

From the Fathers (and others):

Many have received salvation without prophecies and revelations, without signs and wonders; but without humility no one will enter the marriage chamber, because humility is the guardian of these gifts, and without her they will bring frivolous people to ruin.

Saint John of the Ladder

He began to understand, based on his own experience, that being a Christian meant waging a constant and merciless battle against evil and death in one's own heart, a battle with no front lines and no cease-fires, in which the enemy neither sleeps nor tires.

The Life of Elder Thaddeus

What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.

Saint Augustine

"Like the apple of Thine eye preserve me, O Lord God; defend me and beneath Thy wings shelter me from temptations."

St Ephraim the Syrian

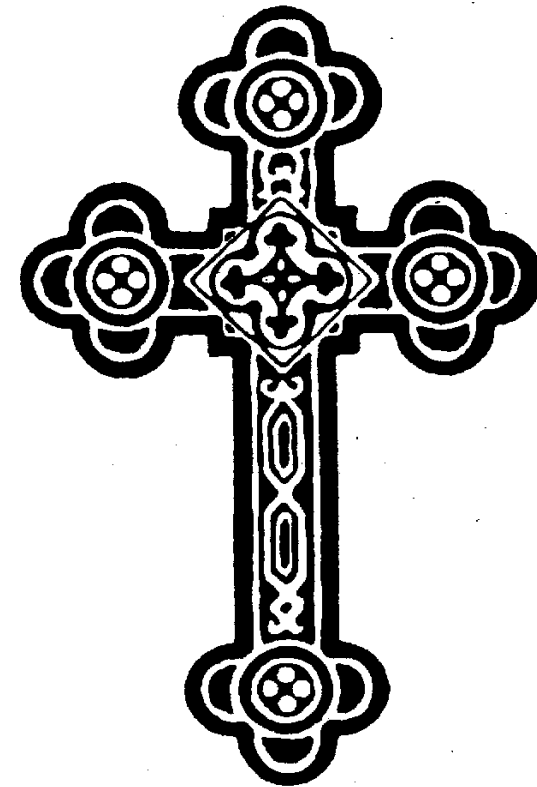
... we should not worry about clothes or food. Such anxiety is a mark of unbelievers who reject the providence of the Lord and deny the Creator. An attitude of this kind is entirely wrong for Christians who believe that even sparrows are under the care of the holy angels (cf. Mt. 10:29). The demons, however suggest worries of this kind. The divine word can bear no fruit, being choked out by our cares. Let us, then, renounce these cares, and throw them down before the Lord, being content with what we have at the moment.

Evagrius the Solitary

Once two brothers came to a certain old man. It was his custom not to eat every day but when he saw them he received them joyfully and said, "A fast has its own reward, but he who eats for the sake of love fulfils two commandments: he leaves his own will and he refreshes his brothers.

Sayings of the Desert Fathers

St. John Orthodox Church



~ April 9, 2017 ~
Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
Palm Sunday

ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH
 1663 TUTWILER AVENUE
 MEMPHIS, TN 38107
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V. Rev. Fr. Philip Rogers
 Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman
 Associate Pastor

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

Rev. Fr. Alexander Mackoul
 Assistant Pastor

Rev. Fr. Donald Berge
 Attached

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 9, 2017 Palm Sunday

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9

Gospel: John 12:1-18

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

HOLY WEEK

April 9 - 16 (Great Fast)

Katalysis for fish, wine & oil TODAY

- Sunday** -Teen Group – Meeting and Bridegroom Orthros, 5:00 p.m.
 -Bridegroom Orthros, 6:00 p.m.
- Monday** -First Hour, 6:45 a.m.
 -Bridegroom Orthros, 6:00 p.m.
- Tuesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
 -Bridegroom Orthros, 6:00 p.m.
- Wednesday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
-Holy Unction, 6:00 p.m. (There will be NO meal following this service)
- Thursday** -Third Hour, 9:00 a.m.
 -Vespers Divine Liturgy, 4:00 p.m.
 -Meal following Liturgy
 -Orthros - Passion Gospels, 7:00 p.m.
- Friday** -Royal Hours, 9:00 a.m.
 -Vespers - Taking Down of the Cross, 3:00 p.m.
 (Paschal Vigil begins following Vespers & lasts until Midnight Office on 4/30)
 -Lamentation Orthros, 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday** -**Vespers Divine Liturgy**, 10:00 a.m.
-PASCHAL SERVICE, 11:00 p.m.
- Sunday** -No Morning Services
 -Agape Vespers, 3:30 p.m.
 -Agape Picnic & Egg Hunt following Vespers

