

# THE TROPHYBEARER

## *Pastoral Thoughts*

We, as Orthodox Christians, are being presented with a golden opportunity right now, Great Lent. Our engagement with the Church ramps up considerably, and our opportunity to draw nearer to Christ is there for the taking.

Starting in mid-March, we have the option to worship much more often than usual. We start the five-week cycle of the Salutations service on Fridays. Coming at this service from the outside as we did over 30 years ago, we found a gem of hymnology we had never imagined. It is an intimate gathering expressing our love and affection for the Lord's mother, the Theotokos.

Wednesday evenings we have the Presanctified Liturgy. It is a solemn experience we don't have all that often. There is a strong devotional quality to this service, as well as the eucharist. The first time one experiences this service it is a revelation.

Sundays, between now and Holy Week, all have important themes, chances to learn about important saints and events in Church history. We mark the return of the Icons, St. Gregory Palamas, and St. Mary of Egypt, among others. Special hymns mark these celebrations, as well as processions, all different than the norm, all designed in the Church's wisdom to draw us to Holy Week.

As does a great movie or novel, the excitement and intensity build through Lent toward Holy week. This year, we will have services of various types 16 times in nine days, from Lazarus Saturday through Bright Monday when we will have liturgy for St. George. Those who participate reach Pascha prepared for the emotional release as we shout, 'Christ is Risen'!

Work, school, and other realities may limit our participation, but we should strive, within those limitations, to gather as a community to worship, to contemplate, to sing, to pray, to receive the Body and Blood, and to prepare ourselves for that tremendous moment that we celebrate the resurrection. It is worth the effort on so many different levels.

I urge, you, come worship together as a loving family, a community of the faithful, with a focus on Him who rose from the dead and the inexpressible joy and relief of that moment.



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# PARISH NEWS

## Epistle Readers

Anyone wishing to become an Epistle Reader, Please Contact Father Michael

Sunday, April 7, 2024:

3rd Sunday of Lent: Alexa Florence

Sunday, April 14, 2024:

4th Sunday of Lent: Georgjean Pitsoulakis

Sunday, April 21, 2024:

5th Sunday of Lent: Mary Rankin

Sunday, April 28, 2024:

Palm Sunday: Open

## Evening Meal Volunteers

April 24, 2024: Helen Moorehead and Marge Stratton

Anyone interested in taking part in this worthwhile ministry should contact Mary Winters at 563-726-2880

## PARISH COUNCIL SUNDAY DUTY SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 7, 2024: Tom Bakeris, Nick Coin, Mariellen Crosson, and Vickie Pyevich

Sunday, April 14, 2024: Mary Kay Eckert, Gus Pappas, Ted Pitsoulakis and Diana Spurgetis

Sunday, April 21, 2024: Kathy Begyn, Joe Burmeister, Dennis Spurgetis, and Mary Rankin

Sunday, April 28, 2024: (Palm Sunday): All Groups

## LENTEN SCHEDULE:

### Great Compline on Mondays:

6:30 p.m. April 1, 2024\*, April 8, 2024\*, and April 15, 2024\*.

### Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesdays

April 3, 2024\*\*, April 10, 2024\*\*\*, and April 17, 2024\*\*

### Salutations on Fridays

7:00 p.m. March 22, 29, April 5, 12, 19.

\*@ASSUMPTION

\*\*6:00 P.M. @ SAINT GEORGE

\*\*\*5:30 P.M @ ASSUMPTION

## PARISH REGISTRY

Funeral

The Servant of God Scot Johnson fell asleep in the Lord and was buried on March 16, 2024

Sunday, April 7 2024: Open  
Sunday, April 14, 2024:  
Adrienne Johnson  
Sunday, April 21, 2024: Open  
Sunday, April 28, 2024:  
Open

## COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Sunday, April 7 2024: Open  
Sunday, April 14, 2024: The Johnson Family in honor of Scot Johnson's 40 Day Memorial  
Sunday, April 21, 2024: Open  
Sunday, April 28, 2024: Open

## DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

1. For those who wish to help those who are affected by the war in the middle east: <https://iocc.org/where-we-work/jerusalem-west-bank-and-gaza>
2. Have you remembered to help the needy and hungry? Please contribute food to the church. They are still running dangerously short.

