

SS. PETER & PAUL

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Gospel Reading ~ John 12:1-18
Epistle Reading ~ Philippians 4:4-9
Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem

Holy Week Schedule

HOLY MONDAY

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

HOLY TUESDAY

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

HOLY WEDNESDAY

7:00 pm - Holy Unction at
St. Nicholas Greek Church

HOLY THURSDAY

9:30 am - Vespereal Liturgy

6:00 pm- Matins & Reading of the 12
Passion Gospels

TOMB SETUP

HOLY FRIDAY

3:00 pm- Great Vespers & Placing
of the Shroud

7:00 pm- Matins with Procession

HOLY SATURDAY

9:30 am - Vespereal Liturgy

Chrismation of Annette

Kunakowsky

HOLY PASCHA SUNDAY

9:00 am- Nocturns, Paschal Matins
& Divine Liturgy followed by the
Blessing of Baskets and the Paschal
Feast &

**Children's Easter Egg
Hunt**

Gospel Meditation

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 not just remembering, 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?

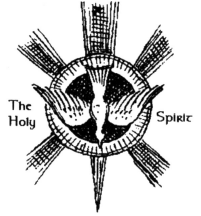
- Metropolitan Anthony of Sourozh

105th Anniversary Celebration

In honor of our parish's 105th anniversary, His Beatitude Met. Tikhon, His Grace, Bishop Paul and the St Tikhon's Mission Choir will be here at our parish on April 21-22. On Saturday the 21st, Vespers at 4:00pm. Banquet with the Bishop and Choir Concert at St Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at 5:00pm. On Sunday following the Hierarchical Divine Liturgy, there will be an expanded coffee hour with the hierarchs.

Reception into the Orthodox Church

On Holy Saturday, at the Vesperal Liturgy, we will receive **Annette Kunakowsky** into the Orthodox Church through Holy Chrismation. Please congratulate her and be present if possible. The Seal of the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen!



Congratulations!

May God grant many years to **Sophia Koukios**, who made her first confession this weekend.

All Are Invited

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church is having a Lenten Vespers service tonight at 6pm. All are invited to come and stay for a Lenten Dinner afterwards. Free-will offering accepted.

Tomb Setup

The flowers that adorn the Lord's Tomb will be arriving on Thursday April 5th. Immediately following the service of the Passion Gospels, we will set up the tomb in preparation for the Holy Friday Services. If you can stay for a few minutes and lend a hand, it would be greatly appreciated.

Holy Unction Service

On Holy Wednesday, April 4th, the Holy Unction Service will be held at St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church at 7:00pm.

Easter Bake Sale

Thank you to all who baked, donated items, and offered their time for the Easter Bake Sale. There are still some goodies available downstairs for purchase during coffee hour. See Midge to purchase.

HOLY WEEK

The time of the fast, which was given to man to achieve repentance, ends on Friday of the sixth week. The entire meaning of the struggle of repentance accomplished during Great Lent lies, as the Holy Fathers say, in purifying the heart.

Holy Week prepares us for the feast of Pascha, showing us that there is no other path towards resurrection than through the cross and suffering. Therefore the common people said: "The Lord endured, and bid us do the same."

The divine services of Holy Week call on one to have compassion and sympathy for the Savior.

On the first three days one is supposed to reread all four Gospels as a reminder that the Lord created us, but that we crucified Him by our sins. And although this appears to be addressed to the Jews of that time, it relates to everyone who has crucified Christ by his sins.

During Holy Week it is desirable, if one has the opportunity, to be in church more often, especially on Holy Thursday and the evening before. On the morning of Great Thursday the faithful participate in the Mystical Supper and receive Holy Communion, while in the evening the Passion Gospels are read. Then comes Great Friday: the Savior's crucifixion and burial, with the beginning of the joy of Bright Saturday.

The angels were the first to learn of Christ's Resurrection, just as they were the first to learn of His Nativity. Therefore the Church sings: "Thy Resurrection, O Christ Savior, the angels hymn in the heavens; vouchsafe also us on earth with pure hearts to glorify Thee." Why does it say "with pure hearts"? Because it is reckoned that, in preparation for this radiant day, one has cleansed one's heart by fasting as much as possible. - *Fr. Valerian Krechetov*

