

I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy:  
and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.” Psalm 5:7

## Palm Sunday



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.

### The Lord's Prayer

**O**ur Father who art in heaven, Hallowed-be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

#### ABANA'L LATHEE

ABANA'L LATHEE FILL SAMAWAT; LEE YATA KADASS ISMUK  
LEE YATEE MALA KUTUK; LEE TAKUN MASHI ATUK  
KAMA FILL SAMA KADHA LEEKA ALA'L-ARD  
KHUBZANAL JAOHARI ATINA'L YAOM; WATRUK-LANA MA ALAINA  
KAMA NATRUKU NAHNU LIMAN; LANA ALAIH  
WALA TUD KHILINA FI TAJRIBA; LA KIN-NAJJINA-MINA'L SHIRIR



(Entrance of our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem)  
St. George Antiochian Orthodox Christian Cathedral

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Sunday April 5, 2026

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Antioch and all the East*

*Metropolitan SABA Archbishop of  
The Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of  
North America*

*Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Jeremy Davis  
Archiepiscopal Vicar Diocese of  
Toledo and the Midwest*

*Very Rev. Archpriest Michael G. Shaheen  
Dean/ St. George Cathedral of Toledo*

**Sunday April 5, 2026**

**Feast of Palm Sunday: Entrance of  
Our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem  
Apolytikion of Lazarus I**

O Christ God, when thou didst raise Lazarus from the dead, before thy Passion, thou didst confirm the universal resurrection. Wherefore, we, like babes, carry the insignia of triumph and victory, and cry to thee, O Vanquisher of death, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

**Apolytikion of Palm Sunday IV**

O Christ God, when we were buried with thee in Baptism, we became deserving of thy Resurrection to immortal life. Wherefore, we praise thee, crying, Hosanna in the highest, blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

**Kontakion for Palm Sunday IV**

Seated upon thy throne in heaven and upon a foal on earth, O Christ God, thou didst receive the praise of the angels and

Wishing all of you who were born  
in the month of April  
A Very Happy Birthday

Marcel Gammoh 02

Melanie Swade 03

Vicki Ghareeb 05

Monica Hajjar McNeil 08

Amira Pedro 11

Amanda Haddad 12

Sophia Carmony 15

Joy Hajjar 18

Greg Gniewkowski 20

Michael Goodman 22

Jim Skolmowski 24

Erica Joseph 27

Lincoln David Swade 27

Michael Ghareeb 29

Paul Overhulse 02

Michael Skaff II 04

Gretchen Awad 08

Naja Seaman 10

Kay Namay 12

Ryan Sommer 14

Cora Carmony 16

Diane Fuller 20

Noel Swidan 21

Jason Fuller 23

Ziad Hajjar 25

Sebastian Hughes 27

George Namay 28

Rita Haddad 29

Happy  
Birthday

## **Friday April 10**

Great and Holy Friday Morning  
9:00am

Great and Holy Friday afternoon Vespers  
3:00 pm

Holy Friday Evening Lamentations  
7:00 pm

## **Saturday April 11**

Holy Saturday Morning Vesper Liturgy  
10:00 am

**GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection  
Presided by Rt. Rev. Archimandrite Jeremy Davis  
10:00 pm

**Following the Divine Liturgy, ALL are welcome to join in  
the St. George Fellowship Hall for Pascha Breakfast**

**Pascha Sunday April 12**  
AGAPE VESPERS 12:00 NOON

**Save the Date!**  
**St. George Middle Eastern**  
**Summer Festival**  
**July 17;18;19**

**With your help,  
this year will be our best year to date!**

the hymns of the children: Blessed is he that cometh to recall Adam.

## **The Epistle**

*Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord.  
O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.*

**The Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians.**  
4:4-9

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, these do; and the God of peace will be with you.

## **The Holy Gospel**

**The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to St. John**  
12:1-18

**S**ix days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made a supper; Martha served, but Lazarus 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 carry 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 have me always." When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing 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 be he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass's colt!" His disciples didn't 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 Lazarus 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 that he had done this sign.

