

## **From the Fathers (and others):**

I am not afraid of hell and I do not think about Paradise. I only ask God to have mercy on the entire world as well as on me.

- *Elder Porphyrios*

If someone were very specially dear to me, but I realized that he was leading me to do something less good, I should put him away from me.

- *Abba Agathon*

No passion is worse than an uncontrolled tongue, because it is the mother of all passions.

- *Abba Agathon*

A fish that is alive swims against the flow of water. One that is dead floats down with the water. A true Christian goes against the current of sinful age. A false one is swept away by its swiftness.

- *St. Philaret of Moscow*

God is greater! Greater than your illness whatever it may be. Greater than your deepest disappointment. Greater than your greatest worry. Greater than your worst enemy. Greater than your most difficult problem. Greater than life. Greater than death. God is greater! Believe it! Live by it! Affirm it! Claim it by faith and use it as a pillow to rest your weary soul. God is greater! If your God is not greater, then the God you believe in is too small. He is not the God the Church believes in.

- *St. Isaac the Syrian*

It was said of Abba Agathon, that for three years, he lived with a stone in his mouth until he had learnt to keep silence.

- *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*

Prayer is warfare till the last breath.

- *Abba Agathon*

I IMPLORÉ and exhort you, my beloved fathers, brethren, and children, in the following: Love the Lord with all thy soul and all thy heart. Be righteous and just, submissive, with bowed head and your mind turned towards heaven. Have contrition towards God and men. Be a consoler of the sorrowful, patient in trials, and not given to irritation, be bountiful, merciful, a feeder of the poor.

- *St. Paisius of the Desert*

# **St. John Orthodox Church**

**A Parish of the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America**

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~ April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 ~

***Commemoration of Mary of Egypt***

*Fifth Sunday of Great Lent*

**ST. JOHN ORTHODOX CHURCH**  
1663 TUTWILER AVENUE  
MEMPHIS, TN 38107  
(901) 274-4119  
www.stjohnmemphis.org

**His Eminence Metropolitan SABA**  
Archbishop of New York and Metropolitan of All North America  
Antiochian Orthodox Archdiocese of North America

**His Grace Bishop NICHOLAS**  
Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of Miami and the Southeast

V. Rev. Fr. Philip Rogers, Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. Basil Cushman, Associate Pastor

V. Rev. Fr. John Troy Mashburn, Jr., Pastor Emeritus

V. Rev. Fr. Donald John Berge, Attached

**GREAT VESPERS**  
Saturday, 6:00 p.m.

**ORTHROS**  
Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

**DIVINE LITURGY**  
Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

*Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America*  
“...the Disciples were called Christians first in Antioch!”  
Acts 11:26

## Commemoration of Mary of Egypt

**Epistle:** Hebrews 9:11-14

**Gospel:** Mark 10:32-45

The Holy Bread for Eucharist is offered by Reem Mansour.

Welcome to all those visiting St. John Orthodox Church. We are honored by your presence. It is our sincere desire that your participation today in the Divine Liturgy will draw you closer to Christ and His Church.

If you are from a non-Orthodox background, you may see new things such as icons, incense, the sign of the cross, the veneration of saints, and a great deal of standing. These can be perplexing to the uninitiated eye. Rest assured that everything we do has a solid biblical foundation and a long history among Christian people. Please feel free to participate where you feel comfortable and feel equally as free only to observe when you prefer.

The Orthodox Church understands the Eucharist, or Lord's Supper, to be – among other things – the paramount expression of Christian unity. While it is our deepest hope that Christendom will one day fulfill Christ's desire for true unity among all those who claim His name (John 17:21), the unfortunate reality of our day is that the various segments of Christendom are not unified with the historic Orthodox faith. *Since participation in the Eucharist expresses a unity with all the dogma and practice of the Orthodox Church, non-Orthodox guests do not receive Holy Communion.* The Holy Eucharist is reserved for those members of the Orthodox Church who have prepared themselves by prayer, fasting, and recent confession. All visitors and unprepared Orthodox are invited to partake of the blessed bread as they come forward to venerate the cross at the end of the Liturgy. Thank you for your understanding.

