



Saints Peter and Paul

Orthodox Church

25636 N. Mosiertown Rd Crossingville, PA 1641

Archpriest Fr. Daniel Mathewson – Rector

Barbra Hargett – Choir Director

Lord's Day – 4-25-2021

Parish phone: 814-734-3801 Find us on the Web at:

www.orthodoxcrossingville.org

ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM. Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark (1st c.). Palm Sunday . Ven. Sylvester, Abbot of Obnora (1379).

Glory to Jesus Christ!

Pray with out ceasing...

PLEASE INCLUDE THESE OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN

YOUR DAILY PRAYERS: Those in need - Fr. Andrew, Fr. Isaac, Fr. David, Fr. Anthony, Fr. Joseph, Fr. Zachariah, Fr. Patrick, Prez. Alexandria, Mat. Gail, Mat. Donna, Mat. Pirsilla, Kyra the newly born Isaiah Daniel Barbra, Karen, Mary B. Margret, Bill S., Lexi, , Charlotte, Caylin, John, Nickolas, Timothy, Amanda, Damian, Delani, Jeremiah, Christine, Rick, Samuel, Megan, Valentina, Mellissa
The Homebound Tanya, Mary G
Catechumen- Christian... Military servers...Greg
Special requests... Paul, Gilbert, Phyllis, Anthony, Ian, Paul, James, Sean, Liam, Bill, Wesley, Kim, Margaret, Loren, Julia, Shelby, Janet, Lynn, Margret. Helen, Dan, Jonathan, Donna, Nicholas, Maya, Mia, Charles, Cleta, Gail
Newly Departed : Richard, George, Ruth, Pearl, Jim(Grace's Dad), Ann, Lillian, Archbishop David, Metropolitan Maximos, Alice, Metro. Theodosius, William, Claudia, Theona, Helen,...
Departed Orthodox -Mat. Anastasia, Jeff, Catherine, Marilyn, Rodney, Irene, Fr. Matthew Baker, John B., John S., Ann, Katherine, Vernon, Paul, James Nicolai, Andrew, Peter, Paul, Margaret, Michael Mary Ann, Timothy...
(If you would like a name added to the list above give it to Fr. Daniel in writing.)

Holy Hymns:

The First Antiphon

I love the Lord because He has heard the voice of my supplication. (Ps. 114:1)

Refrain: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us! Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live. (Ps. 114:2) (Refrain)
The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of hell laid hold on me. (Ps. 114:3) (Refrain)
I suffered distress and anguish, then I called on the Name of the Lord. (Ps. 114:4a) (Refrain)
I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living. (Ps. 114:9) (Refrain)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. (Refrain)

The Second Antiphon

I kept my faith, even when I said, "I am greatly afflicted." (Ps. 115:1)
Refrain: O Son of God, seated on the colt of an ass, save us who sing to You: Alleluia!
What shall I render to the Lord for all the things He has given me? (Ps. 115:3) (Refrain)
I will receive the cup of salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. (Ps. 115:4) (Refrain)
I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people. (Ps. 115:5) (Refrain)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The Third Antiphon

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Ps. 117:1)

Tone 1 Troparion

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your Passion, You confirmed the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to You, O Vanquisher of Death: "Hosanna in the highest!//Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord."

Let the house of Israel say that He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Ps. 117:2)
--Let the house of Aaron say that He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Ps. 117:3)
--Let those who fear the Lord say that He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Ps. 117:4)

Tone 4 Troparion

When we were buried with You in baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by Your Resurrection. Now we praise You and sing: "Hosanna in the highest!// Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!"

Tone 6 Kontakion

Sitting on Your throne in Heaven, carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God, accept the praise of angels and the songs of children, who sing:// "Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam!"

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. / God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us. (Ps. 117:26b, 27b)
V. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Ps. 117:1)

Tone 1

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!
V. O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! (Ps. 97:1)
V. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (Ps. 97:5)

Holy Scripture:

Phil 4.4-9 (Epistle)

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

1 Pet 5.6-14 (Epistle—St Mark)

My beloved, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. By Silvanus, our faithful brother as I consider him, I have written to you briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand. She who is in Babylon, elect together with you, greets you; and so does Mark my son. Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace to you all who are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

John 12.1-18 (Gospel)

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, who would betray Him, said, Why was this fragrant oil 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 had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always. Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him,

and cried out: Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on 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 these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.

