ST. MARY'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Parish Bulletin

Fourth Sunday of Lent
St John of the Ladder
April 3, 2022

Welcome All St. Mary's Visitors

A very warm welcome to our visitors worshiping with us this morning! Your presence is a blessing to us. We pray God will bless you and that you will visit us again!

While Holy Communion may only be received by prepared Orthodox Christians, our non-Orthodox guests are welcome to join us in receiving the blessed bread of fellowship at the end of the Divine Liturgy and for the Social Hour in our Church Hall.

Things are much better now! There is a new variant amongst us.

Please remain vigilant; the BA.2 variant is making the rounds now.
Masks are optional for all!
These guidelines are here to help keep each other safe and healthy.

- ***Get vaccinated! Depending on the vaccine you received, get the first and second booster when indicated!***
- ***If you are not feeling well, received a positive test and / or been exposed to someone having the virus stay home! Vaccinated or not!***
- ***Order your at home tests from www.covidtests.gov so you can test yourself as needed. THEY ARE FREE!!! Check with your pharmacy for a FREE N95 Mask if you do not already have them.***
- Fans on and windows open are necessary during ***and*** after Liturgy to circulate and dilute the air. Please don't close the windows or shut off the register fans before, during OR after Liturgy.
- When coming to Communion, open your mouth wide with head tilted back; if wearing a mask remove it.
- Blessed Bread will no longer be in individual bags.

Calendar & Schedule of Divine Services

Sunday, April 3 – Fourth Sunday of Lent, St John Climacus

- ***3:00 PM*** **- Deanery Lenten Mission, St Mary's Church, Yonkers NY. Lenten Vespers.**
  Lenten Confessions will be heard before and after the Mission Service by visiting Clergy.
  Following the Vespers, a Lenten Meal will be served in the Hall.

Thursday, April 7 – Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Sunday, April 10 – Fifth Sunday of Lent, St Mary of Egypt and Observance of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

- ***8:45 – 9:15 AM*** – Lenten Confessions will be heard
- ***9:30 AM*** – Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great, Tone 1

  Epistle: Hebrews 9:11 – 14; Gospel: St Mark 10:32 – 45

  Following the announcements, a perpetual Panachida will be served for the repose of the departed souls of ***James and Helen Fitzpatrick*** and for the repose of the departed soul of Father, ***Stephen E Krivonak, Jr.***

  Following the Divine Liturgy, there will be anointing with Holy Oil in commemoration of the Feast of the Annunciation.
- ***11:45 AM*** – Parish Lenten Communion Breakfast, Church Hall
- ***5:00 PM*** – Deanery Lenten Mission, St John's Church, Perth Amboy, NJ. Lenten Vespers.

Saturday, April 16 – Lazarus Saturday, Raising of Lazarus from the dead. End of Lent

- ***9:30 AM*** – Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom.

  Epistle: Hebrews 12:82 – 13:9; Gospel: St John 11:1 – 45.
- ***11:45 AM – 1:00 PM*** – Lenten Confessions will be heard

Sunday, April 17 – Palm Sunday, the Triumphant Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem. Beginning of Holy Week

- ***9:30 AM*** – Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom.

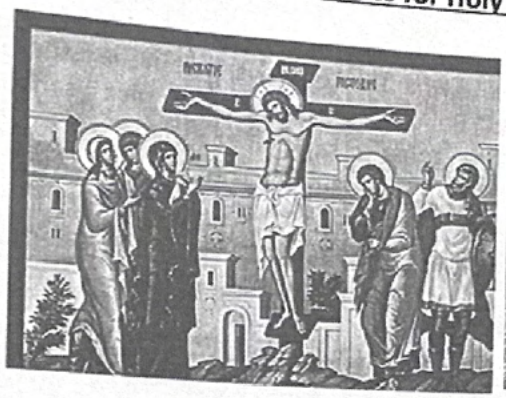
  Epistle: Philippians 4:4 – 9: Gospel: St John, 12:1 – 18.

  During the Divine Liturgy, pussywillows will be blessed.

  Following the Divine Liturgy, there will be anointing with Holy Oil on the occasion of Palm Sunday.

  Blessed pussywillows will be on the Blessing Table for you to take home.

Schedule of Divine Services for Holy Week, 2022



Wednesday, April 20 – Holy Wednesday

- ***7:00 PM*** **– Sacrament of Holy Unction. Healing Service for all sickness and infirmities.**
  At the conclusion of the Service, the Faithful will be anointed on their forehead and palms with the newly Blessed Oil of Healing.

Thursday, April 21 – Holy Thursday

- ***9:30 AM*** **–Institution of the Sacrament of Holy Communion at the Last Supper**
  Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great
  During the Divine Liturgy, Communion is set aside for sick calls during the year.
  Epistle: 1st Corinthians 11:23 – 32; Gospel: St Matthew 26:1 – 28, 27:1 – 3, St John 13:3 – 17, St Luke 22:43 – 44.
- ***7:00 PM*** **– Matins of Good Friday. Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels**

Friday, April 22 – Good Friday, the Passion, Crucifixion, Death and Burial of Christ in the Tomb

- ***7:30 PM*** **– Vespers of Good Friday with Procession with the Holy Shroud and Burial of Christ**

Saturday, April 23 – Holy Saturday

- ***9:30 AM*** **– Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St Basil the Great and the Blessing of Bread, Wheat, Wine and Oil**
  Epistle: Romans 6:3 – 11; Gospel: St Matthew 28:1 – 20.
  Following the Divine Liturgy, There will be anointing with new newly blessed Holy Oil.
- ***1:00 PM*** **–** Blessing of Easter Food baskets in the Church Hall
- ***8:00 PM*** **– Resurrection Matins**
  Followed by the Blessing of Easter Food baskets in the Church Hall

Sunday, April 24 – The Glorious Resurrection of Our Lord, God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Beginning of Bright Week.

