

# JOURNEY TO PASCHA

WITH MY PARISH FAMILY... FR. GEORGE TSAHAKIS

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2023

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## THE 7 LAST WORDS FROM CHRIST ON THE CROSS

### ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Fr. George thanks our parishioners for joining him at this special service on Western Good Friday at All Saints Anglican Church.



## SATURDAY OF LAZARUS, APRIL 8, 2023

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The resurrection of Lazarus by Christ amazed everyone in Jerusalem and was followed by Christ's triumphal entry into the city. It provoked the envy of the Jewish rulers against Him, which led them to crucify Him just a few days later.

*"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." (John 11:25)*

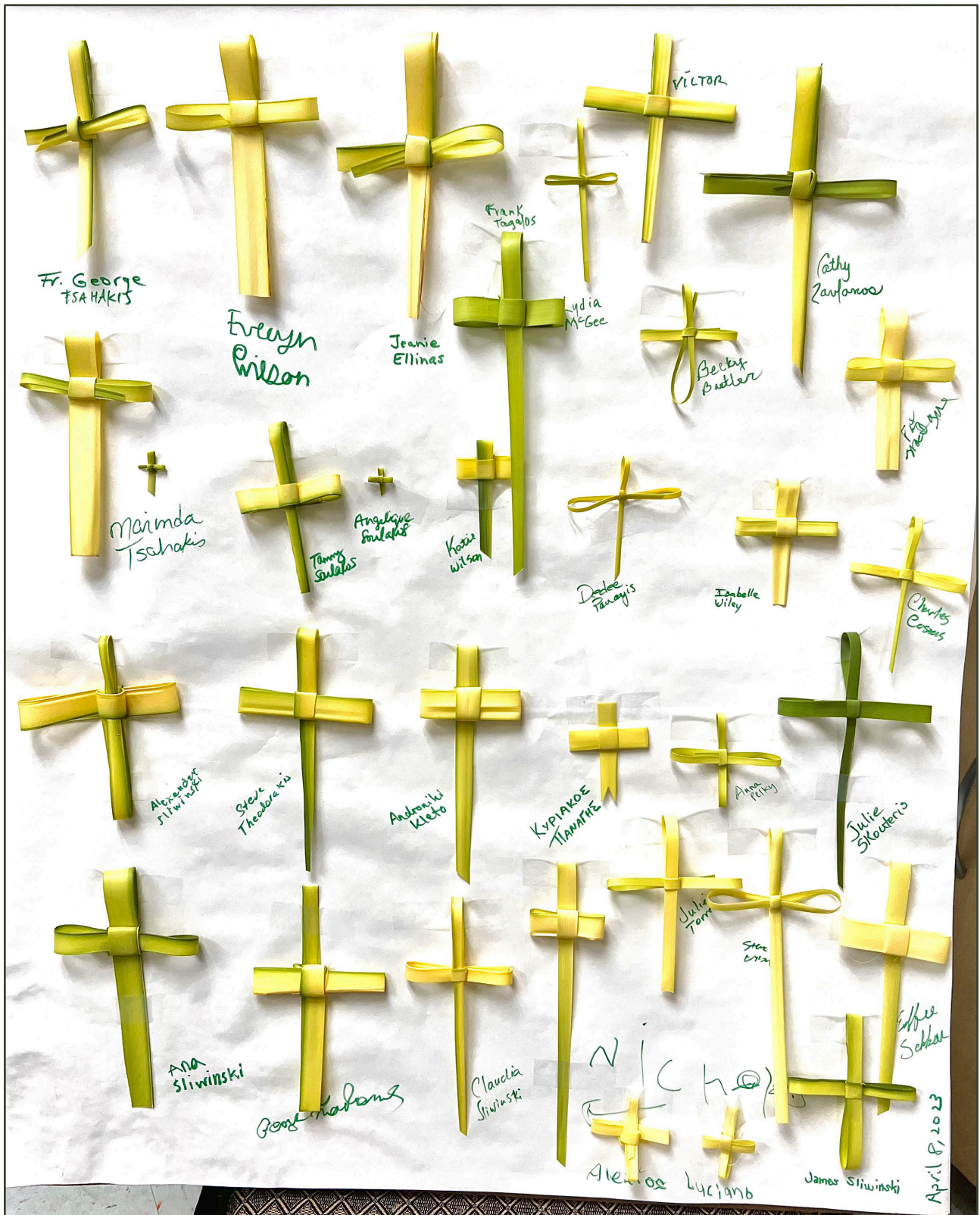




Fr. George prays for everyone in our parish and invites them to assist at every service. Those featured above and below made today so special by being on site by 8 am... they unlocked the church, turned on the heat, blew the debris from the doorway, watered the planters, chanted, served in the Altar and Choir, broadcast the service via livestreaming for those unable to attend in person, and greeted everyone and made sure parishioners and visitors felt welcomed. They prepared the Community breakfast that gave us energy to fold the Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday. Fr. George offered the Sacrament of Holy Confession from 11 am to 4 pm and commends all who participated. Afterwards, parishioners stayed to decorate the church for Palm Sunday. We enjoyed an early dinner at 5 pm as a parish family! Glory to God for giving us such a blessed day.



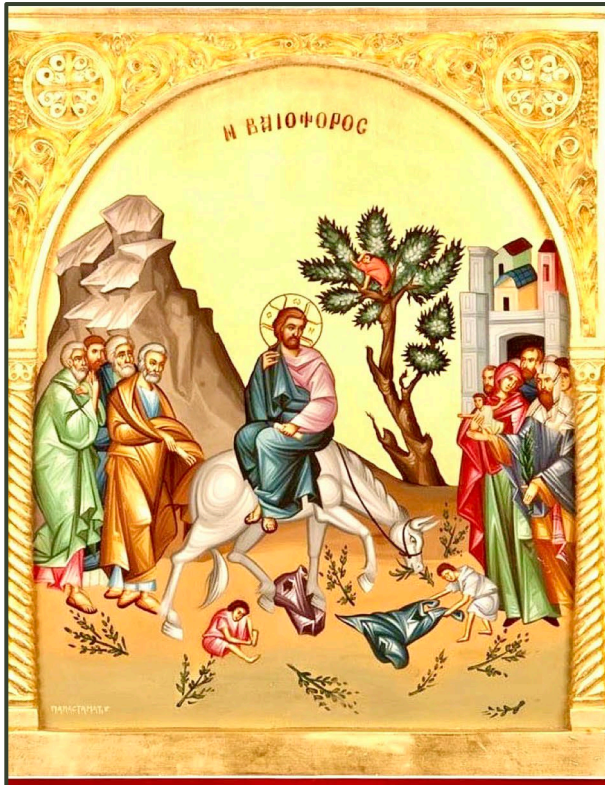
# Palm Crosses Made on the Saturday of Lazarus





## PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 9, 2023

WHAT A MAGNIFICENT DAY WE SHARED PRAISING GOD FOR ALL HIS BLESSINGS AT THE BEGINNING OF HOLY WEEK & ENJOYING A FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON AS A PARISH FAMILY WITH ABOUT 120 FAITHFUL PRESENT.



