



## SS. PETER AND PAUL ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

### ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE OF NORTH AMERICA

"All Things Are Possible to Him Who Believes" (Mark 9:23)

**Metropolitan SABA**  
Primate of the Antiochian  
Archdiocese

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## SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH, 2024

### FEAST OF PALM SUNDAY: ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST INTO JERUSALEM

**\*\*Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom\*\***

While we have time let us turn from the error of our ways. We have been bought with precious blood. For this very purpose God was made manifest on earth. It was for you, my friend, that God was made manifest on earth, with nowhere to rest his head. Can you believe it? The judge comes to judgment for the sake of the condemned. Life tastes death. The creator is flogged by his creation. The one who cannot be looked upon even by Seraphim is spat upon by a slave. He tastes the vinegar and the gall. He is pierced by a spear. He is laid in the tomb. Tell me—is it nothing to you, my friend? Do you sleep and take it all lightly? Do you not realize that, even if you were to pour out your own blood for him you would come nowhere close to what is needed. His blood is royal, yours is that of a slave. Anticipate through repentance and conversion the exit of your soul from this earthly life lest when death comes the medicine of repentance is utterly to no avail... Let us seek the Lord while we have time.

*- St. John Chrysostom*

**Great Vespers:** Saturday 6:00 pm  
*Check the Calendar  
for possible cancellation*  
**Matins:** Sundays 9:20am  
**Divine Liturgy:** Sundays 10:30am  
**Confessions:** By appointment

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**ST. IGNATIUS ORDER**  
Jumana Misleh

**GIFT SHOP**  
Gail Bailey

We welcome all our guests and visitors worshipping with us at the Divine Liturgy.  
Please let our ushers know that you are visiting with us today. We would love to stay in touch!  
Please know that Holy Communion is offered to Orthodox Christians, after preparing themselves through prayers, fasting, & confession.  
Non-Orthodox visitors are welcome to receive blessed bread at the end of the Divine Liturgy & share food with us at coffee hour.

## **THE SYNAXARION**

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 lifebringing Resurrection, and have mercy on us. Amen.

### **APOLYTIKION OF LAZARUS SATURDAY IN TONE ONE**

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 OF PALM SUNDAY IN TONE FOUR**

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.

### **KONTAKION OF PALM SUNDAY IN TONE SIX**

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.

Commemorations

For the Health of these Parishioners

John & Lily Bitar	Showke George	Christo & Mary Christakis
Suad Shammas	Victor, Linda & Family	Hanneh Daoud
Mike & Dorothy Marge	Ibrahim Saah	Vilma Bellone
Michael Shihadi	Joanna Khoury	Sherrie Zachariah & family
Nadim Zarour	Michael Amouri	Nour & Anastasia & Sonny
Qustandi & Nahida Kaibni	Mary Sahouri & Family	Asma Ayoub
Nuha & family	Yousef & Ghada	Elias, Taylor & Rami
Isabel Thredeh	Ghassan & Zakieh Jweied	Margo, Sam & family
Shakeh Kerjilian & family	Hind, Habib Debs & family	Barbara Zamer & family
Christopher Zolnerowich	Fred & Grace Saah	Edward & Eleanor Husson
Brian, Caroline & family	Fadia, Rich & family	Lorna Malooley
Steve, Jennifer & family	Antoine Hanna & family	Elizabeth Albinger & family

DEPARTED

Essa & Ellen Rafeedie  
George & Abla Misleh

Special Prayer this Week for

Timothy Dowse	Wyne-Hareg	Elizabeth Carroll	Ruby Maggard
Jeannine & family	Nabeel Mufarreh & family	Gino Michaels & family	Gibran, Larry, Joyce, Alexander
Issac Family	Mary Misleh	Justin & Family	Marc & Family
Elizabeth & Family	Robert & Family	Rafeedie Family	Misleh Family
Milena Paskaleva & family	Iman Khoury		

TODAY, following the Divine Liturgy, we will have a donor drive in the hall for the National Marrow Donor Program (Be the Match).

