

#### **Holy Ghost Orthodox Church**

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## PALM SUNDAY—BLESSING OF PALMS AND BRANCHES

**ON THE MEND:** Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Bishop Robert, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Dragan Filipović, Father Stevo Rocknage, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Cuthbert Jack, Father Elias Warnke, Father Nestor Kowal, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John Nakonachny, Deacon Dennis Lapushanski, Protopresbyter Peter Hotrovich, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Joshua Agosto and his family, Mike Holupka, Eva Malesnick, Stella Peanoske, Joe Nezolyk, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Virginia Bryan, Joseph Sliwinsky, Linda Mechtly, Mary Mochnick, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Stella Cherepko, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Dave May, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Alverta, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Michael Miller, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Robert Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, John Sheliga, George & Mika Rocknage, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Bishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Doris Artman, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Jean Stutchell, Charles & Esther Holupka, Wanda Mefford, Lynn (Bush) Gill, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Betty O'Masta, Julie Eiler, Vince Ferro, Michael Pawlyshyn, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie—young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew-21-year-old with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Woloschak, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia Luciow, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Yvonne Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Pete Niederberger, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Diane McDaniel, Loretta,

Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaelle Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Carl & Margaret Reed, Theodore Demopoulos, Jillian Bowman, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Doug Smith [Millie Kerr's son-in-law], Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], Mel & Charlotte Malik, Paula Pasquinelli, David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Juliana Leis, Susan "Billie" Mason, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, LuAnne [Mike Horvath's daughter], Donald Griffey, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Strozh [child with cerebral palsy], Thomas Stutzman, Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Richard Dunst, Michelle, Jamie Gardner, Patrick, Linda Morris, Howard Simpson, Ronald Graham [Evelyn's nephew], Chris, Pastor Ed Bowen, David Hiles, Karen Johnson, Jennifer, Ann Quinn-knee surgery, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Susan Bertram, Rita McConnell, Millie Kerr, Stancy Popichak [Fr. Bob's mom], Gail, and Daria Masur ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

PRAYER LIST: Please help update our prayer list. If you or someone you know no longer needs to be on the prayer list or if there is someone who needs to be on the list please let Father Bob know. Remember—Prayers are ALWAYS FREE! Thank you!

Please remember ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and all American service men and women—and bring them all home safely!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR "BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION" AND CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS TO CHURCH. There is a shoebox in the basement for Debbie Paouncic's class. THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR HELP!

## REMEMBER-PRAYERS ARE <u>ALWAYS</u> <u>FREE!</u>

<u>Communion Fasting:</u> nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please ask Father Bob.

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.

#### **SCHEDULE OF SERVICES**

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM SIXTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT—PALM SUNDAY—THE ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM; APOSTLES ARISTARCHUS, PUDENS, & TROPHIMUS OF THE 70; MARTYR SUCHIAS & HIS COMPANIONS IN ARMENIA \*\*\*PAGE 170 IN THE BLACK DIVINE LITURGY BOOKS\*\*\*

Philippians 4:4-9 John 12:1-18

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 HOLY UNCTION 6:30 PM

THURSDAY, MAY 2 12 PASSION GOSPELS 6:30 PM

FRIDAY, MAY 3 PLASCHENYTSIA 7:00 PM

SATURDAY, MAY 4 ANTICIPATION OBEDNITZA 10:30 AM

SUNDAY, MAY 5 PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY 10:30 AM
PASCHA—THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
\*\*\*PAGE 179 IN THE BLACK DIVINE LITURGY BOOKS\*\*\*

Acts 1:1-8 John 1:1-17

SUNDAY, MAY 12 Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom 10:30 AM ANTIPASCHA; SECOND SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY; NINE MARTYRS AT CYZICUS: THEOGNES, RUFUS, ANTIPATER, THEOSTICHUS, ARTEMAS, MAGNUS, THEODOTUS, THAUMASIUS, & PHILEMON; SAINT MEMNON THE WONDERWORKER OF CORFU

Tone 1
Acts 5:12-20
John 20:19-31

Litany in Blessed Memory of His Beatitude, Metropolitan Constantine, Charles Cherepko, anna Metrick, Bogdan Mural, Khouria Joanne Abdalla, Katherine Tomson, Walter Golofski, Jr., Joseph Baloga, Anna Vangrin, Anthony Notaro, Esther Tylavsky, Evdokia Josephine Repa, & Daniel J. Pysh, Jr. Parastas in Blessed Memory of Floarea, Dumitru, & Family; Sofia, Alin, & Family; Giorgiana, Elionora, Gaai Goodrich & Family—Father Emilian

