

**St Ignatios of Antioch  
Melkite Greek Catholic Church  
1003 Merry Street  
Augusta, Georgia 30904  
706 364-6219**



**Palm Sunday  
April 2, 2023**

## Holy Week



### Holy Unction – The Seal on Our Repentance

DURING THE FORTY DAYS of the Great Fast the Church urges us to ascetic effort as a preparation for the observances of Holy Week and Pascha. We know that, by His death and resurrection, Christ has achieved the restoration of our human nature in Himself and has enabled us to share in His victory over sin and death by baptism.

Like Adam in the resurrection icon, Christ has taken us by the hand to draw us from the pit of spiritual death. But we know that, like Adam, our feet are still in the grave. It takes a lifelong process of ascetical effort to keep us joined to the redeeming hand of Christ and emerge from the tomb.

The seal on our Lenten striving is participation in the holy mysteries. Earlier in the Church's life those who were repenting of serious sins were excluded from the Eucharist during the Fast and reconciled to the Church in Holy Week. The Armenian and Maronite Churches still observe the reconciliation of penitents



during this week, celebrating in deed as well as word the forgiveness won by the death of Christ.

In the Byzantine Churches the sacramental climax of our Lenten asceticism is the Mystery of Holy Unction. Anointing the sick was practiced by the apostles during the lifetime of Christ (see Mk 6:13) and by the Church in the apostolic age (see Jas 5:14-15). There are occasional references to this mystery in some of the Fathers but the specific practice only reached its present form after the fourteenth century.

Conferring this mystery on the whole congregation seems to have come about in response to the plagues which struck Constantinople eleven times in the fourteenth century. Then the whole city – and ultimately much of Europe and Asia – seemed to be in danger of death. General anointing services were held to help all the people of the capital in these times of crisis.

The Church has always spoken of spiritual and physical sickness in the same breath. Our misplaced strivings for “life” (greed, lust, power, and the rest) have the opposite effect, doing damage to our bodies as well as our spirits. Thus prayers for healing often join intercession for spiritual as well as bodily health.

It should not strike us as odd that the mystery of Holy Unction replaced the reconciliation of penitents as the sacramental seal on the Great Fast. We may not be in need of reconciliation after committing serious sins, but our broken human nature is always in need of healing. Since the Wednesday of the Great Week includes the memorial of Christ’s anointing by Mary, the sister of Lazarus, in Bethany six days before the Passover (see Jn 12:1-8), it became the customary day for offering this mystery to those preparing for Pascha.

## **Confronting Our Infirmities**

In the “Trisagion Prayers,” which occur in many of our services, we pray the following: “All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, forgive our sins; Master overlook our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your name’s sake.” In this prayer we affirm that we commit sins (deliberate rejections of what we know to be God’s way) and also transgressions (unrecognized or intended offenses). Many people say that if you didn’t mean it, then it’s not a sin. True, but does that then mean I am not responsible? The children whose ball breaks their neighbor’s window didn’t mean it, but the window is still broken; is no one responsible? The godly person accepts responsibility for transgressions as well as sins.

The prayer continues by requesting healing for *infirmities*, and it is here that the mystery of Holy Unction is important in our Christian life. Whenever we strive to deal with our passions, as during the Great Fast, we discover how unable we are to live God's way by our own power. We need to throw ourselves at Christ's feet and implore Him as did the blind man on the roadside, "*Son of David, have mercy on me*" (Mt 9:27). It is with this disposition that receiving Holy Unction bears the most fruit.

## Exploring the Service

In its fullest form, the Holy Unction service consists of two parts. The first is a kind of paraklisis or moleben in which we read psalms and sing troparia along with a canon and stikhera seeking God's help:

"The whole earth is filled with Your mercy, O Master. Therefore we, who are anointed today with Your precious and divine oil, entreat You with faith that Your mercy beyond understanding be granted to us." (from Ode One).

"With the tranquility of Your mercy, O Master, seal the senses of Your servants, making impassible and inaccessible the entrance of all adverse powers" (from Ode Four).

"Your seal is a sword against demons, O Savior, and the prayers of Your priests are fire burning the passions of the soul. Therefore we who are receiving healing faithfully sing Your praises" (from Ode Seven).

