

28 PALM SUNDAY Matins 9AM Blessing of Pussywillows & Palms and LITURGY 10AM Procession outside HOLY WEEK BEGINS Bridegroom Matins 6PM	29 Bridegroom Matins 6PM	30 Bridegroom Matins 6PM	MAY 1st Sacrament of Holy Unction NOON (Anointing) Bridegroom Matins w/ anointing 6:00PM	2 Liturgy of St Basil (The Upper Room Service) 9:45AM 12 Passion Gospels 6:00PM	3 Royal Hours 8:00AM Great and Holy Friday Vespers 3:00PM Matins 7:00PM	4 Baptism 7:45AM Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil 9AM Holy Resurrection Matins 7:00PM
5 PASCHA!!! Divine Liturgy 10:00AM Blessing Baskets, Youth Egg Hunt, Coffee Fellowship	6 Bright Monday Liturgy 9:30AM	7 Bright Tuesday Liturgy 9:30AM	8	9	10	11
12 St Thomas Sunday! Mother's Day Breakfast offered by Parish Brotherhood! Matins 9:00AM Liturgy 10AM	13 Priest Convocation At Camp Nazareth in PA	14 Priest Convocation At Camp Nazareth in PA	15 Priest Convocation At Camp Nazareth in PA	16 Priest Convocation At Camp Nazareth in PA	17	18
19 Matins 9:00AM Liturgy 10:00AM Blessing Graves 2:00PM	20	21	22 Daily Vespers 6:00PM w/ Bible Study	23	24	25
26 Matins 9:00AM Liturgy 10:00AM	27	28	29 Daily Vespers 6:00PM w/ Bible Study	30	31	13 Vespers 6:00PM

+CONFESSIONS: Please call Fr. Jonathan to make an appointment. Confession is a sacrament of the Church through which we receive the forgiveness of our sins. Understanding sin as an illness of the soul, in confession we share our sins like we would an illness to a doctor and the priest offers the prayer of forgiveness and at times a word to encourage hope and may prescribe / suggest ways to invite Christ into needed areas of our life.

+PASTORAL NEEDS, HOSPITAL CALLS, NURSING/REHAB AND HOME-BOUND PARISHIONERS: If you have a pastoral need or emergency and would like to speak to Fr. Jonathan or know of someone who cannot make it to church and would like to schedule a pastoral visit, please contact Father by phoning at 815.721.4852

+ BOOKSTORE NEWS: We have books for all ages for your Lenten reading or Pascha gifts. Additionally, new prayer books are available for purchase, plus icons, and more!



+ NEW PARISH WEBSITE



New Online Giving Platform.



CHRIST THE SAVIOUR

ORTHODOX CHURCH



April 28th 2024
PALM SUNDAY BULLETIN

1802 Pershing Ave. Rockford, Illinois 61108 - Father Jonathan Bannon
Father's Cell Phone: 815-721-4952 e: jsbannon@gmail.com www.CTSRockford.org

Schedule of Services for Holy Week / Pascha 2024

- April 28th, 2023 - Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) - Matins 9AM, Blessing of Palms, 10:00AM - Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom w/ Procession
- Sunday EVENING April 28th, 2024 - 6:00 PM Bridegroom Matins w/ icon procession
- Great and Holy Monday April 29th - 6:00 PM Bridegroom Matins
- Great and Holy Tuesday April 30th- 6:00 PM Bridegroom Matins
- Great and Holy Wednesday MAY 1st- NOON Holy Unction (sacrament of anointing) and 6:00 PM Bridegroom Matins with Unction anointing
- Great and Holy Thursday, MAY 2nd - 9:45AM Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great (Upper Room)
 - 6:00 PM Matins with 12 Passion Gospels
- Great and Holy Friday, MAY 3rd - 8:00AM Royal Hours,
- 3:00PM Vespers w/ outdoor burial shroud procession
 - 7:00PM Matins w/ outdoor tomb / kouvoklion procession.
- Great and Holy Saturday MAY 4th: 7:45 AM BAPTISMS of Kristine and Ethan,
 - 9:00AM Vesperal Liturgy Of St. Basil the Great;
 - 7:00 PM Saturday – Matins of Pascha w/ outdoor procession
- MAY 5th 2024 - Great and Holy Pascha, Resurrection of the Lord 10:00 AM - Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, Blessing of Pascha Baskets, Outdoor Community Fellowship with Tent, Youth Egg Hunt (FAST FREE WEEK)

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

CHRISTOS ANESTI! ALITHOS ANESTI!

