April 2021

**Apolytikion of Sunday of the Holy Cross**

Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting our rulers to prevail over adversaries, and protecting Your common-wealth by Your Cross.

**Kontakion of Sun. of the Holy Cross**

Now the flaming sword no longer guards the gates of Paradise; * it has been mysteriously quenched by the wood of the Cross! * The sting of death and the victory of hell have been vanquished; * for You, O my Savior, * did come and cry to those in hell: * "Enter again into Paradise."
Church Office Hours:
Tuesday-Thursday
9:30 am –3:30 pm
Closed for Lunch
12:00 pm–1:00 pm

Sunday Worship
8:15 am-Orthros
9:30 am-Divine Liturgy
10:40 am–Sunday School

Weekly Bulletin Deadline
12:00 p.m. on the Wednesday, one week prior to publication.

Spirit Deadline
Please note that the deadline for submission of articles or for the Spirit is the 15th of each month for inclusion in the following month’s issue. Please remember all submissions are subject to approval. Also, please help us ensure the accuracy of your material by submitting everything in a Word document or email with pictures attached in JPG form.

Bookstore Hours
Closed until further notice

Church E-mail Address
Office: office@st-katherine.org
Church Office Administration– Marjie Thorpe

Church Ministries
Altar Boys..........Nicholas Kretsedemas
Bookstore...Michael & Chryss Danielek
Psalts..................Thanasis Filippis
Dance Groups.........Lisa Bafaloukos
GOYA..........Athena & Jeremy Gonzales
Hrisi Parea...........Carol Stathopoulos
JOY/HOPE......................TBD
Philoptochos..........Marjie Thorpe
Sunday School.........Nicolette Wright
YAL..............................TBD

Fraternal Organizations
AHEPA .....................Daryl Connell
Daughters of Penelope.....Carol Stathopoulos
Arizona Hellenic Foundation...Telis Evripidou

Websites of Interest
Greek Archdiocese of America:
www.goarch.org
Metropolis of San Francisco:
http://sanfran.goarch.org/
**Altar Boy Ministry**

Why should a boy participate as an Altar Boy in the Orthodox Church?

An Altar Boy is dedicated as a server to the Priest in the Sanctuary. You serve the Priest as the angels serve God. You are as close to the holiest places and to the most sacred actions as any man can be. As an Altar Boy you are enriching your own spiritual life and nourishing love for Christ and His Holy Church. You are continuing a tradition of the early Altar boys who dedicated themselves as servers to the Priest and sacred work in the Sanctuary.

All boys ages 8-18 years of age are encouraged to become an Altar Boy and serve the Lord like the angels that are above. If interested, contact me for more information.

In Christ,
Nicholas Kretsedemas

Contact information: dkretsedemas@cox.net / 480-213-2061

Current Altar Boys: Thomas French, Christopher Bafaloukos, Nicholas Mounkes, Dylan Shuman, Gabriel, Christian & Ilarion Gonzales

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**SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!**

**Arizona Hellenic Foundation**

The Arizona Hellenic Foundation has several scholarships available for eligible students. For more information and applications please visit our website: [https://azhellenic.org/](https://azhellenic.org/)

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**Information on ordering koliva for memorials:**

The ladies of St. Irene Philoptochos provide the service of preparing koliva for the Memorial Services of our parishioner’s loved ones. Parishioners may request koliva by calling the church office. Due to the new guidelines, our presentation of the koliva has changed. Individual, sealed packages of koliva will be presented on a tray or in a basket for the service. Once Church Services have ended, the koliva will be moved to the table next to the north-side door for parishioners to pick up a packet as they exit the church.
The Importance of Attending The Great Feast Days of the Church

Within our Orthodox faith, we have 12 Great Feast days. They are called “Great” because they are days when we celebrate events in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, and His mother, the Most Holy Theotokos which are for our salvation. Of these 12 Great Feast days, 4 are dedicated to the Mother of God and 8 to Jesus Christ. The four for the Theotokos are:

- The Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8th)
- The Entrance Into the Temple of the Theotokos (November 21st)
- The Annunciation of the Theotokos (March 25th)
- The Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15th)

The eight for Christ are:

- The Exaltation of the Cross (September 14th)
- The Nativity of Christ (December 25th)
- Theophany (January 6th)
- The Presentation of Christ (February 2nd)
- Palm Sunday (Sunday before Pascha)
- The Ascension of Christ (40 days after Pascha)
- Pentecost (50 days after Pascha)
- The Transfiguration of Christ (August 6th)

You may notice that Pascha/Easter is not listed. That’s because Pascha is considered the Feast of all Feasts and stands alone. As practicing Orthodox Christians, it’s so important to attend these services. I refer to them as “must attend” services because if one is committed to a life in Christ, there would be nowhere else to be, there would be nothing else that one would rather be doing that be in God’s home worshipping their Creator and giving thanks for all that they have given.