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 28 APRIL 2013 SIXTH SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT—PALM SUNDAY—THE ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM; APOSTLES

# ARISTARCHUS, PUDENS, & TROPHIMUS OF THE 70; MARTYR SUCHIAS & HIS COMPANIONS IN ARMENIA \*\*\*PAGE 170 IN THE BLACK DIVINE LITURGY BOOKS\*\*\*

### **Easter on way for the Orthodox**

By Andrew Estocin/Albuquerque resident on Mon, Apr 15, 2013.

Easter is a distant memory for most New Mexicans. Look down the aisle of your local store and one finds only a clearance bin of damaged Easter bunnies mixed in with threads of plastic green grass. Yellow marshmallow Peeps are an endangered species on the candy aisle. Meanwhile, greeting card companies remind us repeatedly that Mother's Day, graduation and Cinco de Mayo are just around the corner.

However, for New Mexico's 4,000-plus Orthodox Christians preparations for Easter, more commonly known as Pascha, are in full swing.

Traditional foods are being prepared, raucous dinners with family and friends arranged, and life has been put on hold for the upcoming week to attend ancient church services which pass down traditions that have been in place for nearly 2,000 years.

Easter comes twice in 2013, and the doors of every Orthodox church in New Mexico are open as the most ancient of Christian journeys known as Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 28, and ends with the proclamation of "Christ is Risen!" on Sunday, May 5.

Ask any Orthodox Christian, and he or she will tell you that the ancient spiritual way handed down to us is not something to be guarded but instead shared in abundance. The unique calendar calculation of Easter in 2013 provides a unique opportunity to do so.

Orthodox Christians have for centuries used a different calendar to observe Easter.

In the United States, nearly all Christians follow the Gregorian calendar established in 1582 by Pope Gregory XIII. Orthodox Christians, however, use the more ancient Julian calendar established by Julius Caesar in 42 B.C.

The contrast between the two calendars is sometimes very great. This is true in 2013 when the majority of Christians celebrated Easter on March 31st while Orthodox Christians must wait until May 5th.

Orthodox Christians are a small but vital part of New Mexico's culture. We find our roots in early 20th Century European immigration and 21st Century stories of conversion.

Most Americans identify Orthodox Christianity with an ethnic group such as Greeks or Russians. However, in New Mexico, Orthodox Christians are a diverse group that prays and worships in English. Orthodox Christianity has existed since the time of Jesus' apostles and has weathered every variety of upheaval, persecution and controversy with its tradition intact. Walk into your local Orthodox church and you will glimpse a spiritual world that has its roots in ancient Byzantium.

This may give one the impression that the church is simply a fossil trapped in a world that no longer exists. However, this could not be further from the truth. Orthodox Christianity is not a museum of history but a way of living that seeks a connection with what Christians have believed and practiced throughout the centuries.

Megachurches, worships bands and self-help books are foreign to us. Instead we look to centuries-old worship services, prayers and learning to renew our lives.

What New Mexico's Orthodox Christians most desire is to share our unique heritage with those around us. We are like anxious children with an exciting story to tell – and there is no better story to share than that of Holy Week.

In a world where religion is growing indistinguishable from popular culture, New Mexico's Orthodox Christians invite others to celebrate a different Christianity that is mysteriously both ancient and new. It is a tradition where there are no Easter bunnies, the eggs are bright red, and the festive soup served after Easter church services might just have the eyeball of a lamb stewing in it!

So as the margaritas flow and mariachis sing this Cinco De Mayo, don't be surprised if you see Orthodox Christians walking around exhausted and overjoyed in their finest Easter clothes. If you do, please say hello. We have an exciting story to share!

Andrew Estocin is a life-long Orthodox Christian. He received his theological degree from Fordham University and attends St. George Greek Orthodox Church. [Andrew's dad, Father Frank Estocin of blessed memory, was a priest in our cathedral in Philadelphia.]