# LIVES OF THE SAINTS

## Sunday of the Holy Cross (April 7)

With the help of God, we have almost reached the middle of the course of the Fast, where our strength has been worn down through abstinence, and the full difficulty of the labour set before us becomes apparent. Therefore our holy Mother, the Church of Christ, now brings to our help the all-holy Cross, the joy of the world, the strength of the faithful, the staff of the just, and the hope of sinners, so that by venerating it reverently, we might receive strength and grace to complete the divine struggle of the Fast.

## 4th Sunday of Lent (April 14)

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on March 30, where his biography may be found. He is celebrated today because his book, The Ladder of Divine Ascent, is a sure guide to the ascetic life, written by a great man of prayer experienced in all forms of the monastic polity; it teaches the seeker after salvation how to lay a sound foundation for his struggles, how to detect and war against each of the passions, how to avoid the snares laid by the demons, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. It is held in such high esteem that it is universally read in its entirety in monasteries during the Great Fast.

## 5th Sunday of Lent (April 21)

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on April 1, where her life is recorded. Since the end of the holy Forty Days is drawing nigh, it has been appointed for this day also, so that if we think it hard to practice a little abstinence forty days, we might be roused by the heroism of her who fasted in the wilderness forty-seven years; and also that the great loving-kindness of God, and His readiness to receive the repentant, might be demonstrated in very deed.

## Saturday of Lazarus (April 27)

Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, the friends of the Lord Jesus, had given Him hospitality and served Him many times (Luke 10:38-42; John 12:2-3). They were from Bethany, a village in Judea. This village is situated in the eastern parts by the foothills of the Mount of Olives, about two Roman miles from Jerusalem. When Lazarus - whose name is a Hellenized form of "Eleazar," which means "God has helped," became ill some days before the saving Passion, his sisters had this report taken to our Saviour, Who was then in Galilee. Nonetheless, He tarried yet two more days until Lazarus died; then He said to His disciples, "Let us go into Judea that I might awake My friend who sleepeth." By this, of course, He meant the deep sleep of death. On arriving at Bethany, He consoled the sisters of Lazarus, who was already four days dead. Jesus groaned in spirit and was troubled at the death of His beloved friend. He asked, "Where have ye laid his body?" and He wept over him. When He drew nigh to the tomb, He commanded that they remove the stone, and He lifted up His eyes, and giving thanks to God the Father, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." And he that had been dead four days came forth immediately, bound hand and foot with the grave clothes, and Jesus said to those standing there, "Loose him, and let him go." This is the supernatural wonder wrought by the Saviour that we celebrate on this day.

According to an ancient tradition, it is said that Lazarus was thirty years old when the Lord raised him; then he lived another thirty years on Cyprus and there reposed in the Lord. It is furthermore related that after he was raised from the dead, he never laughed till the end of his life, but that once only, when he saw someone stealing a clay vessel, he smiled and said, "Clay stealing clay." His grave is situated in the city of Kition, having the inscription: "Lazarus the four days dead and friend of Christ." In 890 his sacred relics were transferred to Constantinople by Emperor Leo the Wise, at which time undoubtedly the Emperor composed his stichera for Vespers, "Wishing to behold the tomb of Lazarus . . ."

Palm Sunday (April 28)

On Sunday, five days before the Passover of the Law, the Lord came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Sending two of His disciples to bring Him a foal of an ass, He sat thereon and entered into the city. When the multitude there heard that Jesus was coming, they straightway took up the branches of palm trees in their hands, and went forth to meet Him. Others spread their garments on the ground, and yet others cut branches from the trees and strewed them in the way that Jesus was to pass; and all of them together, especially the children, went before and after Him, crying out: "Hosanna: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel" (John 12:13). This is the radiant and glorious festival of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem that we celebrate today.

The branches of the palm trees symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death. The word Hosanna means "Save, I pray," or "Save, now." The foal of an ass, and Jesus' sitting thereon, and the fact that this animal was untamed and considered unclean according to the Law, signified the former uncleanness and wildness of the nations, and their subjection thereafter to the holy Law of the Gospel.

