldman (Twarek); Donald Gresh (Glovinsky); Andrea Joy (Kovach); Maria (ABL); Jake Lipstraw (Twarek); Mark Ludvik (Guzy); Mark Masica (Kovach); Pauline Meath (Fr); Karen Muzyka (Fr); Noah (ABL); Jamie Philpot (Twarek);William Romanchak (Fr); Andrew Rydgig (ABL);Sandy Scafaria (Hileman); Chuck Wiedenhoft (Twarek); Sara (Jake); Chris Quotap (Fr); Zoland Zile (Fr.); Molly and her unborn child (Fr.); Ashley and her unborn child

MILITARY: Alex, Nathan Brown, Craig Cassell, Cory Deaton , Jake Ellithorpe, Jordan Fulton, Alena Grabavoy, Justin Issler; Nicholas & Tikhon, Cory Deaton, Alex Zarnow

CAPTIVES: Metropolitan Paul (Orthodox Archdiocese of Aleppo), Archbishop John Syriac Archdiocese of Aleppo, The UN & IOCC humanitarian aid workers in & around Syria; Those suffering persecution in Iraq, Syria, Israel, Egypt, Ukraine and throughout the world



NOTE: ABL (Archbishop's request) / Please let Fr. Andrew know who can come off the list or be put on.



PLEASE CHECK PRAYER LIST

Please check the prayer list to make sure I have everyone's corrections, additions and deletions correct. If anyone can be taken off, please let me know.

Thank you Fr. A

READER

April 17	Tim
April 24	Joe

APRIL Celebrations

ANNIVERSARIES	BIRTHDAYS	
17- Matt & Brittany 20- Ron & Bobbie Royhab 4-30-2011: Retired Bishop Matthias of Chicago <p style="text-align: center;">NAMESDAY</p> 4-22: Archbishop Nathaniel of Detroit 4-25: Archbishop Mark of Philadelphia	1-Shawn Lariccia 2- AP Andrew Bartek 4- His Grace Bishop Matthias 5-Fr. Herman Kincaid 5- Nicholas Weisend 6-His Grace Bishop Paul 10- Jean Hileman 11- Christopher Mihaly 13- Jennifer Heffernan 13-Margarita Leso 17- Natalie Twarek	18- Nancy Bunge 18- Diane Tryon 20- Nectarios Mihaly 22- Greg Tryon 23- Paul Demkosky Jr 24-Matt Lariccia III 27- William Jerome 27- Katie Cassell 28- Serena Byngton 29- Katie Twarek

THANK YOU

- From Natalie for a donation of \$60 for what is needed from the Wish List.
- From Joe & Valerie of a donation of \$200 towards Wine

40 DAY REMEMBRANCE

April 17: Robert Hayna
May 1: Gary Smolk / David Lavalle
May 15: Nancy Sitzler / John Kotch



APRIL Reposed

1-Andy Basala (1982) 1-Andreas Basala (1923) 1-Larry Twarek (2019) 4- Sophia Jump (2012) 4- Rose Bartek (1986) 4- Harry Flewelling (2018) 4- Matthew Kollar 6- John Sabol (2017) 7- Louis M. Benya (1976) 7- Mitered Archpriest Basil Dziama (1969) Former Pastor 7- Bob Mazur (2018) 9- Julia Guzy (2021) 11- Archbishop John (1982) 11- LaVerne Schutt (2014) 12- Helen Tomko (1989) 14- Paul Glovinsky (1978) 15- Stephen Brooks (2005) 16- Mary Wright (2005)	17- Lois Mazurik (1999) 22- Olga Belenky (1971) 22- John Beadle (1988) 22- Fred Millie (1996) 23- Anna Basala (1994) 24- Demasthony Ballan (1968) 24- Fr. Stephen Dutko (2009) 26- Margaret Mazur (1987) 26- Russell Kovach (1981) 28-Ann Kovalick (2018) 29- Olga Kollmeier (1972) 30- Anthony Hubicki (1977) Dolores Martin (1974) Herb Hobson (2004) Charles Rose (2015) Michael Elchisco (1913) Andrew Kopchock (1914) Anna Onyock (1916)
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Diocesan Administrator Visits Archbishop

On Wednesday, March 30, His Grace Bishop Daniel of Santa Rosa, Administrator to the Diocese of the Midwest, arrived in Chicago for a two-day visit to pray with His Eminence Archbishop Paul and to continue giving his assistance to the diocese.

After landing in Chicago Wednesday morning, Bishop Daniel was taken to the Chancery and was given a tour of the diocesan facilities. After a brief discussion with members of the Chancery staff, His Grace left for the hospital to visit Archbishop Paul. The two hierarchs spent some time together in discussion and prayer.

That evening, Bishop Daniel was present at the Diocesan Cathedral, Holy Trinity Cathedral, for the Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts. The service was led by Priest Alexander Koranda, Cathedral Dean, and the Cathedral Protodeacon Thomas Keith, and Deacon Paul Garklavs. At the conclusion of the service, His Grace offered a few words on Great Lent and the current struggles in the world, and in the diocese:

“This God protected diocese, here in this community, you don’t have your father present with you physically this year. His Eminence Archbishop Paul, as you know is hospitalized, and I know that you are praying for him, and I know in my heart that he is praying for you as well. But you don’t have him with you and so there is a great loss there. He suffers and you suffer with him in his absence.”

Shortly after, Fr. Alexander welcomed Bishop Daniel on behalf of Archbishop Paul and presented him with flowers thanking him for his prayers for Archbishop Paul, and for his care of the diocese during this difficult time.

