

**From the Fathers (and others):**

Always use a single rule of fasting. In truth, lack of proportion always corrupts. While you are young and healthy, fast, for old age with its weakness will come. As long as you can, lay up treasure, so that when you cannot, you will be at peace.

Amma Syncletica of Alexandria

An Egyptian brother came to see Abba Zeno in Syria, and accused himself to the old man about his temptations. Filled with admiration, Zeno said, 'The Egyptians hide the virtues they possess and ceaselessly accuse themselves of faults they do not have, while the Syrians and Greeks pretend to have virtues they do not have, and hide the faults of which they are guilty.'

Do not hesitate to go late at night to those places where you usually feel afraid...As you go on your way, arm yourself with prayer. When you reach the place, stretch out your hands. Flog your enemies with the name of Jesus, for there is no stronger weapon in heaven or on earth. When you get rid of the disease of fear, praise Him who has delivered you. If you continue to be thankful, He will protect you forever.

Saint John of the Ladder

...Freedom from cowardice comes when we eagerly accept all unexpected events with a contrite heart.

Saint John of the Ladder

"Grant us, O our Lord, to bring Thee three choice gifts. Grant us, O our Lord, to burn three aromatic censers before Thee. Grant us, O our Lord, to light for Thee three brightly burning lamps: the spirit, the soul and the body, these three gifts for the One Trinity." –

St. Ephraim the Syrian

He who has become the servant of the Lord will fear his Master alone, but he who does not yet fear Him is often afraid of his own shadow.

Saint John of the Ladder

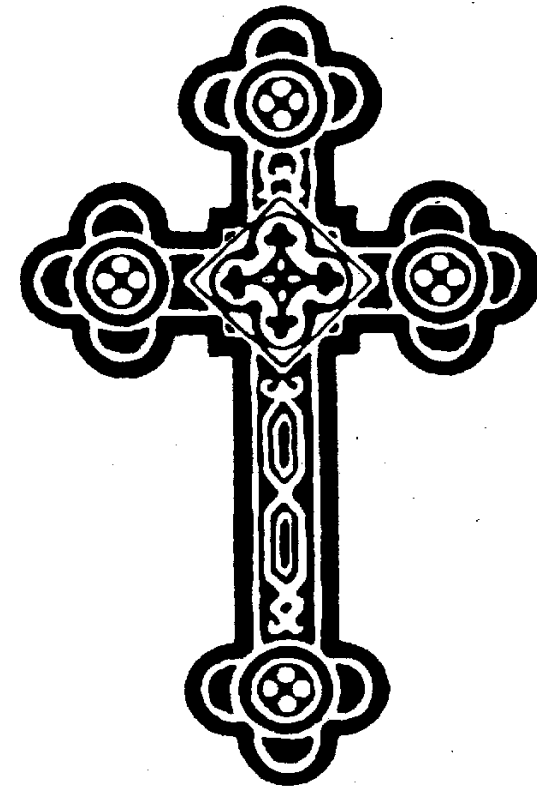
When you hear that your neighbor or friend has abused you behind your back or even to your face, then show love and praise him.

Saint John of the Ladder-

---

## St. John Orthodox Church

---



---

*~ April 2, 2017 ~*  
*St. Mary of Egypt*

**ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
1663 TUTWILER AVENUE  
MEMPHIS, TN 38107  
(901) 274-4119

[www.stjohnmemphis.org](http://www.stjohnmemphis.org)

[www.orthodoxtupelo.com](http://www.orthodoxtupelo.com)

**V. Rev. Fr. Philip Rogers**  
Pastor

**V. Rev. Fr. John Troy Mashburn, Jr.**  
Pastor Emeritus

**Rev. Fr. Donald Berge**  
Attached

**V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman**  
Associate Pastor

**Rev. Fr. Alexander Mackoul**  
Assistant Pastor

**GREAT VESPERS**  
Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

**ORTHROS and CHURCH SCHOOL**  
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

**DIVINE LITURGY**  
Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America*  
“...the Disciples were called Christians first in Antioch!”  
Acts 11:26

## April 2, 2017 St. Mary of Egypt

**Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14**

**Gospel: Mark 10:32-45**

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by the **Reem Mansour**.

Welcome to all those visiting St. John Orthodox Church. We are honored by your presence. It is our sincere desire that your participation today in the Divine Liturgy will draw you closer to Christ and His Church.