Krishti U Ngjall! Vertet U Ngjall!



CHRISTOS A INVIAT! ADEVERAT A INVIAT!

CHRISTOS VOSKRESE! VO ISTINU VOSKRESE!

ĀalmaSiH qām! Haqqan qām








- May 6th, 2024 - 9:30 AM Bright Monday Divine Liturgy w/ Paramony Gospels in four corners of Church, (fellowship to follow service, bring your blessed Paschal foods!)
- May 7th 2024 - 9:30 AM Bright Tuesday Divine Liturgy w/ Gospel(fellowship to follow service, bring your blessed Paschal foods again!)

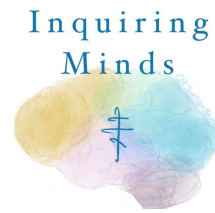
MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH

- May 12th, 2024 - Matins 9AM, 10:00AM - Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH offered by the Brotherhood (men of the parish)

GRAVE BLESSINGS

- May 19th 2024 Grave Blessing at 1PM at Greenwood Cemetery 1011 Auburn St, Rockford, IL 61103 (Ask Lidia P. Choir Director for meeting location)

HOLY WEEK DAY	WHAT IS UNIQUE?	Something to sing or see?
SUNDAY EVENING 6:00PM	The procession of the Bridegroom Icon entering the church and set out for 4 days.	Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching; and again, unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless. Beware, therefore, O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep, lest you be given up to death and lest you be shut out of the Kingdom.
WEDNESDAY 2PM / 6PM	Holy Unction is a Sacrament of anointing with oil for healing of body and soul and forgiveness of sins.	
Thursday Morning 8AM	The Reserved Sacrament (Eucharist in the tabernacle on the altar) is replaced today. Look for small cubes of Holy Communion that are intincted, that is to say the consecrated wine is touched to each piece and they are set out to dry.	
Thursday Night 6PM	We read the 12 Passion Gospels throughout the service of Matins.	
Friday Afternoon 2:00PM	There is a Burial Procession outside with Epitaphios, Plaschanicja, the Burial Shroud/Icon of Christ. Christ is placed in a tomb of flowers during the Gospel reading before this procession Christ's icon is taken off of the cross and wrapped in a white shroud and placed in the Sanctuary for 40 days.	
Friday Evening 6:00PM	During this service of Matins we sing special hymns called "The Lamentations" and the tomb of Christ holding the Burial Shroud is anointed with fragrant holy water and the entire tomb is carried outside showing the Life of Christ moving like light in the darkness of Hades as He shares Life with those imprisoned there.	
SATURDAY Morning! 8:00AM	ARISE O' GOD!!! We sing and hear of Christ's resurrection and the children ring bells and the priest throws the sign of victory all over the church: bay leaves!	
SATURDAY NIGHT 7:00PM	Come Receive the Light!	



SPIRITUALITY CLASS SUNDAYS at NOON

(Do you have a question about Orthodoxy? Are you new to the Faith or have been Orthodox since birth? This space is for everyone with no pressure. Join us for informal discussions on fundamentals of our Faith.

SPEAKING WITH YOUR PRIEST:

Please know you can call me anytime if there is something troubling you. It is not a sign of weakness to share something that may be heavy on your heart or mind. As a priest and Father to our parish, I want you to feel invited to have confidence in calling if you need someone to listen or to pray for you. (My cell: 8157214952) Every heart has a cross and you do not need to carry it alone. I am praying for you and am grateful for your prayers. - Fr. Jonathan

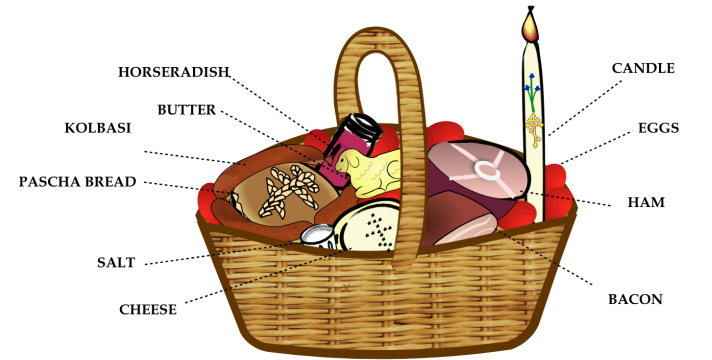


ORTHODOX PROFESSIONALS:

We are blessed to know professionals who are loving and have an Orthodox understanding of the heart and mind near Chicago. Please consider Dr. Arey Christofidis. The Orthodox Christian Counseling Institute (OCCI) is a professional network of Orthodox psychologists, counselors, and marriage and family therapists. It was founded in 2004 by Dr. Ary Christofidis as a referral resource in the Chicago metropolitan area, including Northwest Indiana. <http://www.occiservices.org/>. Phone: (312) 593-3294

PASCHA BASKET!

