

Mar. 25, 2018-Palm Sunday and Annunciation of the Theotokos

Divine Liturgy: Phil 4:4-9 & Heb 2:11-18 and Jn 12:1-18 & Lk 1:24-28

Apr. 1, 2018- Resurrection of Our Lord-Great and Holy Pascha

Divine Liturgy: Festal Tone Acts 1:1-8 and Jn 1:1-17

LITURGY SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

Sunday	Mar 25	10:00am(Ruthenian)	Palm and Flowery Sunday & Annunciation -Divine Liturgy +Lorraine Roche' Pinkham By son Jason
		12:00pm (Melkite)	Divine Liturgy
Tuesday	Mar 27	7:00pm(Ruthenian)	Great and Holy Tuesday Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts with Holy Anointing of the Sick
Wednesday	Mar 28	7:00pm(Melkite)	Great and Holy Wednesday Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Thursday	Mar 29	6:30pm(Ruthenian)	Great and Holy Thursday Divine Liturgy of the Lord's Supper +Charles Dick Burnette by Tom & Mary Wells
		8:00pm (Melkite)	Service of the Passion and the Washing of the Feet
<u>Friday, Mar 30-Great and Holy Friday-Day of Fasting (no animal products)</u>			
Friday	Mar 30	12:00pm(Ruthenian)	Great and Holy Friday Service of the Twelve Passion Gospels
		6:00pm(Ruthenian)	Burial Vespers and Procession of the Holy Shroud
		8:00pm(Melkite)	Burial Service
Saturday	Mar 31	10:00am(Ruthenian)	Great and Holy Saturday Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil Special Intention by Winnie Pizzitola
		8:00pm (Melkite)	Triumphal Procession and Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy
Sunday	Apr 1	9:00am(Ruthenian)	Holy Pascha-The Resurrection Resurrection Matins
		10:00am	Divine Liturgy-for our parish family Followed by Basket blessing
Monday	Apr 2	7:00pm(Ruthenian)	Bright Monday Divine Liturgy

Sunday	Apr 8	10:00am(Ruthenian)	Health, healing and blessings upon Jim Hays by Margaret Hays Thomas Sunday Divine Liturgy-for health and blessings upon Tom & Mary Wells by the Kowalik Family
		12:00pm (Melkite)	Divine Liturgy
Sunday	Apr 15	10:00am(Ruthenian)	Sunday of the Ointment Bearers Divine Liturgy +Albertine O'Brien by Tom & Mary Wells
		12:00pm (Melkite)	Divine Liturgy
Sunday	Apr 22	10:00am(Ruthenian)	Sunday of the Paralytic Man Divine Liturgy +Ann Kowpak by the Kowalik Family
		12:00pm (Melkite)	Divine Liturgy
Sunday	Apr 29	10:00am(Ruthenian)	Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Divine Liturgy-for health and blessings upon Fr. Deacon Andrew & Barbara Veres on their 51 <sup>st</sup> Wedding Anniversary by daughters Laurette and Tracy
		12:00pm (Melkite)	Divine Liturgy

*WELCOME...*to all our visitors worshipping with us at this Divine Liturgy!

Please be sure to fill out a Visitor's Card and drop it in the collection basket (or give it to the usher). And we would like you to be our guest in the Social Hall for coffee and refreshments after the Liturgy is over this morning. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you personally to Saint John Chrysostom's Church. *We are glad you're here!*

CONFESSIONS:

The Holy Mystery of Confession and Reconciliation is available before and after all services and upon request. Please take advantage of this opportunity to prepare for the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

Please remember in your prayers the sick and homebound in our parish :

Peter Mytchak, Elizabeth Van Den Heuvel, Yuhanna Hirmiz, Marianne Oprisko, Susan Parada, Harry & Virginia Franko, Fred Wey, Malak Bakkal, Nancy Sandrock, Sr. Sandy Atha, Fr. Charlie Brown, Patricia Bojczuk and Sr. Rita Crabbe.

**Sunday Collection 10am Liturgy:** *God bless you for your generosity!*

**Mar 11-** \$1,251.00

**Mar 18-** \$1,970.00

#### **Calendar of Events**

Mar 25 Austin Byzantine Community-Divine Liturgy at 5pm

Mar 26 Austin Byzantine Community-Presanctified Lit & Anointing at 7pm

Mar 31 Austin Byzantine Community-Holy Saturday Vespertal Liturgy at 4pm (Pascha)

*Jan 7-Apr 28 Deacon Andrew is on sabbatical*

Apr 22 Fr. Elias speaks about the Holy Land at the Coffee Social after the Liturgy

Apr 29-Qurbana (Liturgy) at St. Joseph Syro Malabar Church at 5pm

May 5 Brunch with St. Macrina the Younger

May 8-11 Pilgrimage to Mogollon, NM for the Ascension of Our Lord

Jun 3 Subdeacon Thomas Wells is ordained to the diaconate at St. John's

Sept 29 Brunch with St. Thecla the Proto-Martyr

Nov 3 Brunch with St. John the Baptist

*During the Great Fast, we remember our deceased loved ones on the All Souls Saturdays. If you have not submitted your names (family surnames and listed first names) or if you have changes/additions to make, please email or in written form give the names to Fr. Elias.*

**On Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at St. John's in Houston, His Eminence, Metropolitan William will ordain to the Holy Diaconate, Subdeacon Thomas Wells. Subdeacon Tom has been enrolled at the Byzantine Catholic Seminary in Pittsburgh where he is in formation preparing for ordination to the priesthood. We are overjoyed that Subdeacon Tom will be ordained to the diaconate here at St. John's! More information will follow in future bulletins.**

