

# THE TROPHYBEARER

## *Pastoral Thoughts*

As we enter Holy Week, we step into the most sacred and solemn time of the Church year. These days are not simply a remembrance of past events, nor are they only beautiful liturgical traditions. Holy Week invites us to enter spiritually into the saving mysteries of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. The Church calls us not merely to observe these events, but to participate in them with our hearts, minds, and lives.

Beginning with the triumphant entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, we see the paradox that lies at the center of the Gospel. The crowds greet Christ as a king, waving palm branches and crying out, 'Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' Yet the same city that welcomes Him with praise will soon cry out for His crucifixion. This reminds us how quickly human hearts can turn, and how easily we, too, can move from devotion to forgetfulness.

Throughout Holy Week, the Church's services guide us step by step through the final earthly journey of our Savior. On Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, we hear the call to spiritual vigilance and repentance. The hymns remind us of the wise virgins who kept their lamps burning and were ready to meet the Bridegroom. The Church asks each of us: Are we prepared to receive Christ? Are our hearts awake and watchful?

On Holy Thursday, we stand at the Mystical Supper. Christ gathers His disciples and offers them the great gift of the Holy Eucharist, giving them His very Body and Blood. In humility, He washes their feet, showing that true greatness in the Kingdom of God is found in love and service. Yet even in this sacred moment, betrayal lurks nearby. Judas departs into the night, reminding us how easily love can be exchanged for worldly gain.

Then comes Holy and Great Friday, the most solemn day of the year. We stand before the Cross and behold the depth of God's love for humanity. The Son of God willingly suffers humiliation, pain, and death for the salvation of the world. As the Fathers of the Church teach us, the Cross is not a defeat but a victory. By His voluntary sacrifice, Christ destroys the power of sin and death.

When we venerate the Cross and the Epitaphios, we do not mourn as those without hope. Even in the sorrow of Great Friday, the Church already sees the light of the Resurrection. As the hymn proclaims: 'Through the Cross, joy has come into all the world.'

Finally, Holy Saturday brings us to the threshold of Pascha. Christ descends into Hades, shattering its gates and raising those who were held captive by death. The silence of the tomb becomes the moment of God's greatest victory, preparing the way for the radiant proclamation of the Resurrection.

Holy Week calls each of us to walk this path with Christ. It invites us to deepen our prayer, to attend the sacred services, to repent sincerely, and to open our hearts to the transforming grace of God. If we journey faithfully through these days—standing at the Cross with humility and hope—then the joy of Pascha will not be merely a celebration on the calendar. It will become a living reality within us.

May this Holy Week be for all of us a time of repentance, renewal, and spiritual awakening.



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# PARISH NEWS

## Epistle Readers

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

Sunday, April 5, 2026: Palm Sunday: Alexa Florence

Sunday, April 12, 2026: Pascha: Harry Coin

Sunday, April 19, 2026: The Sunday of Thomas: Aletheia Hadjis

Sunday, April 26, 2026: The Sunday of the Myrrhbearers:  
Eric Reyes

## Evening Meal Volunteers

April 22, 2026: Dennis and Nancy Spurgetis

May 27, 2026: Kathy Begyn / Elaine Amidon

June 24, 2026: Fr. Michael and Presbytera Maria Constantinides /  
Doug and Patti Kenyon

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

## Parish Council Sunday Duty Schedule

Sunday, April 5, 2026: (Palm Sunday) All Groups

Sunday, April 12, 2026: (Holy Pascha) All Groups

Sunday, April 19, 2026: Kathy Begyn, Kim Eastland, Mary Kay  
Eckert, and Mary Rankin.

Sunday, April 26, 2026: Nick Elias, Ted Pitsoulakis, and Dennis  
Spurgetis

## HOLY WEEK DONATIONS

If you wish to give anything from our donation list, the following  
is available:

Carnations/Flower Petals: \$350.00

Clergy Paschal Candles: \$200.00

Please call the Church office and speak with Fr. Michael to find out  
what is available.

Thank you for your constant love and support!

## PROSPHORA MAKERS

Sunday, April 5, 2026: Open  
Sunday, April 12, 2026:

Open

Sunday, April 19, 2026: Open  
Sunday, April 26, 2026: Open

## COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Sunday, April 5, 2026:

Marina Yokas-Reese

Sunday, April 12, 2026: Holy  
Pascha

Sunday, April 19, 2026: Jorg  
and Basema Alias

Sunday, April 26, 2026:  
Cathy Farrell

# LIVES OF THE SAINTS

## Saturday of Lazarus (April 4)

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 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, Lazarus was thirty years old when the Lord raised him; then he lived another thirty years on Cyprus, and there he 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 that time, undoubtedly, the Emperor composed his stichera for Vespers, "Wishing to behold the tomb of Lazarus.

## Palm Sunday (April 5)

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.

## TIKHON, PATRIARCH OF MOSCOW AND ENLIGHTENER OF NORTH AMERICA (APRIL 7)

Born in 1865 in the region of Pskov, our Father among the Saints Tikhon was tonsured a monk in 1891 and ordained to the priesthood in the same year. In 1897, he was consecrated Bishop of Lublin, and a year later, he was appointed Bishop of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands, with his see extending to all of North America from 1900 onwards. He did much to unite the Orthodox Christians of a great many ethnic backgrounds in North America, so that there was indeed one flock under one shepherd. In 1907, he was made Archbishop of Yaroslavl and Rostov, and in 1913, Archbishop of Lithuania.

