

**Palm Sunday** is the celebration of the triumphant entrance of Christ into the royal city of Jerusalem. He rode on a colt for which He Himself had sent, and He permitted the people to hail Him publicly as a king. A large crowd met Him in a manner befitting royalty, waving palm branches and placing their garments in His path. They greeted Him with these words: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel! (John 12:13).

This day together with the raising of Lazarus are signs pointing beyond themselves to the mighty deeds and events which consummate Christ's earthly ministry. The time of fulfillment was at hand. Christ's raising of Lazarus points to the destruction of death and the joy of resurrection which will be accessible to all through His own death and resurrection. His entrance into Jerusalem is a fulfillment of the messianic prophecies about the king who will enter his holy city to establish a final kingdom. "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on an ass, and on a colt, the foal of an ass" (Zech 9:9).

Finally, the events of these triumphant two days are but the passage to Holy Week: the "hour" of suffering and death for which Christ came. Thus the triumph in an earthly sense is extremely short-lived. Jesus enters openly into the midst of His enemies, publicly saying and doing those things which most enrage them. The people themselves will soon reject Him. They misread His brief earthly triumph as a sign of something else: His emergence as a political messiah who will lead them to the glories of an earthly kingdom.

Our Pledge

The liturgy of the Church is more than meditation or praise concerning past events. It communicates to us the eternal presence and power of the events being celebrated and makes us participants in those events. Thus the services of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday bring us to our own moment of life and death and entrance into the Kingdom of God: a Kingdom not of this world, a Kingdom accessible in the Church through repentance and baptism.

On Palm Sunday palm and willow branches are blessed in the Church. We take them in order to raise them up and greet the King and Ruler of our life: Jesus Christ. We take them in order to reaffirm our baptismal pledges. As the One who raised Lazarus and entered Jerusalem to go to His voluntary Passion stands in our midst, we are faced with the same question addressed to us at baptism: "Do you accept Christ?" We give our answer by daring to take the branch and raise it up: "I accept Him as King and God!"

Thus, on the eve of Christ's Passion, in the celebration of the joyful cycle of the triumphant days of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we reunite ourselves to Christ, affirm His Lordship over the totality of our life and express our readiness to follow Him to His Kingdom:

... that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead (Philippians 3:10-11).

