

VOL. 20 | APRIL 2023

THE DELIVERER

A Monthly Newsletter of St. George Upper Darby



APRIL DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sunday 4/2 St. Mary of Egypt
- Sunday 4/9 Triumphal Entry of Christ into Jerusalem ('Palm Sunday')
- Holy Week April 9 - 15
- Sunday 4/16 GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA
- Friday 4/21 & Saturday 4/22 St. George Spring Retreat
- Sunday 4/25 Thomas Sunday & Feast of St. George

Daily Cycles of Prayer

This year our Sunday School is concentrating on the Divine Liturgy. As a companion, the newsletter over the next few months will have articles concerning the larger cycle of services and prayer life within the Orthodox Faith and Tradition.

Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday

By Fr. Thomas Hopko

The week following the Sunday of Saint Mary of Egypt is called Palm or Branch Week. At the Tuesday services of this week the Church recalls that Jesus' friend Lazarus has died and that the Lord is going to raise him from the dead (Jn 11). As the days continue toward Saturday, the Church, in its hymns and verses, continues to follow Christ towards Bethany to the tomb of Lazarus. On Friday evening, the eve of the celebration of the Resurrection of Lazarus, the "great and saving forty days" of Great Lent are formally brought to an end:

Having accomplished the forty days for the benefit of our souls, we pray to Thee, O Lover of Man, that we may see the holy week of Thy passion, that in it we may glorify Thy greatness and Thine unspeakable plan of salvation for our sake ... (Vespers Hymn).

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Lazarus Saturday is a paschal celebration. It is the only time in the entire Church Year that the resurrectional service of Sunday is celebrated on another day. At the liturgy of Lazarus Saturday, the Church glorifies Christ as “the Resurrection and the Life” who, by raising Lazarus, has confirmed the universal resurrection of mankind even before His own suffering and death.

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy passion, Thou didst confirm the universal resurrection, O Christ God! Like the children with the branches of victory, we cry out to Thee, O Vanquisher of Death: Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he that comes in the name of the Lord! (Troparion).

Christ –the Joy, the Truth and the Light of All, the Life of the world and its Resurrection—has appeared in his goodness to those on earth. He has become the Image of our Resurrection, granting divine forgiveness to all (Kontakion).

[Continue reading here](#)



New Icons - Pt. 1

By Caroline Becker

If you’ve attended any services since Forgiveness Sunday at St. George you will have seen our two newly commissioned icons in the nave: St. David of Wales and St. Moses the Ethiopian. If you haven’t been in awhile, then please “Come and see (Jn. 1:39)”. We are very grateful for our partnership with iconographer Nick Papas in visioning and producing these icons. These saints were chosen for 3 main reasons: their indigenous connections to Greater Philadelphia combined with their reflecting of the global Orthodox family; their patronage of separate groups affiliated with our parish, The House of St. David and The Fellowship of St. Moses; and their lives of prayer, struggle, and humility.

Saint David, Patron of Wales, said to have been the son of a Welsh chieftain, lived in the latter half of the sixth century. Ordained to the priesthood, he studied under the tutorship of a disciple of Saint Germanus, who later became Bishop of the Isle of Man, and engaged in missionary work and the building of churches in many places. Eventually, he settled in the southwest corner of Wales, at Menevia. There he founded a monastery known for its extreme austerity, in imitation of the desert fathers. Eventually he was consecrated Bishop of the primatial See of Wales, Menevia, afterwards known as Saint David’s in his honor. He reposed in the Lord about the year 601 AD and, through the years, has been venerated as one of the greatest and most beloved saints of the British Isles. He is the namesake for the neighborhood of St. Davids, PA in which Eastern University resides. Did you know the first Welsh Episcopal church of St. David’s was established in 1715 and that the town was later named after the church? Thus St. David is connected to us via this historic Welsh immigrant community.

The House of St. David was a reading and fellowship group established by the late Tim Becker in the spring of 2016 after he made connections with Orthodox students he had taught at Eastern University, as well as members of our parish. This group took St. David as their patron and following, his charism of ascetic and charitable practices, would participate in routine disciplines of praying the midnight office (at 2am!), reading & discussing the Philokalia, listening to sacred music and serving the poor. The House of St David also partnered with local parishes to host all-night prayer vigils on a few occasions. After Tim's repose in 2018 the structured activities of the House eventually stopped, but the ongoing love for and devotion to St. David has continued.

Next Month we'll learn about the life of St. Moses and the Fellowship named after him.

April Greeters and Readers

April 2

Greeters: SOYO
Reader: Brigid San Chirico

April 9

Greeters: Parish Council
Reader: Michael Solomon

April 16

Greeters: St. Katherine Women
Reader: Renee Gillam

April 23

Greeters: Ministry Teams
Reader: Caroline Becker

Interested in being a greeter?