## ST. JOHN CALENDAR

April 21 - 28

(Great Fast)

- Sunday** - Orthros, 9:00 am  
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am
- Monday** - First Hour, 6:45 am  
- Great Compline, 6:00 pm  
- Orthodoxy 101, 7:00 pm
- Tuesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am  
- Men's Lunch, 12:00 pm
- Wednesday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am  
- Women's Teaching, 10:00 am  
- Presanctified Liturgy, 6:00 pm  
- Lenten Meal, following Presanctified Liturgy  
- Bible Study, 8:00 pm
- Thursday** - Third Hour, 9:00 am
- Friday** - First Hour, 6:45 am  
- Third Hour, 9:00 am  
- Sixth Hour, 12:00 pm  
- Small Compline with the Canon of St. Lazarus, 6:00 pm
- Saturday** **Lazarus Saturday**  
- Divine Liturgy for Lazarus Saturday, 9:00 am  
- Parish Pancake Breakfast with kids' activities, following Lazarus Liturgy  
- Ninth Hour & Vespers, 5:50 pm
- Sunday** **Palm Sunday**  
- Orthros, 9:00 am  
- Divine Liturgy, 10:00 am  
- Potluck Meal, following Divine Liturgy  
- Bridegroom Orthros, 6:00 pm

### Today's Enrollments:

D.J. Hobbs  
Alex Fleming  
Matthew Shanklin

### Upcoming Baptisms & Chrismations

#### on Holy Saturday – May 4:

Brian, Danielle, Luree, John  
& River Pfeister  
Thomas, Christy & Andrew Potts  
Leigh Ann Pompa

#### Upcoming Churching – May 12:

Ioana and Julia Rustom

## Birthdays, Anniversaries, Nameday

### **Sunday, 4/21**

*St. Mary of Egypt:* Kh. Susan Cushman,  
Lori O'Brien, Mary Wren Williams,  
Moriah Crum, Jennifer Stanek,  
Miriam Redmond

### **Wednesday, 4/24**

*St. Elizabeth, the Wonderworker:*  
Brooke White

### **Thursday, 4/25**

*Birthday:* Joseph Fahhoum

### **Monday, 4/22**

None

### **Friday, 4/26**

None

### **Tuesday, 4/23**

*Birthday:* Jim Rutledge  
*St. George the Great Martyr:* George  
Maas, Dashiell Ortwein, Hopper Jackson,  
Dennis Daley  
*Anniversary:* Joe & Jamie White

### **Saturday, 4/27**

None

## Commemorations

**April 21:** Hieromartyr Januarius, bishop of Benevento; Venerable Maximos and Anastasios.

**April 22:** Theodore Sykeote, bishop of Anastasiopolis; Apostle Nathanael; Martyr Nearchos; Vsevolod, prince of Psov; Martyr Epipodios of Lyons.

**April 23:** Great-martyr George the Trophy-bearer; Martyr Alexandra the Empress; Martyr Glykerios of Nicomedia; New-martyrs George of Ptolemais and Lazarus of Bulgaria.

**April 24:** Venerable Elizabeth the wonder-worker of Constantinople; Martyr Sabbas the General ('Stratelates') of Rome; Hieromartyrs Phylikos, Fourtunatos and Achilleos; New-martyrs Luke, Akylina, Nicholas and George; Iorest and Sabbas Brancovici, metropolitans of Ardeal and confessors in Romania; Martyr Alexander of Lyons.

**April 25:** Apostle and Evangelist Mark; Martyr Niki; Macedonios, patriarch of Constantinople; New-martyr George.

**April 26:** Hieromartyr Basil, bishop of Amasea; Venerable Glaphyra and George; Stephen, bishop of Perm; Ioanikios of Devitch.

