

WELCOME TO

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

SUNDAY, APRIL 25th, 2021

————— **Strict Fast/Great Lent** —————

Sixth Sunday of Great Lent - Palm Sunday

Next Sunday: Holy Pascha

A warm welcome to all who celebrate the Lord's Resurrection with us. **Visitors who are not Orthodox, please note that although non-Orthodox may not receive Communion, which is reserved for the Orthodox faithful, we invite everyone to come forward at the end of the Liturgy to receive the Priest's blessing and blessed bread.** Fr John or most members of the parish will be glad to answer **any** questions. Visitors, please sign the guest book at the back of the church. If you wish to join the church mailing list, then please include your email address.

Today's Hymns and Readings

Apolytikion of Lazarus Saturday Tone 1: 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 Tone 4: 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 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.

Trisagion (Thrice-Holy) Hymn:

ENGLISH: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

ARABIC: Qudduson ullah, Qudduson ulqawi, Qudduson ullahdhi, la yamut urhamna.

GREEK: Agios O Theos, Agios Ischiros, Agios Athanatos, eleison imas.

CHURCH SLAVONIC: Svyaty Bozhe, Svyaty Krepky, Svyaty Bessmertny, pomiluy nas.

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 is from St. Paul's Epistle 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 Holy Gospel

The Reading from the Holy Gospel is 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.



Palm Sunday

On this sixth Sunday of Great Lent, we will be celebrating Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem as we prepare to enter into Holy Week. We usually refer to this feast as the Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem, but we also call it Palm Sunday. From the beginning of time, victorious kings have ridden joyously into their home cities after battle, surrounded by cheering crowds celebrating their success. The celebrations have changed over the years, but at the time of Christ, such a parade would have included palm branches being waved and laid on the road.

As we look at St. Matthew's account of Christ's triumphal entry, we see that this is exactly the kind of welcome our Lord received as He entered Jerusalem. We know that Jesus is not just a King, but the King of Kings, but at the time, not everyone knew or accepted Him as such. However, when He raised Lazarus from the dead, word got around about that great miracle, and He was welcomed into Jerusalem with palm branches being waved and set on the ground; and some people even lay their cloaks on the ground to welcome Him.

Not only did they act in these king-welcoming ways, but the people also loudly proclaimed who He is. They said, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! Hosanna in the highest!" (Matt. 21:9) All this commotion caught the eye of the entire city, and other people started asking, "Who is this guy?" and they heard that it was Jesus, the prophet who came from Nazareth in Galilee.

On Palm Sunday, we enter into His Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, joining the crowds in welcoming Christ. We wave palms and cry, "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" We know why He is coming; what He is coming to do. How much more should we welcome Him? After all, we know that He is not only a great Healer/Wonderworker, but that He is the very God Himself, incarnate! Let us therefore welcome Him with adoration and honor into our parish on this special day.



Parish Treasury Report

2021	March 2021	YTD
Income:	\$17,266.19	\$37,493.81
Expense:	\$16,644.76	\$36,053.76

4/5/2021 Checkbook: \$50,876.69 Mortgage: \$120,650.96



SAINT NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Please visit us at: StNicholasAR.org

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Saint Nicholas Orthodox Church is a parish in the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast within the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

(Domse.org ✠ Antiochian.org)

Welcome to our church community! We are blessed to have you worshipping with us today. We are the jurisdiction of the Orthodox Christian Church whose roots trace directly back to first century Antioch, the city in which the disciples of Jesus Christ were first called "Christians" (Acts 11:26). The Orthodox Church is the oldest and second largest Christian group in the world. We are called by God our creator to worship and follow Him, and to proclaim to the world His message of love, peace and salvation.