Contact
Ed Donahue at
edjdonahue@gmail.com

Interested in being a reader?

If you're interested in becoming a reader for the Epistle on Sunday, please contact the church office.

Upcoming Events

Meal Trains

Congratulations and many years to Dcn. Joseph and Rebecca on the birth of their daughter Sarah, and to Ed and Karla Donahue on the birth of their daughter Elizabeth. If you would like to help the families with a meal during this time of transition for their families, please click the links below to sign up.

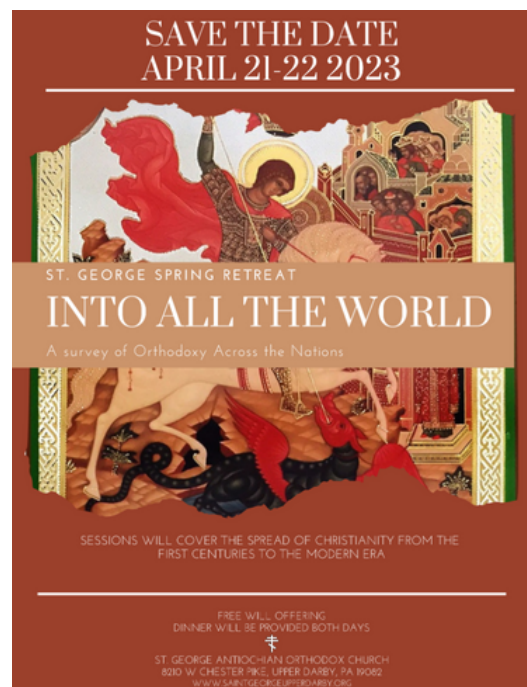
- Clark family: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/9vvrrl>
- Donahue family: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/nlw8o7>

Holy Week & Pascha Flowers

If you would like to make a donation toward the flowers used during Holy Week and Pascha, please fill out the form using this link: <https://forms.gle/ea4KBBjmLnHiEhJ47>. Donations can be made online or in the regular offering basket at church; please use "Pascha flowers" as the designation.

St. George Spring Retreat

Our Spring Retreat will take place on April 21-22 at St. George. The theme for this year is "Into All the World: A Survey of Orthodoxy Across the Nations." Retreat speakers will present on the historical witness of the Church throughout the world, from Apostolic times to the modern era. Please visit www.stgeorgeupperdarby.org for more information.



Parish Life Conference 2023

The annual Eastern Dioceses Parish Life Conference will be held at the Antiochian Village June 28 - July 2. The Conference is hosted by St. Moses the Black Mission, and the Speaker is Hieromonk Andrew Wermuth. Please use the QR code in the bulletin or visit www.stgeorgeupperdarby.org for more information.



HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA



April 8 - April 16, 2023
Saint George Orthodox Church
Upper Darby, PA

*“Let none fear death,
for the death of the Saviour has set us free.
Christ is risen and the demons have fallen.
Christ is risen and the angels rejoice”.*

+St. John Chrysostom

LAZARUS SATURDAY – April 8

9:00 a.m. Daily Orthos for Lazarus Saturday

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy with Baptism

THEME: The raising of Saint Lazarus from the dead is a pledge of our own resurrection. Father will prepare the gifts explaining to the children what each part means.

11:30 a.m. Lenten Brunch and Sunday School Talk

12:00 p.m. Parish Clean-up

4:00 p.m. Great Vespers

THEME: Three readings from the Old Testament help us prepare to welcome Christ who comes as a King to usher in Salvation.

PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 9

9:30 a.m. Matins and Blessing of Palms

10:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

THEME: The triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem before His voluntary death is recalled. Carrying palm branches, the faithful join in procession around the outside of the church in recognition of this historic event.

6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Service

THEME: The commemoration of the noble Joseph and the Gospel account of the fig tree that withered remind us that our lives are intended to produce ripe fruit.

GREAT MONDAY – APRIL 10

6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Service

THEME: The account of the wise and foolish virgins reminds us of the need for to be watchful at all times expecting the arrival of Christ.

GREAT TUESDAY – APRIL 11

9:30 a.m. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Service

THEME: The anointing of Christ by the woman at Bethany reminds us of our sinfulness and our need for humility and mercy. The hymn of St. Cassiani calls us to pursue a spirit of reflection and repentance.

GREAT WEDNESDAY – APRIL 12

6:30 p.m. Sacrament of HOLY UNCTION

THEME: The Sacrament of Holy Unction is celebrated for the healing of our souls and bodies. The themes of the 7 Epistle and Gospel readings are: repentance, forgiveness, and healing.



GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY – APRIL 13

9:30 a.m. Vespertal Divine Liturgy

THEME: The Mystical Supper of Christ with His disciples is remembered as He offers the Mystery of His Body and Blood for our salvation. He commands us 'do this in memory of Me'.

