

SAINT JAMES ORTHODOX CHURCH, MODESTO, CALIFORNIA
VARIABLE READINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS
FOR APRIL 28, 2024

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THIS WEEK AT SAINT JAMES

- Today—**The Teen SOYO group will be selling decorated candles to use during Palm Sunday and throughout the week.** They are available for a \$5 donation, with funds set aside for both the SOYO Youth Program and Casa Cuna Infant Orphanage (see flyer on the St. Thekla bulletin board across from the bookstore with information about the orphanage).
- Today—**NO Sunday School classes**, so our children can participate in the Palm Sunday procession.
- Today, 1:00 to 2:00 PM—**“Our Faith” class for inquirers and catechumens.**
- Today, 1:00 to 2:00 PM—**Kid’s Club.**
- Sunday, April 27 at 6:30 PM—**Bridegroom Matins.**
- Monday, April 28 at 6:30 PM—**Bridegroom Matins.**
- Tuesday, April 29 at 6:30 PM—**Bridegroom Matins.**
- Wednesday—May 1 at 6:30 PM—**Service of Holy Unction.**
- Thursday, May 2 at 9:00 AM—**Vespers Divine Liturgy with service of foot washing, and commemoration of the Last Supper.**
- Thursday, May 2 at 6:30 PM—**The Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels.**
- Friday, May 3 at 7:00 AM—**First and Third Royal Hours.** (Followed by decoration of the bier, etc.)
- Friday, May 3 at noon—**Sixth and Ninth Royal Hours.**
- Friday, May 3 at 3:00 PM—**Burial Vespers.**
- **Friday, May 3 at 6:30 PM—The Lamentations, with procession of the funeral bier.**
- Friday, May 3 from 9:00 PM to 9:00 Saturday—**All-night Vigil at the tomb of Christ.** Sign-ups are in the narthex. 9:00 PM to midnight reserved for Teen SOYO.
- Saturday, May 4, 9:00 AM— **Vespers Divine Liturgy plus baptisms of Austin "Thomas" Souza, Julian "Thomas" De-Graft Johnson and Eden Faith Coelho.**
- Saturday, May 4, 10:00 PM—**Paschal Rush Procession.**
- Saturday, 10:45 PM to 1:00 AM (May 5)—**Paschal Matins and Divine Liturgy**, followed by the blessing of meat & eggs & Pascha baskets (bring a Pascha basket for your family), and an all-church potluck (the breaking of the Lenten fast) and fellowship. (See notes on below.)
- Sunday, May 5 at 1:00 PM—**Agape Vespers.**
- Sunday, May 5 from 2:00 PM to dusk —**Pascha Picnic** on the lawn area at Casa Cielo.

THE HOLY WEEK FLYER ON PAGE 3 GIVES A FEW MORE DETAILS.

HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA PREPARATIONS

There is lots to do to prepare for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Pascha: As the saying goes, “Many hands make light work.” **Please see the sign-up sheets (posted on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall)** for ways you can help us make this upcoming Holy Week and Pascha memorable. The lists include supplies needed as well as a variety of tasks that need to be done on certain days from Lazarus Saturday through to the Pascha Picnic on May 5.

A NOTE ABOUT PASCHA BASKETS AND FOODS FOR PASCHA NIGHT

- **Pascha Baskets:** It is traditional in many Orthodox countries around the world to bring a Pascha basket to Church at the time of the late-night Paschal Liturgy. These baskets are placed towards the front of the church before the Liturgy begins, and are blessed immediately after the Liturgy. The Pascha Baskets can contain a sampling of any of the foods your family has been missing during Lent, such as cheese, meats, boiled eggs, or wine; they may also contain Easter candy or any of the things

you might find in a Western-style Easter basket. Please only bring one basket per family to church to be blessed, as space at the front of the church to place the baskets is limited. *You may either open up your Pascha basket on Pascha night or bring it home for the family to share the next morning.*

- **Pascha Night Potluck:** Separate from the Pascha Baskets, it is our tradition to have a special Paschal Potluck following our late-night Liturgy. There will be no potluck sign up for this meal. **We ask that each family bring a large quantity of ONE type of food to share** (meat, cheese, and egg dishes appreciated!).

