



# St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral

Patriarchal Stavropigia of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Kyivan Patriarchate

## Bulletin for Sunday, April 18, 2021



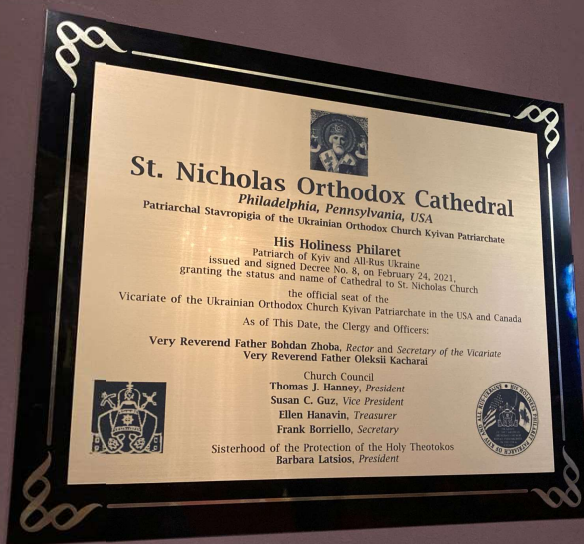
**On this 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorates ST. MARY OF EGYPT, a model of repentance.**

St. Mary was born in Egypt, c. 344, and for 17 years from the age of 12, lived as a prostitute. While in Jerusalem, she attempted to enter a church, but an unseen power prevented her from doing so. She turned to an icon of the Mother of God at the entrance, prayed before it and then entered without fear. Upon leaving, she heard a voice, "If you cross the Jordan, you will find true peace." She then retreated to the desert, renounced her worldly desires and lived as a hermit in penitence for the next 48 years until her death in c. 421.

The history of St. Mary of Egypt was related by Hieromonk Zosimas after he met her during a Great Lenten journey in the wilderness. Her life story serves as an example of true repentance and the profound compassion of God.



On Sunday, April 11, 2021, Father Bohdan blessed the newly-hung historic plaque announcing our name change to "Cathedral." As you can see, it is located in the Sanctuary, to the right of the Candle Room window, well-positioned and easily read by parishioners and visitors for generations to come!





## SUNDAY VIGIL CANDLES LIT TODAY

1. For the health of our husband/father, George Latsios, on his birthday, Love, Barbara, Cassandra and Ray
2. For the health of George Latsios, on his birthday, Love, Tom and Judy Hanney and Family
3. For the health of George Latsios, on his birthday, offered by Susan Guz
4. For the health of George Latsios, on his birthday, Love Ellen and Phil
5. For the health of our Goddaughter, Vlada Radziuk, on her birthday, Love, Aunt Judy and Uncle Tom Hanney
6. Memory Eternal to George and Alexandra Zaruba, offered by Mike, Marcia and Zach O'Connor
7. For the health of Neal Patel, friend of Zachary O'Connor, who is hospitalized with COVID and on a ventilator, offered by the O'Connor Family
8. For the health of Ellen Hanavin, on her birthday, Love, Barbara and George Latsios



Father Bohdan's Sermon – Sunday, April 11, 2021  
Mark 9:17-31

Lord, I  
*Believe.*  
Help my  
unbelief.

In Biblical times, there were no names for the many physical and mental ailments that our bodies and minds suffer from. And so the word “demons” described the disturbing and confusing maladies that struck people – as we hear in today’s Scripture reading. And Jesus Christ said that only through prayer and fasting could the demon be cast out and the soul and body healed. Think of prayer and fasting as “spiritual first aid” – treating the whole person, that is, body, mind, and spirit. Prior to casting out the demonic spirit, Jesus looked at the father in today’s Scripture reading and said, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” The father was completely and totally honest admitting that he had unbelief, that he didn’t have complete faith and trust. ‘Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!’, he cried. Yet Jesus healed his son without there being the type of faith that you would think you need for this miracle to happen. The father clearly said that he had doubts. So why did Jesus heal this man’s son? Perhaps because the man was honest. Once we’re honest about our doubts, we must, like the father in today’s Scripture reading, confess them. Confession begins the process of turning away from doubts -- to believing and having unwavering faith. And that is called repentance. AMEN.

