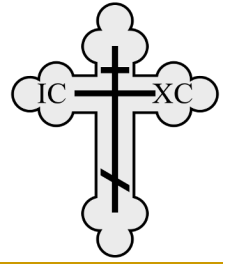




Agape



ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH APRIL 2019

A Holy Week Primer

In the Orthodox Church the last week of Christ's life is officially called Passion Week. In popular terminology it is called Holy Week. Each day is designated in the service books as "great and holy." There are special services every day of the week. Earthly life ceases for the faithful as they "go up with the Lord to Jerusalem" (Matins of Great and Holy Monday). Each day of Holy Week has its own particular theme. The theme of Monday is that of the sterile fig tree which yields no fruit and is condemned. Tuesday the accent is on the vigilance of the wise virgins who, unlike their foolish sisters, were ready when the Lord came to them. Wednesday the focus is on the fallen woman who repents. The vigil on the eve of Holy Thursday is dedicated exclusively to the Passover Supper which Christ celebrated with his twelve apostles. The main theme of the day is the meal itself at which Christ commanded that the Passover of the New Covenant be eaten in remembrance of Himself, of His body broken and His blood shed for the remission of sins. In addition, Judas' betrayal and Christ's washing of His disciples feet is also central to the liturgical commemoration of the day. Orthros of Holy Friday are generally celebrated on Thursday night. The main feature of this service is the reading of twelve selections from the Gospels, all of which are accounts of the passion of Christ. The Hours of Holy Friday repeat the Gospels of Christ's passion with the addition at each Hour of readings from Old Testament prophecies concerning man's redemption, and from letters of Saint Paul relative to man's salvation through the sufferings of Christ.

The first service belonging to Holy Saturday – called in the Church the Blessed Sabbath – is the Vespers of Good Friday. It is usually celebrated in the mid-afternoon to commemorate the burial of Jesus. Before the service begins, a "tomb" is erected in the middle of the church building and is decorated with flowers. Also a special icon which is painted on cloth depicting the dead Saviour is placed on the altar table. The Orthros of Holy Saturday are usually celebrated on Friday night. At the Doxology, the first signs of the Resurrection are seen, as the decorated tomb is carried in procession as the Lamentations are sung. On Holy Saturday itself, Vespers are served with the Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great. This service already belongs to the Passover Sunday. It begins in the normal way with the evening psalm, the litany, the hymns following the evening Psalm 141 and the entrance with the singing of the vesperal hymn, Gladsome Light. Originally this Liturgy was the Easter baptismal liturgy of Christians and this is why we received people into the Church on this day, as we will again this year. A little before midnight on the Blessed Sabbath the Paschal Vigil service is chanted. At midnight the Easter procession begins. The people leave the church building singing: *The angels in heaven, O Christ our Savior, sing of Thy resurrection. Make us on earth also worthy to hymn Thee with a pure heart.* Before the closed doors of the church building, the resurrection of Christ is announced. Then the people re-enter the church building and continue the service of Easter Orthros which is entirely sung with the joyful melodies of the feast. The Easter Divine Liturgy begins immediately with the singing once more of the festal troparion with the verses of Psalm 68. The Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom continues, crowned in

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Holy Communion with the Passover Lamb at his banquet table in God's Kingdom.

In the Orthodox Church the feast of Easter is officially called Pascha, the word which means the Passover. It is the new Passover of the new and everlasting covenant foretold by the prophets of old. It is the eternal Passover from death to life and from earth to heaven. It is the Day of the Lord proclaimed by God's holy prophets, "the day which the Lord has made" for His judgment over all creation, the day of His final and everlasting victory. It is the Day of the Kingdom of God, the day "which has no night" for "its light is the Lamb" (Rev 21.22-25).

You don't want to miss out on any of these beautiful services and there's no other place to be! Christ is Risen!

Parish Council

A report was submitted to the parish council by Presbytera Maria on the Fundraising committee. The number of people volunteering to work the events has diminished somewhat, and the committee is grateful to all who signed up last month on the sheets in the fellowship hall. The plan presently is to have only one Greek dinner this year in May, the Gyrofest in July; and the bake sale in December. However, the parish is fast approaching a time where operations will be completely covered by stewardship, which has always been our goal. If this continues, fundraising can take on a whole new perspective. This needs to be discussed further by the committee, by the council and by the entire parish at the next parish assembly and future parish assemblies. At the next assembly on April 14, a safety protocol will also be presented. Ways to beautify the iconostas are also being considered.