**April 27:** Hieromartyr Simeon, the kinsman of the Lord; Venerable George, John and Eulogios the hospitable; Stephen, bishop of Vladimir; incineration of the relics of Sabbas, first archbishop of Serbia, by Sinan Pasha (1595).

**April 28:** The Nine Martyrs of Kyzikos; Venerable Memnon the wonderworker.

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### DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday	Hebrews	9:11-14	Mark	10:32-45
Monday	Genesis	27:1-41	Proverbs	19:16-25
Tuesday	Genesis	31:3-16	Proverbs	21:3-21
Wednesday	Genesis	43:26-31; 45:1-16	Proverbs	21:23-22:4
Thursday	1 Peter	5:6-14	Luke	10:16-21
Friday	Genesis	49:33-50:26	Proverbs	31:8-31
Saturday	Hebrews	12:28-29; 13:1-8	John	11:1-45
Sunday	Philippians	4:4-9	John	12:1-18

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### Remember in Your Prayers

**Our catechumens:** Jeff Bennett; Ben Haag; Thomas & Christy Potts; Andrew Potts; Brian, Danielle, Luree, John, & River Pfeister; Billy & Stacey Murray; Leigh Ann Pompa; John & Lisa Weaver; Hannah Gibson; Richard & Lucas Luper; Michael Pritchett; Taylor Tawbush; Kyle, Jane, Isla & Lachlan Esposito; Michael Youngblood; Ronald Coleman; Brandon Daley

**Prayer Requests:** Mother Raphaela; Schemamonk Paul; Fr. Don & Martha Berge; Bill Stanek & family; Ken Alvis (Dianna Hildebrand's brother); Mary Elliott & family; Chris Hodges; Mickey Hodges; St. Nicholas Orthodox Church; St. Paul Orthodox Mission; Samuel Brownlow; Elizabeth Turner (Jack's mother); Aleksandra Klimkowski & family; Shawn McClenny (Miriam Redmond's brother-in-law); Stephen Hill (Nicholas Hill's brother) & family; Xander Moody (David & Rose McGee's nephew) & family; those suffering in the Middle East, most especially the Christians.

**Expecting:** Heather Hetrick, Courtney Hagemeyer, Aryanna Smith

**Diocesan Seminarian:** Caleb McGee



## ST. JOHN COMMUNITY



**Orthodoxy 101** will next meet tomorrow, April 22nd, at 7pm. The topic will be *The Holy Mysteries of the Church – Part 2*. All are welcome to attend either in person or via Zoom. **\*Please note date change to Monday nights during Lent.**

### Holy Week and Pascha Surprise!

Bishop NICHOLAS will worship with us for Bridegroom Orthros on Tuesday, April 30 at 6pm, and for Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday morning, May 1 at 9am. He will then depart for Jackson and then Tupelo and return for the weekend. He will celebrate Holy Friday, Saturday and Great and Holy Pascha with us, including our Agape Vespers Picnic. Come and celebrate a Joyful Pascha!!

### Lazarus Saturday – Parish Pancake Breakfast – This Saturday!

Join us Lazarus Saturday morning following Divine Liturgy for a pancake breakfast and activities for the kids. Fr. Philip will be hearing the children's confessions following breakfast.

**Volunteers Needed!** – Holy Week and Pascha are well on their way! We will need many hands Holy Week through Bright Week to assist with setting up for the feasts, decor, clean ups, egg hunt facilitating, and more! Please see the sign-up link on the weekly emails and review the available slots to see where and when you can be of help. Feel free to click on multiple slots! Thank you!

**Great Fast Reminder** – As a reminder, the *traditional fasting discipline* is observed during the Great Fast which lasts from Pure Monday through Great and Holy Saturday (with *katalysis* for wine and oil on Saturdays and Sundays [except on Great and Holy Saturday when oil is not permitted], and for fish, wine and oil on the Annunciation [March 25th] and Palm Sunday).