### CHURCH COUNCIL

- Thomas J. Hanney, President
- Susan Guz, Vice-President
- Ellen Hanavin, Treasurer
- Frank Borriello, Secretary

### ST. NICHOLAS PATRIARCHAL CHOIR

- Eve Edwards, Soprano
- Nancy Stott Trauger, Alto
- Nathaniel McEwen, Tenor
- Anthony Sinigaglio II, Bass
- Susan Guz, Choir Director

### CLERGY

**V. Rev. Father Bohdan Zhoba, Rector**  
**V. Rev. Father Oleksii Kacharai**

St. Nicholas Patriarchal Stavropigia Orthodox Cathedral  
817 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123  
stnicholaseoc.org

V. Rev. Bohdan Zhoba, Secretary  
Vicariate of the UOC-KP in the USA & Canada  
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Cell: 215-479-1010

Church Office: 215-922-9671

Vicariate Office: 215-922-2062



**CONFESSIONS  
will be heard on:**

- **FRIDAYS at 7:00 pm**  
*during*  
**Pre-Sanctified  
Liturgy**
  - **SATURDAYS at**  
**5:00 PM at**  
**Vespers**
  - **LAZARUS**  
**SATURDAY**  
**at 9:00 AM**
  - **HOLY SATURDAY**  
**at 9:00 AM**
- and*
- **SUNDAYS at**  
**9:00 AM before**  
**Divine Liturgy**

<b>Schedule of Services</b>	
<b>Friday, April 16</b>	<b>7:00 pm: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy</b>
<b>Saturday, April 17</b>	<b>5:00 pm: Vespers</b>
<b>Sunday, April 18</b>	<b>9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy</b>
<b>Friday, April 23</b>	<b>7:00 pm: Pre-Sanctified Liturgy</b>
<b>Saturday, April 24 LAZARUS SATURDAY</b>	<b>9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy 5:00 pm: Vespers &amp; Blessing of Pussy Willows</b>
<b>Sunday, April 25 PALM SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy, followed by "Potato Pancake" Fellowship Lunch in the Church Hall</b>
<b>Wednesday, April 28</b>	<b>6:30 pm: Holy Unction Healing Service</b>
<b>Thursday, April 29 HOLY THURSDAY</b>	<b>9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 6:30 pm: Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels</b>
<b>Friday, April 30 HOLY FRIDAY</b>	<b>3:00 pm: Vespers 6:30 pm: Funeral Service and Procession with Plaschanitsa</b>
<b>Saturday, May 1 HOLY SATURDAY</b>	<b>9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, followed by Blessing of Baskets in the Sanctuary</b>
<b>Sunday, May 2 EASTER-PASCHA</b>	<b>11:30 pm: Matins, Procession, Divine Liturgy, followed by Blessing of Baskets and Agape Breakfast in the Church Hall</b>
<b>Monday, May 3 BRIGHT MONDAY</b>	<b>9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy and Procession</b>
<b>Saturday, May 8</b>	<b>5:00 pm: Vespers</b>
<b>Sunday, May 9 ST. THOMAS SUNDAY MOTHER'S DAY</b>	<b>9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy and Akathist to the Holy Theotokos, followed by Blessing of the Graves at Oakland Cemetery</b>
<b>Saturday, May 15</b>	<b>5:00 pm: Vespers</b>
<b>Sunday, May 16</b>	<b>9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy</b>

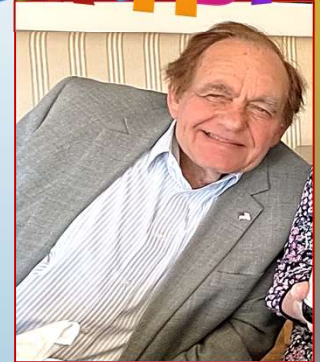
**CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO THE  
BUILDING FUND  
2021**

- **Patricia Walker**
- **Anna Kuliasha**
- **Colleen Philipp**
- **The Borriello Family, In Memory of David Patterson**
- **The Murphy Family, In Memory of our  
Mother/Mom-Mom, Lillian Fox**
- **In Memory of Tatiana (Tina) Fedec**
- **Cassandra and Ray McNulty**