Very Rev. Paul Lazor

## **Holy Spirit Orthodox Church - Wantage, NJ**

**Archpriest Samuel Kedala, Rector**

**Joanne Patrick, Choir Director**

### **Parish Council**

**Timothy Kachur, Starosta (Sr. Warden)**

**Mark Benda, Jr. Warden**

**Michael Olsen, Treasurer**

**Co-Secretaries Doris Livanos/Susan Matthews**

### **Council members**

**Edward Engelsman • Michael Chwan • Anna Seniw • Louis Matthews**

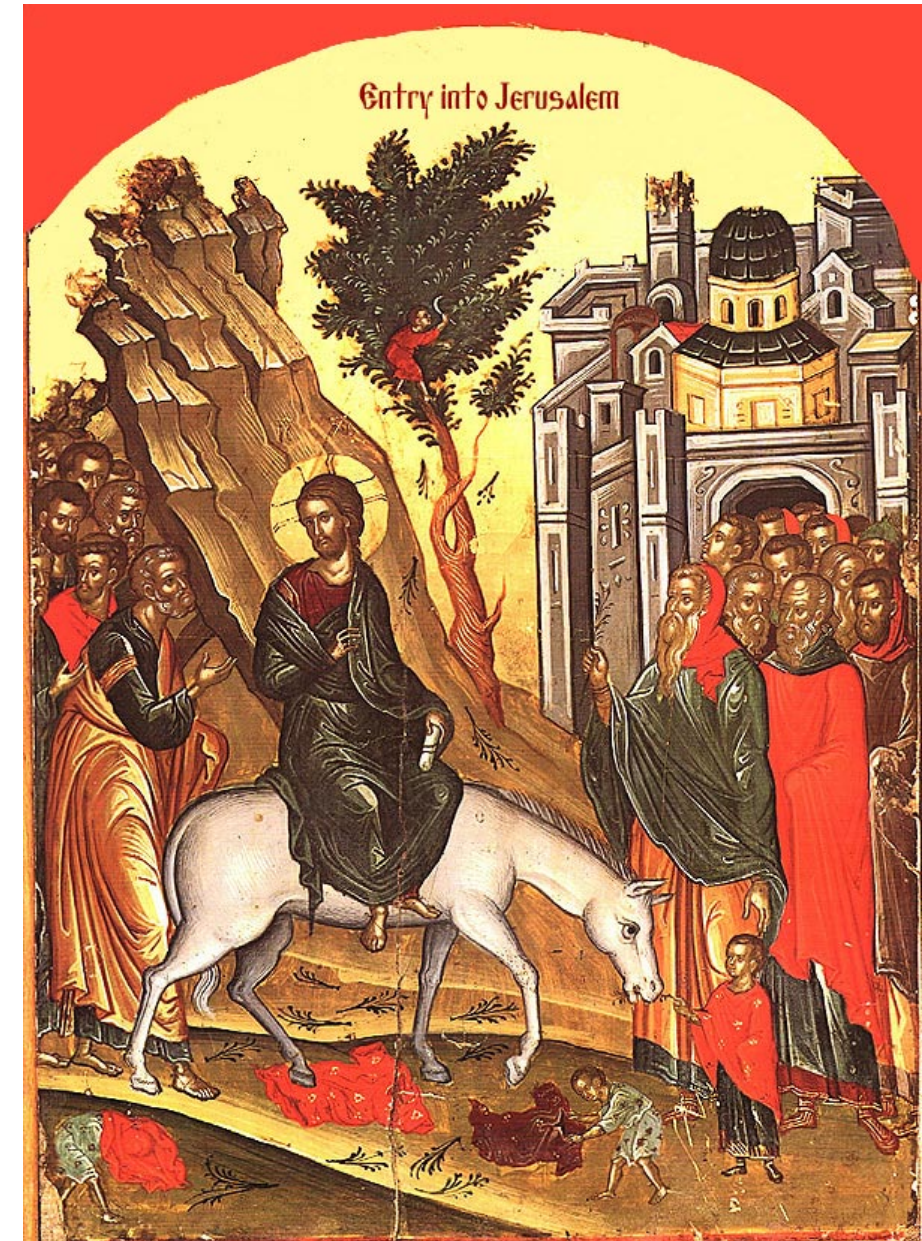
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# **Holy Spirit Orthodox Church**

102 Route 284

Wantage, New Jersey

April 1, 2007



**Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem**

# Orthodox Church of the Holy Spirit

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## Sunday, April 1, 2007

**Today .. 4:00 PM Lenten Mission Vespers-Ss. Peter & Paul Church, South River, NJ**  
**Monday .. 7:00 PM Bridegroom Matins - Confessions**  
**Tuesday .. 7:00 PM Bridegroom Matins - Confessions**  
**Wed. .. 7:00 PM Service of Holy Unction-Confessions**  
**Thurs. 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy, 7:00 PM Matins and reading of the 12 Passion Gospels**  
**Friday .. 3:00 PM Vespers bring out of the Holy Shroud and placing it in the tomb**  
**7:30 PM Matins, Lamentations - Candle Light procession around the Church**  
**Holy Sat. .. 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy,, Confessions**  
**11:30 PM Nocturnes, 12 Midnight Procession, Matins, Divine Liturgy,**  
**Blessing of Paschal Baskets, Agape meal downstairs.**  
**Sunday .. 11:00 AM Paschal Vespers, Procession, Easter Egg Hunt**

## Today's commemorated feasts and saints...

**ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM (Palm Sunday).** Ven. Mary of Egypt (522).  
Ven. Evfimii (Euthymius) of Suzdal' (1404). Martyr Abraham of Bulgaria (1229). Ven.  
Gerontii, Canonarch, of the Kiev Caves (Far Caves 14th c.). Ven. Macarius, Abbot of  
Pelecete (ca. 830). Martyrs Gerontius and Basilides. Righteous Achaza.  
**Philippians 4:4-9 John 12:1-18**

## BULLETIN

**Thank you** to the **Engelsman Family** for hosting the Coffee Social last week. **The Chwan family** is hosting today. **No one** is signed up for future Coffee Socials. Please **sign-up downstairs** if you can help with hosting one.

