Saints of the Day

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark: Mark was a traveling companion and assistant to the Apostle Peter, who, in his first Epistle calls him his son—not a son according to the flesh but a son according to the spirit. [The chosen one at Babylon sends you his greeting, as does Mark, my son (1 Peter 5:13)]. While Mark was in Rome with Peter, the faithful begged him to write down for them the saving teaching of the Lord Jesus, His miracles and His life for them. Thus Mark wrote his Holy Gospel, which the Apostle Peter himself saw and bore witness to as true. Mark was appointed as bishop by the Apostle Peter and was sent to Egypt to preach. And thus St. Mark was the first preacher of the Gospel and the first bishop in Egypt. Egypt was entirely oppressed by the thick darkness of paganism, idolatry, soothsaying and malice. With the help of God, St. Mark succeeded in sowing the seed of the teaching of Christ throughout Libya, Ammonicia and Pentapolis. From Pentapolis, St. Mark came to Alexandria, where the Spirit of God led him. In Alexandria, he succeeded in establishing the Church of God, in ordaining bishops, priests and deacons, and in firmly strengthening them all in the honorable Faith. Mark confirmed his preaching through many great miracles. When the heathen raised accusations against Mark as a destroyer of their idolatrous faith, and when the governor of the city began searching for Mark, he again fled to Pentapolis, where he continued to strengthen his earlier work. After two years, Mark returned to Alexandria, to the great joy of all the faithful, whose number had greatly multiplied. On this occasion, the pagans seized Mark, bound him tightly, and began to drag him over the cobble stone pavement, crying out: “Let us drag the ox to the pen.” Wounded and bloodied all over, Mark was cast into prison, where at first a heavenly angel appeared to him, encouraging and strengthening him. Then the Lord Jesus Himself appeared to him and said: “Peace be to thee, Mark, my Evangelist!” To that Mark replied: “Peace be to Thee also, my Lord Jesus Christ!” The next day the vicious men brought Mark out of prison and again dragged him through the streets with the same cry: “Let us drag the ox to the pen.” Completely exhausted and worn out, Mark uttered: “Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.” Mark expired and his soul went [was translated] to the better world. His holy relics were honorably buried by Christians and, through the centuries, have given people healing from all afflictions, pains and diseases.

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April 25, 2021

Sunday Holy Scripture Reading
Apostolic Reading: Philippians: 4:4-9
Gospel: John 12:1-18

Services: Sunday-8 a.m. Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy, Weekdays 8 a.m.
Orthros and 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy when scheduled.

Saints of the Day: The Triumphant Entry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. Palm Sunday. Apostle and Evangelist Mark; Martyr Niki; Macedonios, Pat. of Constple; New-martyr George.

Order of Service
First Antiphon with festal verses
Second Antiphon with festal verses
Σώσων ἡμᾶς Ὡλόθεο, ὃ ἐπὶ πόλον ὅνου καθεσθείς, ψάλλοντάς Σοι Ἀλληλουία.

Save us O Son of God, Who sat on the foal of a donkey, we sing to You, alleluia.

Third Antiphon with festal verses
Apoloitykon of Saint Lazarus
Τῇ κοινῇ Ἀνάστασιν πρὸ τοῦ Σοῦ πάθου πιστοῦμενος, ἐκ νεκρῶν ἤγειρός τὸν Λάζαρον, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός ὅθεν καὶ ἡμεῖς ὡς οἱ παῖδες τά τῆς νίκης σύμβαλα φέροντες, σὺν τῷ νικητῇ τοῦ Θανάτου βοῶμεν Ὡσαννά ἐν τοῖς ψήστοις, εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν οὖν κατὶ Κυρίου.