# This Week's Bulletin is Sponsored By

**Barbara and George Latsios & Family**  
**For the Health of the**  
**Latsios, McNulty, Hanney and Philipp Families**  
**and**  
**In Honor of George Latsios on His Birthday**  
**Love, Barbara, Cassandra and Ray**  
**God Grant You All Many Years!**



**George Latsios celebrates  
a Birthday on April 23!  
Many More Years!**

## The Pascha Basket Tradition

**T**he traditional Easter Basket contains many of the items on this page that are placed in a wicker basket. A decorated candle is placed in the basket and is lighted at the time of blessing. A linen cover usually embroidered with a picture of the Risen Christ or symbols with the words Christ is Risen is placed over the foods when brought to the church to be blessed. Sometimes a large Easter Bread (Paska) is brought separately wrapped in a linen cloth.



**Butter**  
This favorite dairy product is shaped into the figure of a small cross or lamb and decorated as the cheese. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.



**Paska**  
**The Easter Bread**  
A sweet, yeast bread. Symbolic of Christ Himself who is our True Bread. Usually a round loaf baked with a golden crust decorated with a symbol indicative of Christ. Sometimes a cross of dough is placed on top encircled by a plait giving it a crowned effect, or Greek abbreviations for the name of Christ. The letters XB indicate the Slavonic for Christ is Risen.



**Horseradish**  
Horseradish mixed with grated red beets. Symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. A bittersweet red colored mixture reminds us of the sufferings of Christ.



**Ham**  
The flesh meat popular with Slavs as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter. Some may prefer lamb or veal. This is usually well roasted or cooked as well as other meats prepared in advance so that the festivity of the day will not be burdened with preparation and all may enjoy the Feast.



**Bacon**  
A piece of uncooked bacon cured with spices. Symbolic of the overabundance of God's mercy to us.



**Salt**  
A condiment necessary for flavor reminding the Christian of his duty to others.



**Sausage / Kolbasi**  
A spicy, garlic flavored sausage made of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity.



**Eggs / Pysanky**  
Hard boiled eggs brightly decorated with symbols and markings made with beeswax. From the intricate line technique found in Sarys and Zemplyn in Slovakia to the teardrop Lemko style. Indicative of new life and resurrection.

**Most of us know how to prepare a traditional Easter basket, but do you know the symbolism of the contents? Here is an explanation.**





## ANNUAL VIGIL CANDLES LIT AT EVERY SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Sunday Vigil:	\$2
Analog Candles:	\$25
Altar Candles:	\$35
Annual Vigil:	\$100
Bulletin Sponsor:	\$25