**We ask parishioners between the ages of 18-40 to test** and see if they may be matched with a patient in need of stem cell transplant. Thousands of patients across the country need stem cell transplant to treat blood cancers, such as leukemia or lymphoma. Patients are most likely to match with a donor of their ethnic background.

The **test is a simple ten-second swab** which will be sent to the National Marrow Donor Program's registry to see if donors can be matched with a waiting patient. More details included below.

**This drive is done in the hope of finding a match for Antoine, the father of one of our parishioners, Rene Hanna.**

*We are very grateful for your support of this drive and we appreciate your willingness to give the gift of life to a neighbor who awaits being matched with the right donor.*

**Coffee Hour** is offered by **Mary Misleh** for the health of Her Family and in loving memory of Her Departed Family Members.

If you want to offer Holy Bread or host Coffee Hour please use the codes on the side to do so.

**Coming Up @ Ss. Peter & Paul**

***Use Holy Week to recharge & refocus. Do not run on empty battery or without a GPS!***

***This Week's Services:***

***Monday:*** Holy Monday Pre-sanctified Liturgy @ 10:00 AM, and  
Bridegroom Service @ 7:00 PM

***Tuesday:*** Bridegroom Service @ 7:00 PM

***Wednesday:*** Holy Unction @ 7:00 PM

***Thursday:*** Washing of the Feet Liturgy @ 10:00 AM and Service of the  
Twelve Passion Gospels @ 7:00 PM

***Friday:*** Royal Hours @ 10:00 AM; Vespers of the Unnailing @ 3:00 PM,  
and Lamentation Service @ 7:00 PM

***Saturday:*** Holy Saturday Liturgy @ 10:00 AM, and Midnight & Rush Ser-  
vice followed by Paschal Divine Liturgy @ 9:30 PM

***Sunday, Agape Vespers @ 1:00 PM***

**Orthodox Young Professionals  
Conference**

*July 25-28, 2024*

**JW Marriott, Anaheim, CA**

4 day, 3 night Young Adult  
Conference hosted by the  
Young Adult Ministry of  
the Antiochian Orthodox  
Christian Archdiocese.



**St. Raphael's Table**

***The First Saturday of the Month***

Join us to serve Christ by preparing and distributing meals and toiletries to our  
neighbors in need. we will make 100 individually packaged meals and toiletry  
kits for the clients at the Downtown Day Services Center (DDSC), a daytime-only  
homeless shelter in DC.

**All ages are welcome to help with meal  
prep and toiletry kit  
packing**

**To join in preparation/  
distribution  
use this QR code**



***Amazon Wishlist*** for Toiletry  
Bags is available here.

**Thank you for  
your support!**



**1st & 3rd Tuesday  
Bible Study  
(8:30 pm/Zoom)  
REGISTER HERE**



**Forever Young!  
First Thursday of the Month**

*May 2nd, June 6th  
11-12pm*



**Naach (Bier) Decoration &  
Loved Ones Commemoration**

**Naach Preparation**

*Friday, May 3rd, at 10:30 AM*

Bring your best  
garden pruners  
and maybe a  
Lenten dish to share!



**Teen SOYO Good Friday Vigil**  
*May 3, 2024*

**7:00 PM**  
Lamentation Service  
**9:30 PM**  
Friday Night Vigil



***Bring a Sleeping Bag!***

**Coffee Hour  
Available Dates**

May 26	June 23
June 9	June 30
June 16	July 7

Host Coffee Hour



Offer Holy Bread



For online donations, use  
**your phone's camera** to  
scan this code and follow  
the link to our secure  
donation portal.



## **THE EPISTLE**

*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.