By attending these services, as well as other services in the church, we express our gratitude and love to Christ and His Mother for the life we have been given and for the love expressed to us by our Lord, through His Incarnation, Life, and Sacrifice on the Cross. To choose not to attend and observe these Feast Days is at the very least indifference. Orthodox Christians around the world who have had their freedom to worship stripped from them would have difficulty understanding why someone would choose not to go to the house of God and offer worship to Him.

In the Gospel of St. Luke (14:16-23) Jesus shares the parable of The Great Banquet, where “a certain man was preparing a great banquet and invited many guests. At the time of the banquet, he sent his servants to tell those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ This parable reminds us of our own personal invitation to come to God’s home, the church, to attend and observe the feast days of our Lord and His Mother and to enjoy the Great Banquet of the Eucharist (Holy Communion). As the parable continues, we read, “but they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, ‘I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me. Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out.

Continued on page 5
Please excuse me.’ Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’ What is it that we would say today as far as our excuses? Maybe we would say, “I’ve been working all day and I’m just too tired,” or “I just went to church a couple of days ago,” or “I have so much to do right now.” Or, perhaps some will say, “I’m not that religious.”

If we look at “going to church” as an obligation instead of an opportunity to be with Christ, and to worship God, who has given us the life we enjoy, then I can see why we wouldn’t want to go. However, if we are able to see the life we have as a gift that has been given to us, and we can acknowledge that we are also being offered the gift of eternal life, then we would want to be with our Benefactor every chance we get. Sadly, I have witnessed one to many times when people are at the end of their life express regret for not having made time for God, basically, for putting other things before Him. My hope is this will not be the case for you. “Now is the time,” as St. Paul says, for when we leave this life it’s too late. Now is the time to think about your relationship with God, think about His work in our life and for our salvation. Indeed, He stands at the door of our heart and knocks, and if we listen, and hear His voice, and open the door of our heart, the door of our life to Him, He will enter (cf. Rev. 3:20).

Here is my suggestion, put in your calendar, at the very least, the Major Feast Days of our Lord and the Mother of God and make every effort to be there. We typically have Great Vespers the evening of the Feast Day and Liturgy the day of so we should be able to make one of those if not both. Second, search on the internet the name of the Feast Day in the Orthodox Church and read up on it so you become familiar with the meaning of it. This way, you not only become more informed, you also deepen your appreciation for it. This is how it becomes meaningful to us.

The invitation has been sent, the resources are at your fingertips, now you simply need to act.

With love in Christ,
Fr. Timothy

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**BIBLE STUDY**

Please join us for Bible Study on Zoom Wednesday mornings from 10-11 a.m.

- Apr 7, 2021 10:00 AM
- Apr 14, 2021 10:00 AM
- Apr 21, 2021 10:00 AM
- Apr 28, 2021 10:00 AM

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87248108391?pwd=ejM5d05SRysrUHFyQzNUY1c1bllrdz09#success
March 29, 2021

To our Parishioners, Friends, and Supporters:

It was heartwarming to meet for our Spring General Assembly on Sunday, March 28, 2021. Yay! If you were unable to attend, please consider joining us at future General Assemblies: stay informed, be heard, get involved. With sincere appreciation to Spiro Apergis, Gust Bafaloukos, and Tommy Boritas for the yummy fasoulada soup.

St. Katherine has awesome parishioners. Many give their time, talent, and treasure in many countless ways, not so they can gain recognition but for the love of the church, our faith, and our community. I am encouraged by the outpouring of support, the willingness of our parishioners to step up and serve our church, and the desire to make a difference. To all of you, with appreciation and gratitude, “thank you”.

