Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 9, 2023
Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
250 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, New Jersey 07090
908.233.8533    www.holytrinitywestfield.org

Rev. Fr. Peter Delvizis, Parish Priest
Palm Sunday Morning Gospel

St. Matthew 21:1-11; 15-17

Palm Sunday Gospel

St. Matthew 21:1-11; 15-17

St. Matthew 12-18

Epistle Reading:

Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel Reading:

St. John 12:1-18

Altar Candles - In memory of Michael Greco†

Large Candles - In memory of Joseph Conti†

Apolytikion: “Before Your Passion, You raised Lazarus from the dead to confirm the common Resurrection for all, O Christ God. Therefore, we carry symbols of victory as did the youths, and we cry out to You, the Victor over death, ‘Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

Apolytikion: “As by baptism we were buried with Thee, O Christ our God, so by Thy Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising Thee, we cry: ‘Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.’”

Kontakion: “Being borne upon a throne in Heaven, and upon a colt on the earth, O Christ God, Thou didst accept the praise of the Angels and the laudation of the children as they cried to Thee: Blessed art Thou Who comest to recall Adam.”

Palm Sunday

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Have you ever been really excited about something only to find that after it has happened it was not what you expected? How do you feel after a huge event when your expectations were not met, and you wonder if some sham just occurred?

Perhaps the people in Jerusalem felt the same way as they were waiting for something extraordinary to happen. When Christ entered the City, they hoped that God’s promise of deliverance was upon them. That Jesus, the Messiah, would free them from their enemy and lead them in revolution to regain their ancient land. Day by day Jesus’ earthly power seemed to be growing. People rejoiced seeing Him and hailed Him as a hero. Imagine the shock of those gathered to greet their new king when Jesus rides into the city of Jerusalem sitting on a tiny donkey. The people must have questioned, “Where is the proud stallion? Where is his army and sword?” Their expectations were dashed understanding that there shall be no revolution, there will be no combat, no soldiers at arms, no political liberator, only a simple preacher-man sitting side-saddle on a donkey.

Was Jesus a sham? Was His message of freedom and the establishment of a new kingdom mere words? Certainly, this was not what they expected and now their dreams were shattered and
completely lost. One by one the people left Jesus. In the end, even His closest friends would abandon Him. Often, we look at things or events using only earthly thoughts. Yet God is much beyond us and our tedious material thoughts. When Jesus entered Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday, something extraordinary happened. We can only understand this event by looking at it with spiritual eyes. Jesus did, in fact, usher in a new Kingdom on that day. He did, in fact, destroy the enemy. And He delivered His people, all in a spiritual way.

Divine nature oftentimes contrasts with the secular. Jesus accomplishes the feat of liberation, but without revolution, without the bloodshed, without chaos or mischief. He accomplishes everything through humility and peace. The entire political system which is always based on strength, authority, and oppression is overturned by Jesus in just the briefest of moments. Salvation belongs to those who trust in the Lord.

Palm Sunday is the end of the entire process of preparation revealed in the Bible. As Christ enters the City, an eternal meaning is established. He introduces the reality of the Kingdom into our time and makes it meaningful in our life. The Kingdom was revealed in this world - from that hour - and transforms human history. At the most solemn moment in our liturgical celebration, when we receive from the priest a palm branch, we renew our oath to our King and confess His Kingdom as the ultimate meaning and content of our life. We confess that everything in our life and in the world belongs to Christ, nothing can be taken away from its sole real Owner, for there is no area of life in which He is not to rule, to save and to redeem.
Welcome Visitors
The parish of Holy Trinity welcomes those visiting our community today. We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us. If you are looking for a spiritual home, we hope that you consider becoming part of our family. Fr. Peter would very much like to meet you. Please visit the Philoxenia/Fellowship table in the Bouras Center after services to meet parishioners and receive information about the parish. Again, welcome and have a blessed Palm Sunday.

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Westfield, NJ
@holytrinitygreekorthodoxch5509

Holy Trinity to Stream Holy Week Services
Holy Trinity will stream Holy Week services on YouTube, the parish’s new platform. Services begin at 6:30 PM each night. Click here or visit at: Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Westfield, NJ - YouTube
Please hit the “subscribe” button to become a Holy Trinity follower.

Palm Sunday Fellowship Hour
Philoptochos invites all parishioners to a special Palm Sunday Fellowship Hour immediately after services. Thank you to all who contributed fruit and goodies for our Palm Sunday fellowship gathering.

Tsoureki (Easter Bread) - Pick Up on Palm Sunday!
Please remember to pick up pre-ordered tsourekia from the Greek School table on Palm Sunday. There will be some extra tsourekia for sale on a first come, first served basis. The Greek School PTO thanks you for your support.

Special Donations for Holy Week and/or Pascha
If you desire to make other special donations, call the church office to find out what items are available, such as flowers, icon floral decoration, candles, vigil light, incense, charcoal, etc.

Holy Week Books Available Now
As we begin Holy Week tonight, the ability to follow the services in a concise manner is important. To help you, the “black” Holy Week books, first published 60 years ago, are on sale now. This guide to services has remained a staple of the Greek Orthodox Holy Week and Pascha Services for decades. To purchase a copy, visit the bookstore, church office, or buy one at the pangari.
SPECIAL VAN SERVICE
GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY NIGHT, APRIL 14
GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY NIGHT, APRIL 15

• Once the Church parking lot is full, the Westfield Police will direct you to Union County College parking lot 5B (the parking lot closest to Gallows Hill Road).
• A Station Cab van will transport you from the college parking lot to the Church.
• After Church services have concluded, the van will pick you up in front of the Church and take you back to the college’s parking lot.
• Please do not park on the cemetery property across from the Church. This is private property.
• You may park at Washington School on St. Mark’s Place. There is a sidewalk that connects the school and the Church property. Parking is not permitted on either side of Gallows Hill Road in front of the Church or along the Church property or between the “No Parking” signs.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please call the Church office.

Bill, Stavroula, Tina, Gabby, Fran, Dayvon, Sunitha, Neil, Gus, Dimitri, Freddy, Shane, Lula, Christina, Diego, Michael, Katie, Joe, Theo, Barbara, Nicholas, Athanasios, Clarita, Georgia, Savas, Christodoulos, Sophia, Savas, Maria, Michelle, Dorothy, Elizabeth, Steve, Clem, Christos, Dorothy, Bill, Thomas, John, Keti, Dawn, Nick, Hilary, Nicholas, Matt, Diane, Cynthia, Patty, John, Isabel, Noella, Nevin, George, Diana, Lucia, Rich, Keti, Georgia, Harry, Kathy, Jennifer, Gayle, William, Byron, John, Robert, Terry, John, Angela, Andrew, Dianna, Edward, Sue, Thomas, Andrea, Thomas, Alexandra, Ronald, Galina, Angela, Lubove, Despina, Maria, John, Paraskevi (Parri), Dianna, Stephanie, Edward, Brian, Janeen, Cathy, James, Christine, Andrea, Molly, Anastasios, Michael, Angela, Lauren, John, Effie, Stella, Denise, Mirka, Stamatia, Theresa
Agape Vespers Readers
During the Agape Vespers on Easter Sunday at 11 AM, the Gospel passage is read in various languages to indicate the universality of Christ’s Gospel of salvation. If you read a foreign language, please call Diana at the church office to volunteer.

Red Easter Eggs - Bring to Church This Week
On Palm Sunday, bags and instructions for preparing the red Easter eggs will be distributed. We ask that the red eggs be brought to the church kitchen on Holy Thursday, 4/13; Holy Friday, 4/14; or before 2:00 PM on Holy Saturday, 4/15 for distribution on Holy Pascha. For questions, please contact Christina Colonias 917-825-5986. Your help will ensure that the faithful will receive an Easter egg on Pascha.

Special Flower Collection
A special collection will be taken as you leave church for the flowers that will decorate the kouvouklion. Checks should be made payable to HTGOC. Your generosity will ensure a proper and beautiful adornment of Christ’s Tomb for Holy Friday Services.

Parish Lenten Mission Project - OCMC Coin Boxes
OCMC Coin Boxes that were taken at the start of lent can be brought to church anytime. We thank you for filling the boxes, not only with money, but with Christian love.

Holy Friday Retreat -
Friday, April 14 - 10 AM to 4 PM
Students grades K through 5 are encouraged to attend the Holy Friday Retreat on April 14 from 10 AM-4 PM. Children will actively participate in the services as well as gain a deeper understanding of the symbolism of Holy Friday and Pascha through music, church teachings and crafts. A Lenten lunch and snack will be served. Registration is free of charge. Volunteers are needed. Please email Melissa Krikos mkrikos@gmail.com with any questions.

2023 Registration Form
Decorating The Kouvouklion

Holy Friday, April 14
Come in the morning to help decorate the Kouvouklion or the Sepulcher of our Lord

Metropolis of New Jersey to Honor Holy Trinity Parishioners
On Monday, May 15, at the Grand Banquet of the Metropolis of New Jersey Clergy/Laity, parishioners from Holy Trinity will be honored by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros. We thank this year’s honorees who give selflessly of themselves to help benefit parish ministries: Mary Psomas-Senior Parish Member; Kristin Tencza-Steward of the Community; Peter Boutsikaris-Parish Council; Ellen Manos Athenson-Philoptochos; Stavroula Mergoupis-Greek Education Teacher; Pascali Kuvalakis-Psalti; Iris Love-Youth Advisor; Molly Sophia Love-GOYA. The event will be held at the Venetian in Garfield beginning at 6:00 PM. Tickets are $125/person. For reservations call the church office by April 24.
TOTS Playgroup - April 26
The next TOTS (Trinity Orthodox Toddler Social) meeting will be on Wednesday, April 26, from 9:30-11:30 AM in the preschool room. Children 18 months-Pre-K are welcome with their caregiver (younger siblings welcome!). Bring water, sneakers and a snack. Contact Val Comprelli at vcomprelli@gmail.com or 612-801-8608 to sign up or to ask any questions.

Upcoming Parish Events

Thursday, April 27

"ARISE"
The Ladies of Philoptochos – Fashion Show
Thursday, April 27, 2023 at Brooklake Country Club, Florham Park, NJ. 5:30 PM Cocktails & Raffles; 7:30 PM Dinner & Fashion Show by Emily's Boutique, Staten Island, NY. Please stop by the Philoptochos Table during the Fellowship Hour to learn more about ARISE!, how you can help, and donate.

Pre-order “ARISE” Raffle Value Pak(s) and save on raffle tickets! Limited quantities are available. Stop by the Philoptochos table during the Fellowship Hour for order forms or contact Ellen Manos at ebmanos@yahoo.com by April 23. Contact the Event Chair, Kassandra Romas, at kromas22409@gmail.com or 908-296-1586.
Thursday, July 16-22

CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD

Registration now open: Register here

Chesapeake (Maryland) July 3-7
Ages 8-18
Location: Camp Wo-Me-To, Jarrettsville, MD

Virginia
July 9-15
Ages 10-18
Location: Camp Plankatank, Hartfield, VA

New Jersey
July 16-22
Ages 8-18
Location: Camp Linwood Macdonald, Sandyston, NJ

Register here
http://a3p.campdoc.com/register/cgsn

More Information
https://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd
Πώλω καθίσας, ὁ λόγω τείνας πόλον, Βροτοὺς ἐκζητεὶ λύσαι τής ἰλογίας.

Τὴν ἡμέρα αὐτή γιορτάζουμε τὴν πανηγυρικὴ εἴσοδο τοῦ Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ στὴν Ιερουσαλήμ. Τότε, ερχόμενος ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἀπὸ τὴ Βηθανία στὰ Ιεροσόλυμα, ἐστειλὲ δύο απὸ τοὺς Μαθητές του καὶ τὸν ἐφέραν ἕνα γαϊδουράκι. Καὶ κάθισε πάνω του για νὰ μπει στὴν πόλη.

Ο δὲ λαὸς, ἀκούγοντας ὅτι ὁ Ιησοῦς ἔρχεται, πήραν αμέσως στὰ χέρια τους βάγια απὸ φοίνικες καὶ βγήκαν νὰ τὸν υποδέχωντον. Καὶ ἰδιοί μὲ τὰ ρούχα τους, ἰδιοὶ δὲ κόβοντας κλαδία ἀπὸ τὰ δέντρα, ἐστρώναν τὸ δρόμο αὕ̄ όπου ὁ Ιησοῦς θὰ περνοῦσε. Καὶ ἰδιοὶ μαζὶ, ἀκόμα καὶ τὰ μικρὰ παιδά, φώναζαν:

«Ὡσαννὰ· εὐλογημένος ὁ ερχόμενος ἐν ονόματι Κυρίου, ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ».

Ὁ Χριστός εἰσέρχεται στὰ Ιεροσόλυμα «ἐπὶ πόλον ὅνου». Πορεύεται καὶ οἱ Ἰσραηλίται τὸν ὑποδέχονται μὲ τιμές ως Βασιλιά. Εκεῖνος δὲν δίνει ἰδιαίτερη σημασία στὶς τιμές, δὲν περιορίζεται στὸ πανηγύρι, στὴν πρόσκαιρη δόξα, αλλὰ προχωρεῖ στὸ σταυρὸ καὶ τὴν Ανάσταση.

Ἡ εἴσοδος τοῦ Χριστοῦ στὰ Ιεροσόλυμα εἶναι τελικὰ ἡ εἴσοδος τοῦ μαρτυρίου στὴν επίγεια ζωὴ τοῦ Κυρίου. Σὲ λίγες ἡμέρες θὰ μαρτυρῆσῃ καὶ θὰ θανατώθει στὸ σταυρὸ, γιὰ νὰ θανατώσῃ τὸ θάνατο καὶ νὰ χαρίσῃ τὴ ζωή.

Λειτουργικά κείμενα
Ἀπολυτίκιον
Ἥχος α’.
Τὴν κοινὴν Ἀνάστασιν πρὸ τοῦ σοῦ πάθους πιστοῦμεν, ἐκ νεκρῶν ἤγειρας τὸν Λάζαρον Χριστῆ ὁ Θεὸς· ὃν καὶ ἤμεις ὡς οἱ παῖδες, τὰ τῆς νίκης σύμβολα φέροντες, σοὶ τὸ νικητῆ τοῦ θανάτου βοῶμεν· Ὡσαννὰ ἐν τοῖς ψίστοις, εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος, ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου.
GLORY BE TO GOD FOR ALL THINGS

✠ AMEN ✠