1. +The Repose of the soul of Carol Dantine, offered by David Dantine, Jr. and Family. exp. 11/1/21
2. +The Repose of the souls of George and Barbara Wohar, offered by Barbara McMonigle and Family. exp. 11/1/21
3. +The Repose of the souls of John and Helen Guz; John and Mary Dzwonczyk; Paul and Anna Guz, offered by daughters/granddaughters Patricia Walker and Susan Guz. exp. 12/31/21
4. +The Repose of the souls of Helen and Michael Zaruba, and Christina and Christopher Natale. May Their Memory Be Eternal. Offered with love by Daughter/Sister/Aunt, Marcia O'Connor. exp. 10/1/21
5. +The Repose of the souls of All Members of the Sisterhood Fallen Asleep in the Lord, offered by the Sisterhood of the Pokrova. exp. 10/13/21
6. +The Repose of the souls of the Boljarevich Family, Anastasia (Nancy) Yarosh, Helen Kon, Helen and John "Whitey" Horbacz, Harry Mason, Sophie Gamble, Michael Zaruba and John Martin. PERPETUAL
7. +The Repose of the soul of my beloved husband, our devoted father and grandfather, Jack Kavchok. May his memory be eternal! Offered with love, Diane, John, Michael, Melissa, Makenzie, Riley and Kylie. exp. 8/1/21
8. +The Repose of the souls of Emil and Helen Levchenko offered by daughter, Ellen Hanavin. exp. 12/31/21
9. +The Repose of the souls of Irina and Michael Sierp, Konstantin, Olga, Lydia and Juris Teterski, Richard Boswell, and the health of all living members of the Teterski, Sierp, Boswell and Lis Families, offered by Susan Lis. exp. 9/18/21
10. +The Repose of the soul of our mother and grandmother, Helen Marx, offered by Victoria, Frank, Christopher, Stephanie, Julia, Nicholas, Krissy, Nathan and Morgan Borriello. exp. 4/19/22
11. +In memory of John and Susan Stetsuk, offered by Susan Isaac. exp. 12/31/21
12. +In memory of Paul Stetsuk, offered by Susan Isaac. Exp. 12/31/21
13. +In memory of Vera, Richard and Paul Wienckowski, offered by Susan Isaac. exp. 12/31/21
14. +In memory of Evelyn Atlee, offered by the Borriello Family. exp. 12/31/21
15. +In memory of Nadia Borriello, offered by the Borriello Family. exp. 5/31/21
16. +In loving memory of our mother, Lillian Fox, offered by Renee Murphy, Gail Osborn & Families. exp. 9/1/21
17. +In loving memory of our sister, Karen Niehoff, offered by Renee Murphy, Gail Osborn & Families. exp. 9/1/21
18. +The Repose of the souls of the Kowal Family: Andrew, Paraskeva, Andrew, Catherine, Susan, John, Nionila, Anna, David, Franklin Shultz and Edward Barrett, offered by Drew Kowal. exp. 11/1/30
19. For the health of Mykhailo, Tetiana, David, Svitlana, Vitaliy, Marina, Viktor, Ilona, Bogdan, Oleksandra, Maksym, Volodymyr, Halyna, Victoria, Mykola, Father Bohdan Zhoba and his family, Veronika, Tetiana, Oleksander, Diana-Olga, Hrustyna, Dimitriy, Diana; and +In memory of Mykhailo, Yaroslav, Anna, Petro, Bohdan and Hanna, offered by Michael, Tetiana and David Kuchmiak. exp. 12/31/21
20. For the health of Viktor, Oksana, Volodymyr, Anna-Diana, Vasyl, Maria, Mykhailyna, Anna, Olga, Mykola, Marianna, Oksana, Olga, Roman, Olga, Iryna-Olesia, Bohdan, Volodymyr. +In memory of Anna, Sophia, Volodymyr, Joseph, Petrunelia, Vasyl, Maria, Pavlo, Maria, Petro, Stepan, Anna, Stepania, Vasyl, Maryna, offered by Oksana and Victor Voloshnovskyy. exp. 9/1/21
21. +The Repose of the souls of Stephen and Helen V. Sameruck, offered by Barbara Latsios, Judy Hanney and families. exp. 10/25/21
22. +The Repose of the souls of Mary and Gregory Buckley. Memory Eternal. Offered by the children and grandchildren of the Buckley, Janoczkin and Wojnarowicz Families. exp. 12/20/21
23. +In memory of newly-departed Alice (Lesya) Orlan, our beloved "Forever Friend," offered by Dorothy Chelak and Family. exp. 1/24/22
24. For the health of Vasyl, Paraska, Roman, Oksana, Andriy, Volodymyr, Orusya, Maria, Vitaliy, Taras, Anatoliy, Olga, Anna, Ivan. +In memory of Paraska, Vasyl, Ivan, Vasyl, Evdokia, Maria, Paraska, Oksana. Offered by the Khanas and Petriv Families. exp. 3/1/22



# EASTER VIGILS

## 250 VIGILS

*representing your prayers for your loved ones*

**illuminated the Sanctuary on Easter last year.  
It was a beautiful, inspiring sight.**

**With your help, we can have **300** vigils burning brightly this year when we enter the front doors at midnight on Easter Sunday, May 2, and proclaim **CHRIST IS RISEN!****



**Diane Kavchok will be contacting you by email for any revisions to your Easter vigil list. We encourage you to add names to your list. Vigils are only \$2 each.**

**To our new parishioners: please contact Diane by email, [kavchokd@aol.com](mailto:kavchokd@aol.com), if you would like to have vigils published in the Easter edition of our Bulletin – and see your vigil lit on Easter morning.**

**THE SCRIPTURE READING**  
**FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 18, 2021**  
5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF GREAT LENT - ST. MARY OF EGYPT



