



St. Susanna Orthodox Church

The Diocese of the West
The Orthodox Church in America

www.stsusanna.com

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CHRIST IS RISEN! Indeed He is Risen!

April 2009

Pastor:

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*Before the dawn, Mary and the women/ came and found the
stone rolled away from the tomb/ they heard the angelic voice:/
“Why do you seek among the dead as a man/ the One Who is ever-
lasting Life?/ Behold the clothes in the grave,/ go and proclaim to
the world/ the Lord is risen, He has slain death,/ as He is the Son
of God, // saving the race of man.”*

—The Hypakoe of the Paschal Canon

This Month—the Feast of Feasts

Brothers and sisters, this month we come to the end of Lent, experience the awesome solemnity of Holy Week, and rejoice when we celebrate the greatest mystery of all—Christ’s ever-memorable Resurrection. We have, already this year, had a taste of such joy—the communion of the worldwide Church—when we concelebrated Great Vespers of the Annunciation with Fr. Jon Maguleas, the parishioners of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, priests from all over the Bay Area and the very gracious Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. Now it is time to pray that all our brothers and sisters throughout the world will celebrate a joyous Pascha.

Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday—and Chrismations

After we have traveled the 40-day journey of Great Lent, Orthodox immediately celebrate Lazarus Saturday and the feast of Palm Sunday. Lazarus Saturday reminds us that Jesus

is the Master of life and death. Palm Sunday commemorates Our Lord’s triumphant entrance into Jerusalem as the Prince of Peace. In celebrating Palm Sunday, we bless Palm branches (and pussy willows, for in northern lands, traditionally there were no palm branches to be blessed). These are held by the faithful during Palm Sunday services.

Lazarus Saturday is also a traditional day for baptisms and chrismations, celebrating Christ’s resurrectional power. This coming Lazarus Saturday, April 11, with God’s blessing, catechumens Peter Delaney and Ashley Hansen will be chrismated into the Church. Let us all pray for Peter and Ashley as we approach this great blessing on their spiritual lives.

Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday:

These three days of Holy Week are dedicated to the understanding that we must always be vigilant in our Christian lives, with the service of Bridegroom Matins. The somber and penetrating melody sung at Bridegroom Matins, “Behold, the Bridegroom comes as

*Corner of Jamestown Rd.
& Robinwood Ln.
(2 blocks north of
Racetrack Rd.)

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midnight...” recalls the Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1–13), of whom some had prepared for the Bridegroom’s arrival, and of whom some—despite having foreknowledge of His imminent arrival—were not, and found themselves outside of the wedding.

Holy Thursday commemorates the washing of the disciple’s feet, the institution of the Holy Eucharist (the Last Supper), the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, and the betrayal of Christ by Judas. Also, on Holy Thursday evening, the first service of Holy Friday, Matins with the Passion Gospels, is sung, during which the very powerful, and sorrowful, Twelve Passion Gospels that lead us from the Last Supper to the Lord’s Crucifixion, Death and Burial, are read.

Holy Friday: On this very solemn day, we commemorate Christ’s suffering and death. The Royal Hours are chanted in the morning, and that afternoon, at the Vespers Service, the Burial Shroud or Plaschanitsa, is brought out in procession and placed on the “Tomb” in the center of the church for veneration. That evening, the first service of Holy Saturday is sung; this is the Matins with Lamentations, during which the Praises/Lamentations are sung facing the Plaschanitsa. This service ends with a solemn procession bearing the Plaschanitsa.

Holy Saturday commemorates the burial of Christ, and His descent into Hell to destroy the finite power of death and to free the captives there. On Saturday morning, the Vespers with the Liturgy of St. Basil includes the reading of fifteen Old Testament passages referring to Passover, the Resurrection and Baptism. That night, at 11:30 p.m., we sing the Resurrec-

tion Nocturnes, and all of the lights are extinguished. The faithful stand in silence, holding unlit candles, waiting for the Priest to come out of the Altar bearing the lit candle that symbolizes the Light of the Risen Christ and the beginning of Holy Pascha, the Feast of Feasts.

Holy Pascha

The flame is passed one candle to the next to light all the candles, then our joyous, festive procession circles the exterior of the church three times, proclaiming Holy Pascha to the world with the hymn: “Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior....” Stopping before the closed outer doors of the church, the Priest exclaims the Paschal verses, “Let God arise....,” while the Faithful sing the triumphant Paschal hymn, “Christ is risen from the dead....” Clergy and Faithful re-enter the church and commence the singing of the joyful Paschal Canon, during which the Clergy process through the gathering of people, censuring and proclaiming, “Christ is risen!” and the Faithful respond, “Indeed, He is risen!” After Matins, the joyous Paschal Liturgy regales the congregation with the spiritual banquet: the Eucharist. Then, the clergy and faithful proceed to the church hall, for the Blessing of the Paschal Baskets, which the faithful bring, filled with their favorite festive foods. On Pascha Sunday, at 1:00 p.m., we have the Paschal Vespers, during which clergy and faithful will read John 1:1–17 in as many languages as we have gospels texts—signifying the universality of the Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church. Once again, we celebrate the glorious Feast of Feasts!

