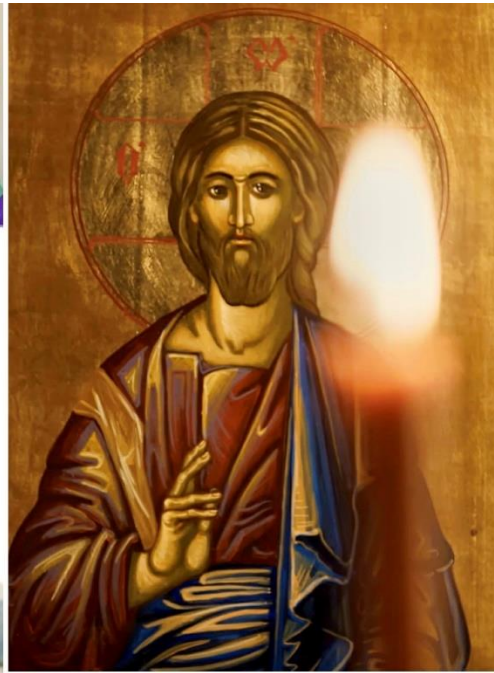


Pastoral Message from Fr. George for April 30, 2021

What spiritually rewarding moments we have shared together leading us to Holy Week and Great Pascha. Many parishioners received the Sacrament of Holy Reconciliation (Confession) last Friday. Parishioners joined together for worship and fellowship on the Saturday of Lazarus and Palm Sunday. *The days ahead are gifts from God – please share time with God in His House (either in person or via livestreaming) with your family and friends.*



#BeTheBee #PalmSunday #ReturnOfTheKing
Be the Bee # 174 | Be Joyful and Gentle (Palm Sunday)



Let your **gentleness** be known to all men.
The Lord is at hand.

Philippians 4:5

This morning I shared an episode from Steve Christoforou's "Be the Bee" series during our Divine Liturgy. Viewed amidst today's frequent backdrop of division, anger, and fear, I was encouraged with his reflection of the Saturday of Lazarus and Palm Sunday being a bridge to Holy Week and Great Pascha.

2,000 years ago at the first Palm Sunday, Steve explained the adults were too blinded by their worries, self-interests, and disputes to recognize Jesus as the true Messiah. Instead, it was children of that age who understood it was the Lord and rejoiced at His sight. They cried out "*Hosanna to the Son of David*" (Matthew 21:15). They laid palms on the ground as He approached. In their innocence and gentleness, they recognized Jesus for Who He is and they

rejoiced... something the educated and reasonable adults amidst them could not discern. In the days ahead, our spiritual efforts can yield harvest for us and our brethren in our midst. Please join us often to plant seeds of faith for your future and reap the joy of our mutual labors to serve in our Risen Lord's Holy Vineyard.

Thank you for teaching our children to serve God. The following photos are from the Saturday of Lazarus and Palm Sunday. We rejoice and thank God for His blessings and we thank you for sharing your talents and blessings as well. Since these remarks were written Sunday afternoon to meet our press deadline, no images are available for the First Service of the Bridegroom (Nymphios) on Sunday night.







Kalo Pascha - Happy Easter!

Marinda and I would like to thank you for supporting Philoptochos and purchasing a loaf of our Tsoureki - Greek Easter bread.

This was truly a labor of love from us to you, your family and friends. We thank you so much for supporting us in this our first time endeavor! Hopefully we will have many more years to provide this blessing.

As this bread does not have any preservatives, we suggest refrigeration until Easter. Don't worry, it's even more delicious when sliced and gently toasted, that's when the spices can truly be appreciated.

This is our prayer - 'The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.'

Laye *Presbytera*
Marinda

