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Sunday, April 13th, 2014

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Palm Sunday

## PALM SUNDAY

This Sunday commemorates the triumphant entrance of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. The people of Jerusalem received Christ as a king, and, therefore, took branches of palm and went out to meet Him, laying down the palms in His path. The people cried out the prophecy of Zechariah: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel" (v. 13; of Zechariah 9:9). The celebration of the Jewish Passover brought crowds of Jews and converted Jews to Jerusalem. They had heard of the works and words of Christ, especially about the resurrection of Lazarus. All the events related to Christ had a Messianic meaning for the Jews at the time. This vexed the high priests and pharisees. As usual, Christ went to the Temple to pray and teach. That evening Christ departed for Bethany. The tradition of the Church of distributing palms on this Sunday comes from the act of the people in placing the branches of palms in front of Christ, and henceforth symbolizes for the Christian the victory of Christ over evil forces and death.

### **HOLY COMMUNION REMINDER**— *Please follow Ushers Instructions*

We welcome those visiting with us today and ask that only Baptized/Chrismated Orthodox Christians who are properly prepared through prayer, fasting and Holy Confession to come forward to receive Holy Communion. Women are kindly asked to remove their lipstick prior to receiving Holy Communion. Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to receive the blessed bread from the Priest at the end of the Divine Liturgy and to join us for fellowship in our hall. We ask that everyone please dress appropriately for church. **Visitors: we ask that you fill out a yellow welcome card & give it to an usher.**

### COMING UP...

- ◆ **TODAY PALM SUNDAY: Orthos 9AM, Div. Lit. 10AM**
- ◆ **TODAY Parish Council: following Div. Lit PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON**
- ◆ **Ladies Philoptochos Society: Mon. April 14th 10:30AM BOARD MEETING**
- ◆ **Holy Monday: Nymphios Service April 14th 7PM**
- ◆ **Holy Tuesday: Nymphios Service April 15th 7PM**
- ◆ **Holy Wednesday: Pre-Sanctified Lit. April 16th 10AM Holy Unction 7PM**
- ◆ **Holy Thursday: Vespers & Lit. of St. Basil April 17th 10AM Crucifixion 7PM**
- ◆ **Ladies Philoptochos Society: Thurs. April 17th DYE EASTER EGGS**
- ◆ **Holy Friday: Royal Hours April 18th 9AM DECORATE EPITAPHIO 10AM Taking Down from the Cross: 3PM Lamentations: 7PM**
- ◆ **Holy Saturday: Vespers & Lit of St. Basil April 19th 10AM RESURRECTION ORTHOS & LITURGY 11PM**
- ◆ **GREAT & HOLY PASCCHA: Agape Service Sun. April 20th 11AM w/ Pascha Glendi following**

## EPISTLE READING

### **St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9**

BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

## GOSPEL READING

### **The Gospel of John 12:1-18**

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazaros was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this

ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazaros, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazaros out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

## Entrance Hymn

Ευλογημένος...Σῶσον...ο επι πώλου ὄνου καθεσθείς

## Resurrectional Apolytikion

To confirm the general resurrection before Your Passion, You resurrected Lazarus from the dead, O Christ our God. Therefore imitating the children, carrying the symbols of victory, we cry out to You the Victor over death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One, who comes in the name of the Lord."

Τὴν κοινὴν Ἀνάστασιν πρὸ τοῦ σοῦ Πάθους πιστούμενος, ἐκ νεκρῶν ἠγειρας τὸν Λάζαρον, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός· ὅθεν καὶ ἡμεῖς ὡς οἱ Παῖδες, τὰ τῆς νίκης σύμβολα φέροντες, σοὶ τῷ Νικητῇ τοῦ θανάτου βοῶμεν· Ὁσαννά ἐν τοῖς ὑψίστοις, εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος, ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου

## Festal Apolytikion

We were buried with You through Baptism, O Christ our God, and thus by Your Resurrection we have been granted immortal life, and extolling You we cry aloud, "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed are You, the One who comes in the name of the Lord."

Συνταφέντες σοὶ διὰ τοῦ Βαπτίσματος, Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, τῆς ἀθανάτου ζωῆς ἠξιώθημεν τῇ Ἀναστάσει σου, καὶ ἀνυμνοῦντες κράζομεν· Ὁσαννά ἐν τοῖς ὑψίστοις, εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος, ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου.

## Kontakion

In heaven upon the throne, on earth upon the colt, You were carried, O Christ our God; and the praise of the Angels, and the hymns of the children, You received as they cried to You, "Blessed are You, the One, who is coming to call Adam back again."