A special “shout out” and recognition:
• To the Kagadis family for their generous donation to remove the dead trees from the 4th acre and for repainting the SRP electrical boxes on the east side of our Education Building.
• To our supporters, John and Mary Demetropoulos, for their generous donations to provide “seed money” to start our “A Taste of Greece” To Go events.
• On behalf of our beloved St. Katherine, our Parish Council, and our entire parish, “thank you” to Demetrios Deliz for his dedication and commitment to St. Katherine for his many years of service. Demetrios “retired” from the PC earlier this year.

St. Katherine has many great and exciting opportunities ahead of us and some challenging times as well. Regardless, though, of the good, the challenging, once in a while, the ugly, we can always count on you for your love and support of St. Katherine.

Wishing you and your friends and family “Kalo Pascha”.

With sincere gratitude and appreciation
For the love and support of St. Katherine

Evangelia Archuleta, President
On behalf of the St Katherine Parish Council

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CHURCH ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES AND RESERVATIONS

We may now allow up to 150 parishioners to attend each Liturgy. Those wishing to attend the Sunday Divine Liturgy must make a reservation each week (there is no need to register for weekday services).

Once you have completed the online form, your reservation is confirmed.

Please click to register your attendance for one or more of our next Divine Liturgy Services. Sign-ups for each service will close at 5 p.m. on the evening before the date of the service.

Parishioners without email access may contact the church office at (480) 899-3330.
2021 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Lazarus Saturday – April 24th
• 8:30 a.m. Orthros
• 9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

Palm Sunday – April 25th
• 8:30 a.m. – Orthros
• 9:30 a.m. – Divine Liturgy
• 6:00 p.m. – 1st Bridgroom Service

Holy Monday – April 26th
• 6:00 p.m. – 2nd Bridgroom Service

Holy Tuesday – April 27th
• 9:00 a.m. – Presanctified Liturgy
• 6:00 p.m. – 3rd Bridgroom Service

Holy Wednesday – April 28th
• 6:00 p.m. – Holy Unction

Holy Thursday - April 29th
• 9:00 a.m. – Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
• 6:00 p.m. – The 12 Gospel readings

Holy Friday – April 30th
• 9:00 a.m. – Royal Hours
• 3:00 p.m. – Apokathelosis Vespers (Descent from the Cross)
• 6:00 p.m. – Lamentations

Holy Saturday – May 1st
• 9:00 a.m. - Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil
• 11:15 p.m. – Resurrection Canon

Great and HOLY PASCHA – May 2nd
• 12:00 a.m. – Orthros
• 1:00 a.m. – Divine Liturgy

All services will be live streamed on the St. Katherine Facebook page.
AHEPA 454—Greek Independence Day

Since the opening of St. Katherine, the church community along with AHEPA Chapter 454 has celebrated the March 25th, 1821 a the birthday of modern Hellenic Republic. This year due to Covid-19 it was not possible to hold a celebration. Instead AHEPA Chapter 454 obtained the following proclamations by the mayors of Phoenix and Chandler.

We thank the two mayors and the AHEPA Chapter 454.
Celebrating 200 Years of Greek Independence!

Join AHEPA 454 and Greeks throughout the world in celebration of Greek Independence Day, March 25th.

In 1821, the Greeks rose up against the Ottoman Empire which had occupied Greece for almost 400 years, leading to the War of Independence. Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavra, inciting the Peloponnese to rise up against the oppressors. The Revolution ended in 1829 when the Treaty of Edirne established an independent Greek State.

CITY OF PHOENIX

PROCLAMATION

On the 200th anniversary of Greek Independence Day, we celebrate the special ties of friendship, history, and shared values that the City of Phoenix has with the nation of Greece. This year marks 200 years since the start of the Greek War of Independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1821.

Greek Americans are an integral part of our city’s culture and its history. Greek heritage is reflected in our city’s story of achievement while the contributions of Greek Americans enhance our city growth and economy making it a better place to live and work.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, KATE GALLEGU, Mayor of the City of Phoenix, Arizona in accordance with the law, do hereby proclaim March 25, 2021 as GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY in the City of Phoenix and ask all Phoenicians to join the celebrations of our friends in the Greek community.

Mayor Kate Gallego
City of Phoenix
Daughters of Penelope
Aegina Chapter #340 News
April 2021

Our chapter President Carol Stathopoulos, Secretary Michele Lotakis who is also the “Veteran Moms and Babies” Project Chairman, and Josephine Avaneas delivered our baby shower gifts we donated to the Veteran Moms and Babies Program last month in Phoenix. On hand to accept the gifts donated were Joan Sisco and Program Manager of Veterans First, Ltd Kathy Laurier.