Mark 6.7-13 (Gospel—St Mark)

At that time, Jesus called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits. He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bag, no bread, no copper in their money belts – but to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics. Also He said to them, "In whatever place you enter a house, stay there till you depart from that place. And whoever will not receive you nor hear you, when you depart from there, shake off the dust under your feet as a testimony against them. Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city. So they went out and preached that people should repent. And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sun. - Bridegroom Matins 6pm

Holy Mon. - Bridegroom Matins 6pm

Holy Tues.- Bridegroom Matins 6pm

Holy Wed. - Moleiben for healing -- 6pm

Holy Thur. - Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil 9:30am

- Vespers with Passion Gospels – 7pm

Holy Fri. - Royal Hours 9am

- Vespers – 4pm

- Matins with Lamentations – 6pm

Holy Sat. - Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil with the 15 readings 10:00am

-Midnight Office – 11:30am

Holy Actions:

Children's Education: On Break

--No Women's Bible Study

--Mom's Group – 2nd Friday – see calendar

--Parish Council Meeting – Wed. May 12th 6pm

OUR DUTIES FOR HOLY AND GREAT WEEK

By Metropolitan Avgoustinos Kantiotes of Florina

This very day is clothed with the bright robes of the first-fruits of the Lord's passion.

Come, then, all feast lovers, let us welcome it with songs.

(Kathisma, Holy Monday)

We have arrived, my beloved, at the saving Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, at Holy and Great Week. This week is called Great, because in its 168 hours, from today until the night of the Resurrection, we give honor to great events, unique and world historic, which shocked the earth, the heavens, and that which is below the earth. This is why this week is called Great, and it is why it should not pass us by like all the others.

And I put forward the question: What are the duties of a Christian for Holy and Great Week? I am not addressing unbelievers, atheists or chiliasts; I am addressing believers who want to celebrate properly. What therefore are our duties during this week?

The first duty, my brethren, is to thank our Lord Jesus Christ from the bottom of our hearts. Of course, our whole life must be a thank you, a "Glory be to Thee, O Lord", for His small and great benefactions, the visible and the invisible, for all the good things, material and spiritual, that His grace abides in; the sun, air, water, flowers, beaches, all over the place. We should also thank Him for our parents and siblings, our spouse and children, for times and seasons, for what is blessed and necessary. An ungrateful person is worse than an animal. You have a dog, you throw him a piece of bread, and he wags his tail and says thank you. People also must be grateful to God. To thank Him for everything, but above all for the sacrifice of His Son, for His revered Passion. We would also like to thank Him for something else; for His long-suffering in so many of our crimes and blasphemies, for which the earth should open up to swallow us and the sea to swell to drown us, and yet it tolerates us. That is why on Great Friday the Church says, "Glory to Thy long-suffering, O Lord, glory to Thee."

So one of our duties is to thank God. The other is to follow the sacred services. The services of Great Week are not like the others; they differ in many ways. The hymns are sweeter than honey, those inspired poems, such as the lamentations at the tomb, these exist in no other religion in the world. These hymns alone, which neither the Franks or the Protestants or anyone else possess, are enough to prove that our Church is not of this earth, but of heaven,