Τῷ θρόνῳ ἐν οὐρανῷ, τῷ πώλῳ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, ἐποχούμενος Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, τῶν Ἀγγέλων τὴν αἶνεσιν, καὶ τῶν Παίδων ἀνύμνησιν προσεδέξω βοώντων σοι· Εὐλογημένος εἶ ὁ ἐρχόμενος, τὸν Ἀδὰμ ἀνακαλέσασθαι

## Hymn to the Theotokos

God is the Lord, and He appeared to us. O Christians, appoint a feast, and with exultant joy come and let us magnify the Christ, waving our palm-leaves and branches, crying aloud in hymns: "Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord our Savior."

Θεὸς Κύριος, καὶ ἐπέφανεν ἡμῖν· συστήσασθε ἑορτήν, καὶ ἀγαλλόμενοι, δεῦτε μεγαλύνωμεν Χριστόν, μετὰ βαΐων καὶ κλάδων, ὕμνοις κραυγάζοντες· Εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος, ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου, Σωτῆρος ἡμῶν.

## Communion Hymn

Ευλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι Κυρίου/Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord (Page 3)

## Holy Unction: Its History, Meaning and Power

Holy Unction is a sign of God's healing and transforming power and of His promise to deliver us from decay. The service as it is practiced today has developed over a long period of time. In the early Church, and still in many parts of the Orthodox world, two or more priests celebrate the Sacrament. Tradition holds that seven priests are to celebrate the Mystery. Seven was seen as a sacred and symbolic number. Remnants of this practice are seen in the seven Gospel readings and seven prayers of consecration, along with the use of seven wicks in the oil or seven candles in the bowl of flour. The Mystery of Holy Unction can be celebrated whenever a seriously ill person requests it. It has also become common to celebrate it as a community on Holy Wednesday evening in preparation for Pascha and on the feast days of certain healing saints. The Sacrament can be celebrated either in the Church or wherever a sick person may be.

Holy Unction is one of the sacraments through which the healing power of Jesus is mediated. The visible sign is oil. The oil is blessed by the Holy Spirit to bring us Gods healing grace. We must believe that as we are anointed with this oil that the hand of Christ will heal us. The anointing of oil involves the forgiveness of sins, pointing to the connection between sickness and sin. In the Epistle of St. James we receive a scriptural description of the Mystery of Holy Unction in apostolic times, "Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects" (James 5:14-16).

Fr. John Meyendorff in Byzantine Theology states that, "Healing is requested only in the framework of repentance and spiritual salvation, and not an end in itself. Compassionate to suffering, we assemble together to pray for the suffering member, and the Church through its priests asks for relief, forgiveness and eternal freedom. This is the meaning of Holy Unction. We are reminded that we are members of Christ's Church and therefore form a healing fellowship. We are to be conduits to Gods healing to the world, by helping to bring healing, forgiveness and love to others. We are blessed by Holy Unction not only for ourselves but that we may be a source of healing for our neighbors."

There are many things that God understands that we do not. Healing in this life is only temporary for the sentence of death awaits us all. For many, the illnesses need to be endured and the suffering complete according to God's will. As opposed to the common secular belief of the finality of death, there is an eternal dimension of sickness and healing, demonstrated by Christ's sacrifice which allowed Him to enter death and destroy it, as manifested by the resurrection. But we do know that the anointing expresses Gods love for the body He created and that healing is not promised, but rather our faith in Christ and His power to heal and save is affirmed. Sickness, which often leads to despair and hopelessness, can also lead to faith, and ultimately to salvation. It is through Holy Unction that we are called to come forth to be touched by Gods love, to have our faith strengthened, that we may endure the pain and suffering, and transform that into the joy of hope and salvation.

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### STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are 4 months into 2014. Please pray and offer your time and talent sheet. Submit your pledge card or ask an usher for a new one. Our goal is \$200,000 for 2014! A follow-up letter went out to be sure everyone pledges.

### SAINTS COMMEMORATED

TODAY, SUN. APRIL 13th

•Martin the Confessor, Pope of Rome

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Our Church passes 2 offering trays.  
The 1st goes towards our Operating Budget,  
the 2nd tray will continue for the new Education Building Fund  
until paid in Full.

### PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON– TODAY

Sunday April 13 following Divine Liturgy. Tickets are \$12 adults for fish and kids free if under 12 (spaghetti).