The demons try to undermine your inward resolution by buffeting your souls with an untold variety of temptations. Yet out of these many tribulations a garland is woven for you; Christ's power 'comes to its fullness in us in our weakness, (II Cor 12:9). It is usually when our situation is most gloomy that the grace of the Spirit flowers within us. 'light has shone in the darkness for the righteous, (Ps 112:4 LXX), if, that is, 'we hold fast to our confidence and the rejoicing of our hope firmly to the end,' (Heb 3:6). *St. John of Karpathos,* **The Philokalia, Vol. 1,** Faber and Faber, pg. 302

#### **Sand and Stone**

Two friends were walking through the desert. At one point of their journey, they had an argument, and one friend slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, he wrote in the sand: "Today my best friend slapped me in the face."

They kept on walking until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but his friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone: "Today my best friend saved my life."

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, "After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand, and now, you write on a stone. Why?"

The other friend replied: "When someone hurts us, we should write it down in sand where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it."

#### Conversing About Great Lent

- Bronko-Great Lent is coming to a close very quickly. The days remaining offer singular opportunities for repentance. This is the time to return to God. It is time to get back on the right track in life.
- Nikola-It is too easy to get off the tracks. Temptations appear out of nowhere. Before you know it, sins are committed. We are supposed to keep focused on God all day and night. It is easier to know what to do than to do it.
- Bronko-Staying faithful to God is possible. Strong faith is necessary. When we fall in sin, we need to get back up in Christ.. When we mess up, we need to turn to God in prayer. We need to repent and seek forgiveness.
- Nikola-We can always go to confession with the priest. But getting going takes effort, trust and desire to change. Confession requires honesty with God. God knows what we have done. We have to show interest in doing better.
- Bronko-God loves us and will forgive us. We have to be willing to trust in His love. We have to be willing to reach out in faith. A serious confession will bring healing. Being forgiven demonstrates the amazing love from God.
- Nikola-Great Lent is a challenge for Christians. Each day carries the expectation for believers to be more faithful to God. The weekday services speak of personal sin and the need for repentance. Sin is very personal for each of us.
- Bronko-St. Ephraim's Prayer keeps the focus where it needs to be. Great Lent is an action of the Church and each Christian is expected to take Great Lent seriously. Individual action is required in concert with the Church.
- Nikola-We need to look to the joy and peace found in Christ. Sin is a path to destruction. Following Christ leads to life. Vigilance of the heart and mind are necessary to expel and repel evil and welcome Christ.
- Bronko-Every decision draws us closer to Christ or alienates us from Christ. When

- the weight of sin is lifted through Holy Confession, inner peace is achieved. Forgiveness brings new freedom in Christ.
- Nikola-Great Lent is a structured period in the Christian life calling for careful self-examination. The journey through Great Lent, Holy Week and to Pascha reminds believers of Christ's immeasurable love each day.
- Bronko-The Christian life is more than an avoidance of negative and unethical behavior. The Christian life is to consciously experience Christ and follow Him out of love and the sense of what is right.
- Nikola-The Holy Apostle Peter put it clearly when he said: "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that Thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God."(Jn.6:68-69)
- Bronko-Great Lent is about redeeming the time of life. It is about bringing our life into Christ and Christ into our lives. Great Lent is about ridding our lives of sin and wasteful use of the time of life.
- Nikola-The time of earthly life is limited. Christ opens the vista of eternal life. Christ calls believers to choose the better way. Christ urges believers to follow the narrow path to find life.(Mt.7:13-14)
- Bronko-It is hard to turn life around when we consistently say "no" to Christ. It is hard to break out of a pattern of behavior that does not include Christ. Personal peace does not reign in the heart unless Christ dominates the heart.
- Nikola-Once Christ is consciously experienced, the experience is a marking point in life. The experience with Christ is as no other experience. The soul is nourished and satisfied only in Christ.
- Bronko- The Holy Apostle Paul directs believers to "Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." (Rom. 12:2)
- Nikola-To experience Christ fully, it is necessary to be attentive to the Holy Gospel. It is necessary to partake of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ. Love needs to be the basis of all personal actions.
- Bronko- The Epistle of St. John states:" My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him.." (I Jn.3:18-19)
- Nikola-Becoming a Christian is an exercise of free choice. Being a serious Christian necessitates constant renewal of that choice to follow Christ throughout the remaining days of life.
- Bronko-The Church brings Great Lent to believers each year. Great Lent enables the interested believer to experience God in the most focused way. Great Lent provides for the Christian seeking to grow in Christ.
- Nikola-Great Lent is finite in time but leads beyond earthly time. Holy Week tells in detail the complete earthly life of Christ and the convincing account of His divinity.
- Bronko-Christ' death on the Cross and the Empty Tomb capture the attention of serious believers. The journey through Great Lent and to Pascha encourages investment in the Kingdom of God.