We are also continuing to collect gently used books for the Blue Star Moms of the Southwest Valley. They send care packages to military members and veterans every month. So far, we have collected over 465 books for them! Special “Thank you” to Leo Condos for his generous donation!

We would like to invite the Maids of Athena members who are 18 years old & up that are without a viable Maids chapter to join us! See contact information below.

Our meetings are usually the third Monday of the month. More information to follow if we will be meeting on Zoom or in person.

If interested in joining the DOP, contact Theresa Fardelos (602) 290-6158 or Carol Stathopoulos (480) 988-3277.
Please help us provide a special holiday dinner for families in our community who are in need of a helping hand.

To make a donation please see Kathy Connell, Josephine Avaneas, or Marjie.

All donations are greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU!

Red Egg Dye for Pascha
Κοκκίνη Βαφή για αβγά
$3.00 Each **OR** 2 for $5.00

(Available in the Narthex)

Please make Checks out to:
St Irene Philoptochos
Many thanks not only to those who donated items, but to the Co-Chairmen – Nicolette Wright & Kathy Connell and those listed below who gave of their time to help make this happen!

Michelle Lotakis, Linda Blazev, Lisa Bafaloukos, Georgia Souris, Barbara Georgousis, Diana McNaughton, Zoe Benton, Kathy Sky, Pam Corcoran, Marjie Thorpe
The Muscle: Daryl Connell, Larry Dye, Sam Kladis, Dean Argyros, Eric Sky, Todd Wright, Mike Kladis

A Heartfelt Thank You To Our Kids ‘n’ Cancer Camp Agape Donors!

On Saturday, January 30, 2021, the Arizona Philoptochos Chapters launched our Thirteenth Annual Camp Agape Auction & Fundraiser for Kids ‘n’ Cancer - Camp Agape. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the event was held online this year. The auction closed on March 8, 2021, but donations are still being accepted. 100% of the proceeds from the Agape Auction & Fundraiser support the Kids ‘n’ Cancer - Camp Agape Family Cancer Camp program. Your auction purchases and generous donations are helping make that happen.
Blessed Lent! We pray your lenten journey brings you closer to our Savior!

St. Katherine GOC is happy to present our families with a hybrid Sunday School model through May 2021.

What is our hybrid model? Our hybrid model includes our weekly Prayer Package, which is our digital Sunday School lesson preparing families for the upcoming Sunday’s Gospel, while also providing in-person lessons for PreK - 6th grade and Pastoral led lessons for grades 7th - 12th.

In-Person Sunday School Classes!

PreK - 2nd grade, meets after Holy Communion in the Community Center for 20 minutes. Teachers: Nicolette Wright and Lisa Bafaloukos

3rd - 6th grade, meets after Holy Communion at the playground steps for 20 minutes. Teacher: Kathy Waldo

7th-12th grade, meets in the front pews following liturgy for 15 minutes. Teacher: Fr. Timothy Pavlatos

Don’t forget to register!

Love,
Marina, Karen, Antigoni & Nicolette
OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2021

**SUNDAYS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Gospel Reading</th>
<th>How to Participate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY 21st</td>
<td>Fast - Free Week</td>
<td>Publican and the Pharisee</td>
<td>Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FEBRUARY 28th</td>
<td>Normal Fast Week</td>
<td>The Prodigal Son Returns!</td>
<td>Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, “Today I will be humble.” Use up/freeze meats this week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH 7th</td>
<td>Meatfare</td>
<td>The Last Judgement</td>
<td>Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARCH 14th</td>
<td>Cheesefare</td>
<td>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</td>
<td>Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 21st</td>
<td>1st Sunday of Lent</td>
<td>SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY</td>
<td>Bring an icon to church for a procession.</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARCH 28th</td>
<td>2nd Sunday of Lent</td>
<td>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</td>
<td>Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 4th</td>
<td>3rd Sunday of Lent</td>
<td>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</td>
<td>Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 11th</td>
<td>4th Sunday of Lent</td>
<td>ST JOHN of the LADDER</td>
<td>Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 18th</td>
<td>5th Sunday of Lent</td>
<td>ST MARY of EGYPT</td>
<td>Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 25th</td>
<td>FLOWERY [PALM] SUNDAY!</td>
<td>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</td>
<td>Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APRIL 30th</td>
<td>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</td>
<td>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</td>
<td>Refrain from TV, Internet &amp; Phones to honor Christ’s Death.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY 2nd</td>
<td>FEAST OF FEASTS!</td>
<td>BRIGHT WEEK</td>
<td>Greet everyone with “CHRIST IS RISEN!” &amp; say it before good morning and goodnight!</td>
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**TRIODION WEEKS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Themes / Gospel Reading</th>
<th>How to Participate</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.</td>
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<td>Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, “Today I will be humble.” Use up/freeze meats this week.</td>
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<td>Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.</td>
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**St. Katherine Sunday School 2020-2021**

