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# W<sup>the</sup>onderworker

Saint George Orthodox Church

Second Quarter, 2011

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

From April 17<sup>th</sup> through 23<sup>rd</sup> this year, Orthodox Christians around the world will celebrate Holy Week, a season when we spiritually follow our Lord, Jesus Christ, from His triumphal entrance into Jerusalem to His death on the Cross and burial.

During Holy Week, each day has a theme. At the end of the week — Thursday, Friday and Saturday — the themes are obvious: The Last Supper, the Betrayal and Trial, the Crucifixion and Burial.

Earlier in the week, however, the themes are less obvious, but no less important. Fr. Thomas Hopko, retired dean of Saint Vladimir's Seminary, writes in his book, "Worship:"

The theme of Monday is that of the sterile *fig tree* which yields no fruit and is condemned. Tuesday the accent is on the vigilance of the *wise virgins* who, unlike their foolish sisters, were ready when the Lord came to them. Wednesday the focus is on the *fallen woman* who repents. Great emphasis is made in the liturgical services to compare the woman, a sinful harlot who is saved, to Judas, a chosen apostle who is lost. The one gives her wealth to Christ and kisses his feet; the other betrays Christ for money with a kiss.

A special Matins service is celebrated, usually in the evening of each of the first three days. The general theme of this service is that of the Bridegroom, who comes in the middle of the night. Therefore, these services are known as *Bridegroom Matins*, and remind us that we must always be ready for our Lord to come again in glory to judge the world and us — the Second Coming — because He will come when we least expect it!

I have printed the **Schedule of Services** for Holy Week on page 3, so that you can see when the Bridegroom Matins services, and all the other services, will be celebrated and plan to participate in them.

Let us all, then, celebrate Holy Week as fully and completely as we can, faithfully following our Lord through His Passion and learning from Him vital lessons in the Christian life. Thus, we will be better prepared to celebrate His glorious Resurrection and better prepared, as well, for Him to come again in glory.

Fr. Dennis

# Easter Egg Hunt Tradition Continues

Once again this year we will be holding our traditional **Easter Egg Hunt** after the 11:00 a.m. Paschal Vespers service on Pascha, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

All children who attend our Church School are invited to hunt for eggs. Other children aged 10 and under are also welcome. Older children may accompany the littlest ones to help them in the hunt.

Children who want to participate are expected to be in Church for the service and to be dressed appropriately for Church.

We ask that parents bring at least one dozen plastic eggs for each of their children who will participate. Please place the eggs in the basket inside the front door of the Church any time before the service.

And don't forget, sharing and patience are fundamental Christian principles. Children should stop gathering eggs when they have found 15, and help or share with others until everyone has at least 15 of their own before continuing to hunt.

Everyone is invited to Coffee Hour after the hunt.



# Food Festival Booklet

Our upcoming **Food Festival** will feature a special *Program Booklet* that will include the menu and names of individuals and businesses who wish to support this event.

If you would like your name or business included, fill out the form below, and send it to the Church along with your donation. If you would like us to print your business card, please include that as well.

This booklet will help to defray the costs of the Festival.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

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## Saint George Church Food Festival Program Booklet Ad

Please send this form, along with your donation to:

Saint George Church Program Booklet Ads, 5490 Main St., Trumbull, CT 06611-2932

- ¼ page - \$25.00
- ½ page - \$50.00
- Full page - \$100.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Donation amount: \_\_\_\_\_

How you would like your listing to read:



## Holy Week and Pascha 2011 Schedule of Services

April 16 Lazarus Saturday	9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy 4:00 p.m. Great Vespers and preparation of palms & pussywillows
April 17 Palm Sunday	9:30 a.m. Church School 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy 7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins
April 18 Great and Holy Monday	7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins
April 19 Great and Holy Tuesday	7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins
April 20 Great and Holy Wednesday	7:00 p.m. Bridegroom Matins and Holy Unction
April 21 Great and Holy Thursday	9:30 a.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy of the Last Supper 7:00 p.m. Matins with the Twelve Passion Gospels
April 22 Great and Holy Friday	9:00 a.m. Decoration of the Petafi 3:00 p.m. Vespers 7:00 p.m. Matins with the Praises at the Tomb of Christ
April 23 Great and Holy Saturday	9:30 a.m. Vesperal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great 11:00 p.m. Nocturne, Procession and Paschal Liturgy
April 24 Great and Holy Pascha The Resurrection of Christ	11:00 a.m. Paschal Vespers and Easter Egg Hunt
April 25 Bright Monday and Saint George ( <i>transferred</i> )	9:30 a.m. Paschal Divine Liturgy