### **Parish Life Conference**

*June 27-30*

@ Antiochian Village



**Registration is now open**

### **2024 Orthodox Christian Education Conference**

*June 6 – June 9, 2024*



Handing Down the Faith:  
Equipped for Every Good Work

# ***Holy Week and Us***

*By Metropolitan Saba (Isper)*

*April 26, 2024*

Tomorrow, according to the liturgical calendar, and tonight, according to the customary timing, we embark on our journey into the Holy Week. We will walk alongside our Lord Jesus Christ step by step in His final days on earth. We will witness his ascent to Golgotha and His resurrection from the dead. But before that, we will immerse ourselves in every detail of the events leading up to his trial.

Through meditation on gospel events that instill humility in our souls, we will prepare ourselves to accompany Christ through the steps of His suffering, leading to His resurrection. We seek to participate fully in these events, growing in piety and spiritual struggle. We will reflect on the fig tree that withered at His command, the repentance of the adulteress juxtaposed with Judas' betrayal, and the parable of the ten virgins that warns us against negligence and sloth. We will heed the Lord's stern rebukes of the Pharisees and those like them who outwardly observe the commandments and teachings of the divine law but do not let them touch their hearts and change their souls. We will contemplate Peter's denial, contrasting it with Judas' despair and subsequent suicide.

We will also contemplate the Mystical Supper and the profound mystery of the Eucharist, as well as the humbling act of foot washing, the Lord's teachings on servanthood and His words about the first among us, and the manner of how we become first in our servanthood (Mark 10:42-43).

Following this, we will recount the journey of Christ's Passion, culminating in His crucifixion, burial, and the sealing of his tomb. And on Holy Saturday, we will await in reverent silence his glorious resurrection. More specifically, in this blessed Archdiocese, we will rejoice in welcoming many new brothers and sisters (via baptism and chrismation) into our holy apostolic Church.

We will also read chapters from the Book of Job, seeing in his suffering a reflection of the suffering Christ. Job found solace only in patience and complete submission to God's will. Yet, in Christ, we find hope that our suffering leads to resurrection and new life. For our Lord suffered and died so that He may rise. These phrases will echo often in our hymns during this week: "...O Thou Who was crucified, buried, and rose from the dead, O Lord, glory be to Thee" and, "O compassionate Lord, I magnify Thy passion and glorify Thy three-day burial and resurrection, saying: O Lord, glory be to Thee."

This week is intense. Believers spend half their day in church if they attend all the liturgical services, especially in the last three days. Orthodox Christians participate fervently, carrying their books to follow every word spoken and every hymn sung. They observe personal rituals regarding food, fasting, and abstaining from worldly distractions. Some of them put bitter herbs and vinegar in their salad on Holy Friday and eat sweets after the Funeral (Lamentations) service. Some of them abstain completely from food for the last three days before the Sunday of Pascha. Some of them fast from oil throughout the week, refrain from television and music, and greatly reduce their use of social media. They do this to fully engage in the salvific events that we remember during this holy week. That is why many of them read the four gospels (at home) and, as they drive in their cars to and from work, listen to the recitation of the gospel texts that speak of these salvific events.

Believers participate in this week according to their spiritual ability and life circumstances. Yet, the most crucial question remains: How do I allow these salvific events to shape my life as a believer?

The prayers, hymns and Scriptures of this week call us to reflect deeply on our own lives and actions. And so, we see in ourselves the fig tree that must always bear fruit, the sinner who repents fervently, Judas who falls into betrayal and despair of God's mercy, Peter who denies out of fear but repents with bitter tears, the woman who washes the Lord's feet, and the disciple who is presented the body and blood of his Lord as food and drink to be united with him spiritually, in order to become the beloved for whom Christ dies to give him the power of life that triumphs over death. "Yoking love to compassion, let us be diligent to send forth entreaty unto Christ, O ye faithful, that He may raise us up from the tomb of our hidden passions." – *Orthros of the Thursday before Palm Sunday*

Great Lent is a season of repentance and inner renewal *par excellence*. In the past six weeks, the hymns and prayers have called us to combine contemplation with application and action in our lives. Now, in Holy Week, we are called to participate in the death and resurrection of Christ. We die with Christ and rise with Him when we put to death all evil and vice within us. We rise with Him when we cultivate all goodness and virtue.