If you are from a non-Orthodox background you may see new things such as icons, incense, the sign of the cross, the veneration of saints, and a great deal of standing. These can be perplexing to the uninitiated eye. Rest assured that everything we do has a solid biblical foundation and a long history among Christian people. Please feel free to participate where you feel comfortable, and feel equally as free only to observe when you prefer.

The Orthodox Church understands the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper, to be – among other things – the paramount expression of Christian unity. While it is our deepest hope that Christendom will one day fulfill Christ's desire for true unity among all those who claim His name (John 17:21), the unfortunate reality of our day is that the various segments of Christendom are not unified with the historic Orthodox faith. *Since participation in the Eucharist expresses a unity with all the dogma and practice of the Orthodox Church, non-Orthodox guests do not receive Holy Communion.* The Holy Eucharist is reserved for those members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting, and recent confession. All visitors and unprepared Orthodox are invited to partake of the blessed bread as they come forward to venerate the cross at the end of the Liturgy. Thank you for your understanding.

## ST. JOHN CALENDAR

**April 2 - 9 (Great Fast)**

- Sunday** -Youth Choir practice, coffee hour  
-Vespers, 4:30 p.m.
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.  
-Great Compline, 6:00 p.m.  
-Bible Study – Revelations, 7:00 p.m., Ch.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Men's Lunch, 12:00 p.m.  
-Catechumen/Inquirers Class, 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Presanctified Liturgy, 6:00 p.m.  
-Lenten meal to follow liturgy
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-AWSJ Book Club, 10:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela's home
- Friday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.  
-Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.  
-Sixth Hour, 12:00 p.m.  
-Small Compline w/ Canon of Lazarus, 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday** -**Divine Liturgy – Lazarus Saturday, 10:00 a.m.**  
-Youth Choir practice following liturgy  
-Ninth Hour and Great Vespers, 5:50 p.m.
- Sunday** -Orthros, 9:00 a.m.  
-Church School, 9:00 a.m.  
-**Divine Liturgy, 10:00 a.m.**  
-Palm Sunday potluck

### Memorials Today

Mother Seraphima, 5 yrs; Jill Healy, 3 yrs; Esther Longa, 7 yrs; Paul Parham, 5 yrs.

#### DIVINE LITURGY

PRIEST: Fr. Alex  
READER: John Cameron  
HOLY BREAD:  
COFFEE HOUR:

**Saturday, April 8, 10:00 a.m.**

HOMILY: Fr. Alex  
USHER: Matt Spinolo

#### DIVINE LITURGY

PRIEST: Fr. Philip  
READER: John Cameron  
HOLY BREAD: Lavinia Dumitrache  
ALTAR SERVERS: Pavel, Trent, Nicholas, Max, Alex  
MEN'S CLEAN UP: Dan O'Brien, Dennis Daley, Fadi Ibrahim, John Cameron, Joseph Fahhoum, Mark Ortwein, Michael Hill, Nicholas Hill, Tony Fahhoum, Joseph Shleweet

**Sunday, April 9, 10:00 a.m.**

HOMILY: Fr. Philip  
USHER: Matt Spinolo

**COMMEMORATIONS**

**April 2:** Venerable Titos the wonder-worker; Virgin-martyr Theodora of Palestine; Martyrs Aidesios and Panayiotis.

**April 3:** Venerable Nikita the Confessor and Joseph the Hymnographer; New-martyrs Paul and John.

**April 4:** Venerable George of the Peloponnesos; Martyrs Theodoulos the reader and Agathopodos the deacon of Thessalonika; Venerable Thonas, archbishop of Thessalonika; Isidore, bishop of Seville.

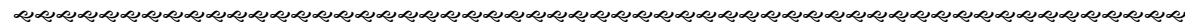
**April 5:** Martyrs Claudios, Didymos and Diodoros; New-martyr George of New Ephesos; Venerable Theodora of Thessalonika.

**April 6:** Eutychios, patriarch of Constantinople; Venerable Platonida of Nisibis; Venerable Gregory Byzantios of the Great Lavra on Athos; Venerable-martyr Gennadios of Dionysiou monastery on Athos; the Martyrs of Samothrace; Methodios, archbishop of Moravia and enlightener of the Slavs.

**April 7:** Martyr Kalliopios of Cilicia; Venerable George, bishop of Mitylene; repose of Tikhon, patriarch of Moscow and Enlightener of North America.