Holy Monday (April 29)

The holy Passion of our Saviour begins today, presenting Joseph the all-comely as a prefiguring of Christ. He was the eleventh son of Jacob, and his first son by Rachel; because he was so beloved of his father, his own brethren came to envy him and cast him into a pit. Later they sold him to foreigners for thirty pieces of silver, who later sold him again in Egypt. Because of his virtue, his master gave him much authority in governing his house; because he was fair of countenance, his master's wife sought to draw him into sin with her; because of his chastity, he refused her, and through her slanders was cast into prison. Finally, he was led forth again with great glory and was honoured as a king. He became lord over all Egypt and a provider of wheat for all the people. Through all this, he typifies in himself the betrayal, Passion, death, and glorification of our Lord Jesus Christ (see Gen., chapters 37, 39-41).

To the commemoration of Patriarch Joseph is added also the narration concerning the fig tree, which on this day was cursed and subsequently dried up because of its unfruitfulness. It portrayed the Jewish synagogue, which had not produced the fruit demanded of it, that is, obedience to God and faith in Him and which was stripped of all spiritual grace by means of the curse (Matt. 21:18-20).

Holy Tuesday (April 30)

Today we bring to mind the parable of the ten virgins, which our Saviour related as He was coming to His Passion. This parable teaches us that the accomplishment of the great work of virginity should not make us careless in other matters, especially in almsgiving, wherewith the lamp of virginity is made radiant. Furthermore, it teaches us that we should not be remiss about the end of our life, but should be prepared for it at every moment, like the wise virgins, so that we may meet the Bridegroom, lest He come suddenly and the doors of the heavenly bridechamber be shut, and we also, like the foolish virgins, hear that dread sentence: "Amen, I say unto you, I know you not" (Matt. 25:1-13).

# 2024 MARCH

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	<b>1</b> <b>Fast Day</b>  6:30 p.m. Great Compline @ Assumption Church	<b>2</b> <b>Fast Day</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA) 6:00 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy	<b>4</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 7:00 p.m. Book Study: Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis (join us either in person (in our parish library) or via zoom)	<b>5</b> <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. 3rd Salutations	<b>6</b> <b>Oil and Wine Allowed</b>
<b>7</b> <b>Sunday of the Holy Cross</b> <b>Oil and Wine Allowed</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy <i>*The Procession of the Holy Cross will occur following Orthros as is the ancient practice and not following the Divine Liturgy*</i> Sunday School classes following Holy Communion 5:30 p.m. Lenten Vespers @ Saint John the Baptist in Cedar Rapids	<b>8</b> <b>Fast Day</b>  6:30 p.m. Great Compline @ Assumption Church	<b>9</b> <b>Fast Day</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)  5:30 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy @ Assumption	<b>11</b> <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Book Study: Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis (join us either in person (in our parish library) or via zoom)	<b>12</b> <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. 4th Salutations	<b>13</b> <b>Oil and Wine Allowed</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Sunday of Saint John Climacus</b> <b>Oil and Wine Allowed</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School classes following Holy Communion	<b>15</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 6:30 p.m. Great Compline @ Assumption Church	<b>16</b> <b>Fast Day</b>  6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	<b>17</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)  6:00 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy	<b>18</b> <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Book Study: Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis (join us either in person (in our parish library) or via zoom)	<b>19</b> <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. The Akathyst Hymn	<b>20</b> <b>Oil and Wine Allowed</b>
<b>21</b> <b>Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt</b> <b>Oil and Wine Allowed</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School classes following Holy Communion	<b>22</b> <b>Fast Day</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Fast Day</b>	<b>24</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)  Evening Meal	<b>25</b> <b>Fast Day</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Fast Day</b>	<b>27</b> <b>Saturday of Lazarus</b> <b>Oil and Wine Allowed</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy
<b>28</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Fish, Oil and Wine Allowed</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School classes following Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Serice	<b>29</b> <b>Holy Monday</b> <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Serice	<b>30</b> <b>Holy Tuesday</b> <b>Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Serice				

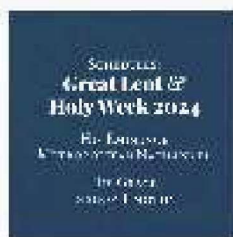


MARCH/APRIL 2024

# MESSAGES *from* the METROPOLIS

[www.chicago.goarch.org](http://www.chicago.goarch.org)

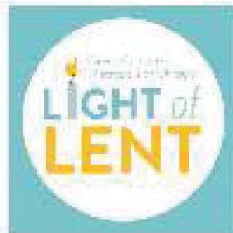
## GREAT LENT: ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



### LENTEN & HOLY WEEK SCHEDULES 2024

Experience Great Lent with His Eminence  
Metropolitan Nathanael & His Grace Bishop Timothy

*View online: [chicago.goarch.org/lentenschedule](http://chicago.goarch.org/lentenschedule)*



### NEW PROGRAM: LIGHT OF LENT

A program designed for educators and parents to help  
the youth of our Metropolis to grow spiritually and to  
reflect on what Lent means to them.

