

April 2020

Beloved St. George faithful:

Glory be to God for all things!

With many prayers that we remain healthy, I am also praying that God grants healing to those who are ailing during these times of anxiety and uncertainty. I, too, am worried about our community, our families and the well-being of our society. However, I have the hope that God promises us, that there is a reason for this difficulty. With God's grace, especially as we approach the celebration of the life and passion and ultimately the feast of all feasts, our Lord's resurrection, we are given comfort that His love and His compassion will carry us through these dark days.

Let us continue our Lenten journey in our homes and prepare ourselves like the wise maidens as they were ready to enter with the Bridegroom. Let us wave the spiritual palms of our hearts and proclaim "Hosanna, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Let us follow the entire Holy Week of our Lord's suffering, as he was whipped, spat upon, mocked, crucified and as he sacrificed himself for us. And even in our household, we can proclaim that:

Christ is Risen - Χριστός Ανέστη Truly He is Risen! Αληθώς Ανέστη!

This Pascha, even though we will virtually celebrate the services of Holy Week via YouTube and Facebook, we are one family in Christ with all the Orthodox Christians throughout the world that worship Christ's Three-Day Resurrection. We are grateful to His Eminence Metropolitan Evangelos for being our spiritual shepherd and bestowing guidelines that will keep the faithful safe. Therefore, until further notice, only priest and chanter will conduct services and sadly, during the Holy Week, there will not be distribution of the following in our parishes: palms, Holy Unction, flowers from the Epitaphion or the Holy Light.

Below is the Liturgical Schedule of the Church as we are kindly encouraged to participate and follow one of the mediums that will broadcast live services. Follow along and read your Holy Week books that you have in your homes. You may also find the services on AgesInitiatives.com. - All the services are printed out according to the daily church cycle.

Saturday, April 11

Saturday of Lazarus, Orthros/Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am

Sunday, April 12

Palm Sunday, Orthros/Divine Liturgy 9:00 am
Bridegroom Service, 6:00 pm

Holy Monday, April 13	Bridegroom Service, 6:00 pm
Holy Tuesday, April 14	Bridegroom Service, 6:00 pm
Holy Wednesday, April 15	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 9:00 am
Holy Wednesday, April 15	Holy Unction/Bridegroom, 5:00 pm
Holy Thursday, April 16	Mystical Supper/Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, 9:00 am
	The 12 Gospels/Crucifixion of our Lord, 6:00 pm
Great Friday, April 17	The Royal Hours 9:00 am
Great Friday, April 17	Descent from the Cross/Apokathelosis, 3:00 pm
Great Friday, April 17	The Burial of our Lord/Lamentations 6:00 pm
Holy Saturday, April 18	Great Vespers/Divine Liturgy, 9:00 am
Holy Saturday, April 18	Vigil and Resurrection Service/Liturgy, 11:00 pm
Great & Holy Pascha, April 19	Agape Service, 11:00 am

Finally, some activities that have taken place throughout these times:

- The Parish Council Finance Team, through the guidance of the Metropolis of New Jersey Care Program, has encouraged all parishes to apply for grants and unsecured loans that are available to all non-profit organizations, to cover lost income during these times. The Parish Council will keep our parish updated on this matter.
- The St. George Sunday School faculty met virtually and planned ways to connect with families and students outside of the classroom.
- The St. George facility has been focused on a deeper cleaning of the parish and also not making the entire church property accessible to any traffic.
- The Church Office, even though is closed on the church property, we are thankful to Kathy Mudrick for being available and working from home.
- Also, if anyone has a need, please know I am ready to respond.

With much prayer that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ continues to bless all the people of the world with His mercy and grace.

Paternally in Christ,

Fr. Anastasios Bourantas