Weekly distribution of Sunday School lessons will be provided electronically from October - December 2020.

In-person begins Jan. 2021 (schedule is subject to change):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 3</th>
<th>Holiday Break No Sunday school</th>
<th>March 14</th>
<th>Sunday school</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 10</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>March 21</td>
<td>Sunday of Orthodoxy Bring Icons to church!</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 17</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>March 28</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 24</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>April 4</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>April 11</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
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<td>February 7</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>April 18</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>April 28</td>
<td>Palm Sunday No Sunday School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 21</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>May 2</td>
<td>Pascha No Sunday School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>May 9</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 7</td>
<td>Sunday School</td>
<td>May 16</td>
<td>End of Year Ceremony!</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

School starts right after communion at 10:45. All classes will end at 11:45.
Come receive the light from the light that is never overtaken by night and glorify Christ who is risen from the dead.

— From the Resurrection Service

Dear Parents,

On Holy Saturday Evening, we sit in church surrounded by darkness and reverently wait for a single flame to bring forth light to us all. The priest comes out of the royal gate carrying this light. As he chants the above hymn, a warm glow creeps slowly from candle to candle; and suddenly a once darkened church is beautifully illuminated and burning bright. The challenge of the Resurrection is to carry the light home with us each Pascha—not just with our candles but with our hearts, letting this light radiate through all we do as individuals and families. We must remember that long after our Pascha candle has melted, the light of Christ still burns strongly in us; we need to become human candles that pass Christ’s light to each person we encounter!

Journey through Holy Week was created for young people in grades 6–9. This guide is offered as a companion to use alongside the zine to help you and your family walk through this most holy of weeks together. You can download it from http://religioused.goarch.org/holyweekguide.pdf. As we proceed toward the Resurrection, we pray that this resource will help your family grow closer to our Lord and Savior. May we all experience the joy of the Resurrection so that we proclaim triumphantly: Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!

With Love in Christ,

Center for Family Care
Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

FAMILY RESOURCES FOR HOLY WEEK

There are many wonderful resources to guide you through your Holy Week and Paschal journey. For more, visit the special Lenten section of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Web site at lent.goarch.org.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN

Christ Has Risen, Children! by Svetlana Visotskaya—The story of Pascha as celebrated in the Orthodox Church, told through magnificently colorful iconographic art. Available from Light and Life Publishing.

BOOKS FOR TEENAGERS

Holy Week and Pascha by Euphemia Brière—The period in the life of Christ from the raising of Lazarus to the Resurrection, as reflected in the Divine Services of the Orthodox Church. Simply explained, with beautiful full-color icons and iconographic illustrations, it is a treasure for ages 10 to adult. Published by St. Nectarios Press.

BOOKS FOR ADULTS

Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home by Fr. Anthony Coniaris—This very popular book on the Church at home devotes an entire section on how to make Holy Week and Pascha an integral part of family life. Published by Light and Life.

HOLY WEEK AND PASchal MUSIC

Thy Passion by the Boston Byzantine Choir—This CD brings the listener the most beautiful moments of Holy Week from the morning of Lazarus Saturday to the evening of Holy Friday. It celebrates the Passion of Christ in the tones and hymns of the most ancient Christian church yet understandable to English speakers. It can be ordered at www.conciliapress.com.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Phyllis Onest (www.phyllisonest.com)—Go to the “Resources” section under “Lent and Pascha” and you will find many resources for families. We especially recommend the booklets Getting Ready for Holy Week and Pascha and A Young Person’s Guide to the Lenten and Holy Week Services, as well Preparing Our Children for Holy Week Services and Pascha, a guide for parents and teachers.
PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK

On Holy Tuesday (at the service held Monday evening), we commemorate the Parable of the Ten Virgins. As the parable goes, all of the women took lamps with them to meet the bridegroom, but only five brought extra oil with them so that their lamps wouldn't extinguish.