## Coming Events

### April

17 Holy Week (*see Schedule of Services on -23: page 3*)

24: Pascha -- The Resurrection of Christ

25: Bright Monday and Feast of Saint George (*transferred*)  
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

### May

1: Saint Thomas Sunday

8: Sunday of the Myrrhbearing Women  
Mother's Day

15: Sunday of the Paralytic

22: Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

29: Sunday of the Blind Man

30: Memorial Day

### June

2: Ascension of our Lord  
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

4: Food Festival

5: Sunday of the Holy Fathers

11: Memorial Saturday  
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

12: Pentecost

19: Sunday of All Saints  
Father's Day

20: Apostle's Fast begins

26: Sunday of All Saints  
of North America

29: Apostles Peter and Paul  
9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy

## Looking ahead

August 8 – 13: New England Youth Rally

September 22 – 24: Archdiocesan Assembly hosted by our parish

October 31

– November 4: 16<sup>th</sup> All American Council, Seattle, WA

February 27, 2012: Great Lent begins

April 8, 2012: Western Easter

April 15, 2012: Pascha



## Food Festival planned

On Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, our Church will hold a **Food Festival** that will feature ethnic food, baked goods, and a "Take-a Chance" raffle table.

We are looking for volunteers to help out on the day of the event.

If you would like to lend a hand, please notify Laura Chadwick (203-268-2865).

# Feasts and Saints of the Orthodox Church

## April 25: Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark

The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Mark, also known as John Mark (*Acts 12:12*), was one of the Seventy Apostles, and was also a nephew of St Barnabas (*June 11*). He was born at Jerusalem. The house of his mother Mary adjoined the Garden of Gethsemane. As Church Tradition relates, on the night that Christ was betrayed he followed after Him, wrapped only in a linen cloth. He was seized by soldiers, and fled away naked, leaving the cloth behind (*Mark 14:51-52*). After the Ascension of the Lord, the house of his mother Mary became a place where Christians gathered, and a place of lodging for some of the Apostles (*Acts 12:12*).

St Mark was a very close companion of the Apostles Peter, Paul and Barnabas. After working and travelling with them, he went to Egypt, where he established a local Church.

When the Apostle Paul was brought to Rome in chains, St Mark and St Timothy went to Rome. There he also wrote his holy Gospel (*ca. 62-63*).

From Rome, St Mark returned to Egypt and established a Christian school in Alexandria, which later produced many famous Fathers and teachers of the Church. Zealous for Church services, St Mark composed a Liturgy for the Christians of Alexandria.

After visiting other places in Africa, St Mark was inspired by the Holy Spirit to return to Alexandria and confront the pagans there. There he visited the home of a man named Ananias, and healed his crippled hand. Ananias took him in, listened to his

words, and received Baptism.

Following the example of Ananias, many others from Alexandria were also baptized. This roused the enmity of the pagans, and they wanted to kill St Mark. Having learned of this, St Mark made Ananias a bishop, and ordained three others as presbyters to provide the church with leadership after his death.

The pagans seized St Mark when he was serving the Liturgy. They beat him, dragged him through the streets and threw him in prison. There St Mark was granted a vision of the Lord Jesus Christ, Who strengthened him before his sufferings. On the following day, he was again dragged through the streets to the courtroom, but along the way St Mark died saying, "Into Your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit."

The pagans wanted to burn the saint's body, but when they lit the fire, everything grew dark, thunder crashed, and there was an earthquake. The pagans fled in terror, and Christians took up the body of St Mark and buried it in a stone crypt. This was on April 4, 63. The Church celebrates his memory on April 25.

St Mark wrote his Gospel for Gentile Christians, emphasizing the words and deeds of the Savior which reveal His divine power. Many aspects of his account can be explained by his closeness to St Peter. The ancient writers say that the Gospel of Mark is a concise record of St Peter's preaching.

*taken from "Feasts and Saints of the Orthodox Church" on the website OCA.org.*

# *The Wonderworker*

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of the  
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