



PANAGIA PANTOVASILISSA  
HOLY MOTHER QUEEN OF ALL  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

A COMMUNITY FOR ALL

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## The Great Fast: The Break of Dawn



As we penitently kneel before Christ in the midst of the Great Fast, we are presented with the perfect opportunity to take stock of ourselves. And it is this position of kneeling—this position which we take so many times during Great Lent—which provides us with a base from which to reflect. When we stand, we are in a position which is intrinsically self-reliant. We rely on the strength of our legs to keep us upright, that we might face whatever opportunities and challenges present themselves. It is when we are on our knees—when we consciously make the act to place ourselves in a position of supplication before God—that we are, ourselves, most prone to rise above the rest of the world. For when we kneel, we are relying on Christ to raise us up.

Then again, sometimes, life, itself, casts us to our knees. Sometimes we are weighted down with suffering or loss, or with all of the stressors and trials we encounter. Yet as we approach Pascha, we see, on the horizon, the break of dawn. We see the Son of Righteousness rising, and beckoning that we too may rise with Him above the troubles and travails of our daily lives. My brothers and sisters: Let us receive the light of Christ!

As we prepare to celebrate Christ's Resurrection, as the true Pascha, we note the saving grace that He has bestowed on us as He continually stretches forth His hand when we are cast on our knees. We recognize the strength that He gives us to rise again to face the world in His name, for the glory of His Kingdom. And we rejoice that as He rises, He bears up the world on His shoulders. May we reach the glory of Our Lord's Resurrection together, so that in rising with Him, and in being carried by Him, we may seek to carry the world into the presence and majesty of God!

Fr. William

# **Holy Week Schedule**

In addition to the Palm Sunday Liturgy, our Holy Week service schedule is as follows:

## **PALM SUNDAY; HOLY MONDAY, AND TUESDAY**

### ***6 PM – The Bridegroom Services***

At these services, we commemorate, The Righteous Joseph, the Withering of the Fig Tree, and the Parable of the Ten Virgins.

## **HOLY WEDNESDAY**

### ***3 PM – Holy Unction (Abbreviated for Young Children and those who are Ill)***

At this service, those who are very young or who suffer from an illness which precludes their presence in Church for the longer evening service are anointed with oil for the healing of soul and body and the forgiveness of sins.

### ***6 PM – Holy Unction***

At this service, the faithful are anointed with oil for the healing of soul and body and the forgiveness of sins.

## **HOLY THURSDAY**

### ***7 AM – Vespers Divine Liturgy***

At this service, which commemorates the Last Supper, we consecrate the reserved sacrament kept in the Tabernacle throughout the year. According to our tradition here in America, it begins earlier than normal.

### ***6 PM – The Passion Service***

At this service, we read the Twelve Gospels of the Betrayal and Passion, and install the Cross in the center of the Church to be venerated by the faithful.

## **HOLY FRIDAY**

### ***9 AM – Imperial Hours***

At this service, we commemorate the Lord's Passion. It is called Imperial because it was traditional for the Roman Emperor to attend that he might acknowledge his submission before Christ the True King.

### ***3 PM – The Descent from the Cross***

At this service, we take the body of our Lord down from the cross and wrap it, where it shall remain until the Ascension. We also place the Epitaphios (the cloth) upon the Kouvouglion (the wooden tomb).

### ***6 PM – The Lamentations and Procession***

At this service, we lament before the tomb, and process around the Church with the Epitaphios.

## **HOLY SATURDAY**

### ***9 AM – Vespers Divine Liturgy***

At this service, we celebrate the Harrowing of Hades, and prepare for the Lord's Resurrection.

### ***11 PM – Vigil and Pascha***

Christ is Risen!

## **SUNDAY OF HOLY PASCHA**

### ***12 PM – Vespers of Pascha***

At this service, we once again commemorate Christ's Holy Resurrection. Following the service, there will be an Agape meal sponsored by the Parish Council. Parishioners are encouraged to bring potluck dishes as well.

# Pastoral Notes

## GREEK ORTHODOX YOUTH ASSOCIATION (GOYA)

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, we refounded the GOYA chapter at our local parish after an absence of approximately 30 years. The first Saturday of each month is set aside for our meetings and outings, and in the coming months we will be engaging in fun, fellowship, food, retreats, and service. Families who are interested in participating, and parents who are interested in serving as volunteers are encouraged to contact Fr. William to be placed on the contact list. Our GOYA is a youth fellowship organization which, for this year, is open to our youth in grades 5-12.

## YOUNG ADULT LEAGUE OF LEXINGTON (Y'ALL)

On February 3<sup>rd</sup>, our young adult fellowship group met together. The name that was chosen by the membership was the Young Adult League of Lexington (appropriately abbreviated Y'ALL). We plan to meet monthly. Our meetings usually take the form of casual outings. Anyone who is interested in participating is encouraged to contact Fr. William to be placed on the contact list. Our Y'ALL chapter is open to young adults, ages 18-39.

## ON FASTING AND MEDICAL CONDITIONS

Please note that if you have a medical condition, you are asked to obey the recommendations of your doctor during Great Lent. The hierarchs have been clear on this point in the past, as are the patristic sources. It goes without saying that we are called to be honest with ourselves and before God about what is and is not a legitimate condition. If you are diabetic, or suffer from a nutritional deficiency, or any other condition that calls for you to be on a specific diet, the Church understands. If you would like to discuss some level of fasting, feel free to contact the priest, but *always* obey the recommendations of your doctors.

## OVER 50S GROUP

After Great Lent, we will be founding an Over 50s Club. This is a fellowship oriented group that helps us to stay in touch with one another, and to provide opportunities for fun, study, and common service to Christ. If you are interested yourself, or know someone who may be, please contact Fr. William. Jim Hangis has graciously agreed to act as founding Chairman.

# Philoptochos Corner

**By: Carolyn Janssen**

Philoptochos is continuing our food drive, and this event is intended to be year round. The basket where you can donate non-perishable items is located in the Social Hall. This is a great way to help those in need by donating items we might have around our house, or by picking up a few extra things at the store! The box has already been filled once, and donations are going to The Hope Center.

Also, our annual Spring Bake Sale is as follows:

**Thursday March 29 8 AM–6 PM**

**Friday March 30 9 AM–5 PM**

## **GOYA Meeting and Retreat**

At our March 3<sup>rd</sup> GOYA meeting, we held Officer Elections for our newly reestablished chapter. The officers are as follows:

**President – Sophia Xenos**

**Vice President – Elisabeth Assaye**

**Secretary – Ava Xenos**

**Treasurer – Eyob Assaye**

On March 10<sup>th</sup>, we hosted our first annual GOYA Lenten Retreat. The youth participated together in a variety of thought experiments in which they were presented with hypothetical situations in which their faith in Christ might be questioned or challenged, and asked to determine, together, how they would respond in each. Many thanks to everyone who participated. After the retreat, and at the request of the youth, we made popcorn and watched the movie *Wonder*, which won the “Truly Moving Picture” award at the Heartland Film Festival.

## **St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival**

On March 4<sup>th</sup>, we held our parish Oratorical Festival. Many thanks to Sarah Tsiang, who agreed to chair. Sophia Xenos won our Senior Division, and Sophia Watts won our Junior Division. We have been asked to host the Central District Oratorical Festival by the Metropolis Youth Office, and Sarah Tsiang has agreed to chair. The Central District Oratorical Festival will take place on Saturday, April 14.



## Meet Your Parish – Virgilius Cornea



I was born in Romania in a very beautiful village. Since my early childhood, even though it was during the communist time and the faith in God and attending services in church was forbidden by the communist authorities, my grandparents brought me to the Christian Orthodox Church in our community. In

this was way I grew up with faith in God as a Christian Orthodox. During high school I was fascinated by physics and biology and I decided to go to medical school and become a physician, fulfilling my father's wish. After I graduated medical school I met my wife, Mihaela, who is also a physician. We got married and decided to immigrate to the United States. In 2002, after two years of living in Birmingham, Alabama, we moved to New York City for our residency training, me in pathology and my wife in anesthesiology. After finishing our residency training we moved to Lexington, Kentucky in 2008, and I started to work as a surgical pathologist at University of Kentucky in 2011, with special interest in transplant and kidney pathology. We had two beautiful children, our daughter Ana Maria, in the first years in New York City, and our son Andrei, in 2011, in Lexington, Kentucky. Since our arrival in Lexington, we have joined the parish of Panagia Pantovasillisa, Holy Mother Queen of All Greek Orthodox Church.

# **Pan-Orthodox Vespers for the Sunday of Orthodoxy**

Many thanks to all of those who came out to worship together with our Orthodox brethren from the parishes in the Commonwealth of Kentucky! Gratitude is also owed to Philoptochos, who sponsored the fellowship reception after the event. Six priests, three deacons, and parishioners from five parishes came to join us, and to see the mighty and beautiful temple that our community has built in which to worship Christ. When we join together in celebrating the faith in Christ that we hold so dear, truly we remember that hundreds of millions of faithful from throughout the world join us each Sunday at the altar, receiving the same Body and Blood of our Lord, with which we are fed. Glory be to God in all things!



# Worship and Church Events Schedule

(For information about Holy Week, please consult the schedule on the second page of this bulletin.)

## Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

6:00 PM – Salutations to the Theotokos

## Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

4:00 PM – GOYA Meeting and Officer Elections

6:00 PM – Great Vespers and Confession

## Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy

12:00 PM – Oratorical Festival

## Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Great Compline

## Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

## Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Salutations to the Theotokos

## Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM – GOYA Lenten Retreat

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

## Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy

## Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Great Compline

## Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

## Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Salutations to the Theotokos

## Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

## Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy

## Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Great Compline

## Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

## Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

6:00 PM – The Akathist Hymn

## Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

3:00 PM – Parish Lenten Retreat

6:00 PM – Great Vespers

## Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy

## Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Great Compline

## Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>

6:00 PM – Presanctified Liturgy

## Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

8:00 AM – Philoptochos Bake Sale

## Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>

9:00 AM – Philotochos Bake Sale

## Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> – Saturday of Lazarus

9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy

## Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> – Palm Sunday

9:00 AM – Matins and Liturgy