ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
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PO Box 4567
Pocatello, ID 83205
(208) 232-5519
WEBSITE
www.assumptionpocatello.net

EMAIL
assumptiongo-church@gmail.com

PRIEST
Fr. Constantine A. Zozos
(805) 570-6525

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Tressa Rockwood-President
John Mermigas-Vice Pres.
David Harmer-Treasurer
Anthony Hoskin-Secretary
Vivian Goodner
Vicky Fullmer
Dean Harris
Goldie Homan
William McCurdy
Gregory Painter
Tim Swore

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The Epistle

Volume 10. Issue 4 **April 2021**

Father's Message:

Everything points towards that Holiest of days, Pascha Sunday. But what happened those final days before Christ was crucified, was buried, and was raised from the dead? Do the days of Holy Week hold any significance or meaning for us today?

Our Journey will take us through the rest of Great Lent and usher us through Holy Week to that glorious day of our Blessed Lord's Resurrection. As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace--but now it is hidden from your eyes.

Jesus did not weep for Himself, nor for the Cross that awaited Him. He wept for the people of Jerusalem and for the fate that would come upon that city. We could do no better than to prepare for Pascha Sunday by letting ourself feel what Jesus felt, by letting our heart be broken for those who are hurting, those who are wandering, those who are searching, those who don't even know they're searching, I can't tell you who they are; but God knows, and you probably do, too: Your neighbor, your colleague, a parishioner, maybe a brother or sister, a mother or father, maybe a close friend, may be a casual acquaintance who hasn't yet experienced the forgiveness, the deliverance, the peace, and the freedom that comes when you experience new life through faith in Christ. All this began when He rode in to be crucified. I can tell you what will happen if you let yourself feel what Jesus feels: it will bring a flood of compassion into your heart.

When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "Who is this?" The crowds answered, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee." The city was stirred as an earthquake "stirs" the ground. That's what will happen if we walk with Jesus this Holy Week. We will begin to feel what He felt. We will begin to stir our soul and weep as He did. We will feel His pain, but also sense His compassion upon the Cross.

The secular world around us is wondering, is searching, questioning, is lost. Perhaps they're waiting to see if there really is a God. They're waiting to see if He really does care. They're waiting to see if the people who worship, and sing His "Lord have Mercy", and cry out to Him, and claim to know Him, to see if we are any different.

More importantly what does HE see? Does He see people concerned about so many things - worried about income taxes - worried about job security - worried about their health, or lack of it? Does He see people who are so busy doing things here & there - so busy that they never bother to consider those things that are eternally important?
May we, during this Holy and Sacred Season, make the time to fast, to pray,

Father's Message continued page 2...

Father's Message...attend the special services and to make Holy Week a part of your life. Those who have children set an example for them that will last a life-time. Does He see people who recognize Him for who He is? The Messiah, the Christ, the Son of God? Today, just like the city of Jerusalem, we find ourselves in the presence of Christ, looking at us. I wonder what He finds when He looks into our faces? When He turns & looks into our lives, I wonder, will He weep once again because of what He sees? Or will we have the joy that passes all understanding as we respond to His outstretched arms and hear Him say, "Well done, good & faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord"?

Blessed Pascha, Καλο Πασχα

+ Father Constantine

DIVINE SERVICES and VOLUNTEERS
MONTH of APRIL
ORTHROS 9:00AM DIVINE LITURGY 10:00AM

Sunday April 4, Sunday of the Holy Cross
Orthros Reader - Gregory Painter
Epistle Reader – Bill McCurdy
Ushers– Tim Swore, Tressa Rockwood
Prosphoron – Evangelia Papapavlos

Sunday April 11, of St. John Climacus
Orthros Reader - Bill McCurdy
Epistle Reader – Dean Harris
Ushers– Tressa Rockwood, John Mermigas
Prosphoron – Sophie McCurry

Sunday, April 18, Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt
Orthros Reader - Bill McCurdy
Epistle Reader – David Sandborgh
Ushers - Vicky Fullmer, Gregory Painter
Prosphoron (Holy Bread) - Rebecca Tysor

Sunday April 25, Palm Sunday
Orthros Reader - Gregory Painter
Epistle Reader – Dean Harris
Ushers - All available Ushers
Prosphoron (Holy Bread) - Trisha Reddin

LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE

Friday, April 2, 3rd Salutation to the Theotokos - 6:00pm

Sunday, April 4, Sunday of the Holy Cross,
Orthros 9:00am, Liturgy 10:00am Procession of the Holy Cross

Wednesday, April 7, Pre-Sanctified Liturgy - 6:00pm

Friday, April 9, 4th Salutation to the Theotokos - 6:00pm

Sunday, April 11, Fourth Sunday of Lent, Sunday of Saint John the Ladder, Godparent - Godchild Sunday
Orthros 9:00am, Divine Liturgy 10:00am

Wednesday, April 14, Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 6:00pm

Friday, April 16, The Akathist Hymn, 6:00pm

Sunday, April 18, Fifth Sunday of Lent, Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt,
Orthros 9am, Liturgy 10:00am

Saturday, April 24, Saturday of Lazarus, Orthros 9:00am, Liturgy 10:00am

Sunday, April 25, Palm Sunday, Orthros 9am, Divine Liturgy 10:00am,
Procession and Blessing of Palms