*Learn more: [chicago.goarch.org/lightoflent](http://chicago.goarch.org/lightoflent)*



SCAN FOR  
MORE EVENTS

### 4/13 Annual Fanari Lenten Retreat

Eight parishes across the Metropolis will host a day  
of Worship, Games, and more! *Multiple Locations*

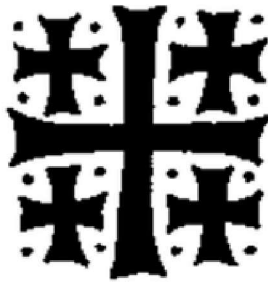
### 4/19-21 YAL Spring Retreat

#### Holy Week: Walk with Christ

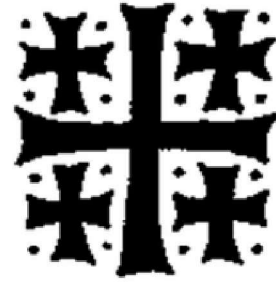
Join YAL Chicago for a weekend retreat full of faith,  
fellowship, and service! *Saint Iakovos Retreat Center*

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES:

[www.chicago.goarch.org/sign-up](http://www.chicago.goarch.org/sign-up)



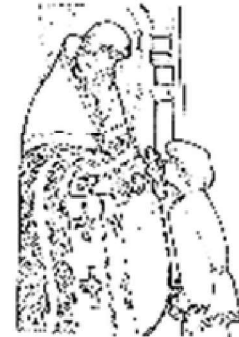
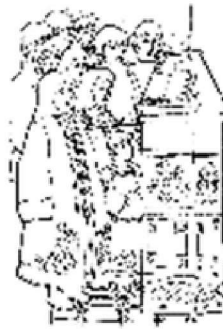
Please join  
 the Iowa Vicariate  
 of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Chicago  
 at Pan-Orthodox Vespers  
 the evening of the Sunday of the Holy Cross



April 7, 2024  
 at St. John the Baptist  
 Greek Orthodox Church  
 of Cedar Rapids, Iowa

5:30 p.m. Lenten Vespers

† English-Language Service † Food and Fellowship to Follow †



Follow along for the service  
 with text and music  
 at the Digital Chant Stand:  
<http://dcs.goarch.org>

St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church  
 501 A Avenue NE  
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52402  
<http://www.stjohnocr.org>

IC·XC  NI·KA

# **Change for Change** **Challenge**

From Sunday, March 17 to Good Friday, May 3, 2024, The Philoptochos Society is again asking parishioners to help fill a milk jug to benefit a local charity. This year proceeds will go to *Project 15:12*. [www.project1512.com](http://www.project1512.com) Based in Bettendorf, this organization is dedicated to helping individuals and families in the Quad Cities going through a life transition that fall in the gaps of existing services. **The Philoptochos will match the donations up to \$300.** So *change your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters into something that can help change the lives of those in need.*



## 2024 Saint George Pascha Potluck Dinner

Come join us following AGAPE Vespers for a wonderful Lamb dinner provided by St. George Greek Orthodox Church.

Everyone brings something along with them and we share in the truest sense of Christians.



Good Music

Fun fellowship

Foods from all around the world.

*Again Join us for the Saint George Greek Orthodox Church annual*

## *PASCHA POTLUCK DINNER*





# SAINT GEORGE FEAST DAY CELEBRATION



On Pascha, May 5, 2024, we will be celebrating  
Great Vespers for the feast day of Saint George  
in conjunction with the  
Agape Service at 11:00 a.m.

Following will be our Paschal Pot-Luck

Then on Monday, May 6, 2024, we will be celebrating the feast  
day of The Great Martyr George the Trophybearer with Orthros at  
8:30 a.m. and Divine Liturgy at 10:00 a.m.

*Immediately following Divine Liturgy a  
Luncheon Buffet for all those in attendance.*

*All are invited to join us in celebration of the  
Great Martyr George.*

*Come and enjoy a day of celebration honoring  
our Great Saint.*