These women took the time to properly prepare themselves to enter into the Feast. Let us look to the example of the wise virgins to properly prepare ourselves for the Feast of Pascha by making sure we have enough “oil” to make it through Holy Week. Here are some suggestions for how to get your family ready.

ASSESS YOUR WEEK

• Get a copy of your Church’s Holy Week schedule of services and other activities.

• Decide how your family will be participating in the different services and activities taking place, and then write them on your family calendar for all to see.

SET ASIDE WHAT YOU CAN

• Consider your typical household tasks, and your typical weekly running around. Are they really necessary? If you can, postpone them and move them to do another time.

• Consider canceling piano lessons, ballet, baseball and other extra-curricular activities for this week—missing one week will not matter in the grand scheme of life.

• There are other things you need to eliminate as well—jealousy, anger, gossip, etc.there is no time for these things this week. Actually, working to rid yourself of these permanently would be even better, but for now let’s start with this week.

PREPARE! PREPARE! PREPARE!

• Anything you can do before Holy Week, you should do.

• Set a family workday to prepare for Holy Week, perhaps between the Saturday of Lazarus morning service and the evening vespers. Clean the house, wash and iron the clothes, and do all of the week’s cooking.

• Make a list of things that despite your family’s workday will still need attention during the week. Divide up the tasks and allot the proper time to complete them during the week. Remember you need to keep things simple!

• Make a big pot of beans and rice (yes, you can eat it several nights in a row), pre-make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and lay out everyone’s clothes for the week.

BE STILL AND QUIET

• Turn off the television. Turn off the radio (or turn on church music).

• If you can, disconnect completely from your cell phone and email. If you cannot do this because of necessity, designate certain times of the day when both are off limits (perhaps from the time you get home from work until you leave the next morning).

• Create a quiet time when your family refrains from talking unless there is an emergency. For children, make sure they have something to help them focus their attention on God during this quiet time through prayer, reading, writing, or even drawing a picture.

Take yourself out of the world just for one week—it will still be waiting for you when you come back. Holy Week is just seven days; set them apart and commit as a family to live your lives radically different for this time. Give your life completely to God—after all, He gave His life completely for us!

—Adapted from “Preparing for the Feast” by Melissa K. Tsongranis (Orthodox Observer, March 2008).
At Home and In Church with Your Family

As we walk through Holy Week, there are a few things we as parents can do to help our children become active participants in all that the week has to offer. To begin, learn about the different days and what is commemorated on each (a good source for information on this is your child’s zine). Also, look at the service ahead of time in a Holy Week service book. Familiarizing our children with the service will help them know what to expect, listen, and look for. If your children are young and won’t be able to handle all of the services, integrate the Bible readings, prayers, and themes from the services into their bedtime routine. Again, keep it simple; inspire their hearts, but don’t bombard them with a detailed analysis of each service. Here are some additional activities you can do to live out Holy Week each day both in the home and in church.

Saturday of Lazarus

Learn through icons. Holy Week has a treasure trove of beautiful icons that tell the story. Before you go to church, familiarize your children with the various icons they will see this week. You can find many of the icons in your child’s zine and on various Orthodox Web sites. Consider ordering a Holy Week Ornament Kit. This kit has seven Holy Week icons on shrink plastic. The icons can be colored and shrunk to ornament size when briefly baked in the oven. Available from Paidea Classics at www.paideaclassics.org.

At Church Today: Today many Churches enlist the help of the children to fold palms for Palm Sunday. If this is a practice in your parish, have your child join the fun.

Palm Sunday

Learn about Holy Week through its beautiful hymns. Look ahead and start teaching some of them to your children. In doing this, you will help your child better connect with the service they are attending. Look on the Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha Web site of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America at www.lent.coarch.org/holy_pascha/learn to listen and learn some of these hymns.

At Church Today: The first of the Bridegroom services begins this evening. If you can, attend as a family. Let your child know that the priest will process out with the icon of the Bridegroom. Have your children take note of the difference between this icon of Jesus and the other icons of Him in your church.

Holy Monday

There are two important themes we will hear about in tonight’s service—preparedness and hypocrisy. Today take sometime time to read the parable of the wise and foolish virgins (Matthew 25:1–13) and discuss how we can prepare to receive our risen Lord. Also, consider discussing hypocrisy. How do we strive to live sincere lives as Christians and not be hypocrites to the world?