Nikola-Time given by God can be used frivolously or wisely invested. The time of life is given only once. The daily use of time determines where the the person will experience eternity.

Bronko-The daily use of time determines the degree to which the believer experiences the Kingdom of God in the present and in the age to come. Let us reject sin and death. Let us choose Christ and life.

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Prepared for Adult Class.St.George Serbian Orthodox Church, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. April 4/17, 2013. Wednesday of the Fifth Week. Very Rev. Father Rodney Torbic

If a man really sets his heart upon the will of God, God will enlighten a little child to tell that man what is His will. But if a man does not truly desire the will of God, even if he goes in search of a prophet, God will put into the heart of the prophet a reply like the deception in his own heart. *St. Dorotheos of Gaza*, **Discourses and Sayings**, Cistercian Publications, pg. 129

# **Preparing for Holy Communion: a prayer to the Theotokos**

O Mother of God, who surpasses every mind and word! O Virgin who exceedest all earthly virginity, for even before the Divine birth was thou a Virgin beyond all virgins—and such didst thou remain both during and after the birth!

Thee, O Lady do I beg, thee do I entreat, O merciful and manbefriending Mother of the merciful and man-befriending God: defend me at this hour if ever thou wilt do so, for now am I most in need of thy protection and thy help.

I am all a mire of filth and sin, a dwelling place of soul-corrupting passions. Yet I intend to approach the all-pure and terrifying Mysteries of thy Son and God, and therefore do I suffer fear, and trembling embraces me because of the unbearable multitude of my sins.

But if ever I am to remain without communion on the pretext of my unworthiness, then shall I fall into a great abyss of evil and bring upon myself great chastisement. I anguish over both the first alternative and the second.

To thee do I run; be kind to me, my all-pure Lady. Take advantage of thy motherly boldness before thy Son and God, and gain for me forgiveness of my former sins. Vouchsafe me to be made pure and enlightened by communion of the Mysteries, and show me how to spend the remainder of my life in repentance, purity and humility. Remain always with me in my thoughts, words and deeds, in all the movements of my soul and body, instructing me, leading me and guiding me, deflecting from me all hostile

powers, and preserving me and providing thy servant, however worthless, with thy grace in every way.

Excerpted by Bishop Theophan the Recluse, From A SPIRITUAL PSALTER or Reflections on God, from the works of our holy father Ephraim the Syrian, pgs. 178-9, published by St. John of Kronstadt Press

#### **About Sins of the Mind**

March 27, 2013, 2:41 pm A Letter from St. Nikolai Velimirovich to Monk Avakum



You ask if sins of the mind are dangerous? As a monk you know this best. You know that one of the holy fathers has said that the essence of monasticism is the cleansing of the mind of evil thoughts. You also know that the Church lists three types of sin: in deed, in word, and in thought. This is why we pray to the Father of light for the dead, that He would forgive them all sins, whether in deed, in word or in thought. And the fact that God knows the sinful thoughts, you read in the Gospel, "And Jesus, seeing their thoughts, said, 'Why do ye think evil in your hearts?'" Satan did not sin in any other way except through evil thoughts. That is why he was cast out from before the face of the Lord and thrown into Hades.

Evil thoughts are the seed of every evil. From that seed sprout sinful words, sinful desires and sinful deeds. Remember Christ's second parable about the sower. "A man sowed good seed in his field. And when people were asleep, their enemy came, and sowed tares among the wheat." God sows good thoughts into the soul of every man. If someone gets lazy and does not keep watch over his soul like he would over a sown field, he is like the sleeper. And while he sleeps, the evil spirit comes, the enemy of God and man, and sows tares, which is to say evil thoughts, into the soul. And from evil thoughts to evil words, the distance is no greater than from a seed to a root of a plant. Which means, there is no distance, the two are organically connected.

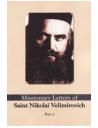
So therefore, keep watch over yourself. Close your eyes more often, and as Saint Nikita Stifat said, "examine the thoughts sailing on the sea of the mind."

