

St. Michael the Archangel Orthodox Church

Moscow Patriarchate

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Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Timothy M. Barna, Rector

Fr. Deacon Daniel Woytowich

Matushka Sherry Barna, Choir Director

Sunday Divine Liturgy 9:30 a.m. – Weekdays Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

General Confession 1st Sunday of month

Private Confession every Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. or upon request

Epistle Phil 4: 4-9

Sunday, April 12, 2020

Gospel: John 12:1-18

PRAYERS FOR THE HEALTH: Please pray for the following: Stephanie Kennedy, Drake Kennedy, Wellington Kennedy, Conrad Kennedy, Pat Federonko, Gloria Wheeler, Doris Sprague, Gregory Harvilla, Judy Wadysz, Barbara Sapick, Paul Sapick, Mildred Cislo, Anna Hagopian, Reader Gary (Paul) Repella, Michael Gaujanian, Marion Kurtyka, Alice Caddy, William Harvey, Daniel Moran, Brian Kurtyka, Ryan Kerrigan, and Frances Munaco.

Father Timothy and Matushka are continuing with services. If you can, pray with them at the time the services are scheduled. Please continue to pray for those who are afflicted with this disease, as well as those who put their lives on the line administering to the sick, and also for those who serve our communities – police, emergency personnel, fireman, government officials, and those working to provide necessities for us.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR THIS WEEK OF LENT - by Fr. Timothy and Matushka Sherry

Holy Thursday, April 16: Matins & Reading of 12 Passion Gospels 3:00 p.m.

Holy Friday, Vespers & Procession with Winding Sheet/Plaschanitza placing in the tomb 3:00 p.m.

PASCHA SUNDAY, APRIL 19TH SUNRISE PASCHAL SERVICE 6:00 a.m.

LAZARUS SATURDAY EPISTLE: *Epistle of St. Paul to the Hebrews 12: 28-13, 1-8*

Brethren: Since we receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken, we have grace, through which we may offer pleasing service to God with fear and reverence. For our God is a consuming fire. Let brotherly love abide in you, and do not forget to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

Remember those who are in bonds as if you were bound with them, and those who are ill treated, as tarrying yourselves also in the body. Let marriage be held in honor with all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled.

For God will judge the immoral and adulterers. Let your manner of life be without avarice; be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will not leave thee, neither will I forsake thee." So that we may confidently say, "The Lord is my helper: I will not fear what man shall do to me." Remember your superiors, who spoke to you the word of God. Consider how they ended their lives, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, and today, yes, and forever. AMEN!

Yesterday Saturday, April 11th, Lazarus Saturday – we heard in the Gospel reading - **St. John 11-1-45 - our Lord saying, "LAZARUS COME FORTH"!**

From the church bulletin: The resurrection of Lazarus has an important place in the Church's calendar with the approach of Passion Week. But this story, with its elements of love, devotion, sickness, death and final glory, touches a tender spot in the human heart. It is no wonder that in many churches this event is recalled during funerals.

Pictured on the cover of the bulletin is a vivid icon that portrays what is written in the 11th chapter of John's Gospel. The majestic Figure of Christ is shown at the cave, depicted beyond the wall of Bethany. Several groups of figures are identifiable in the scene. With Christ are the Apostles who had accompanied the Lord to the grave. At the feet of Christ are the sorrowful sisters of Lazarus, Mary and Martha, who had appealed to Jesus to come. They poured out their sorrow saying: "*Lord, if You had been here, our brother would not have died.*" Near the cave are other people who are about to witness this miracle of restoration. The figure of Lazarus, bound with burial clothes, is depicted in the icon. The burial garments are clutched by one of the figures, in obedience to the command of the Lord: "*Loose him and let him go.*" Another figure is involved with the removal of the stone at the door of the cave.

Death obeys the command of the Lord of Life and releases Lazarus. The words of our Saviour ring out: **"LAZARUS, COME FORTH!:** And so we have a preview of the Lord's victory over death in His own resurrection. It is also a preview of the "*resurrection on the last day,*" when all who have believed and loved the Lord will be restored. Word spread quickly of this glorious miracle. However, as it is with human nature, there still were unbelievers. As the coming week will prove, from that day on they plotted our Saviour's death.

(The Orthodox Weekly Bulletin-Vestal Cliffwood, New Jersey)