***Due to the extremely busy spring in our Texas communities (ordinations and clergy transfers) the Texas Pilgrimage (Bright Saturday, Apr. 7) has been cancelled.***

***Fr. Elias and our parishioners have been invited to participate in the Qurbana (Liturgy) at St. Joseph Syro Malabar Catholic Church on Sunday, April 29 at 5pm. This con-celebration will be a chance for our parish to encounter another Eastern Catholic Church here in Houston. St. Joseph's is undertaking an initiative to engage their young adults and young families and we are honored to be a part of this "mission". St. Joseph's is located at 211 Present St., Missouri City, TX 77459***

**On Sunday, April 22, after the 10am Divine Liturgy, Fr. Elias will share with the parish photos, videos and stories about his experience in the Holy Land at the Social in the Hall. All are welcome!**

Holy Week and Pascha (pronounced "Paas – hha") is the most beautiful time in the Liturgical Year. It takes a lot of work and volunteers to make it as wonderful as possible for our parish. Volunteers are always appreciated in preparing and cleaning up, but also in putting books back where they need to be, not littering around the Church property and picking up the garbage that you see. Every little bit helps! Thank you!

Христос Воскрес!

Christ is Risen!

Christos Anesti!

¡Cristo ha resucitado!

Воистину воскрес!

Truly He is Risen!

Alithos Anesti!

¡En verdad ha resucitado!



### **The Mother of God, Life-giving Spring**

The Feast of the Life-giving Spring which is kept on the Friday of Bright Week has its origins in the 5th century. It is the feast that commemorates the consecration of the Church of the Life-giving Spring outside of Constantinople.

The very large and beautiful church named in honor of the Theotokos of the Life-giving Spring was built about the middle of the fifth century by the Emperor Leo the Great (457-474 AD), outside of Constantinople. Emperor Leo was a pious man (he is commemorated on January 20th) and before he became Emperor, he had encountered a blind man, who being tormented with thirst asked him to help him find water. Leo felt compassion for him and went in search of a source of water, but found none. As he was about to cease his search, he heard a voice telling him there was water nearby. He looked again, and found none. Then he heard the voice again, this time calling him "Emperor" and telling him that he would find muddy water in the densely wooded place nearby; he was to take some water and anoint the blind man's eyes with it. When he had done this, the blind man received his sight.

After Leo became Emperor, as the Most Holy Theotokos had prophesied, he raised up a church temple over the spring, whose waters worked many healings, as well as resurrections from the dead, through the intercessions of the Theotokos. From this, it came to be called the "Life-giving Spring."

Justinian the Great (527-565 AD) was also cured by the waters of "The Life-giving Spring" and in gratitude built a new church temple, larger than the first. It was destroyed by earthquakes and rebuilt by grateful emperors.

After the fall of Constantinople to the Turks in 1453, this church temple was razed to the ground and the materials from it were used for building the mosque of Sultan Beyazit. Nothing remained of that church's ancient beauty, except for a small chapel, almost completely buried in the ruins. This chapel had twenty-five steps going down into it, and a transom window on the roof, from which it received a little light. Toward the western side of the chapel was the holy Spring, fenced about with a railing.

In 1821 even that little remnant was destroyed. The sacred Spring was buried with it and disappeared altogether. But in the days of Sultan Mahmud, when those subject to him were rejoicing in their freedom to practice their religion, permission was sought by the Orthodox Christian community to rebuild at least the chapel. Permission was granted to build a church temple and it was consecrated on Bright Friday in 1835. But on the night of September 6-7, 1955, it along with 73 other Orthodox churches in Istanbul, was desecrated and burned to the ground by the Turks. The church has been restored yet once again, but not anywhere its former magnificence. O Most Holy Theotokos of the Life-giving Spring, save us!

**Apolytikion:** Third Tone, Awed by the beauty

*A life-giving fount, thou didst conceive the Dew \* that is transcendent in essence, O Virgin Maid, \* and thou hast welled for our sakes the nectar of joy eternal, \* which doth pour forth from thy fount \* with the water that springeth up \* unto everlasting life \* in unending and mighty streams; \* wherein, taking delight, we all cry out: Rejoice, O thou Spring of life for all men.*

**Kontakion:** Plagal of Fourth Tone, To thee, the Champion Leader

*From thine unfailing fount, O Maid supremely graced of God, \* thou dost reward me by the flow of the unending streams \* of thy grace that doth surpass human understanding. \* And since thou didst bear the Word incomprehensibly, \* I entreat thee to refresh me with thy grace divine, \* that I may cry to thee: \* Rejoice, O Water of salvation.*

### **What is the ARTOS?**

Artos essentially means 'leavened bread' in Greek. So what then makes it so special? At the end of the Paschal Vigil, a single large loaf of bread, the Artos, is blessed by the priest with a special prayer and then sprinkled with Holy Water. The Artos has impressed into it the cross and may even have the icon of the Resurrection. It remains on a small table in front of the Iconostasis all Bright Week as a reminder of the presence of Christ among his apostles after the Resurrection.

On Bright Saturday, the Artos is blessed with another prayer and then it is cut up and shared among the whole congregation. The Artos is also a reminder that the breaking of bread was one of the ways that Jesus revealed himself to his followers after his resurrection. The Artos is also a reminder of Jesus' promise to the Church, to be present in his Church until the end of time. ( Matthew 28:20 )