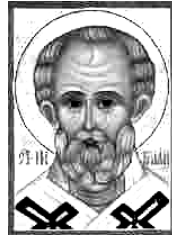


April 12, 2009

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

320 Munson Avenue
McKees Rocks, PA 15136
412-331-1053
<http://www.stnicholas-oca.org>
info@stnicholas-oca.org



Rev. Thomas Soroka, *Rector*
(412) 299-3942
Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell, *Attached*
Ms. Doris Wasilko, *Choir Director*

The Great Feast of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem

Schedule of Services and Activities

Sunday, April 12th – 7:00 PM

Fr Melchisedek (Pleska), elected to be Bishop of Pittsburgh, will be in attendance.

Monday, April 13th – 7:00 PM

Tuesday, April 14th – 7:00 AM

Tuesday, April 14th – 7:00 PM

Wednesday, April 15th – 7:00 PM

Thursday, April 16th – 9:30 AM

Thursday, April 16th – 7:00 PM

Friday, April 17th – 9:00 AM

Friday, April 17th – 3:00 PM

Friday, April 17th – 7:00 PM

Saturday, April 18th – 9:00 AM

1st Announcement of the Resurrection

Saturday, April 18th – 11:30 PM

Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ

Sunday, April 19th – 10:00 AM

Monday, April 20th – 9:30 AM

Bridegroom Matins

Bridegroom Matins

Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

Bridegroom Matins

Holy Unction, Holy Virgin, Carnegie

Vesperal Divine Liturgy

12 Passion Gospels

Royal Hours

Great Vespers

Matins (with procession)

Vesperal Divine Liturgy

Nocturns (with procession)/Matins

Resurrectional Divine Liturgy

Bright Monday Divine Liturgy

Congratulations and God's blessings to Mrs Helen Cobb who turned 101 years old this past Wednesday. This remarkable woman, our gift from God, is at every Divine Liturgy, every Sunday, virtually without fail. She is an example of perseverance and patient endurance to all of us. May God continue to bless her and keep her! Everyone is invited downstairs to celebrate together!



Fr Melchisedek (Pleska), who was recently nominated by the Diocesan Assembly, and elected by the Holy Synod of Bishops, to be the next bishop of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western PA, will be in attendance at our Bridegroom Matins service this evening, beginning at 7:00 PM. Please come to worship with us, as we begin the Holy Week, and to meet this very fine man

whom God has raised up to lead our Church.

It is our tradition to read the Paschal Gospel in as many different languages as possible. A sign-up sheet has been provided for those who are able to read aloud in a different language. Please help us proclaim the good news of the Resurrection of Christ in as many languages as possible. The sign up sheet is on the door of the Church as you exit. First to sign up for a particular language will have the privilege of reading in that language. Those who are going to read will receive instructions from Fr Tom via email on Great and Holy Friday. Men should wear ties and jackets and women should wear dresses.

Confessions will be heard one half-hour before every service this week (as they have been every day throughout Great Lent). Please do not wait until the last minute! . *Confessions will not be heard on Saturday evening or Sunday morning (Pascha).*

We are in need of around 20 dozen hard boiled and red-dyed eggs to distribute on the Holy Pascha after the Divine Liturgy. If you can prepare some, please place your name on the sheet near the kitchen or see Matushka Joni. Please bring them before the Divine Liturgy next Sunday and place your eggs in the large basket in the refrigerator downstairs.

Pictures for the 2009 Directory will be taken by Yuri Chtchurakov. There are still many families who have not had their pictures taken. Please see Yuri after church today.

Mark your calendars for the Annual Paschal Open House at the Soroka Residence, Saturday, April 25th (Bright Saturday) beginning at 4:00 PM. Join us for good fellowship and delicious food! Everyone is welcomed! 207 Parliament Drive, Moon Township, PA 15108

The Three Hierarchs Eastern Orthodox School (THEOS), our local Orthodox Christian K-8 school, will be having an Open House on Wednesday, May 6th from 9:30 AM to Noon. A presentation on the importance of Orthodox education and a question and answer session with the director will be held, as well as a tour of the school. RSVP to 412-278-1494 by May 4th to attend.

