



**“Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem...”**  
(Luke 18:31)

***Bulletin for April 2-15, 2023***

*6th Week of Great Lent, Palm Sunday & Holy Week*

## SCHEDULE FOR APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup> THROUGH 9<sup>TH</sup>, 2023

<b>*SUN</b>	<b>4/2/2023</b> 9:00 AM	<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST – ST. MARY OF EGYPT</b> Divine Liturgy <i>With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations</i>  <i>Perpetual Commemorations for April 2-8:</i> <i>PAVLICK, Joseph &amp; Katherine</i> <i>BALZIC, Joseph &amp; Sophie, George</i> <i>REPASKY, Stephen</i> <i>PENICK, Michael</i> <i>BENIC, Anna &amp; John, John Jr. &amp; Carole</i>
<b>MON</b>	<b>4/3/2023</b> 9:00 AM	Parastas (Memorial Service) <i>+Joyce Yasnowsky, by Donald, Joann and Kevin Yasnowsky</i>
<b>TUES</b>	<b>4/4/2023</b> 9:00 AM	Parastas (Memorial Service) <i>With Weekly Perpetual Commemorations</i>
<b>WED</b>	<b>4/5/2023</b> 11:00 AM 6:00 PM	Potato Preparation for Pirohi Lenten Service: Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
<b>THURS</b>	<b>4/6/2023</b> 6:00 PM	Filling Preparation for Pirohi
<b>FRI</b>	<b>4/7/2023</b> 8:00 AM 4:00 PM 4:30 PM	Pirohi Making and Sale Vespers for Lazarus Saturday Palm Preparation
<b>SAT</b>	<b>4/8/2023</b> 9:00 AM	<b>LAZARUS SATURDAY</b> Divine Liturgy
<b>*SUN</b>	<b>4/9/2023</b> 9:00 AM	<b>THE ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM – PALM SUNDAY</b> Divine Liturgy <i>Blessing of Palms and Willows</i>

## SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK & PASCHA 2023

<b>MON</b>	<b>4/10/2023</b>	<b>HOLY MONDAY</b>
	5:30 PM	April Board Meeting
	6:30 PM	Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
<b>TUES</b>	<b>4/11/2023</b>	<b>HOLY TUESDAY</b>
	6:00 PM	Confessions
	6:30 PM	Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
<b>WED</b>	<b>4/12/2023</b>	<b>HOLY WEDNESDAY</b>
	6:00 PM	Confessions ( <i>Last Chance Before Pascha!</i> )
	6:30 PM	Sacrament of Holy Unction (Anointing)
<b>THURS</b>	<b>4/13/2023</b>	<b>HOLY THURSDAY – THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST</b>
	4:15 PM	Vesperal Divine Liturgy in Commemoration of the Last Supper Break for Soup and Bread Meal
	6:30 PM	Matins with the Reading of the Passion Gospels <i>Preparation of the Tomb after Services</i>
<b>FRI</b>	<b>4/14/2023</b>	<b>HOLY FRIDAY – CRUCIFIXION, DEATH AND BURIAL OF CHRIST</b>
	9:00 AM	Royal Hours – Morning Prayer Service ( <i>in the Chapel</i> )
	6:30 PM	Vespers of Holy Friday Procession with the Holy Shroud ( <i>Outdoors, Weather Permitting</i> )
<b>SAT</b>	<b>4/15/2023</b>	<b>HOLY SATURDAY – AWAITING THE RESURRECTION</b>
	9:00 AM	Vesperal Divine Liturgy <i>Decorating of Church after Liturgy</i> <i>Church Open All Day for Visits to the Holy Tomb</i>
	8:00 PM	Resurrection Procession ( <i>Outdoors, Weather Permitting</i> ) Resurrection Matins Service Blessing of Easter Food Baskets
<b>SUN</b>	<b>4/16/2023</b>	<b>PASCHA – THE GREAT DAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST</b>
	10:00 AM	Divine Liturgy Children’s Easter Egg Hunt ( <i>Weather Permitting</i> ) Blessing of Easter Food Baskets

## GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Patriarchal Pence** envelopes are included with this bulletin. This is our annual contribution to the work and ministry of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. Please return your donation by **Pascha Sunday, April 16**, so that we can return it to the Diocese in a timely manner.

We thank everyone who helped with our **2023 Lenten Mission** on March 26th! It was a wonderful, spiritually-uplifting day for our parish and for all of our guests. May God bless you!