Holy Unction

Wednesday, April 12, 6:00 p.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip

ALTAR SERVERS:

READER:

Vespers Divine Liturgy

Thursday, April 13, 4:00 p.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Alex

HOMILY: Fr. Alex

READER:

HOLY BREAD:

ALTAR SERVERS:

LENTEN MEAL: Irena Douglas

Vespers Divine Liturgy

Saturday, April 15, 10:00 a.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Basil

HOMILY: Fr. Basil

READER: Rod Ratliff

USHER: John Sneed

HOLY BREAD: Lavinia Dumitrache

ALTAR SERVERS:

PASCHAL SERVICE

Saturday, April 15, 11:00 p.m.

PRIEST: Fr. Philip

HOMILY: Fr. Philip

READER: David

USHER: Dan O'Brien

HOLY BREAD: Reem Mansour

ALTAR SERVERS:

CLEAN UP CREW: Ben Arthur, Clark McGee, Corey van Huystee, Eric Surber, Mikael Santana, John Sneed, Luke Heisig, Michael Heisig, Murphy George, Caleb McGee, Jim Long

COMMEMORATIONS

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

April 10: Martyrs Terence and Pompeios of Carthage together with Alexander and their forty companions; New-hieromartyr Gregory V, patriarch of Constantinople; New-martyr Demas of Smyrna.

April 11: Hieromartyr Antypas, bishop of Pergamum; Venerable Tryphainis; Kallinikos of Cernica, bishop of Rimnicului in Romania.

April 12: Basil the Confessor, bishop of Parium; Venerable Anthusa of Constantinople; Venerable Akakios the Younger, founder of Kafsokalyvia skete on Athos.

April 13: Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome; Martyr Eleutherios of Persia; Martyrs Zoilos of Rome and Theodosios; Hieromartyr Artemon, presbyter of Laodicea in Syria.

April 14: Apostles Aristarchos, Pudens and Trophymos of the Seventy; Martyr Thomais of Alexandria; New-martyr Demetrios of the Peloponnesos.

April 15: Martyr Crescens of Myra in Lycia; Hieromartyr Leonidas, bishop of Athens.

April 16: Martyr Leonidas, Charissa, Niki, Galina and Thodota of Corinth; Virgin-martyrs Irene, Agape and Chionia of Illyria; New-martyr Michael of Smyrna; Venerable-martyr Christopher of Dionysiou monastery on Athos; Hieromartyr Nikita of St. Anne Skete on Athos.



ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



Confessions for Lent – As you think about making your confession for Lent **please make every effort** to have your confessions heard before the beginning of Holy Week. You may contact a priest if you would like to make an appointment to make your confession at a time other than after a service.

Holy Saturday Baptism and Chrismation – Anna Mae Schroeder, Wendy Weatherall, Brody Weatherall, and Eli Steel will be received into the church on Great and Holy Saturday. Please keep them and their sponsors in your prayers.

Holy Friday – Decorating the bier – Everyone is encouraged to donate flowers to be used in decorating the bier. Please have your donations to the church Holy Thursday evening, or before Royal Hours on Holy Friday at the latest. ***Reminder:** The children of St. John will be decorating the bier following Royal Hours. Parents of children 1st grade and younger will need to stay to assist Lori and their children.

Flower donations: Sarah Ortwein is also asking for donations of red, orange, yellow, and white flowers for the iconostasis. Please leave those in the room off the kitchen as well.

Alcohol Consumption – With the Paschal Feast and Agape Picnic coming up, it is a good time to remember that **no alcohol will be served or consumed on Church property by persons under 21 years of age, even with parental consent.** This is the law in our state and public institutions must adhere to it. (Obviously, the Holy Gifts are an exception to this.) Parents are asked to inform their adult children under 21 of this rule and to supervise their behavior.

Church School reminder for parents: We will not have church school on Pascha, April 16. Please continue to remember us in your prayers, as we strive to create a time and space for children to draw nearer to our Lord.

Agape Vespers – Corky’s BBQ will once again be catering our Agape Picnic this year. All are welcome! We are asking those who are able to **donate \$10 per person** to help offset the cost of the meal. Remember to this is a **BYOB** event, whether you are enjoying alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages. Lawn chairs or blankets are also suggested if you would like to sit outside.