**PRIEST:** Let us attend! Peace be unto all!

**READER:** And to thy spirit.

**PRIEST:** Wisdom!

**READER:** The Prokeimenon in the 4<sup>th</sup> Tone: O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

**CHOIR:** O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

**READER:** Bless the Lord, O my soul! O my God, Thou art very great! O Lord, how manifold are Thy works!

**CHOIR:** In wisdom hast Thou made them all!

**PRIEST:** Wisdom!

**READER:** The reading is from the Hebrews.

**PRIEST:** Let us attend!

**READER:** Brothers...But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? **(Hebrews 9:11-14)**

**PRIEST:** Peace be unto thee, Reader.

**READER:** And to thy spirit.

**PRIEST:** Wisdom!

**READER:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! **CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**READER:** Go forth, prosper and reign because of truth and meekness and righteousness.  
You love righteousness and hate iniquity.

**CHOIR:** Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**PRIEST:** Wisdom! Let us attend! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

**CHOIR:** And to thy spirit.

**PRIEST:** The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.

**CHOIR:** Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**PRIEST:** Let us attend. Now they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was going before them; and they were amazed. And as they followed they were afraid. Then He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them the things that would happen to Him: Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again. Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them, "What do you want Me to do for you?" They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?" They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared. And when the ten heard it, they began to be greatly displeased with James and John. But Jesus called them to Himself and said to them, "You know that those who are considered rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. **(Mark 10:32-45)**

**CHOIR:** Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.





The Tomb in 2019



## EASTER FLOWERS

**In preparation for Holy Friday, the Tomb of Jesus will be set up in the Sanctuary Holy Thursday night, April 29, following the Holy Passion service of the reading of the Twelve Gospels.**

**A variety of seasonal, potted, flowering Easter plants will decorate the Tomb. This year, instead of pre-ordering, you will be able to select from the plants and take one or more home after Divine Liturgy on Bright Monday, May 3 – FOR A SUGGESTED DONATION OF \$15.**

**BASKETS of fresh cut flowers, however, will still need to be pre-ordered. Please give your basket order to Ellen Hanavin in the Candle Room. The baskets are \$40 each and are beautifully arranged by our florist for decades, Carroll's Flowers.**

## ANNUAL ENDOWMENT FUND DRIVE

*2 Corinthians 9:7*

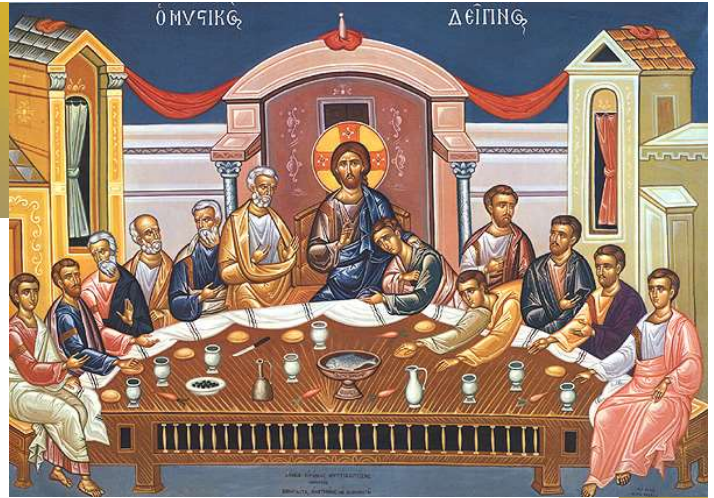
*"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."*

*Our annual **Endowment Fund Drive** begins simultaneously with the start of Lent. It is customary to give alms -- a charitable gift -- during Lent. What better beneficiary than our beloved St. Nicholas Cathedral to ensure its future!*

*Please pick up a PINK envelope from the Candle Room and give generously. You can also give online on our website. Go to [stnicholaseoc.org](http://stnicholaseoc.org); click the DONATE tab at the bottom of the home page; scroll down and click "Endowment Fund." THANK YOU!*



# Preparing for Holy Week and Easter



Time passes so quickly that before you know it, Holy Week will be upon us. We need 12 MEN to hold the large pillar candles on Holy Thursday night, April 29, beginning at 6:30 PM, during the reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels. Ten parishioners have volunteered....we need TWO more. Please let Father Bohdan or Tom Hanney know if we can count on YOU to participate in this solemn service. At the conclusion, please stay to help set up the tomb in the center of the Sanctuary.