In the second part of the service oil is brought forth and, in some Churches, mixed with wine to recall the similar mixture used by the Good Samaritan in Christ's parable (see Lk 10:25-37). The oil is blessed; then seven prayers are read, each with an epistle and Gospel. These prayers are offered by seven priests in succession, a reminder of the time when people would be anointed seven days in a row, each day by a different priest. In practice the service may be conducted with as few as one priest and one set of prayers and readings.

At the final prayer the assisting clergy hold the open Gospel book over the head of the people while the presiding priest prays, "I do not lay my sinful hand on the heads of those who come to You in sins, asking for the remission of sins through us,

but Your mighty and powerful hand, which is in this, Your holy Gospel...Accept Your servants who are repenting of their sins, overlooking their transgressions.”

The priest then anoints the people on the forehead and hands (and sometimes on other parts of the body) saying, “Holy Father, Physician of souls and bodies, forgive, heal and save Your servant” or simply “For the healing of soul and body.”

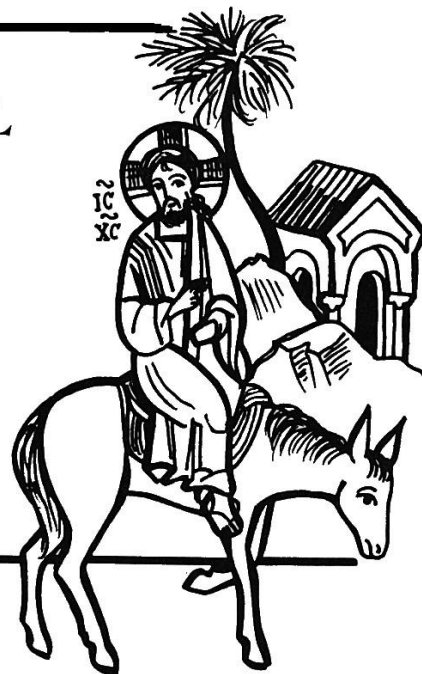
## **A Communal Rite**

From its beginnings in the apostolic Church, Holy Unction has always been a solemn and communal rite, rather than a private prayer, even when the recipient is seriously ill. Thus the Byzantine practice of having seven priests officiate hearkens back to St James’ injunction, *“Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven”* (Jas 5:14-15).

Even when a parish priest goes to anoint a sick parishioner he does well to take some of the un-ordained “elders” of the community along to offer their prayers and encouragement to their ill neighbor. In some parishes groups of people have been trained to accompany the priest on these occasions and to pray the mystery together, showing the sick that they are not alone in their time of trial and assuring them of the love of Christ at a most important time in their life.

## **THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM**

**The Sunday  
Before Pascha**



## Sunday Collections

Attendance	Date	Collection
30	February 5, 2023	1,328.00
25	February 12, 2023	335.00
11	February 19, 2023	530.00
36	February 26, 2023	127.00
25	March 5, 2023	1,600.00
22	March 12, 2023	263.00
26	March 19, 2023	10,000.00
26	March 26, 2023	165.00

Syrian Earthquake Relief \$ 775.00

## Divine Liturgy Intentions: For the Living:

Bishop Francois, Fr. Eugene Mitchell, Fr. James Graham, Fr. John Azar, Daniel Offutt, David Mangelsdorf, Brian Frank, Maria Barklage, Nookid Graham, Ali de la Vega, Dn. Kent & Diana Plowman, A Special Parish Intention, Medical Personnel and First Responders

## For the Dead:

## Announcements

We are live-streaming on our Facebook page at the following days & times:

Friday 6:00 PM Weekday Vespers

Saturday – 6:00PM Great Vespers

Sunday – 9:00AM Orthros & 10:00AM Divine Liturgy

**PRAYER OPPORTUNITES AROUND TOWN** –Most Holy Trinity parish will be hosting a Men's Holy Hour every Friday morning from 6-7am. There will also be a coffee hour and reflection time afterwards – Men from all parishes are invited to attend for whatever portion of the time they are available. For the Ladies – St. Joseph's will be hosting a Women's Holy Hour on the first Monday of each month at 7pm.