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 – Thank God! I hope you have walked next door and seen the progress yourself. They have just about finished the framing of the building. It looks wonderful!! From here on out, so much of the progress will be hard to see, but they will be hard at work. Please keep the workers in your prayers!

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

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### **DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS**

|           |               |          | <b>April 9 - 16</b> |            |
|-----------|---------------|----------|---------------------|------------|
| Sunday    | Philippians   | 4:4-9    | John                | 12:1-18    |
| Monday    | Job           | 1:1-12   | Matthew             | 24:3-35    |
| Tuesday   | Job           | 1:13-22  | Matthew             | 24:36-26:2 |
| Wednesday | Job           | 2:1-10   | Matthew             | 26:6-16    |
| Thursday  | 1 Corinthians | 11:23-32 | Matthew             | 26:2-27:2  |
| Friday    | 1 Corinthians | 1:18-2:2 | Matthew             | 27:1-61    |
| Saturday  | Romans        | 6:3-11   | Matthew             | 28:1-20    |
| Sunday    | Acts          | 1:1-8    | John                | 1:1-17     |

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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), Maria Bellaflores, Sharon (Larry Ichniowski’s mother), those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

Birthdays, Anniversaries, & Namedays

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Sunday, 4/9: | Marie Heisig |
| Monday, 4/10: | Sarah Hodges |
| Tuesday, 4/11: | Joyce Bittle, Luigi Icanaru |
| Wednesday, 4/12: | Raluca Craciun |
| Thursday, 4/13: | Gabby Sneed, Betsy Larker |
| Friday, 4/14: | Dennis Daley, Bill Harter, Sarah Ortwein |
| Saturday, 4/15: | Tekla Haymanot, Chelsea Yadron |

PLEASE SIGN UP downstairs or online....



- **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
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Women of St. John – AWSJ Calendar

- April 22** **Painting Party** – 7:00 p.m., Register online by April 19, <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0944aca62bab9-bright>
- April 27** **Women’s Discussion Group**, 6:30 p.m., Lynda Spinolo’s home. Please bring appetizer, dessert or beverages to share!
- May 1** **AWSJ Book Club** will be discussing *Ascent to the Summit...the Life and Martyric Death of Igor Rozin*
- May 4** **Women’s Teaching**, 10:00 a.m., Kh. Pamela’s home

Library Lines

Are you looking for an edifying experience for your family during Holy Week? Other than praying at services, it’s hard to find one better than reading to and with your children. (As always, good children’s books also speak to adults!) Look for the following books in St. John Library about Holy Week for children. They will be on the display cart.

Catherine's Pascha
Children's Bible Reader
Christ Has Risen, Children
Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem
Esther's Easter Dress
Great and Holy Friday
Great and Holy Saturday
Great Feasts of the Church
Tale of Three Trees, The

St. Africanus (4/10) hailed from Carthage, a city of several saints of whom St. Cyprian (8/31) was the most famous. Emperor Decius had ordered the citizens to sacrifice to idols. Those who refused were raked with hot irons and their wounds were rubbed with many irritants. The emperor knew that Africanus and his companions were influential in leading others to Christ, so he showed their bodies to them hoping to make them renounce Jesus from fear. They refuse and were put in chains and left to starve. They remained healthy so sorcerers locked them in a dungeon with snakes. The next day they opened the door and the men were unharmed. The snakes slithered to the door and bit the sorcerers. Africanus and the friends were then beheaded.

Thursday, we commemorate a young Christian wife. Thomais (4/13) was a devout child who loved reading spiritual books. She was married at age fifteen to a Christian fisherman. She was well loved and respected by her husband’s family with whom they lived. One night when Thomais’s husband was working, the evil one ensnared her father-in-law to seduce her. She rebuffed him and he killed her with a sword. Her body was buried in a monastic cemetery. Her intercession is asked by those struggling with sexual passions.

Often, we hear references to The Seventy. We know about Sts. Timothy, Stephen, Titus, Cleopas, Luke, and Mark; however, many of them are not familiar to us. St. Aristarchus (4/15) is mentioned several times in the Book of Acts and the Epistles of St. Paul. He traveled with St. Paul and was a bishop in Syria. All of them are commemorated on January 4 on the Synaxis of the Seventy.

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 4th 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 4th 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.