BIRTHDAYS, FEAST DAYS, AND ANNIVERSARIES:

- April 30—Lucy Valentine (Forquer) and Andrew Mayer’s birthdays
- May 1—Tamara Wharton’s feast day (St. Tamara of Georgia)
- May 4—Lauren Forquer’s feast day (St. Monica)
- May 5—Samuel Quilici’s birthday
- May 7—Victoria Lua’s birthday
- May 8—Emilia Estrella and Emily Swehla’s feast day (St. Emmilia)
- May 8—Juan Barragon and Russell Hick’s feast day (St. John the Apostle)
- May 8—Ryan Swehla’s birthday

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Confessions. **Great Lent is an essential season of confession and repentance.** Confessions will be heard Saturday evenings after Vespers, Mondays and Fridays after services, and by appointment through Sh. Yolanda Elizabeth.
- Wednesday nights between Pascha and Pentecost, beginning May 8—**Each Wednesday night during the Paschal Season St. James will be hosting Family Night!** The evenings will begin with a short service (the Paschal Office during Bright Week; Daily Vespers on usual weeks). A simple dinner will be offered, followed by break out classes for different age groups and interests.
- May 11, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM—**Bright Saturday Pool and Spa Party** at Nancy Becker’s home (4201 San Marino Drive, Salida). The Beckers will supply beverages. Please bring snacks and desserts to share. Please RSVP to Nancy Becker (209-602-0459) by 5/8/24.
- **July 3–7—2024 Parish Life Conference.** This year’s conference, hosted by Holy Resurrection Church, will take place in beautiful Tucson, Arizona at the Westin La Paloma Resort and Spa. Follow the link to the event page for registration and event details: www.antiochianevents.com/la

PROSPHORA & FELLOWSHIP LUNCH SPONSORSHIP:

Please be in touch with Stephanie Collins if you would like to change scheduled dates, or have questions about the schedule. Note: Fellowship lunch sponsors are responsible for clean-up unless otherwise noted.

Date	Prospora	Fellowship lunch sponsor
Sunday, April 28	Anna Younathan	All-church Palm Sunday potluck (<i>fish allowed</i>)
Thursday, May 2	Lauren Forquer	No meal
Sat., May 4, AM service	Sh. Yolanda Diaz	No meal
Sat. May 4, PM service	Paulette Attoun	Potluck to break the fast (see note abovr)

CANDLE MAKING TEAM:

Please contact Sh. Salwa Younathan about candle making activities this week.

PILGRIMAGE THROUGH THE PSALMS:

Use the readings for week 2 on the master schedule (see pages 7 and 8).



Holy Week and Pascha Services—2024

St. James Orthodox Church, Modesto

Lazarus Saturday—April 27

9:00 AM - Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday

6:00 to 6:45 PM - Great Vespers

Palm Sunday—April 28

9:00 to 10:00 AM - Matins, *with the blessing of the palms*

10:00 AM to noon Divine Liturgy, *with the procession of palms*

6:30 to appr. 8:00 PM - Bridegroom Matins (*Preparing ourselves for Christ's Second Coming*)

Holy Monday—April 29

6:30 to appr. 8:00 PM - Bridegroom Matins (*Preparing ourselves for Christ's Second Coming*)

Holy Tuesday—April 30

6:30 to appr. 8:00 PM - Bridegroom Matins (*Preparing ourselves for Christ's Second Coming*)

Holy Wednesday—May 1

6:30 to appr. 9:00 PM - Service of Holy Unction

The anointing with the healing Holy Oil, and the commemoration of Christ's healing acts

Holy Thursday—May 2

9:00 AM to appr. 11:00 AM - Vespers Divine Liturgy with service of foot washing

Commemoration of the Last Supper and Christ's betrayal and arrest

6:30 to appr. 9:00 PM - The Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels

Commemoration of the Procession of the Holy Cross and the crucifixion of Christ

Holy Friday—May 3

7:00 to 7:45 AM - Royal Hours, 1st hour (*the trial of Christ and the procession to Golgotha*)
and 3rd hour (*the hour of the crucifixion*)

noon to 12:45 - Royal Hours, 6th hour (*the hour darkness falls on the earth*) and 9th hour
(*the hour of Christ's death on the Cross*)

3:00 to 4:00 PM - Burial Vespers, *Commemoration of Christ's removal from the Holy Cross*

6:30 to 9:00 PM - The Lamentations, *Procession of the funeral bier bearing Christ's body*

9:00 PM to 9:00 AM - St John Youth Group: All-night Vigil at the tomb of Christ

Holy Saturday—May 4

9:00 to appr. 10:45 AM - Vespers Divine Liturgy plus baptism

The transformation begins, including the scattering of rose petals and bay leaves!

10:00 to 10:45 PM (May 4)- Paschal Rush Procession

The congregation processes outside by candlelight from the darkened church

10:45 PM (May 4) to appr. 1:00 AM (May 5) - Matins and Paschal Divine Liturgy

The Feast of Feasts—the highpoint of the Church year!

*Followed by blessing of meat & eggs & Pascha baskets (bring a Pascha basket for your family),
and an all-church potluck (the breaking of the Lenten fast) and fellowship.*

Pascha—May 5

1:00 to 1:45 PM - Agape Vespers, *with the reading of the Resurrection Gospel in many languages*

2:00 PM to dusk - Pascha Picnic on the lawn area at Casa Ciela (next door to the church).