### HELLENIC-AMERICAN SOCIAL CLUB

Attention all Parishioners: The Hellenic-American Club is in the process of collecting Easter goodies, small toys and stuffed animals (not more than \$5 ea.), small books for children and Easter Candy to be packaged and delivered to a very needy charity in Immokalee. This undertaking is being chaired by Phyllis Mino, who will also personally deliver the gifts to the Guadalupe Center. Please contact Phyllis or any Hellenic Club Board member if you wish to contribute to this special endeavor. A day trip on the Big "M" is scheduled for Thursday, April 24th. The cost is \$15 per person which includes the boat trip and lunch. This is a special group price arranged by Chairpersons John & Amelia Pappas. For reservations and information contact John or Amelia at 590-6115. Our final meeting for this season is scheduled for May 13th in Perkins Restaurant in Cape Coral on the Parkway. This meeting will be "for members only", who will be treated to dessert and drinks by the Club. We wish all our members and parishioners a meaningful Holy Week and Kali Anastasi.

### WILL YOU ATTEND OUR PASCHA GLENDI ?

Following the 11am AGAPE Service on April 20 the Parish Council will host a Community Glendi which includes: Lamb Shanks, Pastichio, Salad, Mousaka and other items. Free-Will Donation. If you want to attend please contact the church office by April 13th at 239-481-2099 or by email: officeagoc@gmail.com.

### LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

\*Monday April 14th: Board Meeting 10:30 am.  
\*Thursday April 17th: Dying of red eggs. Holy Thursday.  
\*Monday April 28th: General mtg. 10:30 am  
Your hostess for the month of April is Rana and Marianthi. Please lend these ladies a hand by cleaning your table or helping serve. This is very much appreciated. Thank you in advance we really appreciate everyone's help. The board meeting is now set for April 14 Monday. Everyone on the board please attend. **DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR CHANCE TO WIN \$2K CASH OR \$2K TRAVEL CERTIFICATE FROM A LOCAL TRAVEL AGENCY. PLEASE SEE JOAN SIMON at 201-826-8991 OR AN LPS REPRESENTATIVE FOR YOUR \$25 DONATION TOWARDS A TICKET PURCHASE TODAY. WINNER TO BE ANNOUNCED IN CHURCH ON SUNDAY, JUNE 15TH. WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN.**

### NEW PARISH PROCEDURES

Effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, before you come to the Parish Office in order to speak with our Parish Secretary, Kelsie, you must make an appointment with her for a specific day and time. This is also the same for Ministry leaders who wish to have Kelsie do something for their particular Ministry. It would be more beneficial if Ministry leaders would email or call for whatever they would like Kelsie to do for them. Remember, even if you speak with Kelsie about something, it does not mean she will be able to fulfill your request immediately. You also may not be able to meet with her if she has other priorities to complete. Please understand that Kelsie has numerous priorities to complete each week and then, if able will fulfill other requests by individuals or Ministries. The preferred method for Ministries' is that the Ministry responsible person give Kelsie the already prepared information so she completes the task at hand. If you just simply stop by the Parish Office and want to speak with Kelsie, you may not be able to or may have to wait until an appropriate time. We ask for your understanding. Do not call her cell phone.

### Children's Easter Egg Hunt



Sunday, April 20th  
Immediately following 11am  
Agape Vespers

Bring your basket...  
We'll provide the prizes!



Questions? Contact:  
Olympia Ruppe at [oruppe@embargmail.com](mailto:oruppe@embargmail.com)  
Jen-Hope Belis at [jhbelis@yahoo.com](mailto:jhbelis@yahoo.com)

### THANK YOU PAM

For undertaking the Wednesday Night Lenten Meals and for Saturday of Lazurus Breakfast. We greatly appreciate all that you do for our community.

### BELOW ARE SOME GENTLE REMINDERS ABOUT CHURCH ETIQUETTE & TRADITION

- ◆ Attire: We should offer Christ our "Sunday best," both in conduct and dress. We should dress neatly and modestly. Shoulders and midribs should be covered, and discretion used concerning skirt lengths and excessive makeup and jewelry.
- ◆ Along with fasting before church (from both food and nasty language), gum is a no-no during services, as well as a few hours after receiving Holy Communion.
- ◆ Please blot lip-stick before venerating icons and receiving communion



### Praying for You

We offer prayers for health and the needs for the servants of God for Al Hunter, Susan Christodoulou, Helen Roger, Nikki Fagerlie, Elaine Chakonas, Dimitra Vasilakos, Theodore Lizas, John Kontinos, Louis Eftim, Stella Demosthenis & Mary Kendrick. Please notify the office if there is someone that needs to be added to the prayer list. 239-481-2099