May we all use this season to draw closer to our God through our voluntary ascetical work of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving!

### College & Post-Grad Students

If you are graduating from college or post-grad studies this year (or if you know of any St John members who are), please let us know! Email Elizabeth at office@stjohnmemphis.org

## PALM SUNDAY, April 28

Next Sunday, April 28, we will celebrate the **Feast of the Triumphant Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem, or Palm Sunday**. Weather permitting, we will have an outdoor procession with our candles and palms. Traditionally at St. John, we bring our decorated baptismal/Chrismation candles for the procession, but please feel free to bring any candle you choose, if you would like.

We will also have a **Potluck Meal** together following liturgy to celebrate the feast. Please bring a dish or dishes to share!

**\*NOTE\*** - In the past, the church has provided fish. The couple who used to cater the Palm Sunday fish has retired, and our alternate restaurant will be closed that day. All that to say, *the parish will not be providing the fish*, so please keep that in mind if you would like to add it to our bounty!



**Photos on Bulletin Board** – Is your family pictured on the bulletin board leading into St. Raphael Hall? If not, please see Mr. Trent Terry! He will take your picture and add you to our photos. There are so many new people and it is great to have a tool to put a name to a face.

**Upcoming Events** – Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events. For more details & information, please see the weekly parish emails.

- [June 6-9: Christian Education Conference](#) - Antiochian Village Conference & Retreat Center (Bolivar, PA)
- [June 12-15: Parish Life Conference](#) - Hilton Peachtree City Atlanta Hotel & Conference Center (Peachtree City, GA)
- [June 24-29: Icon Painting Workshop](#) - Sts. George & Alexandra Orthodox Church (Fort Smith, AR)
- [July 25-28: Orthodox Young Professionals Conference](#) - JW Marriott Resort (Anaheim, CA)

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## **St. John Youth**

### **Today:**

Sunday, 4/21 - Discussion & Donuts @Overton (Lunch Provided), 12:45-2:45pm

### **This Week:**

Saturday, 4/27 - Youth Host Lazarus Saturday Breakfast & Kids Retreat, 10:30am-1pm

Sunday, 4/28 - Palm Sunday - Parish Potluck

### **Looking Ahead:**

Holy Friday, 5/3 - Royal Hours, 9am, followed by cleaning/preparing for services

Holy Saturday, 5/4 - Pascha Services

Pascha, 5/5 - Agape Vespers & Picnic, 3:30pm

Thomas Sunday, 5/12 - No Youth Group (Ted Away)

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## **Women of St. John Calendar**

**4/24 (Wed.) AWSJ Teaching, 10am** – Women’s Teaching will meet via Zoom this week to discuss *A Voice for Our Time* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

**Birthright Donation Drive** – The AWSJ is collecting donations for baby items to be donated to Birthright for our Lenten Service Project. You may leave new or gently used items (0-9 months) in the bin in the Library. See weekly emails & insert for donation list & more details.

**5/11 (Sat.) Bridal Shower for Mary Elise O’Brien, 1pm** – Please join us May 11th at Reem Mansour’s home for a bridal shower honoring Mary Elise O’Brien. Contact Trish Ratliff if you would like to contribute to the group gift (Venmo @Trisha-Ratliff). The registry can be found at: <https://www.zola.com/registry/maryeliseandjoe>

## **PLEASE SIGN UP online....**



- **Palm Sunday Potluck** assistance – Clean up and set up
  - **Paschal Vigil** – The sign-up link is online for those wishing to participate in the vigil that is kept in the nave from Taking Down Vespers on Holy Friday until the Paschal Service. For those new to the church, the Psalter and Gospels are read continuously in the church. You may sign up as individuals, families, or with friends to share the reading.
  - **Decorating & Set Up for Paschal Feast** on Holy Saturday
  - **Kitchen assistance for feast** – receiving and putting out food
  - **Agape Picnic** – Egg Hunt facilitating & clean up on Pascha afternoon
  - **Post-Pascha Clean Up** – taking down of bier Thursday afternoon of Bright Week, putting decorations away, washing and returning vases
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## **LIBRARY LINES**