A number of maintenance must be addressed this year including some interior and exterior painting and servicing the heating/air-conditioning units. There are sufficient unrestricted funds in the dedicated account to pay for these items. Father Jerry provided a very encouraging report on the clergy-laity conference. The Metropolis is forming a leadership development committee, of which Father Jerry will be member.

Saint George Stewardship Committee

What is stewardship? It is the call of the faithful to share willingly the gifts that God has bestowed on them, including sharing these gifts for God's work. Stewardship is devotion and service to God and His Church as individuals, as families, as a parish, as a metropolis, as a national church and as the Church Universal. Stewardship is our commitment to use our time, talent and treasure to the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love. It is caring for the needs of others; offering one's self to God as He offered Himself for us; and it is what a person does after saying "I Believe" as proof of that belief.

The primary purpose of stewardship is to promote the spiritual growth of the steward. It should be a part of our parish life to help each and every one of us develop our personal faith and to grow in grace. It is not there just to finance the local parish - that is a distant secondary purpose. Thus stewardship is directed toward the inner person. Stewardship is about our personal salvation. Please be an active participant in all the ministries of our parish and grow with Saint George.

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Our committee is planning our annual Evening in Greece Dinner, which will be held May 11. This year we will only be having ONE dinner. Please mark your calendar and join us for a night of fun and delicious food. Reservations are required! Please invite family and friends too.

Thank you to all those who signed up to help on this event. We can use more volunteers. Please see Presbytera Maria if you'd like to help.

Our next committee meeting will be April 21

Presbytera Maria

Missions and Evangelism Report

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we continue on our journey through Lent to the wonderful celebration of Our Lord's triumph over death and His glorious Resurrection, the Church encourages us to fast, pray and give alms. Our parish Almsgiving project this year has been to gather items for 100 Blessing Bags. We will assemble these on Sunday, April 7th and then every family should have 1-2 bags to give to someone in need.

Michael and I recently received a small pamphlet from IOCC with weekly Lenten spiritual reflections from several of their staff. Susanna Amend (Donor services Coordinator) shared that almsgiving as service can come in various ways – "from directing a group of volunteers preparing dinners for a homeless shelter, to visiting a prisoner in jail in order to encourage them in their new discovery of Christ, to bending down and helping an elderly person tie their shoes." This is very encouraging as it reflects how everyone of us can find a way to serve someone else!

It is also the beginning of our Missions Possible campaign. Our goal again this year is to collect \$2000 towards helping the Metropolis spread Orthodoxy in the West. Would you consider how you can contribute to this cause? Some of the funds help our fellow Oregonians in both the Salem and Roseburg missions grow Orthodoxy in their areas. Previously called Mochas for Missions – it encouraged us to give up one Mocha per week during Lent through Pentecost (that's 14 weeks x your favorite drink's cost). Look for the small boxes placed around the fellowship hall. You're welcome to take one home for a small change container, or just add your check into one and make note in the "memo" to mark it for Missions Possible.

As our journey continues, may we all find ways to "show our faith by our works". James 2:18

In Christ's Love, Kathryn Becker

Greetings from the Bookstore

As Great Lent has now begun, prayer, self-examination, alms-giving, and fasting continue. As an individual, one can enter into a deeper love for God and for those around us. Along with attending special services at Church, one can enrich their spiritual experience by "words of wisdom." To this enrichment, the Bookstore offers the following:

"Christ in the Psalms" takes the reader on a thought-provoking and enlightening pilgrimage. This beloved and highly devotional book of the Church has an insight into the beloved scriptures, the words of the Early Church, and the Apostles themselves.

"Garden in the East. The Spiritual Life of the Body" is a poetic exploration of how the care and nurture of the body can lead one to wholeness and wellness in every area of our lives.

"Thirty Steps to Heaven. The Ladder of Divine Ascent for all Walks of Life" is an interpretation of the great spiritual classic, "The Ladder of Divine Ascent." One can learn how to ascend closer to God as part of their everyday lives.