In the rules of monasticism, the main exercise defined is the uprooting of evil thoughts—before they develop, grow, and rule over the soul, and finally turn into action. Dash them against the stone. As the Psalmist said, "O daughter of Babylon, who art to be destroyed, happy shall he be that taketh and dasheth thy little ones against the stones!" Do you understand the spiritual meaning of this? Babylon is the kingdom of the devil and his children are the thoughts. Christ is the Stone. Blessed is, therefore, the one who dashes the evil in himself from the start, destroying it with the eternal stone—Christ.

So, since you and I both know this, we have no other choice but to also act accordingly.

Rejoice in the Lord.

- 1. Matt. 9:4←
- 2. Matt. 13:25<u>←</u>
- 3. Ps. 136:8-9<u>←</u>



Taken from St. Nikolai (Velimirovich), *Missionary Letters of Saint Nikolai Velimirovich*, *Part I: Letters 1-100*, ed. Fr. Milorad Loncar, trans. Hierodeacon Seraphim (Baltic), vol. 6, A Treasury of Serbian Orthodox Spirituality (Grayslake, Illinois: Joe Buley Memorial Library, New Gracanica Monastery, 2008), pp. 72-73. This excerpt is posted with permission of the editor and the New Gracanica Diocese. *Missionary Letters of Saint Nikolai Velimirovich, Part I* is available for <u>purchase from the online New Gracanica Bookstore</u>. (Please note that the New Gracanica Bookstore is not affiliated with *The Monastic Library* or the Hermitage of the Holy Cross.)

Behold, let no one say, I have committed many sins—there can be no forgiveness for me. He who says this does not know that God is the God of the penitent, that He came to earth not to save the righteous, but to call sinners to repentance, and that when someone repents the heavens rejoice over him.

True repentance consists of withdrawing from sin and nurturing hatred for it. For, lo, when someone says from his heart: I have hated deceit and been repelled by it—then God accepts him with joy.

But behold, also let no one dare to say: I have not sinned. He who says this is blind; he has shut his eyes. He deceives himself and knows not that Satan is robbing him blind—both in word and deed and through thoughts. For who can boast that he has an innocent heart and that all his senses are pure?

No one is sinless, no one is clean of defilement, no man is free from guilt except Him alone Who for our sake was impoverished though He was rich. He alone is sinless Who took upon Himself the sins of the world, wants all men to be saved, desires not the death of a sinner and is a lover of mankind, abundantly benevolent, kindhearted and sincerely loving.

Let us also run to Him, for all sinners who have run to Him have found salvation.

From A Spiritual Psalter OR REFLECTIONS ON GOD, excerpted by Bishop Theophan the Recluse, from the works of our holy father Ephraim the Syrian, published by St. John of Kronstadt Press, pgs. 200-201

### **SOME THOUGHTS ON THE SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK**

Holy Week in the Orthodox Church has many services recalling the events of the life of Christ. Palm Sunday recalls His entrance into the Holy City of Jerusalem—those present sang "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord!" These same people would cry out "Crucify Him! Crucify Him" just a few days later.

Holy Wednesday gives us the opportunity to ask for healing of mind, body, and soul with the Mystery of Holy Unction—anointing with blessed oil and wine. This is limited to Orthodox Christians, as it is a Sacrament.

Holy Thursday presents the Twelve Passion Gospels, which chronicle the betrayal, trial, torture, and crucifixion of Our Lord.

Great and Holy Friday includes the death of Christ, taking His holy body from the cross, the funeral procession, and His burial.

Great and Holy Saturday is an oddity in services—the church changes from dark [purple] to light [white] during a Vesperal Divine Liturgy in anticipation of the Good News of the Resurrection. Saturday evening traditionally ends with Nocturnes, which end the day, followed immediately by Paschal Matins and the Paschal Divine Liturgy—Communion is give immediately after midnight so there is no opportunity to fast.

Pascha traditionally has no service other than Agape Vespers—another unique service of thanksgiving normally served in the morning.

Our parish has modified this schedule to fit with the realities of our family. Each of our services has meaning and power—please try to attend as many of them as your health, schedule, and energy allow, so we may all join together, greeting one another on Sunday morning with the Great News that **CHRIST IS RISEN!**