

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

Keep Shouting Hosanna!

Children scrambling up trees to cut branches they will wave, people spreading their garments in the road for the King on and shouting, "Hosanna!" These are the joyful images of welcome we associate with the Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem.

Yet we know that in a few days, some of the same spectators who shouted their welcome will clamor for Christ to be crucified and the robber Barabbas to be released. When the King turns out not to be just the kind of leader they wanted, they will be ready to turn on Him, craving something or someone else.

They remind us of the Hebrew people making their way to the Promised Land with Moses leading them. Liberation from Egyptian bondage, in the midst of the wilderness they are traversing, is no longer the cause for celebration it had been in the first flush of freedom. They lament, "We remember the fish we ate in Egypt, for free, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at" (Numbers 11: 5-6).

Two saints who are commemorated this month also, like Moses, had to deal with people who were no longer satisfied with what God was giving and revealing to them. Saint Zeno of Verona was born in the mid-fourth century in Syria. He traveled widely, visiting monasteries, and settled in Italy. After some time he was chosen to be bishop of the city of Verona.

Zeno lived during the consecutive reigns of two emperors who embraced Arianism. He was persecuted for refusing to accept

Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, and we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Please keep in your prayers our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Genevieve Bobenko, Mary Fechisin, Edward Fedush, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazorczyk, Marian Nagel, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Maryann Stagen, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

the novel Arian idea that "there was a time when the Son was not" or in other words a time when He did not yet exist. Zeno courageously insisted in his writings and teaching that Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, existed before all ages. He was adamant in declaring that this is God's revelation, and therefore can't be altered.

Basil, Bishop of Parium, is also remembered this month. He lived in the eighth century, as the controversy over icons was reaching a fever pitch. Saint Basil refused to put his signature to the documents abolishing the veneration of icons. Like Saint Zeno, he was faithful to the Church's teaching. Also like Saint Zeno, he suffered at the hands of those who were offended by his adherence to God's revelation.

What will we be doing as the Great and Holy Pascha approaches? We can pine for something other than what God is giving, like the complaining Hebrews, or we can form our own ideas of what He should be giving, like the Arians and iconoclasts. But we can also choose, instead of either of these, to rejoice in His Resurrection and accept it as His incredible gift. We can continue, "like the children with the palms of victory", to sing Hosanna to Him as Lord and Savior.

Schedule of Services

(continued from previous page)

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 30

9:00am - Vespers & Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
1:30pm - General Confession, followed by blessing of Paschal baskets
11:30pm - Midnight Office (Nocturne), Procession, and Resurrection Matins

SUNDAY, MAY 1 - THE HOLY PASCHA

9:30am - Paschal Divine Liturgy, followed by blessing of Paschal baskets and breaking of the Fast in the church hall.

BRIGHT MONDAY, MAY 2

9:00am - Divine Liturgy & Procession around the Church with children carrying icons

BRIGHT TUESDAY, MAY 3

9:00am - Divine Liturgy

Announcements

◆ The **Gifts of Love** collection today will raise funds to print Yupik language Orthodox Coloring Books for the children of Alaska. Please help us to help Bishop David (Mahaffey) of Alaska in this outreach program. Your donation is greatly appreciated.

◆ **2016 Palm Sunday Vespers** will be hosted this afternoon at 4:00pm by F.O.C.A. chapter #30 at Ss. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church in Passaic.

Our Deepest Sympathy

to family and friends of **Nancy Filak**, who passed away on **Wednesday, April 20, 2016**. Viewing will be at J.C. Fila Lexington Memorial Home, 340 Lexington Ave. Passaic, NJ on Tuesday, April 26 from 4pm to 8pm with Panikhida at 7pm. Funeral will be on Wednesday, April 27 at 9am in our Church. Burial service will follow at St. Vladimir's Cemetery in Jackson, NJ. May the newly departed Nancy rest in peace in God's Heavenly Kingdom! Memory Eternal! Vechnaya Pamiat!



April 24, 2016

ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM (Palm Sunday)

- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy & blessing of palms & willows
Epistle: Phil. 4:4-9
Gospel: Jn. 12:1-18
- **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the Divine Liturgy

Schedule of Services

GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

7:00pm - Holy Unction

GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 28

9:00am - Vespers & Liturgy of St. Basil
7:00pm - Matins with 12 Gospels

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY, APRIL 29

2:00pm - Vespers & placing the Shroud
7:00pm - Matins & Burial Service

(continued on the next page)