- ***9:30 AM*** **–** Divine Liturgy.
  Epistle: Acts of the Apostles, 1:1 – 8; Gospel: St John, 1:1 – 17.
  Following the Divine Liturgy, there will be anointing with Holy Oil on the occasion of the Feast of the Resurrection.
  Following the anointing, Easter Food Baskets will be blessed in the Church Hall

Food for Thought

Moses, therefore, said to Jesus, the son of Nave, after giving him this name, when he sent him to spy out the land: "Take a book in your hands and write what the Lord says, that in the last days the Son of God will tear out by the roots the whole house of Amalec." Behold, here is Jesus again, not a son of man but the Son of God, revealed in the flesh by a type. Since they are going to say that the Christ is the son of David, David himself prophesies, fearing and understanding the error of sinners: "The Lord said to my Lord, sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." And again Isaiah says as follows: "The Lord said to Christ the Lord, whose right hand I upheld, that the nations should obey Him: - and I will shatter the strength of kings." See how David calls Him *Lord* and does not say *son*. (Letter of Barnabas)

Announcements

Contact Information

If you are in need of a Priest, contact Fr Steve at 201.220.4586 or the Dean, Rev Fr William Bennett at 212-254-6685.

LAST CALL! Aid for Ukraine

Today is the last opportunity to make an offering to help the people of Ukraine during this time of strife and warfare. If you haven't given yet or want to increase your offering please do so today.

Patriarchal Pence

It is a custom of our Diocese to send the money offered on Good Friday at the Tomb of Christ to the Ecumenical Patriarchate as a means of showing our appreciation for accepting our people into Orthodoxy and for the support of the Patriarchate. The Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople is constantly under the pressure of the Turkish government, so whatever we can do to aid it will help them exist in the harsh political environment.

There is an envelope in your packet for the Patriarchal Pence collection. You may send it in or deposit your envelope in the bowl in the vestibule on any Sunday or, if you wish, make the offering at the Tomb when you come to Good Friday Matins or Holy Saturday Liturgy.

All monies collected by Easter Sunday will be sent to the Diocese to be forwarded to the Ecumenical Patriarchate.

Lenten Confessions

All Faithful are invited to approach the Sacrament of Holy Confession ***at least but not limited to once*** during Lent, and to receive Holy Communion often! If you didn't approach Confession at the Mission Service today there are plenty of options still available to you.

- On Lazarus Saturday, after Liturgy or from 11:45 AM – 1 PM;
- On Palm Sunday morning at 8:45 AM;
- After Palm Sunday Liturgy;
- During Holy Week; or
- By appointment with Father Steve or another Orthodox Priest with whom you wish to confess your sins.
- ***No Confessions will be heard on Easter Sunday morning!***

Is ***your*** soul ready for the Resurrection?

Easter Bake Sale in Bayonne

Our sister Parish of St Mary's in Bayonne, NJ is once again having their Easter Bake Sale. Some of you ordered for the past several years now, both for Christmas and Easter. The fact that you repeat orders means you enjoyed the baked goods. The flyer is attached to this bulletin.

There are two bakings, orders for Western Easter are due today, April 3rd; orders for our Easter are due next Sunday, April 10th. You can give them to me or order directly from Bayonne. Just make sure they know you are from Yonkers. Orders for Western Easter will be in our Church on Sunday, April 10th; orders for our Easter will be in our Church on Sunday, April 17th for your pick up.

Again, if you don't feel like baking or just need some more goodies, they have Pascha for your Easter meal as well as rolls and cookies. As for Christmas, I will pick up any orders placed by our Parish and have them for you here in Yonkers.

Blessing of Pussywillows on Palm Sunday

We thank Andy Hvizd for his time and labor in the initial cutting of the pussywillow branches earlier this month. Now it is time to get them ready for blessing. Before the pussywillow branches can be blessed on Palm Sunday, they need to be cut to appropriate size and brought to the Blessing Table in the Church. Volunteers are needed to prepare the branches prior to Palm Sunday on the 17th. Please see Dorothy Dymek to coordinate the day and time for this work.

You may bring your own bunch of pussywillows for blessing on Palm Sunday. If you do, tie them together maybe with a colored ribbon so you know your own. Bring them to Church with you and place them on the Blessing Table before the Liturgy. You may pick them up as you come to be anointed after the Liturgy.

Holy Week Regulations

The following are the ***minimum*** fasting regulations for Holy Week.

- The entire Holy Week, April 18th through 23rd are days of abstinence from meat.
- Good Friday, April 22nd is a day of strict fast. No meat, milk, eggs or dairy products are permitted to be eaten for the entire day.
- All Faithful are invited to attend as many of the Holy Week Services as possible.
- All Faithful are encouraged to read and meditate on the Passion and Death of Christ in Holy Scripture and / or other religious works.

To those of a stronger will and more willing spirit we encourage following the fasting regulations of a sterner quality which are set forth by the time honored customs and traditions of our Holy Orthodox Church.

Holy Week Tasks

Yes, there are things to do during Holy Week!

The Tomb needs to be setup and flowers arranged prior to the evening Good Friday Vesper Service. The Tomb can be set up following the Good Friday Matins on Holy Thursday and / or on Good Friday during the day.

Volunteers are needed for the processions of Good Friday and at the Resurrection Matins.

During the procession of the Resurrection Matins, the Tomb needs to be moved, lights lit and flowers arranged.