• AS GREAT LENT COMES TO A CLOSE you may want to consider putting together some of the items for your Pascha Basket. Some families work on the food items during Holy Week. If you have a busy schedule you can work on getting things anytime... So long as we have prepared what is most important for Pascha first: ourselves with Confession and the healing / forgiving elements of the Sacraments. Once the house of our heart is in order, then consider working on these good things that we enjoy on Pascha. The food items will be blessed May 5th after the Pascha Liturgy. Our parish will have an outdoor tent and enjoy the feast of the Resurrection both sacramentally and with these Pascha Basket traditions together. Here are a few of the Slavic Traditional items that have been enjoyed for centuries in those regions. Each item may represent something of the Passion and Resurrection of Christ. They largely are food items that celebrate getting to break the fast... so butter, eggs, meats, cheese... you can see how heavy and rich the flavors are and why they are fitting for the Feast of



Rejoice, O Bethany

Words to today's special hymn for Lazarus Sat and Palm Sunday

Rejoice, rejoice, O Bethany!
On this day God came to thee,
And in Him the dead are made alive,
As it is right for He is the Life.

When Martha went to receive Him,
Grieving loudly with bitter tears,
She poured out the sorrow of her heart to Him
With great sadness, wailing her lament.

She at once cried out unto Him:
"My most compassionate Lord, my Lord,
At the great loss of my brother Lazarus
My heart is broken, help me."

Jesus said to her, "Cease your weeping,
Cease your grieving and sad lament;
For your brother, My most beloved friend, Lazarus,
Very soon will live again."

Then He, the faithful Redeemer,
Made His way unto the tomb,
Where he cried unto him who was buried four days,
Calling him forth, saying "Lazarus, arise."

Come with haste, ye two sisters,
And behold a wondrous thing,
For your brother from the tomb has returned to life.
To the beloved Redeemer now give thanks.

To Thee, O Lord of creation,
We kneel down in reverence profound,
For all we who are dead in sin,
In Thee, O Jesus, are made alive.

Tell me about Lazarus...

(This past Saturday he is called from the tomb!)



How Lazarus Saturday is celebrated in Cyprus

Lazarus Saturday before Palm Sunday, Saturday of the sixth week of Great Lent. On this day, the Orthodox Church remembers the miracle of the resurrection of Christ by the righteous Lazarus.

Lazarus Saturday is especially dear to the residents of Larnaca (the third largest city in Cyprus), because Saint Lazarus is the patron saint of their city.

In the center of Larnaca stands the Agios Lazaros temple, known to every Cypriot and every guest of Cyprus, that is, a temple built in honor of St. Lazarus. It still houses a stone sarcophagus in which Lazarus was once buried.



According to the tradition, children on Lazarus Saturday in Cyprus gather in groups of several people and go around the houses in the neighborhood, inviting everyone to listen to the hymn in honor of St. Lazarus. The anthem ends with the words: "May the Mother of God, Christ and St. Lazarus help you!" Previously, singing could still be accompanied by a small theatrical act, when one of the young artists portrayed the dead Lazarus, whom Christ returns to life. They chose the most beautiful little boy in the neighborhood, who got the main role of

Lazarus. He was laid on a bedspread decorated in flowers in a separate room of the temple. The reading of the Gospel began, and then, after the words of Christ "Lazarus! Come out!", The main character of the show rose, thus symbolizing resurrection.

Women sprinkled him with holy water and put some bread and wine in his mouth. Following this, the performance of the solemn hymn in honor of the saint began. And the holiday ended with a small treat - baked with traditional spicy cookies "lazarakia", resembling a human figure, which was served to all participants and all assembled spectators.

On Lazarus Saturday, palm wreaths are certainly woven and decorated with flowers: beautiful gladioli and yellow daisies. Two thousand years separate us from that time, but the events of the past have not lost their significance today. And the memory of the holy man named Lazarus is carefully preserved in the hearts of the descendants - those to whom he once brought the light of Christianity. - Shared from a friend of Fr. Jonathan



St. Ephriem the Syrian

On the Death of Jesus

Death trampled our Lord underfoot, but he in his turn treated death as a highroad for his own feet. He submitted to it, enduring it willingly, because by this means he would be able to destroy death in spite of itself. Death had its own way when our Lord went out from Jerusalem carrying his cross, but when by a loud cry from that Cross he summoned the dead from the underworld, death was powerless to prevent it.