**Preparation of Palms and Willows** for Palm Sunday will take place on Friday, April 7 at 4:30 PM, after Vespers.

**Holy Confession** is available before all services during the final week of Great Lent (April 2nd through 9th). Once we enter into Holy Week, however, Confessions will only be heard before the services on Holy Tuesday and Holy Wednesday. These are the last opportunities for Confession before Easter. **Confessions will not be heard on Holy Monday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, or on Pascha morning itself.** *If the sacristy door is open and the light is on, you can walk right in for Confession.*

**Reminder About the Eucharistic Fast:** Those receiving Communion at an even-

ing Liturgy are to fast for a *minimum* of 3 hours prior to the service. Fasting from midnight is still observed before receiving Communion at any morning Liturgy. *(Remember that only services called "Liturgy" have the distribution of Holy Communion. Other services – like Vespers or Matins – do not have Communion.)*

## HOLY WEEK & PASCHA ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Fr. David once read the following in a church bulletin: "THIS IS THE HOLIEST WEEK OF THE YEAR. RE-ADJUST YOUR SCHEDULE. CHANGE YOUR PRIORITIES. ATTEND SERVICES THIS WEEK." *This is very true!***

**Holy Week** is the high point of the Christian year. We liturgically celebrate in a *chronological* manner the saving events of Our Lord's Suffering, Death and Resurrection. Our church becomes the Upper Room of the Last Supper, Calvary and the Tomb. All those things done by Christ are *re-presented* – made present again. We receive this experience primarily from the divine services occurring in the church.

### Services

There is at least one service per day during Holy Week. If you have to prioritize church attendance, gravitate towards the services of the last three days of Holy Week – Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

### Service Times

Please pay close attention to the times of services. **None of the evening services will be at the "usual" 6:00 PM time-slot.**

**Holy Monday through Holy Friday**, our evening services will begin at 6:30 PM. We hope that this extra half-hour will be of assistance to those who work and have commutes, students who have homework, etc.

Our **Holy Thursday** schedule this year begins with the Divine Liturgy commemorating the Last Supper at 4:15 PM. A simple Lenten meal of soup and bread will follow. *All are welcome!* After the meal, at 6:30 PM, we will have the Matins Service with the Passion Gospels. If you can, come to both services—if not, come to one!

**Resurrection Matins** will begin on Holy Saturday at 8:00 PM. Since the early days of the Christian Church, the Paschal Night has been an important time. Resurrection Matins itself speaks of "this holy, radiant, and saving night."

### Holy Week Fasting

Holy Week, as the most solemn week on the Church's calendar, is observed as a week of fasting. A *minimum* fast from meat and meat products is to be observed on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday and Holy Thursday. All are enjoined to *strict fast* from meat and dairy products on Good Friday and Holy Saturday. (*If you are able, you can do more and keep a strict fast all week.*)

**Perpetual Commemorations of the Departed** will not be made during Holy Week and Bright Week, in order to focus on Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection. All commemorations will be made after St. Thomas Sunday.

### Vigil at the Tomb on Holy Saturday

Our church will be open all day on Holy Saturday for prayer and for visits to the Holy Tomb. This is an old tradition, and it is wonderful that we are able to keep it going. Take a moment out of your busy schedule and come quietly to pray in preparation for Pascha.

**Decorating** for Good Friday will be after services on Holy Thursday evening; and we will decorate the church for Pascha after services on Holy Saturday morning.

**My dear parishioners,**

**THANK YOU for the surprise cake on Sunday, March 19th in honor of my 40th birthday! I am grateful for your prayers, best wishes and congratulations on this occasion in my life. I also want to offer special thanks to those who sent cards as well. May God bless all of you in proportion to your kindness towards me, His unworthy priest.**

**With love in Christ,**

**Fr. David**

**Easter Egg Hunt** for children under 12 years of age will take place after Divine Liturgy on Pascha Sunday, April 16th (weather permitting). **All children are welcome and encouraged to participate!**



**Live Streamed Services for Holy Week and Pascha**

For the benefit of our **homebound** parishioners and friends, the following services will be live streamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon](https://youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon)

- Matins with the Passion Gospels on **Holy Thursday** at 6:30 PM
- Vespers and Procession with the Shroud on **Holy Friday** at 6:30 PM
- Resurrection Matins on **Holy Saturday** at 8:00 PM
- Divine Liturgy on **Pascha Sunday** at 10:00 AM

*(We offer this Internet Ministry to stay connected with those who are truly unable to be with us in person. If you ARE able to come, don't watch the live stream – join us for worship!)*

**CEMETERY DECORATION REMINDER**

All winter decorations **MUST** be removed from the graves in the cemetery by May 1, 2023. Thank you for your attention to this important matter! If you have any relatives or friends who do not go to our church but have loved ones buried in our cemetery, please share this timely information.