**April 8:** Apostles Agabos, Rufos, Phlegon, Asynkritos, Herodion and Hermas of the Seventy; Celestine, bishop of Rome.

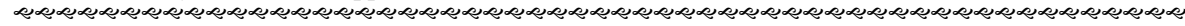
**April 9:** Martyr Eupsychois of Cappadocia; Venerable-martyrs Vadim, Raphael, Nicholas and Irene; Venerable Simeon.



**DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**April 2 - 9**

Sunday	Hebrews	9:11-14	Mark	10:32-45
Monday	Genesis	27:1-41	Proverbs	19:16-25
Tuesday	Genesis	31:3-16	Proverbs	21:3-21
Wednesday	Genesis	43:26-31; 45:1-6	Proverbs	21:23-22:4
Thursday	Genesis	48:1-7	Proverbs	23:15-24:5
Friday	Genesis	49:33-50:26	Proverbs	31:8-31
Saturday	Hebrews	12:28-13:8	John	11:1-45
Sunday	Philippians	4:4-9	Mark	12:1-18



**Pray for our catechumens:** **Memphis** –Justin Bowles; Wendy Weatherall (Brody & Eli); Lucas Whatley.

**Please remember in your prayers** - Mary Clark, Ann Hicks (Dianna Hildebrand’s mother), Charles Ingram, Ted Greathouse (Shelley Snowden’s father), Allen Sudduth (Paul’s father), Janet Berry, Nicholas Hill, Mary Sue Johnson (Jason Guntharpe’s grandmother), Chelsea Yadron (pregnant), Caitlin Romero (pregnant), Caitlyn Maas (pregnant), Lawrence Elliott (pregnant), Ernestine Pruitt (Nicholas Hill’s mother), Brenda Thomas, Doris & Jim (Brenda Thomas’ family), Dot Lawson (Lawson Bowick’s grandmother), Lisa Catlett (Fr. Don & Kh. Martha’s daughter), Glenda Brooks, Anna Grace (Joyce Grossman’s granddaughter), Elfrieda Drobashevsky, Maria Bellaflares, Sharon (Larry Ichniowski’s mother), those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.



**ST. JOHN COMMUNITY**



**Confessions for Lent** – As you think about making your confession for Lent **please make every effort** to have you confessions heard before the beginning of Holy Week. Fr. Philip and Fr. Alex are available to hear your confession following each service with the exception of the Divine Liturgy, so there are many opportunities. Additionally, many people make an appointment to make their confession at a time other than after a service. Just contact the priest to do so.

**Monday Bible Study** –Fr. Philip is leading a Bible study on the book of Revelations following Compline on Mondays during Lent. He will be covering chapters 15-18 this week if you would like prepare ahead of time.

**Youth Choir** will be rehearsing again this week for about 20 minutes after Liturgy. If you are 6+ and weren’t able to make it last week you are more than welcome to join us on Sunday.

Our final rehearsal will be held following liturgy on Lazarus Saturday.

**Online Donations** – You may now make your tithes and donations to the new parish hall online! Simply click on the “Donate” button on the right hand side of the homepage of the St. John website (underneath the calendar).

**Master Plan Updates**

**Progress on building** – –So much work has been done this week! Thank God! As you will notice, the building now has framed walls and roof.

**Fund raising** – Thank you for your help thus far!! There are pledge cards for the building fund available downstairs. Every little bit helps!

**PALM SUNDAY, April 9**



Next Sunday, April 9, we will celebrate the **Feast of the Triumphant Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem, or Palm Sunday**. Weather permitting, we will have an outdoor procession with our candles and palms. Traditionally at St. John, we bring our decorated baptismal/Chrismation candles for the procession, but please feel free to bring any candle you choose.

We will have **Potluck meal** together following liturgy to celebrate the feast. Please bring a dish or dishes to share!

