

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 2021

PALM SUNDAY

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians, Chapter 4, Verses 4-9: BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Φιλιππησίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 4, ἐδάφ. 4-9.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John, Chapter 12, Verses 1-18: Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazaros was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment 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 as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazaros, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon 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 this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazaros out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ἰωάννην, κεφ. 21, ἐδάφ. 1-11, 15-17.

INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY CLASSES: These very popular classes are taking place on a weekly basis, remotely, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Alex Kozak. If you are new to the parish or you are considering being received into the Church through baptism and/or chrismation, as an adult, we invite you to speak with Alex about your wishes and the possibility of joining the Introduction to Orthodoxy class. Please contact him at <https://agkozak.com/intro>. Alex will extend an invite to the meetings, currently taking place via zoom.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES: Tonight, April 25, Service of the Bridegroom, 7 pm. Tomorrow, April 26, Service of the Bridegroom, 7 pm. Tuesday, April 27, Service of the Bridegroom, 7 pm. Wednesday, April 28, Holy Unction, 7 pm. Thursday, April 29, Vesperal Divine Liturgy, 10 am; The Twelve Gospels, 7 pm. Friday, April 30, Descent from the Cross, 1 pm; The Lamentations, 7 pm. Saturday, May 1, Vesperal Divine Liturgy (presided over by Metropolitan Gerasimos), 10 am. Anastasais service at midnight, followed by the Paschal Divine Liturgy. All the services will be streamed.

PHILOPTOCHOS EASTER BAKE: The Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos is pleased to announce it will deliver your Pascha *koulourakia* and *tsourekia* order to your home this Thursday, April 29. Thank you for supporting the ministries of our Ladies Philoptochos.

WE HAVE REOPENED OUR CHURCH FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP: Now that we have officially reopened for in-person worship, we invite those of you that are comfortable doing so, to return to your spiritual home. We are currently allowed limited capacity at 40 congregants, so as to maintain social distancing guidelines. After so much time apart, it has been a joy to see each of you as you return one by one. Please visit <https://www.annunciation.org/liturgyreservation> to RSVP for upcoming services and https://annunciation.org/images/Reopening/Reopening_Guidelines.pdf to view our Reopening Guidelines. We look forward to seeing everyone in-person soon!

LIGHT A VIRTUAL CANDLE: Thank you for lighting a virtual candle, thus keeping hope alive. Whether you donate \$1 or \$1,000, your gift is one of faith. It helps keep the Cathedral solvent during this universal upheaval. More importantly, it connects us to Him who is the Light of the World (John 8:12) and reminds us of our calling to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). To light your virtual candles, please visit our web site, www.annunciation.org, and click on the appropriate link, or enter <https://annunciation.org/candle>. During the past year, Father Stephen has been lighting your candles in real time. Going forward, now that we are open to in-person worship, the candles will be lit, instead, by a Parish Council member. Those attending services in person will be able to light their own candles at the *pangari*.

UNDERSTANDING ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA: TUESDAY, MAY 4 11:00 AM -11:45 AM VIA ZOOM: An education program presented by the Alzheimer's Association® and brought to you by the Annunciation Cathedral will take place on Tuesday, May 4 from 11 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. via zoom. Join us for this informative session. As you may know, since June of 2018, the first Tuesday of every month, our Cathedral was hosting an in-person Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group for families that have been affected by Alzheimer's. We are now offering our caregiver support groups online via Zoom.

The May 4 session promises to be informative: Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of aging. Join us to learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the difference between Alzheimer's and dementia, stages and risk factors, current research and treatments available for some symptoms, and Alzheimer's Association resources. There is no cost to join. However, registration is required. To register, please utilize the following: <https://tinyurl.com/ANNGRUAD>. For any additional information, please contact **Tessie Calligeros**, tcalligeros@alz.org or call, 408-372-9916.

THE PANDEMIC HAS SLOWED US DOWN BUT NOT STOPPED

US. The pandemic has slowed down everything building-related. Nevertheless, things are moving along. Granite along the Valencia Street walls and the stone cap have been installed. The roofing and drainage issues have been addressed. The gates are now virtually complete. The lobby doors are in. Stonecraft is laying the remaining pavers. Meanwhile, our permit for use of the garage has been issued. Recently, the Architects have finalized the drawings, known as the bid set, for phase 2 (completion of the interior), for an estimated cost of \$3.8 million.... As a community, we've been through much, especially when we lost everything to the earthquake, back in 1989. But, we've bounced back. It wasn't easy, but we did it, because we have faith, we have hope, and we have unity. So, too, we will weather this pandemic and return to a so called "new normal," – i.e. a community where we may do things a little differently, but with the same strong faith in God. After all, it is for Him, in Him, and through Him that we continue to exist at all. Praise God for the Gift of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we are given the faith and the vision to rebuild His Church.



"The Church shall be a home for Orthodox Christians from every ethnic and national background. It shall be a house of prayer for all humankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified."