

# The Good News

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2019

## PASTORAL MESSAGE

Did any of you ever stop to think about the awesome feast that is quickly approaching? Did any of you ever feel that when Pascha comes you are not fully prepared? By prepared, I mean that we are in a correct state of spiritual preparedness not whether we have the right outfit or whether the lamb will be good this year or over cooked. The Church, in her love and wisdom, makes an effort to prepare us for this feast by giving us themes to concentrate on every Sunday during Lent. The first Sunday had as its theme the triumph of the correct faith. In other words, those who believe correctly will be victorious even if they are down for a while. The second Sunday had as its theme the energies or actions of God. God acted to heal the paralyzed man and through the healing brought him to a closer relationship with Himself, a relationship based on participation. Christ forgave the sinner and the sinner began to live a life of forgiveness. The third Sunday had as its theme self-denial. By denying our sinful and diseased fallen human nature, we can follow Christ from death to life. The fourth Sunday had as its theme our approach to God through asceticism or the struggle against our fallen or corrupted nature as depicted in both the life and the writings of Saint John the author of the Ladder of Divine Ascent. My brothers and sisters in the Lord, our themes for the fifth Sunday are humility and repentance as can be found in the life of Saint Mary of Egypt. Let us take a few moments to discuss these themes and see how they can be applied to our lives.

“For if the blood of bulls and goats...sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, how much more shall the blood of Christ...purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”(St. Paul)

What is repentance? Metanoia (change of mind) means a real change and not simply going through motions. Why? Because we fall short of what is expected from us. Man was to relate with: God, his fellow man and nature. Unfortunately man now rejects God, despises his fellow man and rapes natural world. Man is called to grow in the image and likeness of God thus becoming imitators of God's life. C. S. Lewis tells us in his book the Screwtape Letters, “He (God) really wants to fill the universe with a lot of...little replicas of himself—creatures whose life, on a miniature scale will be like...His...(He)...really wants a world of beings united to Him but still distinct.” We decided to do things our way yet we need to do things God's way. How do we do this? By using the tools that he gave us. Prayer which is a dialogue with God and Fasting which leads to the control of body

“...whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be the slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.”(St. Mark)

What is humility? Humility is not denying who we are yet it is also not adding to who we are. It is realizing who we are and bettering ourselves, realizing that we need help. We should not be like the high priests and scribes who condemn others for things worse than them and are jealous of those better than them. We should be like the Disciples and approach God with fear, faith and love. In this way we are able to accept correction from God, Church and from our spiritual father

“And Jesus said to them, ‘you will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with...’”(Saint Mark)

What is the world's response? Deception in that it is trying to convince us what is bad is good by using peer pressure. Persecution both physical and psychological seen through criticism, condemnation and media campaigns against the faith. Rejection in that we are considered to be close-minded and extremists. Thus we don't fit in with society. When this happens we should remember Christ and remember St. Paul.

So, we can see that repentance or metanoia is necessary because of the fact that we do indeed fall short of the plan that God has for us. We fall short when we reject God, His image or His creation. We make up for this shortfall by moving towards a reliance on God with prayer and fasting. We also see that for our repentance to be true we need to tie it to humility. By being humble we affirm who we are and thusly approach God properly. This of course leads to a reaction from those who reject God. The reaction of the world depends on where we are in our relationship with God. If we can overcome this condemnation with our repentance and humility then the Lord will repay us a hundred-fold. My brothers and sisters in the Lord let us finish the course off the fast with joy. Let us remember the example of Saint Mary, that no matter how much we have strayed, we can and should return to God. Let us also remember to work hard on our relationship with God even though it will be difficult and fraught with hardships keeping in mind what he will tell us on Holy Thursday night, “In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” Amen.

Fr. Michael Constantinides

# April 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Note:</b> <b>Sunday Liturgy</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy (Saint George) 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy (Assumption)</p>	<p><b>1</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 6:00 p.m. Great Compline (Assumption)</p>	<p><b>2</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 6:00 p.m. Catechism-Saints and Sacraments (Assumption)</p>	<p><b>3</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George) 5:00 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy at Saint George</p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 9:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 6:00 p.m. 4th Salutations (Assumption) 7:00 p.m. 4th Salutations (Saint George)</p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>Oil and Wine Allowed</b> 9:00 a.m. Church Grounds Service Day (Assumption)</p>
<p><b>7</b> <b>Fourth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Oil and Wine allowed</b> Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Sunday School Class following Holy Communion</p>	<p><b>8</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 6:00 p.m. Great Compline (Assumption)</p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 6:00 p.m. Catechism-Church and Icons</p>	<p><b>10</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 10:00 a.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George) 5:00 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy at Assumption</p>	<p><b>11</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Orthodox Study Forum (Saint George)</p>	<p><b>12</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 6:00 p.m. The Akathyst (Assumption) 7:00 p.m. The Akathyst (Saint George)</p>	<p><b>13</b> <b>Oil and Wine Allowed</b></p>
<p><b>14</b> <b>Fifth Sunday of Lent</b> <b>Oil and Wine allowed</b> Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Sunday School Class following Holy Communion</p>	<p><b>15</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 6:00 p.m. Great Compline (Assumption) 7:00 p.m. Parish Council (Assumption)</p>	<p><b>16</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 6:00 p.m. Catechism-Prayer (Assumption) 6:30 p.m. Parish Council (Saint George)</p>	<p><b>17</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 5:00 p.m. Presanctified Divine Liturgy at Assumption</p>	<p><b>18</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 10:00 a.m. Bible Study (Assumption) 6:00 p.m. Young Adult Service Project Dinner (Assumption)</p>	<p><b>19</b> <b>Fast Day</b> 6:00 p.m. Compline with the Akathyst to Lazarus (Assumption)</p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>Saturday of Lazarus</b> <b>Oil and Wine Allowed</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Sunday School Communion Breakfast and Palm Cross making (Saint George)</p>
<p><b>21</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> <b>Fish Oil and Wine allowed</b> Orthros and Divine Liturgy (Assumption and Saint George) Sunday School Class following Holy Communion</p>	<p><b>22</b> <b>Holy Monday</b> <b>Fast Day</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> <b>Holy Tuesday</b> <b>Fast Day</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> <b>Holy Wednesday</b> <b>Fast Day</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> <b>Holy Thursday</b> <b>Fast Day</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> <b>Holy Friday</b> <b>Fast Day</b></p>	<p><b>27</b> <b>Holy Saturday</b> <b>Fast Day</b></p>
<h2>See Separate Flier for Holy Week Schedules</h2>						
<p><b>28</b> <b>Pascha</b> <b>Fast Free</b> 11:00 a.m. Agape Vespers followed by our Pot-luck Dinner and Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt (Saint George)</p>	<p><b>29</b> <b>Saint George the Great</b> <b>Martyr</b> <b>Fast Free</b> 8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy Reception to follow</p>	<p><b>30</b> <b>Fast Free</b></p>				

## 2019 CHURCH CALENDAR HOLY WEEK/PASCHA/BRIGHT WEEK

### SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

APRIL 20, 2019

8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy  
(Assumption/Saint George)  
Communion Breakfast/Palm Cross folding  
(Assumption/Saint George)

### PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 21, 2019

8:30 am Orthros and 9:30 am Divine Liturgy  
(Assumption)  
8:30 a.m. Orthros and 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
(Saint George)  
Plaki Luncheon, Egg Hunt and Picture Day  
(Assumption)

7:00 p.m. Service of the Bridegroom  
(Assumption/Saint George)

### GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY

APRIL 22, 2019

7:00 p.m. Service of the Bridegroom  
(Assumption/Saint George)

### GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY

APRIL 23, 2019

9:30 a.m. Pre-Sanctified Liturgy (Assumption)  
7:00 p.m. Service of the Bridegroom  
(Assumption/Saint George)

### GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY

APRIL 24, 2019

3:30 p.m. Sacrament of Holy Unction (Saint  
George)  
6:00 p.m. Sacrament of Holy Unction  
(Assumption)  
7:00 p.m. Orthros of Holy Thursday and Anointing  
with Holy Unction (Saint George)

### GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY

APRIL 25, 2019

9:00 a.m. Vespereal Divine Liturgy (Saint George)  
9:30 a.m. Vespereal Divine Liturgy (Assumption)  
7:00 p.m. Orthros for Holy Friday (Assumption/  
Saint George)

### GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

APRIL 26, 2019

9:00 a.m. Royal Hours (Saint George)  
9:30 a.m. Royal Hours (Assumption)  
Church School Retreat/Epitaphion Decorating  
(Assumption)  
Epitaphio Decorating (Saint George)  
3:00 p.m. Apokathelosis (Assumption/Saint  
George)  
7:00 p.m. Orthros of Holy Saturday (Saint George)

### GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

APRIL 27, 2019

9:00 a.m. Vespereal Divine Liturgy (Saint George)  
9:30 a.m. Vespereal Divine Liturgy (Assumption)  
11:00 p.m. Holy Resurrection Vigil (Saint George)  
11:30 p.m. Holy Resurrection Vigil (Assumption)

### HOLY AND GREAT PASCHA

APRIL 28, 2018

11:00 a.m. Agape Vespers (Assumption/Saint  
George)  
Pot-luck Paschal Dinner (Saint George)  
Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt (Saint George)

### BRIGHT MONDAY

APRIL 29, 2019

### **Saint George the Great Martyr**

8:30 a.m. Orthros followed by the Divine Liturgy at  
Saint George  
Reception to follow