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

<b>Sunday, 4/2:</b>	Jackie Rustom
<b>Monday, 4/3:</b>	Brook White
<b>Thursday, 4/6:</b>	Peyton Sanderlin, Daniel Sanderlin
<b>Saturday, 4/8:</b>	Clark McGee

---

### **PLEASE SIGN UP downstairs or online....**



- **Palm Sunday Potluck** assistance
  - **Paschal Vigil** – The sign-up sheet is in the parish hall for those wishing to participate in the vigil that is kept from the “Taking Down” Vespers on Holy Friday until the Paschal Service. Sign up early to get the time you want!
  - **Decorating & Set Up for Paschal Feast** on Holy Saturday
  - **Kitchen assistance for feast**
  - **Agape Picnic** on Pascha afternoon
  - **Post-Pascha Clean Up** – taking down of bier Bright Week, putting decorations away
- 

### Women of St. John – AWSJ Calendar

<b>April 6</b>	<b>Women’s Teaching</b> , 10:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela’s home
<b>April 22</b>	<b>Painting Party</b> - details to come
<b>April 27</b>	<b>Women’s Discussion Group</b> , 6:30 p.m., Lynda Spinolo’s home. Please bring appetizer, dessert or beverages to share!
<b>May 1</b>	<b>AWSJ Book Club</b> will be discussing <i>Ascent to the Summit...the Life and Martyric Death of Igor Rozin</i>

**SAVE THE DATE – PARISH RETREAT, MAY 5-6**  
~MORE DETAILS TO COME~

## Library Lines

Today is Mary of Egypt Sunday (4/2). Do you and your children remember that a lion licked her feet and dug her grave? Look for the story of St. Mary of Egypt and the lion in *A Child’s Paradise of Saints* (KDI STS MCL) and in *Animals and Man* (CAT SPEC STE). They are on the display cart. Last week we heard her story through the words of St. Zosimas whose feast day is April 4. He is not named on our commemoration list but is listed on other calendars. We honor them together today.

Last Wednesday we heard the story of St. Mary of Egypt in the complete canon of St. Andrew of Crete. Ironically, St. Andrew was mute as a young child, not speaking until age seven. The canon was then an unknown liturgical form. He also wrote canons for the Nativity, Palm Sunday and other feast days. His poetical tradition was followed by Sts. John of Damascus, Cosmos of Maium, and Joseph the Melodist. He attended the Sixth Ecumenical Council and died in the early 8<sup>th</sup> century.

Venerable Joseph the Hymnographer (4/4) is known as “the sweet-voiced nightingale of the Church.” He was a strong defender of the veneration of icons and was sent to Rome to Pope Leo to report on the threat of iconoclasm. During the trip, he was captured and given over to the iconoclasts. After being imprisoned for six years, St. Nicholas of Myra appeared to him and told him to eat a paper scroll on which was written a prayer for God’s intervention. He did so and sang, “How sweet are Thine oracles to my throat,” as he had been instructed by the saint. The chains fell off and he was transported to Constantinople. Years later he composed many hymns and canons to the saints including one to St. Bartholomew who blessed him to write divine music which flowed through his heart. According to the OCA website, “Most of the Canons in the Menaion are St. Joseph’s work. His name may be found in the Ninth Ode as an acrostic. He also composed many of the hymns in the Paraclesis.” Read about him and other composers of verse in *Poets and Hymnographers of the Church* (HAG - - - TAR).

This week we honor two saints who built up the Church through their pens. St. Methodius(4/6), together with his brother St.Cyril, are known as equal to the apostles and enlighteners of the Slavs. They devised a Slavonic alphabet and translated books used in celebrating the divine services and almost the entire Old Testament. They were frequently opposed by the German bishops who insisted the services be done in Latin. Discover more about their lives in *Byzantium and the Slavs* (HIS OBO), *A Gift for Ianko* (KID STS CYR) and *Orthodox Alaska* (HIS OLE).

# PASCHAL TRADITIONS AT ST. JOHN

## **CANDLES (Palm Sunday & Pascha)**

During the services of the Triumphal Entry (Palm Sunday) and Pascha, we have outdoor processions (weather permitting). Traditionally at St. John, we bring our baptismal/chrisamation candle if you have one. For those who do not have one, you are welcome to bring your own white candle decorated with ribbon, flowers, greenery...whatever you feel is festive. Bringing candles is completely voluntary.

## **HOLY FRIDAY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES (following Royal Hours at 9:00 a.m.)**

Following Royal Hours on Holy Friday, children, kindergarten and above, of the parish gather to assist in the preparation for the upcoming service which include decorating the bier.

## **DECORATED BASKETS for Paschal Feast (Early hours of April 16)**

It has been our tradition at St. John to bring foods that we have been fasting from in a basket decorated with flowers. When you come to the services on Saturday night you will put your basket on the steps of the solea the floor in front. After the liturgy, you pick up your basket and take it to the fellowship hall and place it on one of the food tables. The decorated baskets are a beautiful addition during liturgy and in the fellowship hall where we celebrate the feast.