Today is Mary of Egypt Sunday (4/21). Look for the story of St. Mary of Egypt and the lion in *A Child’s Paradise of Saints* (KID STS MCL) and in *Animals and Man* (CAT CRE STE). The library has her story also in the *Life of Our Holy Mother Mary of Egypt* (HAG MAR SOP) and the *Canon to Our Venerable Mother Mary of Egypt* (SPR PRA STP). Last week we heard the story of St. Mary of Egypt in the complete canon of St. Andrew of Crete. Ironically, St. Andrew was mute as a young child, not speaking until age seven. The canon was then an unknown liturgical form. He also wrote canons for the Nativity, Palm Sunday and other feast days. His poetical tradition was followed by Sts. John of Damascus, Cosmos of Maium, and Joseph the Melodist. He attended the Sixth Ecumenical Council and died in the early 8<sup>th</sup> century.

This week we honor two more women from very different backgrounds. St. Alexandra (4/23) was married to the emperor Diocletian. She raised their daughter, St. Valeria, in the Faith. They were both banished after Valeria refused to marry the succeeding emperor, Maximus. After his death, they returned to Rome, trusting the next emperor, Licinius, for their safety. He, along with St. Constantine, had extended religious freedom to Christians. However, he betrayed his promise and had them beheaded. Read more about her in *My Holy Queens and Princesses* (KID STS POT), *101 Orthodox Saints* (KID STD WRI), *Orthodox Saints* (HAG- -POU), and *Married Saints of the Church* (HAG- -MOS).

St. Elizabeth the Wonderworker (4/24) spent her life from childhood in a monastery. Her mother had been given a revelation that her daughter was chosen by God for special blessings. She was a strict ascetic and was given the gift of healing. She wore a hair shirt and kept a strict fast. Tradition says that she lived and died in the sixth century. Read more about her in *Holy Women of Byzantium* (HAG - - - - TAL).

Friday (4/26) we commemorate the Evangelist Mark who was also one of the Seventy and a nephew of St. Barnabas. He also accompanied Sts. Peter and Paul on their missionary journeys. He wrote his Gospel for the Gentiles in Rome and was martyred in Alexandria. Read more about him in *Meet the Evangelists* (KID STS KHO).

# PASCHAL TRADITIONS AT ST. JOHN

## CANDLES (Palm Sunday & Pascha)

During the services of the Triumphal Entry (Palm Sunday) and Pascha, we have outdoor processions (weather permitting). Traditionally at St. John, we bring our baptismal/Chrismation candle if you have one. For those who do not have one, you are welcome to bring your own white candle decorated with ribbon, flowers, greenery...whatever you feel is festive. Bringing candles is completely voluntary.

## HOLY FRIDAY CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES (following Royal Hours at 9:00 am)

Following Royal Hours on Holy Friday, children, CGS and above, of the parish gather to assist in the preparation for the upcoming service which includes decorating the bier.

## DECORATED BASKETS for Paschal Feast

It has been our tradition at St. John to bring foods that we have been fasting from in a basket decorated with flowers. When you come to the services on Saturday night you will put your basket on the steps of the solea or the floor in front. After the liturgy, you pick up your basket and take it to the fellowship hall and place it on one of the food tables. The decorated baskets are a beautiful addition during liturgy and in the fellowship hall where we celebrate the feast.

Additionally, you may bring a decorated basket to take home after the feast is over to share with your family.