At Church Today: Last night your child heard for the first time the beautiful hymn “Behold the Bridegroom Comes.” Encourage them tonight to try to chant it along with the chanter/choir.

Holy Tuesday

Today the theme of repentance rings loudly as we learn about the story of the sinful woman. Read Luke 7:36–50, the Gospel lesson that tells her story. Have your children think of something they can offer to honor Christ just as she did. It can be as simple as a drawing or a prayer, or more complex like volunteering time to help those less fortunate.

At Church Today: During tonight’s Bridegroom service, we have the beautiful hymn of Kassiani. For older children, have them listen closely to the hymn (or read it in English if it is being chanted in Greek). Have them take note of how it is tells the story from the Gospel lesson read at home earlier in the day. It is important for our children to realize that our Church’s hymnology is based on the tradition and scriptures of our faith.

Holy Wednesday

Today at many Orthodox parishes the Sacrament of Holy Unction is offered. Learn more about it by reading “Preparation
for the Sacrament of Holy Unction,” a wonderful article by Fr. Theodore Petrides (from the March 2007 Youth Worker Pulse e-mail, available via http://tinyurl.com/cwzegg). For additional information about the sacrament, read page 9 of the zine.

**At Church Today:** The service of Holy Unction consists of seven Epistle and seven Gospel readings. The length of the service can be challenging for children. Come equipped with paper and crayons and let them know you expect them to pay close attention to the Gospel readings and then draw a picture about each one. When you go home, have your children share their creations and recount the different Gospel lessons.

**Holy Thursday**

Today plan to dye your Pascha eggs. Learn about the symbolism of the eggs by reading page 17 of the zine. Dye some the traditional red, and allow more creativity with other eggs. Allow children to decorate these eggs with religious symbols using a variety of special egg-decorating materials (found at a craft supply store). For older children, consider learning the techniques used to create Ukrainian eggs. These ornately decorated eggs will provide you with a beautiful keepsake from your Pascha festivities.

**At Church Today:** Today begins with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil. Try to attend as a family before going to work or school. The day will end with the evening service, which includes the reading of Twelve Gospels telling the story of Christ’s Crucifixion. This is a beautiful but very long service, and it can be a challenge for children and their bedtimes. If this is an issue, try to come for part of the service. Make sure to properly prepare your children by letting them know what to expect and look for during the service. Just after the fifth Gospel reading, Jesus is put on the cross.

**Holy Friday**

Today, try to keep your home as quiet as possible. Consider keeping schoolchildren home for the day so they can spend it preparing for the Resurrection. As you will want to bring the light of the Resurrection home with you after the midnight service, have your children prepare for this by decorating a large jar candle. You can decorate it with religious symbols using paint pens and paper icons.

**At Church Today:** Remember that the liturgical celebration doesn’t end with the Resurrection Service; it continues with the beautiful Agape Vespers the next day. This service proclaims the Gospel in many languages. If you or your children are able to speak another language, let your parish priest know; he may ask you to read the Gospel in the language during this service.
CHALLENGE: LIVING THE RESURRECTION

When the Myrrhbearing Women came to the tomb of Jesus on the third day, the angel said to them, "He is not here, but is risen!" and they quickly brought the good news to the Apostles. Likewise, on the road to Emmaus, Christ joined two of His disciples and revealed Himself to them after He had broken bread with them. They, too, returned to Jerusalem and joyfully proclaimed that, "The Lord has risen indeed!"

In the Orthodox Church we are blessed to have the beautiful tradition of the Paschal Resurrection service. After we receive the light of Christ from the priest and proclaim, "Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!" some of us will remain until the end of the Resurrection service to receive Holy Communion, and to experience the "glory" and "splendor" of the "new and Holy Pascha." Sadly, however, many of us will instead return home early carrying our lit candles, and conclude this "Feast of Feasts" by merely keeping the tradition of making a cross in the doorway of our home and enjoying the delicious Paschal food.

What are some ways we as families can keep the flame from the light of the Resurrected Christ burning in our hearts after the Paschal celebrations are over? How can we continue to imitate the joy of the Myrrhbearing Women and the disciples who were visited by the Risen Lord? Here are some challenges:

Focus on the fact that the Resurrection doesn’t end on Pascha—the Church gives us 40 days to celebrate it. We sing “Christ is Risen” in our daily prayers and we light our Pascha candle as a physical reminder of Christ’s coming out of darkness. We also continue to proclaim “Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!” every time we greet someone.