Additionally, you may bring a decorated basket to take home after the feast is over to share with your family.

## **AGAPE PICNIC (following Agape Vespers at 3:30 p.m., April 16)**

The parish gathers for our annual BBQ picnic following Agape Vespers on Sunday afternoon. The picnic is catered by Corky's BBQ which is supplemented by desserts provided by the parishioners. This is a **Bring Your Own Beverage & Lawn Chair** event and a wonderful way to spend Pascha in fellowship, fun, and food. The musicians amongst us normally join together for an impromptu concert, so bring your guitar, ukulele, mandolin, etc. if you'd like to join in.

## **EGG HUNT (also following Agape Vespers, April 16)**

Our annual egg hunt is for children in the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade and under. They should bring a dozen plastic candy-filled eggs *per child* and a basket(s) for hunting the eggs! Please put eggs in the room next to the kitchen before Vespers. **NO HARD-BOILED EGGS**, PLEASE, for they will not be hidden.

## **BRIGHT WEEK PIZZA PARTY (following Liturgy on Thursday, April 20)**

Each year we enjoy pizza in the parish hall following our Liturgy for the Life Giving Font. Join us!

☞Please feel welcome to participate as much or as little as you would like.☞

# CALENDAR & INFO FOR HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA



## **HOLY WEEK**



### **HOLY SUNDAY, MONDAY and TUESDAY, April 9-11**

**BRIDEGROOM ORTHROS (1 ¼ hours), 6:00 p.m.** – services are so called from the haunting theme song which begins:

*Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight  
And happy is that servant whom he shall find watching,  
But behold, unworthy is that servant whom he shall find heedless...*  
(cf Matt. 25:1 ff, Luke 12:35 ff)

Our Lord is the Bridegroom whom His beloved bride, His people, were not ready to receive. At these services we read the scathing prophesies addressed these three days to the leaders of Israel (Matthew 21:18 - 23:39). Will we be ready when He comes again?

### **HOLY WEDNESDAY, April 12**

**Holy Unction (1 ¾ hours) 6:00 p.m.** – We bless oil and members are anointed with it for healing, for Our Lord's death and Resurrection are for this as well: "By His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). At this service the choir sings the first part, but the second half is mostly readings.

*Things to know: We prepare for Holy Unction, one of the Holy Mysteries, just as we should for receiving the Eucharist. We need to have fasted and to have kept a confessional practice, which should have included a confession during Great Lent. The Holy Mystery of Unction will be given to those prepared on the night of Holy Wednesday, as is our tradition.*

### **HOLY THURSDAY, April 13**

**Vespereal Divine Liturgy (2 hrs), 4:00 p.m.** – We serve the Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil celebrating the Mystical Supper at which Our Lord washed His disciples' feet and instituted the Eucharist.

*A Lenten meal will be served following the liturgy and before Orthros begins.*

**Passion Gospels (2 ¾ hrs), 7:00 p.m.** – Orthros of Holy Friday. During it we read twelve Gospel readings of Our Lord's crucifixion, interspersed with some of the most beautiful hymns of the whole year. In the middle of this service a large Cross is placed in the center of the Church for veneration.

## HOLY FRIDAY, April 14

**Royal Hours of Holy Friday (1 ½ hours), 9:00 a.m.** - We again contemplate the crucifixion, reading sections from the Gospel readings from the previous service.

***Epitaphios Canopy decoration*** – Children, kindergarten and older, stay after the service to decorate the bier flowers in preparation for the Taking Down.

***What you can offer: Donate flowers to be used for the bier.*** These should be brought Thursday night or Friday before Royal Hours and left in the room off of the kitchen. Monetary donations to offset the cost are accepted.

**Taking Down Vespers, 3 p.m.** – Great Vespers of Holy Saturday. The *Epitaphios*, a fabric with an image of the Lord taken down from the cross, representing the burial cloth of the Lord, is carried in procession and laid in the bier, which is covered with flowers. In some traditions, the bier represents His Tomb. In others, it represents the “Unction Stone” on which He was laid and wrapped in the clean linens and spices before He was placed in the tomb.