Thank you for the Sisterhood's leadership in making all of the delicious food and wonderful arrangements during last week's visit with Bishop Tikhon as well as the deanery Mission service. May God richly bless you for your efforts!

Please make every effort to attend as many services as possible during the Holy Week. Make this week truly HOLY for you and your family, and come to glorify Christ's resurrection!

Vigil Light Donations (Please remember the following people in your prayers): **From Marsha Wasilko** for the health of the Wasilko family, Pete Kerchum and Carol Kowalcheck. **From Doris M. Wasilko** for the departed servants (parents), Charles & Mary; for the health of the Wasilko family, Tom Robes and Carol Kowalcheck. **From Charles A. Wasilko** for the health of Carol Kowalcheck, Tom Robes, Pete Kerchum and sisters, Doris & Marsha. **From Helen Cobb** for the departed servants, Ray Cobb, Fr. Vladimir & Mat. Olga, Darius Walat; for the health of George, Ruth, Vic, Todd, Aleisha, Dick, Jared, Helen March Shancey, Stephanie Kowal, the Tichy, Fuller, Kasnot, Speth, Wasilko, Barsom, Soroka and Mell families. **From David Namsinak** for the departed servants, Melissa and Richard Shancey; for the health of Carol Kowalcheck, Helen Shancey and Marsha. **From Olga Bednar** for the departed servant, Harvey Bednar. **From Olga Noskov** for the health of Ilya & Yaroslav (on their birthdays) and Vladimir. **From Dr. & Mrs. Robert Yakovac** for the departed servant, Bubba; for the health of Eric, Joel, Justin, Maggie, Dolly, Evelyn Paladini, Ron Hoffman and Mom; Happy Birthday Auntie (Helen Cobb)!! **From John & Nancy Pravlochak** for the newly departed Pittsburgh Police Officers; for the health of Carol Kowalcheck and the Pravlochak family. **From Alexandria Tirpak** for the departed servants, (parents & grandparents) Amelia & John, Marie & Nicholas, Ann & Frank, (brother & nephew) Nicholas, Nicholas and Fr. Paul---Memory Eternal; for the health of children, Amelia, Andrea, Richard & families, Reader Michael, Nancy, Steve, Helen, Joyce, Theodore, Violet, Carol, John; community of St. Nicholas; men & women serving our country; special intentions. **From Helen M. Shancey** for the departed servants, her husband, Richard Shancey, Norma Jean Evans, Joyce Duster, Ray Cobb, Ann Hruch, Mat. Olga, Joseph Kovacs and all deceased members of the Halajcio & Shancey families; for the health of Dr. Chris Baxter & family, Halajcio & Shancey families, Jim & Leslie Wokutch, Helen Cobb, Olga Novak & son, Bittner family, Hruch family, Wasilko family, Kasnot family, Namisnak family, Barsom family, Kovacs family, Carol Kowalcheck, Robes family, Steve Meno, Reader Michael Soroka, Fr. Thomas, Rev. Dn. Joseph Mell and their families and all parishioners. God Bless America. **From Peter & Garnette Kerchum** for the departed servant, Mat. Olga Soroka; for the health grandson, Michael Lopez, Jr., Reader Michael Soroka, David Zeronki, John Barsom and Peter Kerchum. **From Chuck Conrad** for the health of Eva, Barb, Barbara, Cindy - heal them all and for Mike Kauffert - aide him. **From Kristie Mertz** for the families of the Pittsburgh Police Officers, our parish and T.H.E.O.S. school. **From John A. Tirpak. From Carol Kowalcheck** for health & salvation. **From John Kowalcheck** for the health of Carol Kowalcheck. **From Sheena Sands** for the health of Eric Dillmore; for Helen Cobb on her birthday! **From Mat. Joni Soroka** for the newly departed, Anthony Thomas.