More than just with words, Christ spoke with His actions. Make Pascha a time for you and your family’s own “Paschal resolutions.” As a family, create a list of simple things you want to change or improve. Make it fun by creating a reward chart for parents as well as children. Be sure to hold one other accountable, but don’t forget to have fun!

Bringing the Light of Christ home means not only continuing all of the good habits we strove to establish throughout Lent but also sharing the “light” with others. By continuing to pray, serve the needy, and witness to others in our daily activities, we keep Christ’s light bright. As a family, start a service project or continue one you started during Lent.

If finding time for Bible study hasn’t been easy, this is a great time to start. For daily readings from Pascha until Pentecost, follow the lectionary of the Church, who, in Her wisdom, focuses on the Gospel of John and the Book of Acts. For young children, read from a children’s Bible or try to make the original understandable at their level.
St. Katherine Sunday School
COVID Measures:

● We are opening “Phase 1” on November 1st, which includes Pre-K - 2nd grades only.
● Students will proceed directly to the Community Center following Holy Communion.
● Class will be from approximately 11:00 - 11:20.
● Masks are required for all students and teachers; extra masks will be on hand should any student forget to bring one.
● Class areas are set up to allow for physical distancing.
● Doors will remain open during class.
● Hand sanitizer will be used upon entry and exit of the classroom.
● Snacks and water will not be provided.

To our parents, please make a family commitment to regular participation and attendance in this crucial ministry. Discuss with your children the importance of attending the Divine Liturgy in a timely, prepared, and proper way, and of them investing their lives in Christ and His Church. Know that our teachers and volunteer staff recognize as most treasured and precious the responsibility of instructing Christian youth, and strive to maintain the goals of meeting each of their needs in prayer, faith, and love!
STEWARDSHIP 2021

Dear Faithful Stewards of St. Katherine,

There are many things I could say about Stewardship, but I will keep it simple.

We give to that which we feel is meaningful, important and a worthwhile investment. We will gladly be a part of something we believe in.

If we believe that Jesus Christ sacrificed His life for us, resurrected from the dead to defeat death in order that we may enjoy eternal life in His Kingdom, then we will support the Church’s mission and ministries by giving of the time, talent, and treasure that we have received from God. We will do this out of the immense gratitude we have for all that God has blessed us with. In Greek we call this “Philotimo,” grateful indebtedness. In other words, we cannot NOT give back knowing all that we have received.

For several years St. Katherine’s has relied on the Greek Festival in order to survive. The time has come, however, where we can no longer depend on the Festival. I have served two parishes which were supported 100% through the stewardship of the faithful, and these parishes were not full of wealthy people. With God’s help, and if each one of us makes the church our priority, and we pool our resources of time, talent, and treasure, we will be able to support the mission and ministries of the church without needing to rely on a festival.

Our time on this earth is limited and there is much to do. There is no time to waver or hold back. The mission and the ministries of the Church will either be our purpose in life, or they won’t. Our Lord is asking us to be His hands, feet, and mouthpiece to continue what He started. The question is, will we all take this to heart and answer the call.

As you fill out this pledge card for 2021, please keep these things in mind. My prayer is that all of you will choose to be a part of the mission of the Church. Even though the sacrifices we make will always pale in comparison to what our Lord sacrificed for us, they are nevertheless vital, and we all play a part.

With love in Christ,

Fr. Timothy Pavlatos
**Place your business ad here!**
Contact the Church Office
(480) 899-3330

Prices will begin the first month your add will run and will run for 11 issues!

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To subscribe to our “Weekly Update” please email the office at: office@st-katherine.org

Click here to get the January Calendar online:
St. Katherine Community Center

Facility Amenities

- Seating capacity for 350 plus dance floor, stage, and bar
- Full kitchen with walk-in refrigerator
- Plenty of parking
- Tables and chairs available
- Auditorium seating for 400 people
- Reception packages available

Facility Uses

- Wedding Receptions
- Baptism Receptions
- Quinceniera Receptions
- Wedding & Baby Showers
- Birthdays & Anniversaries
- Banquets
- Business Meetings & Conferences
- Inside Basketball Court

Call us today to book your Special Event!

For contact information regarding availability and costs, please call the Church Office at: (480) 899-3330