***Vigil*** – We will begin reading for the vigil following Taking Down Vespers until Midnight office on April 11. There will be a sheet available for signing up for those interested.

**Lamentation Orthros (2 ½), 7 p.m.** – Orthros of Holy Saturday - The *Epitaphios* is carried in procession around the Church. The many readings and hymns of the Holy Friday services present us with many the different facets of the awesome and compelling mystery of our Lord's Passion. It is at this service that the *Epitaphios* taken from the bier to the altar, symbolizing Christ's body being placed in the tomb, which will also be the place of Resurrection.

## HOLY SATURDAY, April 15

**Vesperal Divine Liturgy (2 ½ hours), 10 a.m.** – Initiation of new members and Divine Liturgy. This is the 'Blessed Sabbath' on which God rested -- in the Tomb, the real meaning of Genesis 2:2. It is the most appropriate time for Baptism, as those baptized are 'buried' with Christ to share His Resurrection (Romans 6:3-4). Lent has its origin as the last intensive preparation for those who would be baptized this day. Today we read from the 15 Old Testament readings appointed that illuminate Baptism, including the Creation from Genesis, and the Exodus, and we read the first Resurrectional Gospel from Matthew 28.

\*\*What follows is a quote from Fr. Alexander Schmemman's Journal regarding this service:

*I am writing before leaving for my most beloved of all loved services: the Baptismal, Paschal Liturgy of St Basil the Great, when "Life sleeps and Hades shudders..." I write just to say it again. It is the day of my conversion – not of unbelief to belief, not of "out of the Church" to "Church." No; an internal conversion of faith, within the Church, to what constitutes the treasure of the heart – in spite of my sins, laziness, indifference, in spite of a continuous almost conscious falling away from that treasure, in spite of negligence, in the literal sense of the word. I don't know how, I don't know why – truly only by God's mercy – but Holy Saturday remains the center, the light, sign, symbol, and gift of everything. "Christ – the new Pascha..." And to that New Pascha, something in me says with joy and faith: "Amen."*

## ***Volunteer Opportunities Following Vesperal Divine Liturgy:***

- *Nave and Parish hall decoration*

**PASCHAL SERVICE (2 ½ - 3 hours), 11:00 p.m.** – This is **THE** service of the year for Orthodox, and no one wants to miss it. At midnight all lights in the Church are put out. This is the darkness and silence of the Tomb. Finally the bishop or priest comes out of the altar with a candle. Everyone comes forward and lights a candle from this light. Carrying the candles, we make an outdoor procession to the front door of the Church. There we hear the greeting 'Christ is Risen!' for the first time and reply, 'Indeed He is Risen!' We will greet each other this way for forty days. We go into the Temple, now brightly lighted, and sing the joyous Paschal Orthros and the Divine Liturgy, and receive the Body and Blood of the Risen Lord. After this service we go to the Parish Hall and find the tables sagging with every kind of good food, and we celebrate together until quite late.

### ***What to Bring:***

- *If you have children: pillow, blanket*
- *Pascha basket (see Paschal traditions) and/or dish(es) to share for Paschal feast*
- *Candle for procession (see Paschal traditions)*

## PASCHA, April 16

**Sunday Morning**, There is NO MORNING SERVICE (the midnight service was the Sunday Liturgy).

**Agape Vespers, 3:30 p.m.** We gather for the joyous Paschal Agape Vespers (the Gospel is read in many languages) and more feasting.

**Agape Picnic**– Following Agape Vespers the parish gathers for our annual BBQ picnic catered by Corky's BBQ and supplemented with desserts provided by parishioners. This is a Bring Your Own Beverage & Lawn Chair event and a wonderful way to spend Pascha in fellowship, fun, and food. The musicians amongst us provide entertainment by joining together for an impromptu outdoor concert. There is a suggested donation of \$10 adults and \$5 for children to assist in covering the cost of catering.

**Agape Egg Hunt** – We have an annual egg hunt for children 4<sup>th</sup> grade and under.

### ***What to Bring:***

*Lawn Chairs*

*Dessert to share*

*Beverages of your choice (alcoholic and/or non-alcoholic)*

*Instrument if you want to join in*

*If you have children: basket, 1 dozen filled plastic eggs to hide - Hard boiled eggs will not be hidden*

**\*What to Bring and Volunteer Opportunities** are simply suggestions for those that would like to contribute. Please do not feel obligated to do more than you are able or willing to do.