<b>TRAVELING ICON SCHEDULE</b>	
April 2: Dan & Margie Hromyak	April 16: Anna Marie Shears
April 9: Henry & Sue Van Zanten	April 23: Pauline Koval

# Step by Step through the Holy Week and Paschal Services

*by Fr. David*

**Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Holy Wednesday** cover a number of motifs. The Gospel readings are often taken from the final teachings of Jesus Christ. Holy Monday includes the theme of Joseph from the Old Testament, as well as the fig tree that was cursed and withered by Jesus. Holy Tuesday centers on the parable of the Ten Virgins. Holy Wednesday points to the anointing of Christ by the sinful woman in the house of Simon the leper.

On Holy Wednesday, it has become customary in many places to offer the **Sacrament of Holy Unction** (Holy Anointing) for the entire parish community. As this sacrament is offered for the healing of soul and body and the forgiveness of sins, it is received by Orthodox Christians who have confessed during Lent as a spiritual preparation to enter into the final days of Holy Week and Pascha.

The **Vespereal Divine Liturgy on Holy Thursday** commemorates the Last Supper, the Institution of the Holy Eucharist, the Institution of the Priesthood, and Christ's humble act of washing the feet of His disciples. Today's Gospel reading is actually the longest of any Divine Liturgy.

The **Matins of Holy Friday** (typically anticipated on Holy Thursday evening) includes twelve readings from the Gospels. These readings relate Jesus' final discourse to the disciples; Jesus' agony in the garden; His betrayal and arrest; His trial, mocking and scourging; His journey to Golgotha; His crucifixion; and His burial. This service helps us to begin our observance of Holy Friday having heard all that the Scriptures tell us about Our Lord's Passion and Death.

The full **Royal Hours** service is actually an aggregate of five shorter services: 1st Hour, 3rd Hour, 6th Hour, 9th Hour, and Typika. Each of the hours includes Psalms, hymns, an Old Testament reading, an Epistle reading, and a Gospel reading related to the Passion and Death of Christ.

The **Vespers on Holy Friday** again shares the narrative of the Passion and Death of Christ. At the conclusion of this service, the Shroud (*epitaphios*; *plashchanitsa*) depicting either the dead Christ or the entire scene of Christ's burial is solemnly carried in procession and "buried" in the Tomb in the middle of the church where it remains until Resurrection Matins.

The **Vespereal Divine Liturgy on Holy Saturday** directs our attention to the Resurrection. In the early church, it was at this time that new members of the church were baptized, thus being

joined to the Death and Resurrection of Jesus in a personal way. This Liturgy includes two readings from the Old Testament, one with the Hymn of Moses from the book of Exodus, and the other with the Hymn of the Three Youths from the book of Daniel. Instead of the singing of “Alleluia” before the Gospel, a Psalm verse “Arise, O God, and judge the earth, for all nations belong to You” is sung. During this time, the black vestments and altar covers are removed, and all vestments and covers in the church are changed to white. The Gospel reading from Matthew proclaims the Resurrection for the first time, as well as Jesus’ instruction to baptize all nations. The festal blessing of bread, wheat, wine, and oil takes place at the end of the Liturgy, a hold-over from the days when this Liturgy was celebrated in the evening and people needed a “blessed snack” to tide them over until after the Pascha Liturgy.

**Resurrection Matins** begins with the removal of the Shroud. The Shroud is placed on the altar until the Ascension. After the candles of the congregation are lit (often by the priest sharing the Paschal Light), all go outside the church in procession for the beginning of the service. Before the closed doors of the church, the Paschal Tropar “Christ is risen from the dead...” is sung for the first time. The doors of the church are blessed with the sign of the cross before all proceed back inside. The main body of the service consists of a Canon written by St. John of Damascus, the refrain being “Christ is risen from the dead!” During the special Paschal Stichera, all come forward to venerate the Cross, Gospel, and Icon of the Resurrection. A homily by St. John Chrysostom is read at the conclusion of the service.

**Paschal Foods** are blessed at some point, according to parish custom. These meat- and dairy-rich foods are a sampling of the type of foods from which we abstained during Lent. They are the first foods that are eaten after Liturgy on Pascha, symbolizing the richness of the heavenly banquet in God’s Kingdom (a recurring theme in the Bible). Every Divine Liturgy is a foretaste of the eternal feast in God’s Kingdom. Thus, after the Eucharistic Banquet on Pascha, we are called to extend the joy and feasting into our homes with this special blessing.

The **Divine Liturgy of Pascha** is the culmination of the Paschal services. The tropar “Christ is risen...” is sung many times, even in place of other regular hymns. It is customary to read the Gospel from John (1:1-17) in twelve sections in several languages, symbolic of the apostles going to preach to the whole world. At the end of the Liturgy, the “artos” (a leavened bread) is blessed; in parish practice, it is distributed on Thomas Sunday.

The full celebration of Pascha extends for an entire week, known as “**Bright Week.**” The doors of the ikonostas remain open, a sign that the kingdom of God has been opened to us through Christ’s resurrection. We do not kneel for prayer during Bright Week or the rest of the Paschal season, as kneeling is a sign of penance. On Bright Monday, after Liturgy, a procession around the church includes four Gospel readings—one from each evangelist—and share the story of the Resurrection.