## Schedule of Services for Holy Week

### Saturday April 4

Saturday of Lazarus the Righteous  
Morning Divine Liturgy 10:00 am  
Breakfast to follow with Church decorating

### Sunday April 5

Palm Sunday Jesus' Glorious Entrance into Jerusalem  
Orthros 9:00 Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

Palm Sunday Evening Orthros of the Bridegroom  
6:00 pm

### Monday April 6

Holy Monday Evening Orthros of the Bridegroom  
6:00 pm

### Tuesday April 7

Holy Tuesday Evening Orthros of the Bridegroom  
6:00 pm

### Wednesday April 8

Holy Wednesday Evening (Holy Anointing)  
6:00 pm

### Thursday April 9

Holy Thursday Morning Liturgy Last Supper  
Cathedral 10:00 am

Holy Thursday Evening 12 Passion Gospels  
7:00 pm

### أحد الشعانين

إنجيل اليوم: يوحنا (ص 12: ع 1-18)

قبل الفصح بستة أيام، أتى يسوع إلى بيت عنيا حيث كان لعازر الذي مات فأقامه يسوع من بين الأموات\* فصنعوا له هناك عشاء. وكانت مرتا تخدم. وكان لـعازر أحد المتكئين معه\* أمّا مريم فأخذت رطل طيب من ناردين خالص كثير الثمن ودهنت قدمي يسوع، ومسحت قدميه بشعرها\* فامتأ البيت من رائحة الطيب\* فقال أحد تلاميذه يهوذا بن سمعان الأسخريوطي الذي كان مزمعاً أن يسلمه: لم لم يبع هذا الطيب بثلاثمائة دينار ويعطى للمساكين؟! وإنما قال هذا لا اهتماماً منه بالمساكين بل لأنه كان سارقاً وكان الصندوق عنده وكان يحمل ما يلقي فيه\* فقال يسوع: دعها إنمّا حفظته ليوم دفني\* فإنّ المساكين هم عندكم في كلّ حين، وأمّا أنا فلست عندكم في كلّ حين\* وعلم جمع كثير من اليهود أنّ يسوع هناك فجاءوا لا من أجل يسوع فقط بل لينظروا أيضاً لعازر الذي أقامه من بين الأموات\* فآتمر رؤساء الكهنة أن يقتلوا لعازر أيضاً\* لأن كثيرين من اليهود كانوا بسببه يذهبون فيؤمنون بيسوع\* وفي الغد لمّا سمع الجمع الكثير الذين جاءوا إلى العيد بأنّ يسوع أت إلى أورشليم أخذوا سعف النخل وخرجوا للقاءه وهم يصرخون قائلين: هوشعنا مبارك الآتي باسم الرب ملك إسرائيل\* وأنّ يسوع وجد جحشاً فركبه كما هو مكتوب\* لا تخافي يا ابنة صهيون، ها إنّ ملكك يأتيك ركباً على جحش ابن أنان\* وهذه الأشياء لم يفهمها تلاميذه أوّلاً. ولكن لما مجد يسوع حينئذ تذكروا أنّ هذه إنّما كتبت عنه وأنهم عملوها له\* وكان الجمع الذين كانوا معه حين نادى لعازر من القبر وأقامه من بين الأموات يشهدون له\* ومن أجل هذا استقبله الجمع لأنهم سمعوا بأنّه صنع هذه الآية.

### Holy Week Items Needed

St. George Cathedral would like you to participate in the celebration of Holy Week leading us to Pascha by helping us acquire the following items.

- ✘ Mazaher (Rose Water)
- ✘ Lilies & assorted flowers to decorate the Altar & Altar steps
- ✘ Palms for Palm Sunday
- ✘ Carnations and Roses for Good Friday
- ✘ Candles for the entire week

If you would like to help out, please send your monetary donation to **St. George Cathedral earmarked HOLY WEEK. No need to bring any items** as The Church will make the purchases as needed.

Please email Laura Pedro at [cathedraloffice@bex.net](mailto:cathedraloffice@bex.net) or call her at **419-367-5460**

Your contribution and help is always appreciated.

Thank you

WE ENTER TO WORSHIP...

WE DEPART TO

SERVE...