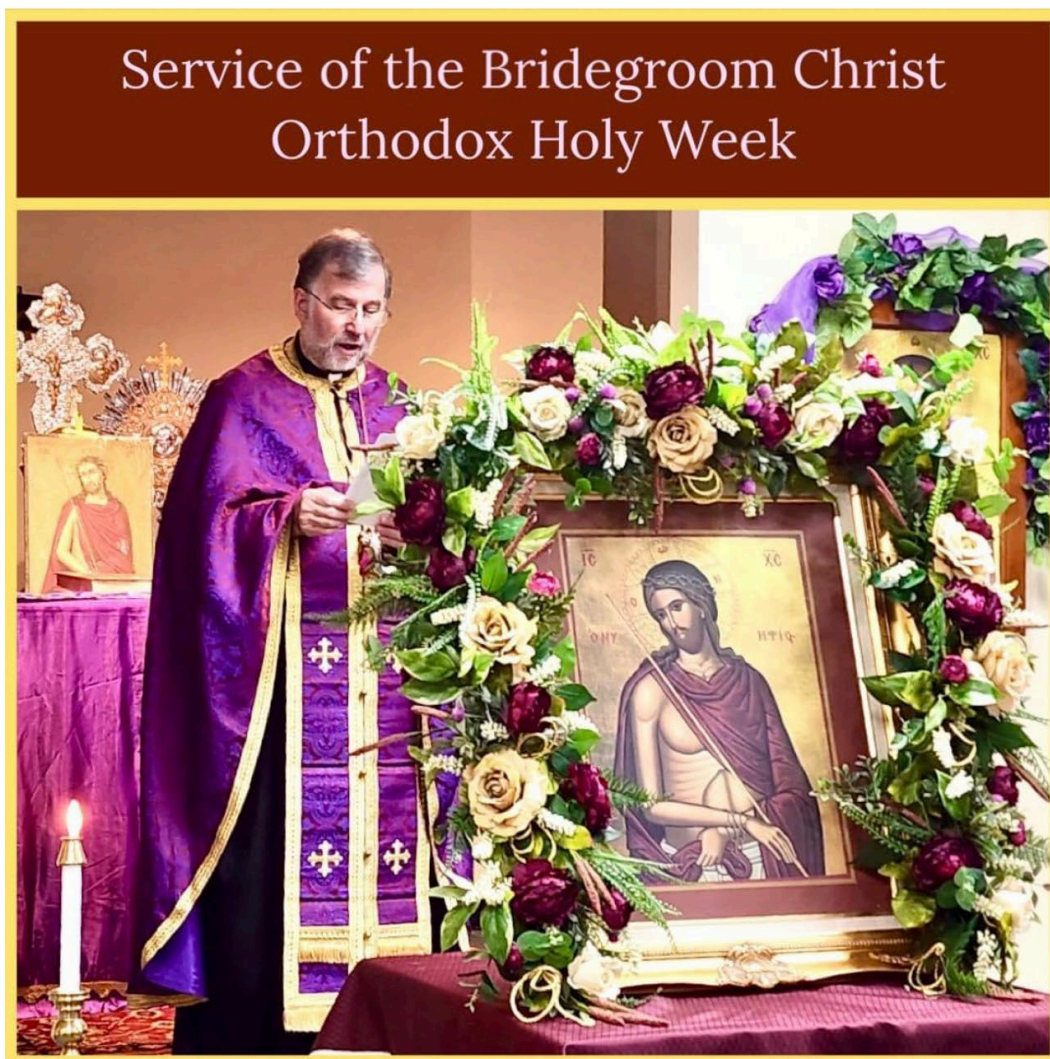


## BRIDEGROOM SERVICES, APRIL 9 - 12, 2023

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This week is Holy Week for Orthodox Christians. We gather daily to remember the last week of Jesus... beginning with His Raising of Lazarus and our Lord's Entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, His Saving Passion, Crucifixion and Resurrection on Pascha (Easter).

"It is good to give thanks to the Lord and to sing to Your name, O Most High, to proclaim Your mercy in the morning and Your truth at night." (from Service of the Bridegroom Christ)



## HOLY THURSDAY – PASCHA, APRIL 13 - 16, 2023

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Only the Lord and us know what our response will be to these holiest of days recalling the Passion of our Lord, His Crucifixion, and ultimately His Holy Resurrection. Each of us are called to be ready when the Bridegroom Christ comes in glory to judge the living and those who have fallen asleep. May we search our hearts like the sinful woman remembered on Holy Wednesday who washed the feet of Jesus with costly and fragrant oils and wiped them with her hair as pictured in the icon below. Her deep repentance is a model for us.



The hymns of the Church on Holy Tuesday provide us with added perspectives to assist us in our journey to Pascha. The sinful woman recognizes that she has strayed away from God's love through her life choices. She recovers, repents, and runs to the Savior Christ to demonstrate, in a practical manner, her desire to change her life. She wants to be delivered from the burden of sin and go about life renewed in the light of the Gospel. She wants to be reconciled to God and live her life with self-control, love, and peace. She is driven from sin to virtue. On the other side stands Judas. This disciple had experienced the miracles of Christ up close. He was taught by Christ and was even sent out to work miracles and preach the Gospel. Judas succumbs to the passion of greed. He betrays the Lord and tumbles from the light into darkness, from virtue to sin, from life to loss.


One single moment in life is sufficient to either tempt us to perish or lead us to salvation. But a sincere and simple supplication such as "Lord, have mercy," can unlock the gates of paradise when offered from the heart. We can all be complicit in Judas's betrayal, or we can personally take part in the great repentance of the sinful woman. Let us pray that the Lord grants us the willingness to recognize our sinfulness daily and seek repentance. We hope that our Lord and Savior, who suffered immensely for us, will accept our confession as precious myrrh, and save us. (from Department of Religious Education)



## HOLY & GREAT PASCHA, APRIL 16, 2023

Join us with your families at 10:00 am to hear the Resurrection Gospel proclaimed in 18 languages at the Agape Vespers Service.