## Epistle Readers

**Sunday, April 7, 2019**  
4th Sunday of Lent

Alexa Florence

**Sunday, April 14, 2019**  
5th Sunday of Lent

Georgjean Pitsoulakis

**Sunday, April 21, 2019**  
Palm Sunday

Calvin Schneider

**Sunday, April 28, 2019**  
Pascha

Loukia Constantinides

## Coffee Hour Hosts for April 2019

**Sunday,**  
**April 7, 2019:**  
Presbytera Maria

**Sunday,**  
**April 14, 2019:**  
The family of  
Helen Smith

**Sunday**  
**April 21, 2019:**

Open

**Sunday,**  
**April 28, 2019:**  
Paschal Meal

## Parish Council Sunday Duty

**Sunday, April 7,**  
**2019**

**Joe Burmeister,**  
**Mary Kay Eckert,**  
**Gus Pappas**  
**Mary Rankin**

**Sunday, April 14,**  
**2019**

**Mariellen Cros-**  
**son**  
**Doug Kenyon**  
**Ted Pitsoulakis**

**Sunday, April 21,**  
**2019**

**Nick Coin**  
**John Mekus**  
**Dennis Spurgetis**  
**Diana Spurgetis**

**Sunday, April 28,**  
**2019**

**Joe Burmeister,**  
**Mary Kay Eckert,**  
**Gus Pappas**  
**Mary Rankin**

## Parish Registry

### 40-Day Blessing

Estelle Kay the daughter of Ben and Georgina Barnes was churched on March 24, 2019

### Chrismation

The Servant of God, Eric Voss, was Confirmed into the Orthodox Church on March 3, 2019. The Sponsor is Matt Pappas.

### Funeral

The servant of God, Helen Smith, fell asleep in the Lord and was buried on March 7, 2019

## EVENING MEAL VOLUNTEERS

**April 24, 2019:** Jim and Elizabeth Teros.

**May 22, 2019:** Nancy N. Coin and Pat Andrews.

**June 26, 2019:** Tom and Jenny Bakeris

Anyone interested in participating in this worthwhile ministry should contact Dena Manta at 332-1684.

## Memorials for April

**April 7, 2019**

**Cleo Anton**  
**(40 days)**

**Jennie Joan-**  
**nides (6**  
**months)**

**April 14,**  
**2019:**

**Helen Smith**  
**(40 days)**

## Prospora Baking Schedule

**Sunday,**  
**April 7, 2019:**  
**Adrienne John-**

**son**  
**Sunday,**  
**April 14, 2019:**  
**Adrienne John-**

**son**  
**Sunday**  
**April 21, 2019:**  
**Diane Breckon**

**Sunday,**  
**April 28, 2019:**  
**Open**

## **Assumption Corner - April 2019**

### **Spring Cleaning - April 6th**

On Saturday April 6th we will be meeting at 9am to do some spring cleaning on the church grounds. Anyone interested is welcome to help.

### **Young Adult Service project and dinner - April 18th**

(More information on enclosed flier)

### **Saturday of Lazarus - April 20th**

After services for St. Lazarus on April 20th we will be having a pancake brunch and will be in need of volunteers to help make palm crosses for that Sunday.

### **Parish Centennial Picture Day - April 21st**

On Palm Sunday we will be taking pictures of the various groups and ministries of the church following services as well hopefully a parish group picture.

### **Palm Sunday Plaki Luncheon - April 21st**

After Liturgy on Palm Sunday Philoptochos will be hosting their annual Plaki (baked cod) Luncheon. The cost will be \$12.

### **Palm Sunday Egg Hunt - April 21st**

During the Luncheon on Palm Sunday there will be an egg hunt for all the children in the parish to participate in.

### **Church School Holy Friday Retreat - April 26th**

On Holy Friday between the Service of the Royal Hours and the un-nailing vespers, we will be having our annual church school retreat. Open to All Church school aged children, join us as we spend this holy day with Christ.

### **Pascha Meal - April 28th**

After we celebrate the resurrection as a church in Liturgy. We will be having lamb dinner in the hall to continue our celebration. This meal will be following the midnight service on Pascha. All are welcome and encouraged to stay!