Roast lamb, smoked brisket, chicken, hamburgers, plus potluck, with activities for all ages.

SYNAXARION FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST INTO JERUSALEM

On this day in the Holy Orthodox Church, the Sunday of Palms, we celebrate the radiant and glorious festival of the Entrance of our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem.

Verses

Riding a colt, He that with a word stretched out Heaven,
Seeketh to loose mortals from brutish want of reason.

Jesus came to Bethany on the Sunday falling before the six days of the Mosaic Passover. On the following day He sent two of His Disciples, who brought Him a donkey on which He sat to enter the city. And when the great multitude heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, they immediately took palm branches in their hands and went out to meet Him. All cried, "Hosanna! Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, King of Israel!" The branches of palm trees were a symbol of Christ's victory over Satan and Death. And the meaning of "Hosanna" is, "We pray Thee, save." The donkey's colt, which was still an untamed animal, and impure according to the law, as well as Christ's sitting thereon, symbolize the former savagery and impurity of the Gentiles; and their subsequent taming and obedience to the holy law of the Gospel.

By Thine ineffable compassion, O Christ our God, make us victors over our deceitful passions, and deem us worthy to behold Thy brilliant victory over death and Thy radiant and life-bringing Resurrection, and have mercy on us. Amen.

TODAY'S VARIABLE HYMNS

THE FIRST ANTIPHON

- I am filled with joy, for the Lord will hear the voice of my supplication. The anguish of death encompassed me; the perils of hell beset me.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

- I found tribulation and anguish, and I called upon the Name of the Lord. I will walk acceptably before the Lord in the land of the living. (*Refrain*)
- *Glory... Both now... (Refrain)*

THE SECOND ANTIPHON

- I believed, and therefore have I spoken: but I was deeply humiliated. What shall I render unto the Lord, for all His benefits unto me?

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, Who didst sit upon the foal of an ass, who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

- I will take the cup of Salvation, and call upon the Name of the Lord. (*Refrain*)
- I will pay my vows unto the Lord in the presence of all His people. (*Refrain*)
- *Glory... Both now... O, only begotten Son and Word of God...*

THE THIRD ANTIPHON

- O, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Israel now say that He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Let the house of Aaron now say that He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Let all that fear the Lord now say that He is good: for His mercy endureth forever.
- *After the verses of the Third Antiphon, chant the Apolytikion of Lazarus Saturday:* "By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou didst confirm the universal Resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory we cry out to Thee O Vanquisher of Death: Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

ENTRANCE HYMN OF PALM SUNDAY

Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord: God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us. Save us, O Son of God, Who didst sit upon the foal of an ass; who sing to Thee. Alleluia.

APOLYTIKION OF LAZARUS SATURDAY (TONE 1)

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Thy Passion, Thou didst confirm the universal Resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory we cry out to Thee O Vanquisher of Death: Hosanna in the Highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

APOLYTIKION OF PALM SUNDAY (TONE 4)

O Christ God, when we with Thee in baptism were buried we became deserving of Thy Resurrection to immortal life. Wherefore, we praise Thee crying, Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

KONTAKION OF PALM SUNDAY (TONE 6)

Being borne upon a throne in Heaven, and upon a colt on the earth, O Christ God, Thou didst accept the praise of the angels and the laudation of the children as they cried to Thee: Blessed art Thou Who comest to recall Adam.

THE EPISTLE

PROKEIMENON

Blessed is He Who cometh in the Name of the Lord.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.

THE READING FROM THE EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS (4:4–9)

Brethren, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! Let your forbearance be known to all people. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your petitions be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think about these things. The things which you both learned and received, and heard and saw in me, these things do; and the God of peace will be with you.

THE GOSPEL

THE READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN (12:1–18)

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus who had died was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus 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, Simon's son, one of His Disciples (he who was to betray Jesus), said, "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not because he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the moneybox 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 Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus 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 cometh in the Name of the Lord, the King of Israel!” And Jesus found a young ass and sat upon it; as it is written, “Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on an ass’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 Jesus when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet Jesus was that they heard He had done this sign.

MEGALYNARION FOR PALM SUNDAY (TONE 4)

God is the Lord and hath appeared unto us; ordain a feast, and rejoicing, come let us magnify Christ with palms and branches, crying out with hymns: Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord, our Savior.

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION

Following “Blessed be the Name of the Lord,” we will have the customary procession around the exterior of the church.

