

St. George the trophy bearer

Sunday School Bulletin

MAY 2021

Did You Know

Pascha is the most glorious feast of the Church and is very special everywhere—but at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem, something amazing happens every year. The Holy Sepulchre is at the very place where Christ's body was laid and where He resurrected. This church is very large and houses both the Tomb and the hill of Golgotha where Christ was crucified. Every year on Holy Saturday, the Patriarch of Jerusalem enters the inner chamber of the Tomb and waits in the darkness. After saying certain prayers, a miracle happens and from the very stone on which Jesus' body was laid a great light pours forth! This light is fire, but not regular fire, it is bluish in colour and does not burn. People put their hands in the flame, and they don't get burned. The Patriarch lights his candle from it and then shares the flame with the other Patriarchs who then share it with all the faithful.



Liturgical colours

The Orthodox Church traditionally uses different colors to mark the seasons of the liturgical year, certain feast days and other observances. The colors of clergy vestments, altar coverings and cloths on icon stands will often change to offer a visual clue of the season or the feast day. On Easter night the colours in the church will change from purple to white and gold.

Gold is the symbol of the uncreated light of God. It is the symbol of God's majesty and glory. *"Lord my God, you are very great; you are clothed with splendour and majesty. The Lord wraps himself in light as with a garment"* (Psalm 104). It also signifies the glory that we will all experience in God's eternal kingdom. This is why in many icons the saints are painted on a golden background.



Holy Week Services

Holy Monday

On Great and Holy Monday, we commemorate the parable of the cursing of the fig tree. We are invited to be faithful and to acquire and bear the fruits of the spirit: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22-25).

Holy Tuesday

On Great and Holy Tuesday, we are invited to be like the five wise virgins and fill our oil lamps in preparation for the second coming of Christ. Let us be watchful and vigilant and ready to meet Christ. We are also invited to faithfully use our talents for the glory of God and the welfare of others. Make a list of your God given talents!

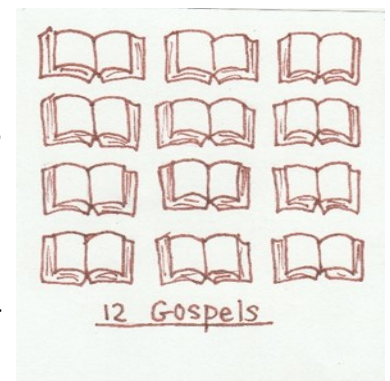
Holy Wednesday

On Holy Wednesday, the church celebrates the Sacrament of Holy Unction. Listen for the Seven readings from the Epistles, seven readings from the Gospels, and seven prayers for the sanctification of the oil.

Holy Thursday

Vesperal Liturgy of Holy Thursday. This is called the service of the last supper because it is the last time that Jesus will eat with His disciples before He will be crucified on the cross. During this service we remember the first Holy Communion which took place at the Last Supper. The first Holy Communion occurred at this Passover feast when Jesus Christ gave bread and wine to His Apostles and told them to "do this in remembrance of me." Jesus also comes before each disciple as a servant would and washes their feet. He washes their dusty feet to make them more comfortable and tells them that they must serve each other as He is serving them.

Reading of the Passion Gospels. During this service of Holy Thursday, we hear the entire account of Christ's Passion. The reading is taken from all four gospels in order to include every detail and is divided into twelve parts. This is a lengthy service that contains two significant events attributed to Holy Thursday: The Last Supper and Judas' betrayal. At the service, watch as each candle is lit before each reading. Try to count the candles after each lighting. Also, listen for the special communion song: At Thy Mystical Supper.



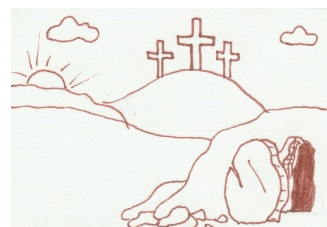
Entombment. Great and Holy Friday is the most somber day of Holy Week; and so, the Entombment service helps us express our sorrow over Christ's death on the cross. We see a "tomb" where an icon of Christ lays, and each person is welcome to lay flowers around it. We prostrate before the icon and venerate it. The service contains hymns of lamentation and sorrow for both Christ's death and our own sins. After the lamentations, we process around the church 3 times carrying the burial shroud and singing the Noble Joseph hymn.



We join those who love You O Lord, in their lamentations. And we look forward to the Third day!

Holy Saturday

Matins and Paschal Liturgy. When we come to Church late Saturday evening, the Church is very quiet and dark. The only light comes from the flickering candles. We leave the Church and walk around it (the procession) singing a beautiful hymn that tells us Christ has risen from the dead. Each person carries a small, lighted candle. The Gospel is read at the Church entrance; then the priest pounds on the door three times. It is opened, and when we return inside, the Church is full of light! Candles are glowing everywhere. The priest's white vestments seem to glow! The tomb of Jesus is gone. The Church seems bigger and brighter. We sing loudly and with great excitement many times: "Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life." This is the happiest service of the year and we are glad to be part of it!



Easter greetings

Arabic:	El Messieh kahm!	Hakken kahm!
English:	Christ is risen!	Truly He is risen!
Ethiopian:	Christos t'ensah em' muhtan!	Exai' ab-her eokala!
French:	Le Christ est réssuscité!	En verite il est réssuscité!
German:	Christus ist auferstanden!	Wahrlich Er ist auferstanden!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Japanese:	Harisutos Fukkatsu!	Jitsu ni Fukkatsu!
Latin:	Christus resurrexit!	Vere resurrexit!
Romanian:	Hristos a inviat!	Adevărat a înviat!
Tlingit:	Xristos Kuxwoodigoot!	Xegaa-kux Kuxwoodigoot!
Ugandan:	Kristo ajukkide!	Kweli ajukkide!



Craft



Dye Red Eggs - In the Greek tradition, Holy Thursday is the day designated to dye red eggs. The red color is symbolic of Christ's blood, and since Holy Thursday evening's service (which is done in anticipation of Friday) is the day when Jesus is nailed to the cross, many choose to dye their eggs on this day.

Onion Skin Method - If you're wanting a natural way to dye eggs, try the onion skin method! You'll need the papery skin of about 10-12 brown/yellow onions to make this happen.

Red Dye - You can also buy high-quality dye to easily prepare vibrant traditional red eggs.

Q and A

Why did Christ have to be crucified?

Christ could have died in any number of ways, but He died on the cross. Why was He crucified and why is it important? Christ has two natures; He is fully God and Fully man. Christ's divine nature could have saved Him from death if He wanted it to, but Christ humbled Himself completely by becoming man and being obedient even to death. Christ's humility allowed Him to show His love for us because He died for us. When Christ was alive, crucifixion was the most terrible and humiliating way to die. He suffered the worst type of death, abandonment, mockery, and humiliation; He experienced it all and He did it so that He could be with us in every kind of human situation. He truly knows what it is like to be human, and it is through the cross that we can be with Christ all our lives on earth and even in eternity.

MAY BIRTHDAYS Three of our Sunday School children are celebrating their birthday in May:

George Frunzulica

May 10



Ana Frunzulica

May 14



**GOD
GRANT
YOU
MANY
YEARS!**



Julia Mang

May 22