**Please** sign-up up for the upcoming **Vigil at the grave of our Lord**. The tradition in our Church is that we have 2 people for two hours each around the clock guarding the Grave of our Lord and reading from the Acts of the Holy Apostle. Please sign-up downstairs. **Please don't break this wonderful tradition and opportunity to serve our Lord**. A sign-up sheet is downstairs on the Candle desk.

**A sign-up sheet is also downstairs for those who would donate hardboiled eggs dyed red for distribution at the Paschal services. Please help if you can. They must be brought to the Church well before the Paschal services begin. Holy Saturday morning would be a good time.**

**A Basket in the Vestibule** downstairs is for collecting foodstuffs for the needy of the Sussex Borough and the surrounding areas. The sign attached to the basket describes the items needed. **Despena Eptamenitis who attended their meeting on Monday has passed on the information that the Help Center especially needs jars of Jelly, canned fruits and canned or packaged juices (non-refrigerated)**. Please buy an extra

can, box or food item listed so that the needy can be fed.

**The Mission Vespers Service** will take place this afternoon at **Annunciation Church, Brick, NJ**. Father Samuel will be going there if you need a ride, see him.

Remember that you **must** participate in the sacrament of **Holy Confession** in this period of Great Lent. Father Samuel will be available before and after each service to hear your confession. Try to partake of this great sacrament early in the Great Fast so that you may more fully participate in the services with a cleansed mind and soul.

Our Food Certificate (card) chairperson **Loren Chwan** will be offering the Food Cards at this morning's Coffee Social. Buy your food cards today. **Great for Gifts.**

**Sunday School begins at 9:15 AM** every Sunday morning.

There is a **Car Removal Program** that has been offered to our parish. If anyone knows of someone who has an old car or junker that is sitting around and they would like to get rid of it, let us know. It will be towed away at no expense, our Church will receive \$100.00 and the owner will receive a tax deduction for the value of the vehicle (more money will be given to the Church if it has more value).

**Please Help and remember** to send in your **weekly donation or pledge** even when you have **not attended Church** on a Sunday. Our Church depends on your weekly contributions to pay our obligations. Thank you.

**PLEASE PURCHASE** gift cards for shopping at ShopRite and A & P stores. They are working out wonderfully. Very convenient for shopping. No cash, no checks, just a little card. They are great, and our church benefits by your using them.

**WE HAVE SHOP RITE AND A&P GIFT CARDS-STOCK UP ON GIFT CARDS FOR YOUR REGULAR SHOPPING & AS GIFTS TO OTHERS**

Please keep the following people in your prayers: Catherine Schwed, Thelma Macheska, Alyssa Karakos, Mary Kwak, Frank Higginbotham, Matushka Evelyn Kreta, Pat Nauditt, Chaplain Fr. Peter Daratsos, Stefan Szemetylo, Christopher, infant Ella Jane, Corinne Matthews, Dan Taylor, Stephen Kachur, Lynne Goodwin, Loren Chwan, Pighi Mardaloescu, Don McGuire, Valentina Bobrowsky and Aidan Stovin.

## SEVEN DAY VIGIL CANDLES

By the **Kruzelnick Family** in Blessed Memory of **+Michael** (Apanasow)  
By **Joanne Hosbach** for the Health, Salvation and **Happy Birthday** of **Despena Eptamenitis 3/25**  
By the **Benda Family** in Blessed Memory of **+Michael** (Apanasow)  
By **Joanne Hosbach** in Blessed Memory of **+Catherine** (Symchick) 28 yrs 4/1  
By the **Benda Family** in Blessed Memory of **+Gunda** (Cook)  
By the **Livanos Family** in Blessed Memory of **+Michael** (Apanasow)

**Seven day vigil candles** are available for the faithful to sponsor in memory of their departed, the sick, or for the general intentions (anniversaries, birthdays, weddings, baptisms, etc.). They will remain lit on the altar and table of oblation. The suggested donation is \$10.00 each and will burn for seven days. The intentions and those who offered them will be announced in the weekly bulletins. You may purchase your offering at the Parish Council office.

If you would like to have something published in the weekly bulletin, e-mail or bring typed copy to Father Samuel by Wednesday of the week prior to the Sunday you would like it published.