6:30 p.m. The Service of the Passion Gospels

THEME: The passion and death of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is read from twelve Gospel accounts. The life giving Cross is placed in the center of the church for our contemplation and veneration.



GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY – APRIL 14

10:00 a.m. The Royal Hours and the decorating of the Tomb

3:00 p.m. Vespers - commemorating Joseph of Arimathea's removal of the Body from the Cross.

6:30 p.m. Orthros with the Lamentations of the Theotokos

THEME: The life giving death on the Cross of Our Saviour Jesus Christ, the removal of His sacred body and the placing in the tomb are commemorated. As we relive these events we are reminded that the most beloved One has given over His very life for our sake. The sacred shroud and decorated bier are carried in funeral procession around the outside of the church as we relive the burial of our Lord.

All Night Vigil

Following the service we remain in church throughout the night keeping watch before the tomb of Christ. The Psalter and Gospels are read along with accounts from the lives of the saints.

GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY – APRIL 15

10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy

THEME: The tomb of Our Lord is our focus as we realize the death and burial of Christ and anxiously anticipate the joy of His Resurrection. The morning is one of both sorrow and joy. During the Liturgy we scatter bay leaves, and ancient sign of victory, to acknowledge Christ's victory over death.

10:30 p.m. Rush Procession and Resurrection Matins

THE GREAT AND GLORIOUS PASCHA – APRIL 16

MIDNIGHT PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY

THEME: The Glorious Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the sign of universal life. The 'true light' is offered and a candle lit procession makes its way around the church reminding us that the Light has overthrown the darkness. Blessed red eggs are offered as a sign of new life. The Paschal exclamation 'Christ Is Risen' is offered and exchanged. The Paschal Liturgy is celebrated in the light filled church as if in the light giving tomb of the Resurrection.

12:00 p.m. Agape Vespers of the Resurrection

THEME: The Joyous Resurrection of Christ is announced and celebrated with the reading of the Resurrection Gospel in many languages.

*Christ is Risen! – Truly He is Risen!
Christos anesti – alithos anesti
Al-maseeh qam – Ha-qan qam
Christos voskrese – Vo-istinu voskrese
Hristos a Inviat – a Deverat a Inviat
Le Christe est Resucité – En verité Il est Resucité
Icristo ha Resucitado – En verdad ha Resucitado
Kristo ame fukuka – Kweli ame fukuka*



April 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Vespers 5pm
2 St. Mary of Egypt Orthros 9:30am Liturgy 10:30 am St. Katherine Women Meeting 12:30 pm	3 Great Compline 6:30 pm Maintenance Committee 8 pm	4 Matins 9am Akathist 7pm Choir Practice 7 pm	5 Presanctified Liturgy 6:30 pm	6 3rd Hour 9am	7 Little Compline with Canon of Lazarus 6:30 pm	8 Lazarus Saturday Daily Orthros 9am Liturgy 10am Vespers 5pm
9 PALM SUNDAY Orthros 9:30 am Liturgy 10:30 Palm Sunday Lunch St. Katherine Bake Sale Bridegroom Orthros 6:30pm	10 Holy Monday Bridegroom Orthros 6:30 pm	11 Holy Tuesday Presanctified 9:30 am Bridegroom Orthros 6:30pm	12 Holy Wednesday Holy Unction 6:30pm	13 Holy Thursday Liturgy 9:30am Orthros & 12 Passion Gospels 6:30pm	14 Holy Friday Royal Hours 9:00am Decorating Bier 10am Orthros & Lamentations 6:30pm All-night Vigil	15 Holy Saturday Liturgy 10am Rush Service 10:30pm Paschal Orthros 11pm Paschal Liturgy 12am Agape Meal following
16 HOLY PASCHA Agape Vespers 12pm	17 Bright Monday Paschal Office 9:30 am	18 Bright Tuesday Paschal Office 9:30 am Choir Practice 7pm Akathist 7pm	19 Bright Wednesday Paschal Office 9:30 am	20 Bright Thursday Paschal Office 9:30 am	21 Bright Friday Liturgy - Feast of the Life Giving Font 9:30 am Spring retreat 7pm (Dinner Included)	22 Bright Saturday Spring Retreat 9 am - 4:30 pm Vespers 4:30 pm Retreat Dinner and Panel Q&A
23 Thomas Sunday & Feast of St. George Orthros 9:30am Liturgy 10:30 am	24	25 St. Mark the Evangelist Liturgy 9:30 am Choir Practice 7pm Akathist 7pm	26	27 3rd Hour 9:30am	29	30 3Bible Study 4 pm Vespers 5 pm

To view the full calendar visit www.saintgeorgeupperdarby.org

Not on our mailing list? Contact Christiana at office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org to add your name to our mailing list.

St. George Orthodox Church
8210 West Chester Pike, Upper Darby, PA 19082
610-853-1171 • office@saintgeorgeupperdarby.org