Apoloitykon of Saint Lazarus Tone 1
In confirming the common Resurrection, O Christ God, You did raise up Lazarus from the dead before Your Passion. Wherefore, we also, like the children, bearing the symbols of victory, cry to You, the Vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

Entrance Hymn instead of Come let us . . .
Blessed is He Who comes in the name of the Lord; the Lord is God and has revealed Himself to us. Save us O Son of God, Who sat on the foal of a donkey, we sing to You, alleluia.
After the Entrance: For St. Lazarus—*In confirming the common Resurrection*...

**Apolytikon of Palm Sunday Tone 4**
As by baptism we were buried with You, O Christ our God, so by Your Resurrection we were deemed worthy of immortal life; and praising You, we cry: Hosanna in the highest; blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.

**Kontakion of Palm Sunday Tone 6**
Being borne upon a throne in Heaven, and upon a colt on the earth, O Christ God, You did accept the praise of the Angels and the laudation of the children as they cried to You: Blessed are You Who comes to recall Adam.

**Instead of “Axion Estin” Tone 4**
God is the Lord has appeared unto us; let us celebrate the Feast, and let us rejoice and magnify Christ. With palms and branches let us raise our voices unto Him with praise, saying: Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord, our Savior.

**Communion Hymn**
Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. Alleluia.

Instead of We have received the true light…we chant *In confirming the common resurrection*…

**Divine Services for Holy Week**

a. **This evening,** Bridegroom Matins (Orthros) 6pm
b. **Mon., April 26,** Presanctified Liturgy 8am.
   Bridegroom Matins (Orthros) 6 pm.
c. **Tues., April 27,** Presanctified Liturgy 8am.
   Bridegroom Matins (Orthros) 6pm
d. **Wed., April 28,** Presanctified Liturgy 8am.
   **Holy Unction Service** 6pm Please note that only Orthodox Christians may be anointed with Sacrament of Holy Unction.
e. **Thurs., April 29,** Holy Thursday Matins 8am
   Vesperal Liturgy 9am
   Orthros for the 12 Passion Gospels 6pm
f. **Fri., April 30,** Royal Hours 8am
   Vespers: Descent from the Cross 3pm.
   Lamentation Service of Matins 6pm
g. **Sat., May 1,** Vesperal Liturgy 9am.
   Vigil 11:30 pm.
h. **Sunday, April 28,** Paschal Resurrection Vigil and Liturgy 12am midnight
   *(Come receive the light . . .)*
   Agape Vespers 12pm noon.

**Holy Communion in the Orthodox Church**
Holy Communion of the Orthodox Church is the Holy Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is *“With the fear of God, faith and love”* that we approach the Divine Mysteries. Therefore, Holy Communion is reserved only for those baptized and chrismated Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves by prayer and fasting, as prescribed by the teachings of the Holy Orthodox Church. We ask that women, before approaching to receive from the Holy Cup, in respect of our Lord, to please remove lipstick.

**Christians Around the World**
Please remember to keep Christians around the world in your prayers. Many are being persecuted and even killed for their faith in Jesus Christ. Remember also the two kidnapped Orthodox bishops from Syria.

**Coffee Hour Signup**
We will be having coffee hour again and are looking for sponsors beginning on Thomas Sunday, May 9, 2021.

**Bookstore**
Please stop by our bookstore with many items for your spiritual benefit and see Olga Sonnenburg for more information.

**Olive Oil Needed**
We are in need of olive oil for our oil lamps. Please bring in 100% pure olive oil. Thank-you!

**Stewardship 2021**
Please support our parish with your time, talent and treasure. Stewardship packets have been mailed. See Ruxandra Georgescu for more information.

**New El Paso County Health Guidelines**

**Upcoming Events**
- **Annual Palm Sunday Lenten Dinner:** Following Palm Sunday Services, April 25, we will have our traditional fish luncheon. Free will offering.
- Making red eggs on Holy Thursday, April 25. We will purchase the eggs, donations welcome.
- Decorating the Kouvouklion (Tomb) Holy Friday, April 29 following services
- May 2, Pascha, following Agape Vespers we will have our Pascha Picnic.