If you were not able to attend the recent concert by the Konovets Quartet, a copy of their CD, Praise the Lord from the Heavens, is available. The CD includes liturgical songs recorded in New Varlamo Monastery, Finland.

If the Bookstore can provide any other items for you during this Lenten season, please let me know. I wish you many blessings and much peace.

In Christ, Stella Kallianis

PHILIA

Thank you to all who participated in our Philia's Augment Your Lent Event. Both to those who created the tasty vegan dishes to sell as well as to those who purchased them. It was a very successful fundraiser for the Community Court lunches which we prepare in conjunction with EPD. We still have a few cookies left that need a happy home which can be found on top of the glass case in the fellowship hall, as well as some Lenten cookbooks which are selling for \$5.00 to help you plan dishes for the fast. Thank you also to Hermela and Menywab who brewed Ethi-opian coffee for us in the traditional manner.

In April, Gloria will be heading the Tsoureki (Greek Easter bread) baking. It will be available for purchase in time for Easter. Order forms will be arriving soon. If anyone is willing and able to help form, bake or package the bread, please let Gloria know.

- Plans for the future:
- * Tsoureki Baking - April 6 and April 13
- * Tsoureki Sale - April 21 on Palm Sunday
- * Community Court Lunches - June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20.

For info on wedding or baptismal items contact Gloria at 541-424-0575 or via email at zeazeastimmons@gmail.com. And if interested in Rada cutlery and products please ask Julie.

Next meetings: April 14th and May 5th (since May 12 is Mother's Day)

Reminder: Philia is a philanthropic organization open to ALL women in the parish.

Come and join us! We could always use helping hands and helpful minds.

Julie Lenkoff, Philia Coordinator

CARE MINISTRY

The Care Ministry Team is a group of Parishioners who temporarily support and assist other Parishioners in times of emergency, illness, crisis, and grief. All are welcome to join us.

There will be a brief Care Ministry meeting on Sunday, March 31st following liturgy. Please bring your snack and meet in the Conference Room.

CARE NOTES

I am enlightened by the notes from IOCC Staff Members who are sharing their reflections on service. I particularly like the reflection of Nenad Prelević, Regional Representative for the Western Balkans, who stated that he thought he would be giving strength to others while instead "the people we help give me strength. . ."

Blessings,
Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons
Care Ministry Coordinator

From the Missions...

Thank you for your prayers for Holy Cross! Please add to your prayers the catechumens Steve and Pam Gray, as they prepare to enter the Church this month.

We were excited to send 2 delegates to this year's Clergy-Laity Assembly. The theme, 'The Great Commission in the Parish', is vital to the health and growth of our parish, and we learned much that we are excited to implement.

We look forward to worshipping with you throughout the rest of Great Lent and for Holy Week and Pascha. Thank you for your hospitality to us!

In Christ ~ Lisa Buck

Greetings from the Salem Mission,

We are once again extremely grateful to God and our priests for celebrating more "firsts" at the Salem Mission this Lenten season. The first week of Great Lent we had services every evening with excellent attendance. This is also the first year we are scheduled to have a Great Compline service each week, the Salutations Services to the Theotokos every Friday, and the Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos on the fifth Friday of Lent. Thank you for your faithful prayers for us!

We pray that everyone at St. George and Holy Cross will have a wonderful and very blessed rest of Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha. Kali Sarakosti to you all and very soon we'll be saying, Christos Anesti!

Gratefully,
Maria Hauser

April Celebrations Birthdays

April 3rd-Georgia Lallas
April 9th-Demetre Markopoulos
April 11th-Panayiotis Katsoyannos
April 15th-Nektarios Kaelin, Melita Green
April 20th-Eliana Hauser

Feast Days

April 1st-St Mary of Eygpt
Melita Green, Janelle Williamson
April 22nd-St Nearchos
Neal Zoumboukos
April 23rd-St George
Georgia Lallas

Wedding Anniversaries

April 3rd-Kaelin
April 4th-Zoumboukos
April 29th-Hall

Baptized in Christ/Chrismated

April 11th-Daniel, Aftasie & Omilie Doran
April 15th-Mark Lipson, Jason Taylor
April 30th-Bonni Sollars

Many Years! Chronia Polla!