## AGAPE PICNIC

The parish gathers for our annual BBQ picnic following Agape Vespers on Sunday afternoon. The picnic is catered by Corky's BBQ which is supplemented by desserts provided by the parishioners. This is a **Bring Your Own Beverage & Lawn Chair** event and a wonderful way to spend Pascha in fellowship, fun, and food. The musicians amongst us normally join together for an impromptu concert, so bring your guitar, ukulele, mandolin, etc. if you'd like to join in.

## EGG HUNT

Our annual egg hunt is for children in the 3rd grade and under. They should bring a dozen plastic candy-filled eggs *per child* and a basket(s) for hunting the eggs! Please put eggs in the labeled box in the parish hall before Vespers. **NO HARD-BOILED EGGS**, they will not be hidden.

## BRIGHT WEEK PIZZA PARTY

Each year we enjoy pizza in the parish hall during Bright Week. This year, we will celebrate on Wednesday after Vespers. Join us!

☞Please feel welcome to participate as much or as little as you would like.☞

# CALENDAR & INFO FOR HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA



## HOLY WEEK



### HOLY SUNDAY, MONDAY and TUESDAY

**BRIDEGROOM ORTHROS (1 ¼ hours), 6:00 pm** – Services are so called from the haunting theme song which begins:

*Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight  
And happy is that servant whom he shall find watching,  
But behold, unworthy is that servant whom he shall find heedless...  
(cf Matt. 25:1 ff, Luke 12:35 ff)*

Our Lord is the Bridegroom whom His beloved bride, His people, were not ready to receive. At these services we read the scathing prophesies addressed these three days to the leaders of Israel (Matthew 21:18-23:39). Will we be ready when He comes again?

### HOLY MONDAY and WEDNESDAY

**Presanctified Liturgy (1 ½ hours), 9:00 am**

### HOLY WEDNESDAY

**Holy Unction (1 ¾ hours), 6:00 pm** – We bless oil and members are anointed with it for healing, for Our Lord's death and Resurrection are for this as well: "By His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5). At this service the choir sings the first part, but the second half is mostly readings.

*Things to know: We prepare for Holy Unction, one of the Holy Mysteries, just as we should for receiving the Eucharist. We need to have fasted and to have kept a confessional practice, which should have included a confession during Great Lent. The Holy Mystery of Unction will be given to those prepared on the night of Holy Wednesday, as is our tradition.*

### HOLY THURSDAY

**Vespereal Divine Liturgy (2 hrs), 4:00 pm** – We serve the Vespereal Liturgy of St. Basil celebrating the Mystical Supper at which Our Lord washed His disciples' feet and instituted the Eucharist.

*A Lenten meal will be served following the liturgy and before Orthros begins.*

**Passion Gospels (2 ¾ hrs), 7:00 pm** – Orthros of Holy Friday. During it we read twelve Gospel readings of Our Lord's crucifixion, interspersed with some of the most beautiful hymns of the whole year. In the middle of this service a large Cross is placed in the center of the Church for veneration.



## HOLY FRIDAY

**Royal Hours of Holy Friday (1 ½ hours), 9:00 am** – We again contemplate the crucifixion, reading sections from the Gospel readings from the previous service.

**Epitaphios Canopy decoration** – Children, kindergarten and older, stay after the service to decorate the bier flowers in preparation for the Taking Down.

**What you can offer: Donate flowers to be used for the bier** – These should be brought Thursday night or Friday before Royal Hours and left in the hall. Monetary donations to offset the cost are also accepted.

**Taking Down Vespers, 4:00 pm** – Great Vespers of Holy Saturday. The *Epitaphios*, a fabric with an image of the Lord taken down from the cross, representing the burial cloth of the Lord, is carried in procession and laid in the bier, which is covered with flowers. In some traditions, the bier represents His Tomb. In others, it represents the “Unction Stone” on which He was laid and wrapped in the clean linens and spices before He was placed in the tomb.

**Vigil** – We will begin reading for the vigil following Taking Down Vespers until Midnight office. There is an online sign up in the weekly emails for those interested.

