

WELCOME TO ST. SOPHIA

440 Whitehall Rd., Albany, New York

Welcome to the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. The glass-enclosed narthex is designated for parents with infants and young children. Everyone is asked to remain in the narthex during the “*Small Entrance*,” “*Great Entrance*,” “*Epistles*,” and “*Gospel Readings*”. Also, please remember to turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Also know that there is a wheelchair and a walker available to those who have mobility needs. Please ask a Parish Council member at the Pangari.

If you are a visitor or newcomer, we are pleased to have you with us. Please introduce yourself to a parish council member at the Pangari and also sign the guest book. Remember that only those who are baptized or chrismated in the Eastern Orthodox faith may participate in the Holy Sacraments including Holy Communion. Following church services, everyone is invited to attend the fellowship hour in the parish hall. *Our website is <http://stsophia.net>*

Today: Palm Sunday

On Sunday, five days before the Passover of the Law, the Lord came from Bethany to Jerusalem. Sending two of His disciples to bring Him a foal of an ass, He sat thereon and entered into the city. When the multitude there heard that Jesus was coming, they straightway took up the branches of palm trees in their hands, and went forth to meet Him. Others spread their garments on the ground, and yet others cut branches from the trees and strewed them in the way that Jesus was to pass; and all of them together, especially the children, went before and after Him, crying out: "Hosanna: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel" (John 12:13). This is the radiant and glorious festival of our Lord's entry into Jerusalem that we celebrate today.

The branches of the palm trees symbolize Christ's victory over the devil and death. The word Hosanna means "Save, I pray," or "Save, now." The foal of an ass, and Jesus' sitting thereon, and the fact that this animal was untamed and considered unclean according to the Law, signified the former uncleanness and wildness of the nations, and their subjection thereafter to the holy Law of the Gospel.

Palm Sunday

April 9, 2017 – April 16, 2017

9 Sunday	9:30 am	<i>Divine Liturgy</i>
	11:45 am	Palm Sunday Luncheon
	7:00 pm	<i>Service of the Bridegroom</i>
10 Monday	7:00 pm	<i>Service of the Bridegroom</i>
11 Tuesday	7:00 pm	<i>Service of the Bridegroom</i>
12 Wednesday	6:30 pm	<i>Holy Unction</i>
13 Thursday	6:00 am	Philoptochos Easter Egg Dying
	7:30 am	<i>Liturgy–The Last Supper</i>
	6:30 pm	<i>The Crucifixion–The 12 Gospels</i>
14 Friday	8:30 am	<i>Hours</i>
	10:00 am	Epitaphio Decoration

	4:00 pm	<i>Apokatheloses–“The Unnailing Service”</i>
	6:30 pm	<i>Lamentations</i>
15 Saturday	9:30 am	<i>Divine Liturgy–The First Resurrection</i>
	11:45 pm	<i>The Resurrection Service–Divine Liturgy</i>
16 Sunday	11:00 am	<i>Agape Service</i>
		Agape Fellowship
		Sunday School Easter Candy Hunt

News & Events

- ▶ Tickets are still available for our traditional Palm Sunday lunch. The menu will feature a baked fish with a white bean ragout, oven roasted potatoes, broccoli, lentil soup, and dessert. There will be fish sticks and french fries for the kids. Tickets will be available during the fellowship hour today. Tickets are \$15 for adults; children 6-17, \$10; free for children under 5.
- ▶ In observance of Holy Week, there will be no classes, meetings, or other activities this week.
- ▶ “*Good wishes from your family.*” “In memory of a loved one.” “**A business ad.**” Think about doing a personal or business ad in our **St. Sophia Greek Festival Program Book**. The book is not only available during our festival but also in the lobby during the remainder of the year. And because there are recipes and feature articles, it makes for a good keepsake. But it’s the ads and sponsors that make this book a significant fund raiser as well. Please take a copy of last year’s book and a 2017 contract form (gold colored) which can be found on the table in the lobby. Do a family ad, promote your own business, or find a business that you frequent to sponsor an ad. Deadline for ads has been extended to April 17.
- ▶ Philoptochos will be having a garage sale on April 22. Gently used household goods, toys, linens, books, sporting goods, luggage, small furniture items, books in good condition are needed. Please bring donations to the nursery classroom.
- ▶ Holy Week Books are available at the Pangari and the office. The cost is \$25.
- ▶ GOYA is doing an Easter collection for Grassroots Givers to distribute to needy families. Items requested include children’s books in good condition; also new kitchen towels, dishcloths/sponges, and dish soap for “gift baskets”. The collection box is across from the coat room.
- ▶ For the Resurrection Service, for the Agape Service, uniquely decorated “Children’s Lambathes” for Easter can be a special gift for a child. Proceeds from these candles will benefit the Greek School program.
- ▶ An opportunity for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Holy Land trip is scheduled for October 31 through November 9. The cost for the trip is all inclusive-- flight, hotels, tour guides, two meals per day for \$3,485. Registration forms must be completed and a deposit of \$350 is due by April 30. See Father Pat.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. Fourth Mode. Psalm 117.26,1.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures forever.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9.

BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Reading

Palm Sunday

The Reading is from John 12:1-18

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazaros was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazaros, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazaros out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

Apolytikion for Palm Sunday in the First Mode

In confirming the common Resurrection, O Christ God, Thou didst raise up Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion. Wherefore, we also, like the children, bearing the symbols of victory, cry to Thee, the Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Apolytikion for Palm Sunday in the Fourth Mode

As by baptism we were buried with Thee, O Christ our God, so by Thy Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising Thee, we cry: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal Second Mode

In Heaven, He is seated upon a Throne and on earth He rides upon a foal. O Christ our God, accept the praise of the Angels and the hymn of the Children who cry out to You, "Blessed are You who comes to recall Adam."