News and Events

What's New!

- **First Saturday Breakfast:** The dates of the First Saturday Breakfast in April are: Food prep on Friday, April 5th and the breakfast on Saturday, April 6th. Many hands make for light work so please lend us yours!
- **Congratulations:** We offer our congratulations to Rachel Hauser who completed her degree program in Dental Hygiene! We also congratulate Kevin Kaelin who recently obtained his driver's license!
- **TSOUREKI Fundraiser:** Tsoureki, Greek Easter Bread, will be available for sale again this year. Please pre-order your loaves now for your Pascha celebration or gift giving. There may be a limited amount of loaves available for pick-up on Palm Sunday for those who did not pre-order. All proceeds support the philanthropic projects of Philia. If you would like to assist in baking on **Saturday, April 6th or Saturday, April 13th**, please contact me 541-4984-0575 or zeazeastimmons@gmail.com. No experience is necessary. Gloria Zeazeas-Timmons
- **Men's Lenten Retreat:** St John's Men's Lenten Retreat will take place on Friday, **April 12-14th**, at St John the Forerunner Greek Orthodox Monastery in Goldendale, WA. Fr Maximos Conostas is the retreat leader and he will speak about "Confession and Spiritual Direction in the Orthodox Tradition". For more information, please see the tri-fold brochure in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Pancakes, Palms and Polish:** Please join us for Orthros & Liturgy on Lazaros Saturday, **April 20th**, followed by our annual Pancake feed, palm-tying and church cleaning in anticipation of Holy Week.
- **Palm Sunday Luncheon:** Please join us for our annual Palm Sunday Luncheon on **April 21st**, sponsored by the Parish Council. Proceeds will go towards our Missions Possible goal.
- **Pascha Picnic:** Please join us for Agape Vespers on Pascha, April 28th, beginning at 11:30 am, followed by our annual Pascha Picnic Potluck. Please bring a side or dessert to share. There will also be an Egg hunt for the kids.

Hermela making Ethiopian Coffee



KOINONIA

	4/7	4/14	4/21	4/28	
FELLOWSHIP	Markopoulos	Becker	Palm Sunday Luncheon	Pascha Potluck	
GREETER	Stella	Helen S	John & Gloria	Jerry R	
PROSFORON	Strand	Lilles	Kaelin	Creech	
FLOWERS	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	
READERS	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	Brad Thomas	
CLEANING CREW	4/6 Thomas Zoumboukas	4/13 Drakes	4/20 Church wide clean-up	4/27 Bill & Lisa Lilles	

GET INVOLVED!!!

Look through this list of organizations, programs, and ministries at our parish, then call the contact person and get involved!!!

- PARISH COUNCIL** Neal Zoumboulos 541-344-4485
- SAFETY COMMITTEE** Gloria Zezeas Timmons 541-484-0575
- BOOKSTORE** Stella Kallianis 541-274-9110
- PHILIA WOMEN'S GROUP** Julie Lenkoff 541-345-2107
- CHURCH SCHOOL** Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-1331
- CHANTER/CHANT GROUP** Brad Thomas 541-689-9690, Ann Marie Kaelin 541-335-1331
- FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN** Art Mehas 541-485-8671
- FELLOWSHIP** Bonnie Sollars 541-852-9496
- STEWARDSHIP** Neal Zoumboukos 541-344-4485
- GREETERS** Larisa Lilles 541-484-7525
- CARE MINISTRY** Gloria Zezeas Timmons 541-484-0575
- PRAYER CIRCLE** Bonnie Sollars 541-852-9496
- MISSIONS & EVANGELISM** Kathryn Becker 971-506-7161
- FUNDRAISERS** Presbytera Maria 971-678-5112

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Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
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A good word...

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship, the holy Lord Jesus, the only Sinless One! We venerate Thy Cross, O Christ, and Thy Holy Resurrection we praise and glorify; for Thou art our God, and we know no other than Thee; we call on Thy name. Come, all you faithful, let us venerate Christ's Holy Resurrection! For, behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. Let us ever bless the Lord, praising His Resurrection. By enduring the Cross for us, He destroyed death by death!