The following day, March 31, Bishop Daniel made a pilgrimage with Archpriest Paul Jannakos, Chancellor, and Priest Alexander Koranda, to St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Monastery to venerate the relics of St. Mardarije. Priest Nikolaj Kostur, Secretary to the Serbian Midwestern American Diocese, welcomed the delegation and shared the history of the monastery and the diocese. During their visit, the delegation was able to offer prayers for Archbishop Paul and the faithful of the diocese.

That afternoon, His Grace arrived at New Gracanica

Serbian Orthodox Monastery where His Grace Bishop Longin of New Gracanica-Midwestern America received Bishop Daniel and his delegation. His Grace Bishop Mitrofan of Canada was also visiting. After a warm conversation, the hierarchs and clergy gathered for lunch.

The day concluded with the service of Holy Unction at the cathedral. His Grace had an opportunity to meet some of the local clergy and offered a prayer at the end of the service for Archbishop Paul.

Prayers for Archbishop Paul on his 69th Birthday

His Grace Bishop Daniel, the clergy and faithful of the Diocese of the Midwest congratulates our hierarch, His Eminence Archbishop Paul, on the commemoration of his 69th birthday.

God has given you a difficult cross, but we are with you in love and prayers, trusting in His merciful loving kindness.

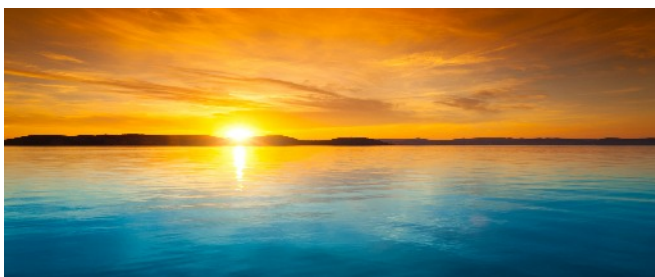
EIS POLLA ETI DESPOTA

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.

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.



The Raising of Lazarus (Lazarus Saturday) Commemorated on April 16

Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday

Visible triumphs are few in the earthly life of our Lord Jesus Christ. He preached a kingdom "not of this world." At His nativity in the flesh there was "no room at the inn." For nearly thirty years, while He grew "in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52), He lived in obscurity as "the son of Mary." When He appeared from Nazareth to begin His public ministry, one of the first to hear of Him asked: "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" (John 1:46). In the end He was crucified between two thieves and laid to rest in the tomb of another man.

Two brief days stand out as sharp exceptions to the above—days of clearly observable triumph. These days are known in the Church today as Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday. Together they form a unified liturgical cycle which serves as the passage from the forty days of Great Lent to Holy Week. They are the unique and paradoxical days before the Lord's Passion. They are days of visible, earthly triumph, of resurrectional and messianic joy in which Christ Himself is a deliberate and active participant. At the same time they are days which point beyond themselves to an ultimate victory and final kingship which Christ will attain not by raising one dead man or entering a particular city, but by His own imminent suffering, death and resurrection.

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!

(Troparion of the Feast, sung on both Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday)

Lazarus Saturday

In a carefully detailed narrative the Gospel relates how Christ, six days before His own death, and with particular mindfulness of the people "standing by, that they may believe that thou didst send me" (John 11:42), went to His dead friend Lazarus at Bethany outside of Jerusalem. He was aware of the approaching death of Lazarus but deliberately delayed His coming, saying to His disciples at the news of His *Con't Next PG*

Lazarus Sat. Con't from previous pg

friend's death: "For your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe" (John 11:14).

When Jesus arrived at Bethany, Lazarus was already dead four days. This fact is repeatedly emphasized by the Gospel narrative and the liturgical hymns of the feast. The four-day burial underscores the horrible reality of death. Man, created by God in His own image and likeness, is a spiritual-material being, a unity of soul and body. Death is destruction; it is the separation of soul and body. The soul without the body is a ghost, as one Orthodox theologian puts it, and the body without the soul is a decaying corpse. "I weep and I wail, when I think upon death, and behold our beauty, fashioned after the image of God, lying in the tomb dishonored, disfigured, bereft of form." This is a hymn of Saint John of Damascus sung at the Church's burial services. This "mystery" of death is the inevitable fate of man fallen from God and blinded by his own prideful pursuits.

With epic simplicity the Gospel records that, on coming to the scene of the horrible end of His friend, "Jesus wept" (John 11:35). At this moment Lazarus, the friend of Christ, stands for all men, and Bethany is the mystical center of the world. Jesus wept as He saw the "very good" creation and its king, man, "made through Him" (John 1:3) to be filled with joy, life and light, now a burial ground in which man is sealed up in a tomb outside the city, removed from the fullness of life for which he was created, and decomposing in darkness, despair and death. Again as the Gospel says, the people were hesitant to open the tomb, for "by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days" (John 11:39).

When the stone was removed from the tomb, Jesus prayed to His Father and then cried with a loud voice: "Lazarus, come out." The icon of the feast shows the particular moment when Lazarus appears at the entrance to the tomb. He is still wrapped in his grave clothes and his friends, who are holding their noses because of the stench of his decaying body, must unwrap him. In everything stress is laid on the audible, the visible and the tangible. Christ presents the world with this observable fact: on the eve of His own suffering and death He raises a man dead four days! The people were astonished. Many immediately believed on Jesus and a great crowd began to

assemble around Him as the news of the raising of Lazarus spread. The regal entry into Jerusalem followed.

Lazarus Saturday is a unique day: on a Saturday a Matins and Divine Liturgy bearing the basic marks of festal, resurrectional services, normally proper to Sundays, are celebrated. Even the baptismal hymn is sung at the Liturgy instead of Holy God: "As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ."

Very Rev. Paul Lazor



Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) Commemorated on April 17

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ's earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ's raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass" (Zech 9:9). **Con't Next PG**