As we enter today into this splendid season, let us contemplate with deep devotion some of its beautiful hymns, and let us demand of ourselves to live them.

"Every member of Thy holy Flesh endured dishonor for us; Thy head, the thorns; Thy face, the spittings; Thy cheeks, the smittings; Thy mouth, the taste of vinegar mingled with gall; Thine ears, the impious blasphemies; Thy back, the lash; Thy hand, the reed; the whole length of Thy body, the stretching upon the Cross; Thy joints, the nails; and Thy side, the spear. O Thou Who didst endure the Passion for us, and from the passions didst set us free; Who didst condescend to us in Thy love for man, and didst raise us up: O almighty Savior, have mercy on us." – *Orthros of Holy Friday (the Twelve Passion Gospels)*

"Thou hadst been bodily enclosed in a tomb as Thou hadst so willed it, Who in Thy nature as God dost abide uncircumscribable and infinite, Thou didst close off the vaults of death, O Christ, and didst empty all of Hades' dark dominions, leaving nothing there. Then Thou also madest this Sabbath worthy of divine benediction and Thy glory and far-shining radiance." – *Great Vespers of Holy Saturday (the Unnailing of Christ from the Cross)*

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### Young Adults Upcoming events Save the Dates

**April 28-May 5** Holy Week & Pascha

**Saturday May 4** St. Raphael's Table Humanitarian Project : 10:30 am -12:30 pm

**Sunday, May 12:** Grounded in Faith-Post liturgy Fellowship at Church Library

**Saturday June 1:** St. Raphael's Table Humanitarian Project : 10:30 am -12:30 pm

**Saturday June 1:** Orthodoxy on Tap - Starr Hill Biergarten Tysons 7:30-9:30 pm

**Sunday, June 9:** Grounded in Faith -Post liturgy Fellowship

**June 26-30:** Parish Life Conference at the Antiochian Village

**Saturday, October 19:** Young Adults/Professionals Gala



His Eminence  
The Most Reverend  
Metropolitan SABA



Archbishop of New York  
and Metropolitan of  
All North America

**ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN ARCHDIOCESE**  
OF NORTH AMERICA

**Prot. no.: 157/2024**

Palm Sunday  
April 28, 2024

**To be read from the pulpit and printed in the bulletin.**

Venerable Hierarchs, Reverend Clergy, and Christ-loving Faithful of this Archdiocese,

May you have much joy on this glorious feast of Palm Sunday!

Today we see Christ riding triumphantly into the Holy City of Jerusalem and the crowds welcoming Him with praise and loving service, as they shout “Hosanna!” and lay down palm branches and even their own clothes as a carpet for His entrance. Let us likewise open our hearts to Him and welcome Him into our lives. Let us praise Him not just with hymns at church but also by confessing His goodness in our daily prayers and in our conversations with others. Let us lay down for Him a welcoming carpet of generous deeds toward our neighbors and faithful obedience toward Him. May we thus receive Him to rule in our hearts as our delivering King, and may we remain loyal to Him in word and deed—not betraying and abandoning Him, like the crowds in Jerusalem long ago.

As is our custom in this archdiocese, today we also remember our Father in Christ, His Beatitude Patriarch John X, and all our brothers and sisters of the Patriarchate of Antioch in its historic homeland of the Middle East. As we proclaim this ancient Faith in the New World, they are keeping it alive in the apostolic and historic places of its beginnings. Yet many of them continue to suffer from the aftermath of wars, disasters, and economic collapse. For this reason, we invite you to contribute today toward the patriarchate and its humanitarian work. Through your donations you can provide some comfort to our brothers and sisters in need, showing solidarity with them as one Body in Christ. Please give generously.

Wishing you all a deeply meaningful Holy Week and a glorious Pascha, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

✠ SABA

Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America

***For online donations, please choose “Special Collection-Patriarchate” from the drop-down list. Mark your cash or check donation in the same way.***