Notes about the **Pilgrimage through the Psalms Project.**

- Sunday, April 14 through Saturday, April 20, use the readings for Week Nine.
- Sunday, April 21 through Saturday, April 27, use the readings for Week One.
- Sunday, April 28 through Saturday, May 4, use the readings for Week Two.
- Sunday, May 5 through Saturday, May 11, use the readings for Week Three.
- Sunday, May 12 through Saturday, May 18, use the readings for Week Four.
- Sunday, May 19 through Saturday, May 25, use the readings for Week Five.
- Sunday, May 26 through Saturday, June 1, use the readings for Week Six.
- Sunday, June 2 through Saturday, June 8, use the readings for Week Seven.
- Sunday, June 9 through Saturday, June, 15, use the readings for Week Eight.
- Sunday, June 16 through Saturday, June 22, use the readings for Week Nine.

If you are reading from an Eastern Orthodox or Greek translation of the Psalms, such as *The Orthodox Study Bible*, *The Psalter According to the Seventy* (published by Holy Transfiguration Monastery) or *The Ancient Faith Psalter* (published by Ancient Faith Publishing), use the following Septuagint numbering.



**Pilgrimage Through
The Psalms**


LXX/ Septuagint	Week 1*	Week 2*	Week 3*	Week 4*	Week 5*	Week 6*	Week 7**	Week 8**	Unit 9**
	Stasis 1	Stasis 2	Stasis 3	Stasis 1	Stasis 2	Stasis 3	Stasis 1	Stasis 2	Stasis 3
Sunday	9-10 Kathisma 2	11-13 Kathisma 2	14-16 Kathisma 2	17 Kathisma 3	18-20 Kathisma 3	21-23 Kathisma 3			
Monday	24-26 Kathisma 4	27-29 Kathisma 4	30-31 Kathisma 4	32-33 Kathisma 5	34-35 Kathisma 5	36 Kathisma 5	37-39 Kathisma 6	40-42 Kathisma 6	43-45 Kathisma 6
Tuesday	46-48 Kathisma 7	49-50 Kathisma 7	51-54 Kathisma 7	55-57 Kathisma 8	58-60 Kathisma 8	61-63 Kathisma 8	64-66 Kathisma 9	67 Kathisma 9	68-69 Kathisma 9
Wednesday	70-71 Kathisma 10	72-73 Kathisma 10	74-76 Kathisma 10	77 Kathisma 11	78-80 Kathisma 11	81-84 Kathisma 11	85-87 Kathisma 12	88 Kathisma 12	89-90 Kathisma 12
Thursday	91-93 Kathisma 13	94-96 Kathisma 13	97-100 Kathisma 13	101-102 Kathisma 14	103 Kathisma 14	104 Kathisma 14	105 Kathisma 15	106 Kathisma 15	107-108 Kathisma 15
Friday	134-136 Kathisma 19	137-139 Kathisma 19	140-142 Kathisma 19	143-144 Kathisma 20	145-147 Kathisma 20	148-150 Kathisma 20	119-123 Kathisma 18	125-128 Kathisma 18	129-133 Kathisma 18
Saturday	109-11 Kathisma 16	112-114 Kathisma 16	115-117 Kathisma 16	118:1-72 Kathisma 17	118:73-131 Kathisma 17	118:132-176 Kathisma 17	1-3 Kathisma 1	4-6 Kathisma 1	7-8 Kathisma 1

*Liturgically at Matins/Orthros.

**Liturgically at Vespers.

Note: If you wish to pray the full cycle of the Psalms as done in monasteries then read all of the “weeks” (1-6 for Morning, 7-9 for evening) for the given day.

If you are reading from the Masoretic or Hebrew translation of the Psalms, such as the King James Version (KJV), the New International Version (NIV), or the Revised Standard Version (RSV), use the Masoretic / Western numbering.


**Pilgrimage Through
The Psalms**

Hebrew/ Masoretic	Week 1* Stasis 1	Week 2* Stasis 2	Week 3* Stasis 3	Week 4* Stasis 1	Week 5* Stasis 2	Week 6* Stasis 3	Week 7** Stasis 1	Week 8** Stasis 2	Unit 9** Stasis 3
Sunday	9-11	12-14	15-17	18	19-21	22-24			
Monday	25-27	28-30	31-32	33-34	35-36	37	38-40	41-43	44-46
Tuesday	47-49	50-51	52-55	56-58	59-61	62-64	65-67	68	69-70
Wednesday	71-72	73-74	75-77	78	79-81	82-85	86-88	89	90-91
Thursday	92-94	95-97	98-101	102-103	104	105	106	107	108-109
Friday	135-137	138-140	141-143	144-145	146-147	148-150	120-124	125-129	130-134
Saturday	110-112	113-116:9	116:10-118	119:1-72	119:73-131	119:132-176	1-3	4-6	7-8

*Liturgically at Matins/Orthros.

**Liturgically at Vespers.

Note: If you wish to pray the full cycle of the Psalms as done in monasteries then read all of the “weeks” (1-6 for Morning, 7-9 for evening) for the given day.