In 1917, when he was Metropolitan of Moscow, he was elected the first Patriarch of Russia in over 200 years, at a time that could not have been more difficult. After the Revolution of 1917, the persecution of the Russian Church by the atheist government grew bolder and more fierce with every year. By nature a meek and peace-loving man, Tikhon sought to determine, while giving only to God that which is God's, what could be given to Caesar to preserve peace and avoid the shedding of blood. At his departure on the feast of the Annunciation in 1925, Saint Tikhon made the sign of the Cross thrice, pronouncing the words, "Glory to Thee, O God!" Because of the many unspeakable sufferings he endures as Patriarch, he is honoured as a Confessor.

## SAINT GEORGE THE TROPHYBEARER (APRIL 23)

George, this truly great and glorious Martyr of Christ, was born of a father from Cappadocia and a mother from Palestine. Being a military tribune, or chiliarch (that is, a commander of a thousand troops), he was illustrious in battle and highly honoured for his courage. When he learned that the Emperor Diocletian was preparing a persecution of the Christians, Saint George presented himself publicly before the Emperor and denounced him. When threats and promises could not move him from his steadfast confession, he was put to unheard-of tortures, which he endured with great bravery, overcoming them by his faith and love towards Christ. By the wondrous signs that took place in his contest, he guided many to the knowledge of the truth, including Queen Alexandra, wife of Diocletian, and was finally beheaded in 296 in Nicomedia.

His sacred remains were taken by his servant from Nicomedia to Palestine, to a town called Lydda, the homeland of his mother, and then were finally transferred to the church which was raised up in his name. (The translation of the Saint's holy relics to the church in Lydda is commemorated on November 3; Saint Alexandra the Queen, on April 21.)

# *Change for Change* **Challenge**

From Sunday, February 22 to Good Friday, April 10, 2026, The Philoptochos Society is again asking parishioners to help fill a milk jug to benefit a local charity. This year proceeds will go to *Boys and Girls Club of the Mississippi Valley*. This organization's mission is to *empower youth to reach their highest potential by providing transformative experiences*. **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 our Quad City youth.*



St. George Greek Orthodox  
Church Presents:

# OUR BIG FAT GREEK DRIVE-THRU PRE-ORDER EVENT

Saturday, May 9th, 2026  
11am - 5pm

**MENU INCLUDES:**

- Greek Chicken Dinner
- Gyro with Orzo Salad
- Spanakopita with Orzo Salad
- Keftedes with Orzo Salad
- Domathes with Orzo Salad
- Baklava



SCAN HERE FOR ORDERING

CHURCH PICK-UP ONLY:

2930 31ST AVENUE ROCK  
ISLAND, IL 61201

**For Additional Information:**



**Our Big Fat Greek Festival**



**Great Food, Great Fellowship, Greater Cause**

## 2026 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.

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

## *PASCHA POTLUCK DINNER*



# SAINT GEORGE FEAST DAY CELEBRATION



On Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., we will celebrate Great Vespers for the feast of Saint George.

Following Great Vespers will be a coffee reception

Then, on Thursday, April 23, 2026, we will celebrate the feast day of The Great Martyr George the Trophy Bearer with Orthros at 8:30 a.m., followed by Divine Liturgy

*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.*



# 2026 APRIL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	<b>2</b> <b>Fast Day</b>	<b>3</b> <b>Fast Day</b>	<b>4</b> <b>Saturday of Lazarus Oil and Wine Allowed</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy
<b>5</b> <b>Palm Sunday 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 Service	<b>6</b> <b>Holy Monday Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	<b>7</b> <b>Holy Tuesday Fast Day</b>  7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service	<b>8</b> <b>Holy Wednesday Fast Day</b>  3:30 p.m. Sacrament of Holy Unction  7:00 p.m. Orthros of Holy Thursday and Anointing with Holy Unction	<b>9</b> <b>Holy Thursday Fast Day</b>  9:00 a.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy  7:00 p.m. Orthros for Holy Friday	<b>10</b> <b>Holy Friday Fast Day</b> 8:30 a.m. Royal Hours @ Assumption  3:00 p.m. Apokathelosis  7:00 p.m. Orthros of Holy Saturday	<b>11</b> <b>Holy Saturday Fast Day</b> 9:00 a.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy  11:00 p.m. Holy Resurrection Vigil
<b>12</b> <b>Holy Pascha Fast Free</b> 11:00 a.m. Agape Vespers Followed by our Potluck Dinner	<b>13</b> <b>Fast Free</b>	<b>14</b> <b>Fast Free</b>	<b>15</b> <b>Fast Free</b> 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	<b>16</b> <b>Fast Free</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Fast Free</b> 9:00 a.m. Women's Group @ Coffee House (1315 Jersey Ridge Road, Davenport, IA)	<b>18</b> <b>Fast Free</b>
<b>19</b> <b>Sunday of Thomas Fast Free</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School classes following Holy Communion	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  6:30 p.m. Parish Council Meeting	<b>22</b> <b>Eve of Saint George Fast Day</b>  6:00 p.m. Great Vespers Reception to follow	<b>23</b> <b>Feast Day of Saint George</b>  8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy Luncheon to follow!	<b>24</b> <b>Fast Day</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>Sunday the Myrhbearers</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy Sunday School classes following Holy Communion +Sacrament	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>Fast Day</b>	<b>30</b>		