inspired by God. Who did these? Where were they written? In schools and universities? They were done in caves by holy ascetics, as their tears fell to the ground and blossomed. They were not simply written with the mind and due to their education, but they were the blood of their hearts, of healthy feelings, an expression of life, of holy experiences, truths, which only those who truly love Christ can have. One must be unconscious so as not to be moved. Our third duty is to fast. This week is a week of fasting, strict fasting. Don't listen to the materialists and the impious. We keep the fasts of our holy Church, and especially this fast, as a tradition of the apostles and fathers of Orthodoxy. When we talk about fasting, we do not simply mean the fasting of the stomach to remember the vinegar of the cross, but with the fasting of the stomach our mouths must also fast from bad-mouthing, our tongue from obscenity, our eyes from filthy spectacles. During these days in Byzantine times the emperors would sign a decree: Great Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Pascha Sunday the hippodromes and all the theaters were closed. The Church is in mourning. If we were a Christian nation, centers of corruption would have to be closed from Great Monday, for mourning to be established for the One who was raised up for us on the cross. But we have another duty. It is the duty of Confession and Divine Communion. I will not expand on this, but will only say that during these holy days, and especially on the night of the Resurrection, we are called to stay in church till the end with our Resurrection candle. Whoever hears "Christ is Risen" and then leaves, it would be preferable if they had just stayed home. That which takes place, where the churches empty after "Christ is Risen", is a desecration, a contempt for Christ. Let us remain therefore until the end and prepare to receive Divine Communion. This week is especially a week for Divine Communion. What is Divine Communion? The Body and Blood of our Christ, fire from heaven. I ask, what are you? Are you straw? If so, then do not approach the holy things, otherwise you will burn. Are you gold? If you are gold, then gold is not threatened by the fire; the more it approaches the fire the more it is cleansed. So if you are a Christian, and remain unrepentant, the fire will burn you, just like it burned Judas who communed unworthily. But if you have gone through the furnace of sacred Confession, then approach; Divine Communion will be for you a medicine of immortality.

During Holy and Great Week we also have a sacred duty to our brethren who are suffering and are in need. It is a week of love and mercy. Give a fine meal to someone who is hungry, a new piece of clothing - not old and used - to someone who doesn't have any, help a widow and an orphan, give some medicine to someone who needs it, visit someone who is sick, give a consoling word to someone that is sad, do whatever a heart of love thinks it can.

What I have said is nothing. There is something else which is more difficult. If you do everything we have said so far, and don't do this last thing, then you are not a Christian. What is it? I know Christians who are people of prayer, whose ears are drawn to sacred words, who fast strictly, who confess and commune, but few are the Christians who have - what? "Let us forgive all things with the Resurrection" (Doxastikon of the Praises, Pascha Sunday). Great Week is a week of forgiveness. Who, my brethren, in this life has no dislikes, coldness, contradictions, who does not have an enemy? During these holy days let us look up towards the Crucified One. No one was wronged or hurt like our Christ. While the nails ripped into His flesh, at the same time the curses and anathemas of the Pharisees ripped into His heart, yet He prayed on the cross, saying: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Lk. 23:34). Let us forgive one another therefore during these holy days; brides and mothers in-law, brothers and sisters, friends with friends, children with parents, all without exception. Let us expand our hearts, let us feel the love of our Christ within us. How can we celebrate without love?

My brethren! Holy and Great Week equals a hand open to mercy, eyes with tears of repentance, feet that hasten to church, hearts reconciled, full of worship towards the Crucified One. Do we perform these duties? Do you know who we are like? We are like a beggar who every day has fifteen cents thrown at him, but one day a certain king passes by him and says, "Open your pockets!" and begins to count 1, 2, 3... 5... 10... 100... 168 gold coins that dazzle his eyes. And he, instead of taking this treasure to use it, he goes to the river and throws the gold coins in the water. Isn't this insanity? These hours therefore that the Church gives us are a treasure. Every hour - every bell ring, every beat, every second - is an important hour.

Let us take advantage of these holy days. Let us not allow them to escape from us like the rest of our lives. Do we know if we will live to celebrate another Great Week? Perhaps this Great Week is the last of our lives? How many people did we have with us last year? Where are they now? We are leaving, the train is whistling, only once do we go through life with this skin.

I pray this Holy and Great Week is an important milestone in our lives. May the Lord give us this week holy thoughts, holy feelings, heroic decisions, sanctification of the soul. May we seal Holy Week with the words, "Remember me, Lord, when thou cometh into Thy kingdom" (Lk. 23:42).

Source: (This homily was recorded live from the Church of the Transfiguration of the Savior in Moschato, Athens on April 10, 1960. Translation by John Sanidopoulos.)

Glory to God !!

Rdr. Nathaniel and Kyra Mathewson

Announce the Birth of their son

Isaiah Daniel Mathewson

born 12:07 this morning!