**SAVE THE DATE: Spring Food Fest - May 11th, 11am-8pm**

**Young Adult Service Project Dinner and Discussion**

**Thursday April 18th at 6pm  
At Assumption**

**We will be assembling care packages for the homeless as part of our the new Homeless Care-Package Ministry started jointly between our parishes. All Young adults are welcome to come and help us assemble packages as well as enjoy a Lenten meal of fellowship and partake of a Lenten discussion as we approach Holy week in the life of the church.**

**Homeless Care-Package Ministry**

**This new ministry was kick started by a generous donation from the Assumption Philoptochos, but to stretch our limited resources and to get the entire community involved we will, from time to time, be asking for items to be donated.**

**We are in need of the following travel sized items:**



**Items should cost around \$1 in the travel section of Target and Walmart  
Collection bins will be in both Churches through April 14**

## Annual Prosphoro Making

DATE: SATURDAY

APRIL 13, 2019

TIME: 10:00 AM



*St. George Church*

*Rock Island, IL*

RSVP TO:

PRESBYTERA MARIA:

PRESMARIAZOE@AOL.COM

Hope/Joy

## 5th Saturday of Lent: The Akathist Hymn (April 13)

About the year 626, the Persians, Avars, and Slavs came with a great host and besieged the imperial city of Constantinople while the Emperor Heraclius and the main body of the Byzantine army were absent in the East. Enemy ships filled the sea, especially the Golden Horn, and on land the adversaries were ready for attack with foot-soldiers, horses, and engines of war. Though the citizens courageously withstood them, yet they were few in number and would be unable to repulse the attack of such a great host. Hence, they could not count on any other means of salvation, except the protection of the Theotokos. And truly, suddenly a violent tempest broke up all the ships and submerged them, and the bodies of the invaders were cast out near the Blachernae quarter of the city where the famous Church of the Theotokos stood. Taking courage from this, the people went forth from the city and repulsed the remaining forces, who fled out of fear.

In 673, the city was miraculously delivered yet again, this time from an invasion of the Arabs. Then in 717-718, led by the Saracen general Maslamah, the Arab fleet laid siege once more to the city. The numerical superiority of the enemy was so overwhelming that the fall of the Imperial City seemed imminent. But then the Mother of God, together with a multitude of the angelic hosts, appeared suddenly over the city walls. The enemy forces, struck with terror and thrown into a panic at this apparition, fled in disarray. Soon after this, the Arab fleet was utterly destroyed by a terrible storm in the Aegean Sea on the eve of the Annunciation, March 24, 718. Thenceforth, a special "feast of victory and of thanksgiving" was dedicated to celebrate and commemorate these benefactions. In this magnificent service, the Akathist Hymn is prominent and holds the place of honour. It appears that even before the occasion of the enemy assaults mentioned above, the Akathist

Hymn was already in use as the prescribed Service for the Feast of the Annunciation, together with the kontakion, "When the bodiless one learned the secret command," which has the Annunciation as its theme. It was only on the occasion of the great miracle wrought for the Christian populace of the Imperial City on the eve of the Annunciation in 718 that the hymn "To thee, the Champion Leader" was composed, most likely by Saint Germanus, Patriarch of Constantinople. Historians have ascribed the Akathist Hymn to Patriarch Sergius of Constantinople (638), to Saint George the Confessor, Bishop of Pisidia (818), or even to Saint Photius the Great (891), all of whom lived either at the time of or after the above-mentioned sieges. However, it appears most likely from its language, content, and style that the true composer of the Akathist Hymn is Saint Romanus the Melodist (6th century).

## Saturday of Lazarus (April 20)

Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary, the friends of the Lord Jesus, had given Him hospitality and served Him many times (Luke 10:38-42; John 12:2-3). They were from Bethany, a village of Judea. This village is situated in the eastern parts by the foothills of the Mount of Olives, about two Roman miles from Jerusalem. When Lazarus - whose name is a Hellenized form of "Eleazar," which means "God has helped," became ill some days before the saving Passion, his sisters had this report taken to our Saviour, Who was then in Galilee. Nonetheless, He tarried yet two more days until Lazarus died; then He said to His disciples, "Let us go into Judea that I might awake My friend who sleepeth." By this, of course, He meant the deep sleep of death. On arriving at Bethany, He consoled the

sisters of Lazarus, who was already four days dead. Jesus groaned in spirit and was troubled at the death of His beloved friend. He asked, "Where have ye laid his body?" and He wept over him. When He drew nigh to the tomb, He commanded that they remove the stone, and He lifted up His eyes, and giving thanks to God the Father, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth." And he that had been dead four days came forth immediately, bound hand and foot with the grave clothes, and Jesus said to those standing there, "Loose him, and let him go." This is the supernatural wonder wrought by the Saviour that we celebrate on this day. According to an ancient tradition, it is said that Lazarus was thirty years old when the Lord raised him; then he lived another thirty years on Cyprus

and there reposed in the Lord. It is furthermore related that after he was raised from the dead, he never laughed till the end of his life, but that once only, when he saw someone stealing a clay vessel, he smiled and said, "Clay stealing clay." His grave is situated in the city of Kition, having the inscription: "Lazarus the four days dead and friend of Christ." In 890 his sacred relics were transferred to Constantinople by Emperor Leo the Wise, at which time undoubtedly the Emperor composed his stichera for Vespers, "Wishing to behold the tomb of Lazarus . . ."