Christ is Risen!!!

May we all have a most joyous Pascha!

Fr. Andrew

MANY YEARS

Birthdays:

Nicolas Teshin	April 1
Jeanne Harmer	April 4
Alex Jacobs	April 11

Namesdays:

Mat. Elizabeth Jacobs	April 24
Mark Sevick	April 25

Anniversaries:

Dn. Elias & Mat. Anna Union	April 12
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St. Susanna Cleaning Team Schedule

*Blessed are those who love
the beauty of God’s house*

**EVERYONE — APRIL 11TH
after divine liturgy to
prepare for HOLY PASCHA**

Liturgical Schedule: Lent Through Pascha, Bright Week and After

- Thursday, April 2** 6:00 p.m.—**The Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete with the Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt**
- Saturday, April 4** 4:30 p.m.—**Bible Study in Parish Hall**
6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **St. Mary of Egypt Sunday**
- Sunday, April 5** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **St. Mary of Egypt Sunday**
Scripture Readings—Hebrews 9:11–14 and Mark 10:32–45
Note: The Parish Council meeting will take place after Divine Liturgy.
- Wednesday, April 8** 6:00 p.m.—**Presanctified Liturgy** followed by a Lenten soup dinner
- Holy Week**
- Friday, April 10** 6:00 p.m. Great Vespers for **Lazarus Saturday**
- Lazarus Saturday, April 11** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy with **Chrismations of Peter Delaney and Ashley Hansen**
6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/Litya for **Palm Sunday**
Note: A Potluck Luncheon and Pascha preparation work party to follow Liturgy.
- Palm Sunday, April 12** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **Palm Sunday**
Scripture Readings—Philippians 4:4–9 and John 12:1–18
Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.
- Holy Monday, April 13** 6:00 p.m.—**Bridegroom Matins**
- Holy Wednesday, April 15** 6:00 p.m.—**Presanctified Liturgy** followed by a Lenten soup dinner
- Holy Thursday, April 16** 6:00 p.m.—**Matins w/Passion Gospels**
- Holy Friday, April 17** 9:00 a.m.—**Royal Hours**
3:00 p.m.—**Vespers w/ Plaschanitsa procession**
6:00 p.m.—**Matins with Lamentations**
- Holy Saturday, April 18** 9:00 a.m.—**Vespers and Liturgy of St. Basil**
11:30 p.m.—**Nocturnes**
- And immediately after Nocturnes, we joyously celebrate:*
- Pascha Sunday, April 19** **Midnight—THE FEAST OF FEASTS: HOLY PASCHA!**
Matins, Paschal Hours and the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, followed by the Paschal Feast
Scripture Readings—Acts 1:1–8 and John 1:1–17
1:00 p.m.—**Paschal Vespers**
- Bright Week and Following**
- Bright Wednesday, April 22** 6:00 p.m.—**Great Vespers w/Litya for Bright Wednesday**
- Bright Saturday, April 25** 4:30 p.m.—**Bible Study in Parish Hall**
6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers w/Litya for **St. Thomas Sunday**
- Antipascha Sunday, April 26** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **St. Thomas Sunday**
Scripture Readings—Acts 5:12–20 and John 20:19–31
Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.

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May, 2009

- Saturday, May 2** 4:30 p.m.—**Bible Study in Parish Hall**
6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday**
- Sunday, May 3** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **Holy Myrrhbearers Sunday**
Scripture Readings—Acts 6:1–7 and Mark 15:43–16:8
Note: The Parish Council Meeting will take place after Divine Liturgy.
- Saturday, May 9** 4:30 p.m.—**Bible Study in Parish Hall**
6:00 p.m.—Great Vespers for **The Sunday of the Paralytic**
- Sunday, May 10** 9:00 a.m.—Divine Liturgy for **The Sunday of the Paralytic**
Scripture Readings—Acts 9:32–42 and John 5:1–15
Note: A potluck luncheon will take place after Divine Liturgy.

Prayer List

PLEASE JOIN US IN GIVING THANKS TO GOD:

- For the skill and devotion of those beautifying our temple and gardens.
- For the beauty of the Mother Lode, and for the privilege we have been given to live here.
- That the Holy Mother of Jesus continues to care for the unborn.
- That many of our petitions are being answered.
- For Nadine's on-going successful therapy.

PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING FOR GOD'S HELP:

- “St. John, please intercede for us before God for the membership growth of St. Susanna.”
- That St. Susanna Mission may receive a Church Planting Grant.
- For repose of the souls of our service men and women who have given their lives for the people of Iraq.
- To safeguard all the troops who remain in heathen lands.
- To help us forgive the heathen fanatics who continue to murder our soldiers and their own citizens and children.
- That many may come to Orthodoxy through our witness and example.
- To bless our monasteries and the men and women who dwell in them.
- For the well-being of Matushka Anna and her family.
- For health and welfare for Ann, Fr. John, and Elisa.
- For Natasha's success in securing a permanent art teaching position.
- For the healing and comfort for Donna and Ann.
- For Rachel, Brandon, Monique, Trinity and Chloe in solving their problems.

To ask us to pray for you, your family or friends, please call Alex Teshin at 209-536-9999.