 Saint Christopher  
Hellenic Orthodox Church  
**Agape Vespers  
on Holy & Great  
Pascha**  
Sunday, April 16, 2023

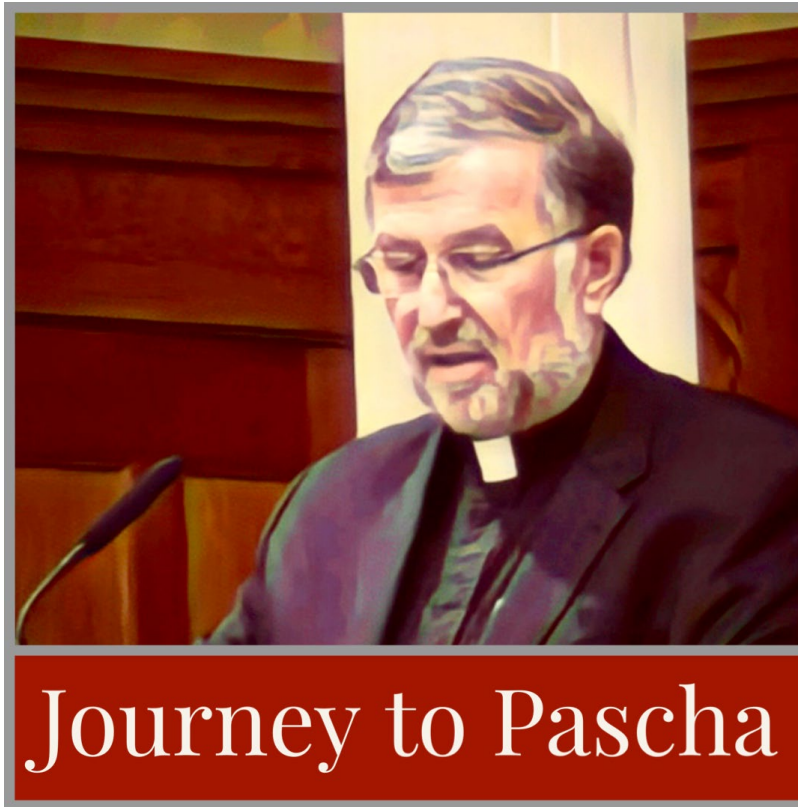
**Proclamation of the Gospel  
in many languages:**

Greek, English, Italian,  
Spanish, Latin, French,  
Romanian, Russian,  
Ukrainian, German,  
Serbian, Bulgarian,  
Church Slavonic, Czech,  
Mandarin, Hungarian,  
Portuguese, Cantonese...



## PASTORAL MESSAGE FOR HOLY PASCHA

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*As your Priest, I am privileged to serve a parish that literally started "from scratch". 20 years later, we find ourselves alive, growing, and prospering... touching the lives of many. We have never-ending goals; with God's divine providence and our mutual cooperation, I am thankful to you and my family and feel confident that in His time we will succeed.*

In response to these holy days, I offer a **Prayer for Virtue** and credit St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary for sharing it with me so I can distribute it to you... **as a reminder of the source of our strength and blessings we are offering to our Risen Lord!**



# Prayer for Virtue

Have mercy, O Lord, have mercy! For I, Your ungrateful, proud, and unprofitable servant have wasted the multitude of gifts You have entrusted to me.

Turn not away from me but open the doors of my darkened heart that the Light of Your Eternal Word may enter in. Shine Your enlightenment upon me. Burn up my sins with the fire of Your Spirit.



O Lord, take me away from myself that I may belong solely to You. Touch my eyes so that I might see You in the face of every stranger. May I, like Abraham, serve strangers and thus receive not only angels but You, the holy, good, life-creating Trinity.

Make me zealous in the pursuit of virtue. Above all, be my guide in offering holy and pure hospitality. Set my feet to run and find the stranger, giving before I am asked with words of gentle assurance. Keep me in readiness to do good to those who can neither repay nor thank me. In their outstretched hands, may I find healing for my wounds and the cure for my soul.

Grant me faithful piety, steadfast love, and progress in the life of Your Holy Church, that I too may enter Paradise and glorify Your Holy Name of Father, Son, and Holy spirit, now and forever. **Amen!**