# National Association of Melkite Youth

## NAMY Conference 2023

***Our Melkite Mission: Becoming Disciples, Making Disciples***

**Who:** Melkite Youth throughout the US, ages 13-18

**When:** Monday July 10<sup>th</sup>- Friday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Where:** St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire

**Why:** Faith, Fellowship, Fun

*For more information:*

Please contact Fr. Thomas & Pres. Rebekah Moses at [namy@melkite.org](mailto:namy@melkite.org)



# Resurrectional Troparion

*(Tone 2)*



When you des - cend - ed to Death, O Im - mor - tal



Life, You put Ha-des to death by the splen - dor of



Your Di - vin - i - ty, and when You raised the dead



from be - low the earth, all the Hea - ven - ly Po - wers



cried out to You: O Gi - ver of Life, Christ our God,



glo - ry to You!



# Troparia for Palm Sunday

(Tone 1)

(Two times)



O Christ God, when You raised La - za - rus



from the dead be - fore the time of Your Pas - sion, You con -



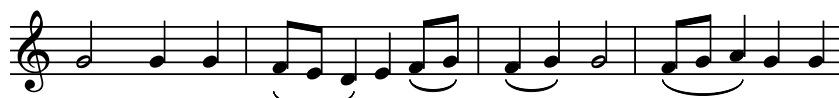
- firmed the fu - ture re - sur - rec - tion of all. We too,



like the chil - dren of old, car - ry be - fore You the sym -



- bols of vic - to - ry, and cry out to You, O Con - quer - er of



Death: Ho - san - na in the high - est, bles - sed is



He who comes in the name of the Lord.



We have been bu - ried with You in Bap - tism O



Christ our God, and we me - ri - ted e - ter - nal



life through Your Re-sur-rec - tion. Where - fore we cry



out to You sing - ing a hymn of praise: Ho-sa-na



in the high - est, bles - sed is He who comes in the



name of the Lord.

# Kondakion of Palm Sunday

(Tone 6)



O Christ God en-throned in Hea - ven and on earth ri-



- ding up-on a colt. You have ac-cep - ted the praise of



the an - gels and the hymns of the chil - dren who were



cry-ing out to You: Bles - sed are You who come



to re-store A-dam.

# Hirmos of Palm Sunday

(Tone 4)



The Lord is God and He has ap - peared to us.



Let us ce - le - brate and re - joice. Come, let us



glo - ri - fy Christ, and with palms and bran-



- ches sing to Him can - ti-cles of praise: Bles - sed is



He who comes in the name of the Lord, our Sa-



- vior.

## Prokimenon

**Reader:** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and he has appeared to us.

**All:** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and he has appeared to us.

**Reader:** Sing to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.

**All:** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. God is the Lord and he has appeared to us.

**Reader:** Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

**All:** God is the Lord and he has appeared to us.

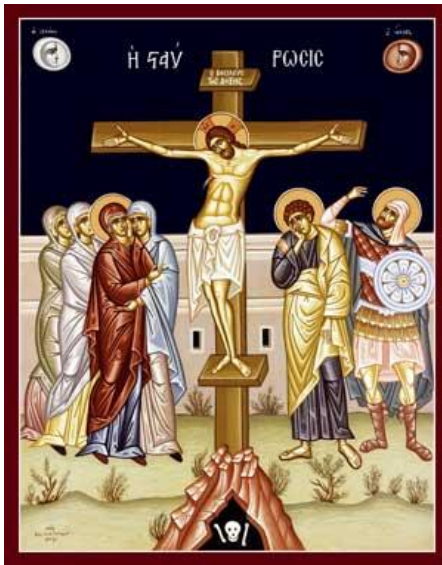
**Readings for the Week:** *(during Great Lent the weekdays are non-liturgical, the following readings are, however, appointed)*

Monday:	Romans 11:13-24	Matthew 24:3-35
Tuesday:	Ephesians 1:1-9	Matthew 24:36-26:2
Wed:	1 Corinthians 2:6-10	Matthew 26:6-16
Thursday:	1 Corinthians 11:23-32	Matthew 22:1-39
Friday:	1 Corinthians 1:18-2:2	Matthew 27:1-56
Saturday:	Romans 6:3-12	Matthew 28:1-20