### HOLY COMMUNION & HOLY PENANCE (CONFESSION)

Eucharist is the most Sacred act of our Holy Orthodox Faith. Holy Communion is the essence of our Divine Liturgy. Proper preparation is necessary to partake of the Holy Mysteries:

- ✠ Fasting from Midnight before the Liturgy
- ✠ Confession to the priest by proper examination of ones conscience
- ✠ Absolution given by the priest is the gift of repentance

### PROPER ETIQUETTE WHILE IN CHURCH

- ✠ Arrive to church in **modest attire** and turn off cell phones before entering church.
- ✠ We **DO NOT** cross our legs in church.
- ✠ There should be no talking or chewing gum while in church. **Absolutely NO FOOD.**
- ✠ **No water** or any other beverage should be consumed while in church.
- ✠ The only persons permitted behind the Holy Altar are the Clergy and Altar servers.
- ✠ No walking up or down the aisle if the Epistle; Gospel or Homily is being said.
- ✠ The only persons that should be standing in the back are the ushers to keep order.
- ✠ If you are planning to partake of Holy Communion, please prepare yourself properly.
- ✠ During Holy Communion, all parishioners are to remain standing until the last person receives.

### THE PROPER WAY TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

- ✠ Approach the chalice with reverence with arms crossed over your chest & state your name for the priest
- ✠ Tilt your head **STRAIGHT BACK** (not left or right) and open your mouth to avoid touching the spoon with your mouth.
- ✠ Following these three simple steps will ensure us that we are receiving Holy Communion (**NOT taking**) in the correct order prescribed by the Orthodox Church and at the same time gives consideration to our fellow parishioners.

## St. George Good Friday Memorial Booklet



Commemorating our loved ones who have gone before us to their rest...

Traditionally in the Orthodox Church we remember our loved ones who have fallen asleep in the Lord. Therefore we will be putting together a **Good Friday Memorial Booklet** to remember our beloved family and friends who have gone to their rest. If you would like to have your loved ones remembered in this **special booklet**, please email **Laura Pedro** at ([cathedraloffice@bex.net](mailto:cathedraloffice@bex.net)) with the names of those whom you wish to have remembered.

**Deadline is April 3rd**

You may make your donation payable to **St. George Cathedral** earmarked "**Good Friday Memorial**"

Please note: All names submitted are prayed for at the Oblation Table by Fr. Michael at the Liturgy of the Last Supper Holy Thursday morning

## HOLY WEEK MEDITATION AND STUDY GUIDE

The services of Holy Week transform us into eyewitnesses and direct participants in the awesome events of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In readings taken from both Old and New Testaments, in hymns, processions, and liturgical commemoration, we see the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies, and the mighty acts by which God Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, grants us forgiveness for our sins, and rescues us from the pain of eternal death.

**PALM SUNDAY EVENING** - *Matthew 21:18-43*. This evening's service calls to mind the beginning of Jesus' suffering. The gospel describes the plotting of the priests and elders to trap Jesus into convicting Himself as a religious heretic. Through parables, Jesus tells us of His coming betrayal, trial, conviction and execution by crucifixion. The hymns of this service commemorate two things; the first, the prophetic figure of Joseph, who, while virtuous, nonetheless suffered unjustly at the hands of his brothers before being greatly rewarded, and the second, the parable of the fig tree, which in failing to bear fruit, became a symbol of fallen creation, and of our own lives, in which we also have failed to bear spiritual fruit.

**HOLY MONDAY EVENING** - *Matthew 22:15-46; 23:1-39*. This evening's theme is the need for watchfulness and preparation, lest we be called unprepared before the awesome judgement seat of Christ to render an account of ourselves. The gospel reading contrasts the efforts of the Pharisees to trick and discredit Jesus, with the forceful resistance which Christ mounts against their evil. The hymns remind us of the parable of the Ten Virgins, in which the faithful Christian is exhorted to vigilance.

**HOLY TUESDAY EVENING** - *John 12:17-50*. The need for true repentance is the concern of Tuesday evening's service. This transformation from the life of sin to a life of faith and obedience is exemplified for us in the person of the sinful woman who received the gift for forgiveness when she anointed Jesus with myrrh and washed His feet. The highlight of the service is the hymn written in honor of this woman by St. Kassiani. The Gospel meditation foretells of the coming suffering of Christ and recalls His inner struggles and agony.