**Lamentation Orthros (2 ½), 7:00 pm** – Orthros of Holy Saturday. The *Epitaphios* is carried in procession around the Church. The many readings and hymns of the Holy Friday services present us with the many different facets of the awesome and compelling mystery of our Lord's Passion. It is at this service that the *Epitaphios* is taken from the bier to the altar, symbolizing Christ's body being placed in the tomb, which will also be the place of Resurrection.

## HOLY SATURDAY

**Vespertal Divine Liturgy (2 ½ hours), 10:00 am** – Initiation of new members and Divine Liturgy. This is the 'Blessed Sabbath' on which God rested -- in the Tomb, the real meaning of Genesis 2:2. It is the most appropriate time for Baptism, as those baptized are 'buried' with Christ to share His Resurrection (Romans 6:3-4). Lent has its origin as the last intensive preparation for those who would be baptized this day. Today we read from the 15 Old Testament readings appointed that illuminate Baptism, including the Creation from Genesis, and the Exodus, and we read the first Resurrectional Gospel from Matthew 28.

\*\*What follows is a quote from Fr. Alexander Schmemmann's Journal regarding this service:

*I am writing before leaving for my most beloved of all loved services: the Baptismal, Paschal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, when "Life sleeps and Hades shudders...." I write just to say it again. It is the day of my conversion – not of unbelief to belief, not of "out of the Church" to "Church." No; an internal conversion of faith, within the Church, to what constitutes the treasure of the heart – in spite of my sins, laziness, indifference, in*

*spite of a continuous almost conscious falling away from that treasure, in spite of negligence, in the literal sense of the word. I don't know how, I don't know why – truly only by God's mercy – but Holy Saturday remains the center, the light, sign, symbol, and gift of everything. "Christ – the new Pascha...." And to that New Pascha, something in me says with joy and faith: "Amen."*

**PASCHAL SERVICE (2 ½ - 3 hours), 11:00 pm** – This is **THE** service of the year for Orthodox, and no one wants to miss it. At midnight all lights in the Church are put out. This is the darkness and silence of the Tomb. Finally, the bishop or priest comes out of the altar with a candle. Everyone comes forward and lights a candle from this light. Carrying the candles, we make an outdoor procession to the front door of the Church. There we hear the greeting 'Christ is Risen!' for the first time and reply, 'Indeed He is Risen!' We will greet each other this way for forty days. We go into the Temple, now brightly lighted, and sing the joyous Paschal Orthros and the Divine Liturgy and receive the Body and Blood of the Risen Lord. After this service we go to the Parish Hall and find the tables sagging with every kind of good food, and we celebrate together until quite late.

### **What to Bring:**

- If you have children: pillow, blanket
- Pascha basket (see Paschal traditions) **and/or** dish(es) to share for Paschal feast
- Candle for procession (see Paschal traditions)

## PASCHA, May 5

**Sunday Morning**, there is NO MORNING SERVICE (the midnight service was the Sunday Liturgy).

**Agape Vespers, 3:30 pm** – We gather for the joyous Paschal Agape Vespers (the Gospel is read in many languages) and more feasting.

**Agape Picnic** – Following Agape Vespers, the parish gathers for our annual BBQ picnic catered by Corky's BBQ and supplemented with desserts provided by parishioners. This is a **Bring Your Own Beverage & Lawn Chair** event and a wonderful way to spend Pascha in fellowship, fun, and food. The musicians amongst us provide entertainment by joining together for an impromptu outdoor concert. There is a suggested donation of \$10 for adults and \$5 for children to assist in covering the cost of catering.

**Agape Egg Hunt** – We have an egg hunt for children 3rd grade and under.

### **What to Bring:**

- Lawn Chairs
- Beverages of your choice (alcoholic and/or non-alcoholic)
- Instrument if you want to join in
- If you have children: basket, 1 dozen filled plastic eggs to hide - Hard boiled eggs will not be hidden