# Don't Forget Your Basket!

If you think Easter baskets are just about chocolate and marshmallows, *think again!*

Included in this bulletin is an informational handout about the blessing of Paschal foods, a custom practiced by many people in and from Central and Eastern Europe (Carpatho-Rusyns, Ukrainians, Slovaks, Poles, Russians, Romanians, Hungarians, etc.). This information includes the traditional Carpatho-Rusyn foods that many in our parish know and love.

If you bring a basket faithfully every year—*great!* Keep it up! But if you stopped bringing one (either because you can't eat those foods anymore, or making those foods is too labor intensive), or if you have *never* brought one (because you aren't familiar with this custom), please consider bringing one this year! EVERYONE is invited to bring a basket of foods that are representative of those things which were given up during the Lenten fast. You are not required to only bring the "traditional" foods—bring the food you will eat as your Easter feast. If you need a little guidance, bring something from each of these categories:

**Bread:** usually sweet and rich.

**Hardboiled eggs** in the shell, usually dyed

(These are symbols of Christ "breaking" out of the tomb.)

**Dairy:** cheese, butter.

**Meat:** pork or lamb or chicken or turkey or beef or...

**Seasonings:** Salt and horseradish are popular.

**Other Foods:** chocolate, sweets, wine, whatever!



There's no "right" or "wrong" way to prepare your Easter basket. (*Unless you put kale or something in it. That's definitely wrong.*) Make this tradition your own!

This year, we will offer the Blessing of Baskets in the Fellowship Hall after the 8:00 PM Resurrection Matins service on Saturday, April 15th. A second Blessing of Baskets will take place after Liturgy on Pascha morning, April 16th for the benefit of anyone who cannot attend Resurrection Matins.

**SAINT JOHN'S ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**  
*with*  
**HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN GREGORY**

**Marking the 85th Anniversary of Our Founding  
and 10th Anniversary of Relocation**

Sunday, May 7, 2023

Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 10:00 am

Celebratory Meal in the Fellowship Hall to Follow

**MENU**

*Sweet & Savory Roasted Chicken Breast*

*Orange & Pineapple Glazed Ham*

*Penne with Garlic Sauce*

*Roasted Redskin Potatoes*

*Vegetable Medley*

*Salad*

*Rolls & Butter*

*Blueberry-Lemon Cake*

Tickets are required for the meal and are on sale now. The parish will be underwriting part of the cost of this catered meal (catered by Giovanni's), to keep ticket costs affordable. **Adult Tickets are \$10, and Child Tickets are \$5. Deadline for ticket sales is April 28th, so don't wait!**

*(We want EVERYONE to participate! If you have a financial need that would preclude you from purchasing a ticket, please speak to Fr. David privately.)*

# SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

3180 Morefield Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148

Office: 724-981-0571  
Rectory: 724-346-4457  
E-mail: [father.david@stjohnacroc.org](mailto:father.david@stjohnacroc.org)  
Website: [www.stjohnacroc.org](http://www.stjohnacroc.org)

*Clergy:*  
*Rev. Father David Mastroberte*  
*Rev. Deacon John Anderson*

*A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese – Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople*

## Sacramental and Membership Information

**Sick Calls** can be made at any time. Please phone the rectory (724-346-4457) when a family member is admitted to the hospital, or to request a home visit. Hospitals do *not* call to alert the parish when someone is admitted.

**Marriages** are solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. Circumstances may require a dispensation from the diocesan bishop. Consult the pastor at least six months in advance and before any plans have been made for the wedding reception. Marriages cannot be celebrated during the fasting seasons of the church, or on Fridays.

**Baptisms** are usually scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays. Consult the pastor. Two godparents (godfather and godmother) are required, at least one of whom must be a practicing Orthodox Christian in good standing at an Orthodox parish, and the other (at least) a practicing, baptized Christian.

**Church Funerals** are, under ordinary circumstances, provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and material obligations to the parish; otherwise, the funeral service is conducted at the funeral home. The Church does *not* permit cremation.

**Parishioners in "good standing"** are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John's Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular church attendance, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (and receive these sacraments no less than once a year); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and financially support the parish (especially through an annual "pledge").

**Prospective members and returning members** are asked to fill out an application form, copies of which are available in the church office.

---

**Our Church's Website:** [stjohnacroc.org](http://stjohnacroc.org)

**Our YouTube Live Stream:** [youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon](https://youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon)

**Our Facebook Page:** [facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA](https://facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA)

**Our Diocesan Website:** [acrod.org](http://acrod.org)

**For Online Giving Options, please visit our website: [stjohnacroc.org](http://stjohnacroc.org)**