

St. Mary Magdalene Orthodox Church

April 13th 2025

The Entrance of Our Lord into the Holy City of Jerusalem

Activities and Events this Week

- Monday April 14 – Matins of Great and Holy Tuesday
Bridegroom Matins 6:00pm
 - Tuesday April 15 – Matins of Great and Holy Wednesday
Bridegroom Matins 6:30pm
 - Thursday April 17 – Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
The Last Supper 10:00am
Matins of Great and Holy Friday
The 12 Passion Gospels 6:00pm
 - Friday April 18 – Royal Hours of Pascha 9:00am
Decorating the tomb following
Vespers of Great and Holy Friday 4:00pm**
Taking Christ down from the Cross
Matins of Great and Holy Saturday 6:00pm
The Laminations
- ** Please feel free to bring a little food between the Vespers and Matins
- Saturday April 19 – Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 10:00am#
Baptisms to Follow 1:15pm
#Please note! New time - different from Schedule

Nocturns 11:30pm
Matins 12:00 am
Hours of Pascha and Divine Liturgy to Follow
 - Sunday April 20 – Agape Vespers 2:00pm
Agape BBQ to Follow
 - Thursday April 24 – Paschal Hours 9:40am
Paschal Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Announcements

Thriving Parish Project

Next Steps – some point shortly after Pascha the TPP committee will meet with Fr. Andrew to go over the results of the parish survey. Once completed we will begin the process of small group discussions to address our minimum factor of “Effective Structures.” We will need everyone to participate.

Agape Meal on Pascha

St. John’s Brotherhood will be cooking the BBQ. The Church is providing cheeseburgers, hamburgers and hot dogs. We are asking for side dishes to go along.

Bookstore News – At this point we are looking possibly August 1st for the book store to have a second Grand Opening with books, gifts, icons, incense, charcoal, burners, candles etc. Presently all items we are trying sell at a good price with all funds going back to the Church. In the makeover, all funds will stay with the bookstore to continue to serve our mission.

Reflection

The Triumphant entry into the Holy City of Jerusalem is a the grandest victory, for Christ as the King of Peace, finally reveals to the entire world who He is – the Son of God, incarnate. He is victorious because He comes to fulfill the Father’s good will toward man. This good will of the Father is that His son suffer and die – so that death will be conquered. His victorious entrance into Jerusalem (His beloved) is not apparent to everyone. Christ will suffer and die on the cross and at the same time grant the thief paradise. Christ will lay in the tomb and at the same time descend into Hades to rescue His friends Adam and Eve and all the souls who wish to be rescued. The death that we all will have to endure one day will not be the final victory – we will not simply go into oblivion, but on the other side of that difficult reality will be Jesus Christ – victorious over death! In His victory we are victorious as Jesus Christ continues His “search and rescue operation” to save our souls! In his fearful suffering, the spitting, the scourging, the crown of thorns, the cross, death and burial. He gives us complete freedom to choose. We can be like the Roman Soldiers of the Jerusalem garrison who will be the ones inflicting the harshest and most cruel torture. We can be indignant like the Pharisees and the religious elite. We can be like those who for a moment yell “Hosanna in the Highest “and then recant and even say “Crucify Him”, once we realize that we cannot have Christianity “our way.” We even have the choice to come upon the entire site and scene and continue walking in a disinterested manner – but His “search and rescue mission” for our souls does not end! Glory to God who loves mankind beyond our interest and comprehension.