The week following the Sunday of St Mary of Egypt is called Palm or Branch Week. At the Tuesday services of this week the Church recalls that Jesus' friend Lazarus has died and that the Lord is going to raise him from the dead (Jn 11). As the days continue toward Saturday, the Church, in its hymns and verses, continues to follow Christ towards Bethany to the tomb of Lazarus. On Friday evening, the eve of the celebration of the Resurrection of Lazarus, the "great and saving forty days" of Great Lent are formally brought to an end:

Lazarus Saturday is a paschal celebration. It is the only time in the entire Church Year that the resurrectional service of Sunday is celebrated on another day. At the liturgy of Lazarus Saturday, the Church glorifies Christ as "the Resurrection and the Life" who, by raising Lazarus, has confirmed the universal resurrection of mankind even before his own suffering and death.

At the Divine Liturgy of Lazarus Saturday the baptismal verse from Galatians: As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ (Gal 3:27) replaces the Thrice-holy Hymn thus indicating the resurrectional character of the celebration, and the fact that Lazarus Saturday was once among the few great baptismal days in the Orthodox Church Year. Because of the resurrection of Lazarus from the dead, Christ was hailed by the masses as the long-expected Messiah-King of Israel. Thus, in fulfillment of the prophecies of the Old Testament, he entered Jerusalem, the City of the King, riding on the colt of an ass (Zech 9:9; Jn 12:12). The crowds greeted him with branches in their hands and called out to him with shouts of praise: Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! The Son of David! The King of Israel! Because of this glorification by the people, the priests and scribes were finally driven "to destroy him, to put him to death" (Lk 19:47; Jn 11:53, 12:10).

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.



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."

St Nicholas Orthodox Church

320 Munson Avenue
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A parish of the Orthodox Church in America
www.stnicholas-oca.org
info@stnicholas.org

Christ is in our midst! He is and always shall be!

April 12, 2009

The Great Feast of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem



Please note: We will be holding the blessed palms and pussy willows during the Divine Liturgy today according to the proper Orthodox Tradition.

We ask that you would be careful, especially as the children hold them, and that you would clean up any of the buds that fall onto the floor, because they are blessed. Thank you!

First Antiphon (Psalm 115)

v. I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication.

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

v. Because He inclined His ear to me; therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

v. The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me.

v. I suffered distress and anguish, so I called on the Name of the Lord.

v. I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

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

Second Antiphon (Psalm 116)

v. I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted."

Refrain: O Son of God, who sat upon the foal, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia!

v. What shall I render to the Lord for all the things He has given me?

v. I will receive the cup of salvation, and call on the Name of the Lord.

v. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people.

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

Third Antiphon (Psalm 117)

v. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

v. Let the house of Israel say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Refrain: Troparion of the Feast

v. Let the house of Aaron say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Let all those who fear the Lord say: For He is good, for His mercy endures forever!

Tone 1 *Troparion of the Feast*

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 *Another Troparion of the Feast*

When we were buried with Thee in baptism, O Christ God,
we were made worthy of eternal life by your 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 of the Feast*

Sitting on Thy throne in Heaven,
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!”

Tone 4 *Prokeimenon* (Psalm 118)

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

Epistle of the Feast (Phil 4:4-9)

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.

Gospel of the Feast (John 12:1-18)

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.

Hymn to the Theotokos of the Feast

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!”

Communion Hymns (Psalm 117)

Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord! God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us!

*While Holy Communion is reserved for Orthodox Christians
who prepare themselves by prayer and fasting,
non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to come forward to venerate the cross
and receive the Antidoron (blessed bread) at the conclusion of the service.
Please join us downstairs for coffee hour following the Divine Liturgy*