Death slew him by means of the body which he had assumed, but that same body proved to be the weapon with which he conquered death. Concealed beneath the cloak of his manhood, his godhead engaged death in combat; but in slaying our Lord, death itself was slain. It was able to kill natural human life, but was itself killed by the life that is above the nature of man.

Death could not devour our Lord unless he possessed a body, neither could hell swallow him up unless he bore our flesh; and so he came in search of a chariot in which to ride to the underworld. This chariot was the body which he received from the Virgin; in it he invaded death's fortress, broke open its strong room and scattered all its treasure.

At length he came upon Eve, the mother of all the living. She was that vineyard whose enclosure her own hands had enabled death to violate, so that she could taste its fruit; thus the mother of all the living became the source of death for every living creature. But in her stead Mary grew up, a new vine in place of the old. Christ, the new life, dwelt within her. When death, with its customary impudence,



came foraging for her mortal fruit, it encountered its own destruction in the hidden life that fruit contained. All unsuspecting, it swallowed him up, and in doing so released life itself and set free a multitude of men.

He who was also the carpenter's glorious son set up his Cross above death's all-consuming jaws, and led the human race into the dwelling place of life. Since a tree had brought about the downfall of mankind, it was upon a tree that mankind crossed over to the realm of life. Bitter was the branch that had once been grafted upon that ancient tree, but sweet the young shoot that has now been grafted in, the shoot in which we are meant to recognize the Lord whom no creature can resist.

We give glory to you, Lord, who raised up your Cross to span the jaws of death like a bridge by which souls might pass from the region of the dead to the land of the living. We give glory to you who put on the body of a single mortal man and made it the source of life for every other mortal man.

You are incontestably alive! Your murderers sowed your living body in the earth as farmers sow grain, but it sprang up and yielded an abundant harvest of men raised from the dead.

Come then, my brothers and sisters, let us offer our Lord the great and all-embracing sacrifice of our love, pouring out our treasury of hymns and prayers before him who offered his Cross in sacrifice to God for the enrichment of all.

~St. Ephrem the Syrian (306-373 AD)

PARISH UPDATES/NEWS:

MAY Monthly end of the Liturgy Basket:
Funds for our Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople

NEW BOOKSTORE ITEMS:

Check out the Bookstore for Crosses, Prayer Ropes, Paschal Needs and Books for the Spiritual Development and the Walk with Christ.



CHURCH ETIQUETTE:

How do we care for and show respect in our church?

We care for the sacred space by maintaining a prayerful mind/mouth/heart.

“Wisdom arise Let us attend!” is heard often; we are not passive onlookers during services but active participants. Which is why we don't cross our legs like we're sitting in a meeting or watching a film.

We come to Church as we are... but we do not stay as we are. With a Spiritual Father we are encouraged to transcend and continue to grow. In the spirit of educating newer members and reminding older members of every age, please take the following information to heart:

STILLNESS: Hesychia:

The Nave and the entrance Narthex are places of prayer. If they are holy during services, then they should be treated as holy at all times. Coffee Hour is where conversations should be

enjoyed.

Before Liturgy Fr. Jonathan is remembering the names of the living and the dead during Proskomedi, at times hearing confessions and we know people are praying and looking for stillness. Please can greet each other and help with what newer members may need... but conversations are to be kept in the church basement lest we forget where we are.

CLOTHING:

We wear the best we have and as this is a church we wear modest clothing. Every Liturgy is considered a marriage feast between God and His People.

LIPSTICK:

It will damage hand-painted icons. This is something to consider as we prepare to get new iconography in the church. The Burial Shroud we bring out on Holy Friday has lipstick on the body of Christ. When wiping off lipstick we risk scraping the varnish and the paint. The struggle is real.

CROSSING OUR LEGS IN CHURCH:

If you need to cross your legs because of a medical condition then much like anyone who needs to eat before Holy Communion because of medical needs is allowed to. However, how we present ourselves in God's house will affect how engaged we are in actively worshiping. Stand if you are able to stand. Sit if you have to sit. Cross your legs if you have a medical condition. But we do not cross our legs in Church because we are spiritual participants in the Heavenly Worship.