## **Saints of the Week:**

<b>April 2: Palm Sunday;</b> Holy Father Titus the Wonderworker
<b>April 3: Holy and Great Monday;</b> Holy Father Nicetas the Confessor, Abbot of the Monastery of Medicium
<b>April 4: Holy and Great Tuesday;</b> Holy Martyrs Theodule & Agathopode; Holy Fathers George of Maleum & Joseph the Hymnographer
<b>April 5: Holy and Great Wednesday;</b> Holy Martyrs Claudius, Diodorus, Victor, Pappios, Nicephoros and Serapion
<b>April 6: Holy and Great Thursday;</b> Holy Father Eutychios, Archbishop of Constantinople
<b>April 7: Holy and Great Friday;</b> Holy Martyr Calliopos and our Holy Father George, bishop of Melitene
<b>April 8: Holy and Great Saturday;</b> Holy Apostles Herodion, Agabus, Rufus, Asyncritus, Phlegon and Hermes, who were among the 70 Disciples
<b>April 9: Holy and Great Pascha</b>





# OUR PASCHAL JOURNEY

## HOLY WEEK



## **Saint Ignatios Melkite Catholic Church**

1003 Merry Street, Augusta, GA 30904

## **Schedule for Holy Week & Pascha**

**Sunday, April 2 – Palm Sunday**

Orthros 9:00am

Blessing of Palms, Procession and Divine Liturgy– 10:00am

**Holy Monday, April 3 – Bridegroom Matins – 7:00pm**

**Holy Tuesday, April 4 – Service of the Holy Anointing – 7:00pm**

**Holy Wednesday, April 5 – Vesper-Basil Liturgy – 7:00pm**

**Holy Thursday, April 6 – Service of the 12 Gospels with the Crucifixion – 7:00pm**

**Good Friday, April 7**

Royal Hour – 12 Noon

Vespers of Descent from the Cross – 3pm

Epitaphios Service and Procession with the Tomb – 7pm

**Holy Saturday/Pascha – April 8 – The Hajme – 9:00pm**

To be followed by a shared parish meal

**All services will be open to the public  
And will be live-streamed on our parish Facebook page**

## Word Search

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Bethany

Betray

Burial

Denarii

Feet

Fronde

Hair

Hosanna

Israel

Jerusalem

Judas

King

Lazarus

Martha

Nard

Ointment

Palm

Passover

Poor

Purse

Sion

Supper

Table

# **Parish Information:**

**Rt. Rev. Michael Skrocki, JCD**  
**Pastor**

**[abounamike@aol.com](mailto:abounamike@aol.com)**

## **Knights of Columbus** **JFK Council**

1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7pm.

Odd-numbered months at St. Ignatios

Even-numbered months here at Most Holy Trinity

## **4<sup>th</sup> Degree Assembly**

2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, 7pm

Odd-numbered months at Most Holy Trinity

Even-numbered months here at St. Ignatios

## **Publicans Prayer Group**

Postponed until Further Notice

## **New Parishioners:**

Please register with Fr. Michael.

## **Mystery of Holy Confession**

Please contact Fr. Michael to set up a convenient time.

## **Mystery of Christian Initiation**

Expectant parents should notify Fr. Michael prior to the birth of the child. Adult converts should contact Fr. Michael so arrangements may be made for any necessary instruction and sacraments.

## **Mystery of Holy Crowning**

Those planning to marry should notify the Fr. Michael  
at least six months prior to the desired Wedding date.

## **Mystery of Holy Anointing**

Please notify Fr. Michael when you or a family member is in need of anointing.

To report sexual abuse by clergy, parish personnel or volunteers of the Eparchy of Newton, please call the Victim Assistance Coordinator at 1-800-479-5910.

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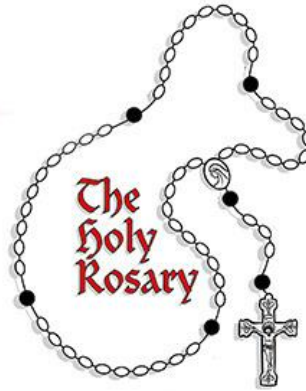
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