**HOLY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING** - Epistle readings: *James 5:10-16, Romans 15:1-7, I Corinthians 12:27-31-13:1-8, II Corinthians 1:8-11, Galatians 5:22-6:2, I Thessalonians 5:14-23*. Gospel readings: *Luke 10:25-37, Luke 19:1-10, Matthew 10:1 & 10:5-8, Matthew 8:14-23, Matthew 25:1-13, Matthew 15:21-28, and Matthew 9:9-13*. The primary theme of Holy Wednesday is our human need for the healing and forgiveness that comes into our lives when we establish a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. We are reminded that the way to this relationship is to be found, above all else, through the life of prayer. In the Sacrament of Holy Unction, the faithful are anointed and thus, healed both physically and spiritually. They are also reconciled to God and one another so that they might receive the gift of the Holy Eucharist instituted by Christ at the Last Supper.

**HOLY THURSDAY MORNING** - *Matthew 26:2-20, John 13:3-17, Matthew 26:21-39, Luke 22:43-45, and Matthew 26:40-27:2*. On Holy Thursday morning, we ascend Mt. Zion with Christ and the Twelve, and enter into the upper room. Once there, we witness the awesome moment when, at the Last Supper, Christ abolishes the ritual practice of the Old Covenant and es-

tablishes the ritual of the New Covenant, prophesied by Jeremiah, through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. The faithful receive Holy Communion at that Holiest of Liturgies.

**HOLY THURSDAY EVENING** - In this service, we commemorate the undeserved suffering of Jesus Christ, endured for our sake, so that we might be reconciled anew to God our Father. The Gospel readings witness for us the betrayal and arrest of Jesus, his trial and conviction, and finally his torture, crucifixion and death at the hands of a sinful humanity. This evening's service also includes the procession representing Christ carrying His own cross along the Via Dolorosa, and ends when we see before us the King of Glory crucified.

**HOLY FRIDAY AFTERNOON** - *I Corinthians 1:18-2:2, Matthew 27:1-38, Luke 23:39-43, Matthew 27:39-54, John 19:31-37, and Matthew 27:55-61*. In this service, we are once again reverent witnesses to the undeserved suffering of Christ, to his terrible passion and death. What is remembered in a special way through liturgical commemoration and procession, is the faithfulness and love of Joseph of Arimathea who tenderly removed Christ's body from the cross, wrapped it in clean linen, and carried it to his own unused tomb for burial.

**HOLY FRIDAY EVENING** - *Ezekiel 37:1-14, I Corinthians 5:6-8, Galatians 3:13-14, Matthew 27:62-66*. On Good Friday evening, the theme is Christ's descent into Hades during which the Gospel of repentance and reconciliation with God is shared with those who died before Christ's saving dispensation in the flesh. The service begins with lamentations sung as we stand before the tomb of Christ commemorating His unjust punishment and the shedding of His innocent blood. But the service ends on a note of joy and hope, with the reading of the Prophet Ezekiel in which he describes his vision of our resurrection yet to come; in the midst of despair, we are told there is hope, for not even death can separate us from the unfailing love and power of God. Death is about to be conquered and faithfulness rewarded.

**HOLY SATURDAY MORNING** - *Romans 6:3-11, Matthew 28:1-20*. On Holy Saturday morning we celebrate the theme of faithfulness receiving its reward. The crucifixion is over, Christ is buried, the twelve apostles and other disciples are scattered and defeated. And yet, three myrrh-bearing women come in faithfulness to perform the last act of love--to anoint Jesus according to the Jewish burial custom. Their unwavering devotion is rewarded--they are the first to share in Christ's triumph over evil and death. They are the first witnesses to the Resurrection. This joy is commemorated through the scattering of bay leaves and rose petals by the priest.

**HOLY SATURDAY EVENING - EASTER SUNDAY MORNING** - *Mark 16:1-8*. The lamentations of the previous night are repeated and the church is plunged into darkness to symbolize the despair and defeat experienced before the dawn of Christ's victory over the Enemy of our salvation. Precisely at midnight, a single light emerges from the altar representing the victory of Christ over death, the defeat of the Prince of Darkness by Jesus, the Light of the World. As the light is passed from person to person, it pushes back the darkness of the church and defeats it completely. The Resurrection is proclaimed in song and triumphant procession, and after the Liturgy, its light is carried into our homes so that they too might be filled with its light and warmth and triumph.