**THANK YOU!**



Please remember our homebound parishioner:  
Ms. Anna Kuliasha  
St. Martha Center  
470 Manor Avenue  
Downingtown, PA  
19335



Email [sneoc100@gmail.com](mailto:sneoc100@gmail.com)  
to contribute information to this  
Bulletin.

Info **must be received by noon on  
WEDNESDAY** to be published in  
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Editor: Fr. Bohdan



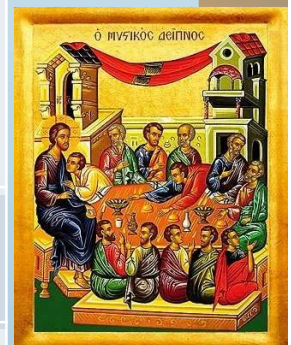
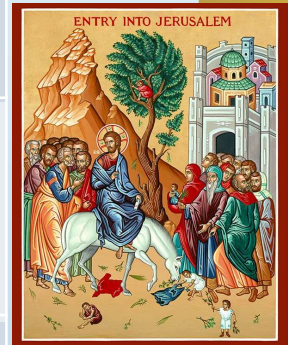
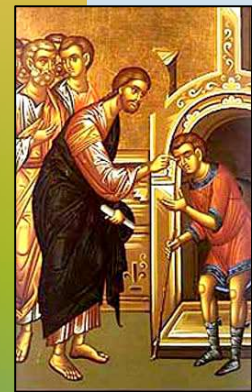
We will be passing the basket following Divine Liturgy on Sundays to collect donations for the AGAPE BREAKFAST, early Easter morning at approximately 1:30 AM, May 2, in our Cathedral Hall, organized this year by Vicki Borriello and Marcia O'Connor. **If you want to bring your favorite Pascha dish, PLEASE SIGN THE SHEET IN THE CANDLE ROOM.** And of course, we will be accepting cash donations, too! **THANK YOU!**



Holy Week is the week from the conclusion of Great Lent on Lazarus Saturday, April 24, to the celebration of Pascha-Easter, May 2. Special services are offered during Holy Week leading us through the events in the last week of Christ's life to his death and Resurrection.

We welcome you to St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral to worship and pray with us during this most solemn week leading up to the glorious Resurrection of Christ.

# Holy Week



Saturday, April 24 <b>LAZARUS SATURDAY</b>	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom 5:00 pm: Vespers and Blessing of Pussy Willows
Sunday, April 25 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b>	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, followed by "Potato Pancake" Fellowship Lunch in the Church Hall
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Friday, April 30 <b>HOLY FRIDAY</b>	3:00 pm: Vespers 6:30 pm: Funeral Service and Procession with Plaschanitsa
Saturday, May 1 <b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, followed by Blessing of Baskets in the Sanctuary
Saturday- Sunday, May 1-2 <b>PASCHA- EASTER</b>	11:30 pm: Matins, Procession, Divine Liturgy, followed by Blessing of Baskets and Agape Breakfast in the Church Hall
Monday, May 3 <b>BRIGHT MONDAY</b>	9:00 am: Reading of The Hours 9:30 am: Divine Liturgy and Procession



# "The Cathedral Swing"

**In an interview with Father Bohdan, he explained that in order to graduate from the Theological Academy, seminarians must complete a course called "Practical Theology."**

**It is in this class that they are taught to swing the censer – also known as a thurible or kadylo – a vessel that burns incense on lighted charcoal during worship services.**

**In order to pass the Practical Theology course, the students must successfully swing the censer in a 360-degree circle, which means that at one point in the circle, the censer is completely upside down. To make this more challenging, the kadylo is filled with water and if one drop is spilled during the 360-degree circle, the student does not pass the test.**

**This 360-degree swing is known as "The Cathedral Swing" and apparently only done by an Archpriest or Bishop in a Cathedral. Now that St. Nicholas is officially a Cathedral, Father Bohdan has promised that he will perform "The Cathedral Swing" on EASTER – but with incense, of course!**

**Come see this priestly feat on the Feast of Feasts!**

The Orthodox Church uses incense -- a very ancient practice -- to help us engage more of our senses during the church service. It also reminds us that God is listening to us and that our prayers are lifted up "as incense." Bishops, priests and deacons are the only people who can incense the church.