From April 25th Palm Sunday Evening-May 2nd, Pascha (refer to Holy Week)

2021 SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS, APRIL 24
10:00 am Divine Liturgy

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 25
9:00am Orthros
10:00am Divine Liturgy Christ's Triumphant Entrance
7:00pm Service of the Bridegroom/Nymphios "Preparing ourselves for Christ Our Lord"

HOLY MONDAY, APRIL 26
7:00pm Service of the Bridegroom/Nymphios

HOLY TUESDAY, APRIL 27
7:00pm Service of the Bridegroom - Hymn of Kasiani

HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28
9:00am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy (Holy Communion)
6:00pm Sacrament of Holy Unction - "The Anointing Service of the Body and the Soul."

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 29 Passion and Crucifixion of Christ
9:00am Saint Basil Vesper Liturgy (Holy Communion)
10:30am Dyeing and preparation of the Red Paschal Eggs (all are welcome to help)
7:00pm Reading of the Twelve Gospels and the Procession of our Crucified Lord

HOLY FRIDAY, APRIL 30TH
9:00am Reading of the Hours (decorating of Epitaphion 10am)

3:30pm Descent from the Cross (taking Our Lord off the Cross and Procession of the Epitaphion Tapestry (participation of children)

7:30pm Lamentations/Candlelight Procession with the Kouvouklion (Tomb of Christ with the Embroidered Epitaphion Tapestry Icon of Christ).

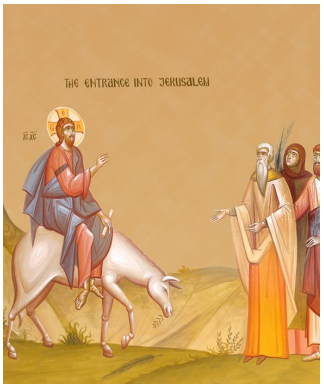
HOLY SATURDAY, MAY 1ST
9:00am Saint Basil Morning Vesper Liturgy (Holy Communion)

11:15pm The Canon and the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation

12:00 midnight Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy (Holy Communion)

HOLY PASCHA – EASTER, MAY 2ND
11:00am Agape Service – Vespers of Love/Resurrection Gospel read in various languages.
Easter Egg Hunt for the younger children

HOLY WEEK OFFERING LIST



In order to make Holy Week beautiful and inspiring, special items are needed. We encourage the faithful and friends of Assumption to help defray costs by donating toward these articles (in whole or in part) in memory of loved ones or for their health and well being. Both the living and departed will be commemorated during Holy Week services. Thank you.

Epitaphion Flowers (Christ's Tomb)……..…….**$800.00**
ALL DONATIONS TO THIS END WILL BE NEEDED AND APPRECIATED!
The Tomb of our Lord (Epitaphion) will be adorned by hundreds of flowers.

Palm Sunday Palms (Decorate Sanctuary) **……..…(donated)**

Olive Oil for Holy Unction (Holy Wednesday**)……...…$15.00**

Seven Candles for Holy Unction Service (Holy Wed)**……$20.00**

Three Candles - Cross of Christ ……..(donated)

Twelve Votive Candles for Gospel Readings……..$20.00

White Sheet for the Body of Christ (Holy Friday)**……...$25.00**

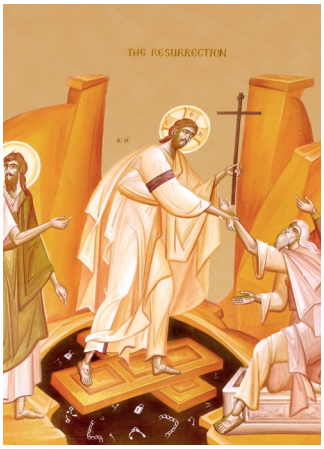
Holy Communion Wine (2 Cases)**……...…….…..(donated)**

Four Candles for Epitaphion ……...…….……(donated)

Rose Petals for Epitaphion (Holy Friday)**……...$45.00**

Rose Water (Holy Friday)**……$15.00**

Seasonal Plants…….……..…….$20.00 each



Please complete Holy Week Request Form
on page 7 and return to the Church Office with your donation payable to:

Assumption Church
PO BOX 4567
Pocatello, Idaho 83205
(Memo on check Holy Week)

You may also use On-line Giving through the Parish Website to make your offering, or directly at:
http://assumptionpocatello.churchtrac.com/give

HOLY WEEK DONATION FORM

Please accept the enclosed offering toward the successful carrying forth of the activities of Holy Week and the Celebration of Pascha. May the love, joy, and hope of this celebration fill our hearts and guide us to participate more fully in our Lenten journey and Holy Week.

☐ **The enclosed gift in the amount of $_____is intended to offer a specific item _____ needed for Holy Week.**

(Select the item from page 8)

☐ **Please accept my gift as needed in the amount of $_____**

In memory of His departed servants listed below and commemorate them in prayer during Holy Week (first name only).

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

For the health and well being of His servants listed below and commemorate them in prayer during Holy Week (first name only).

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

Enclose an extra page if needed.

This gift is offered by: (Please list name and address)

_____

Name

_____

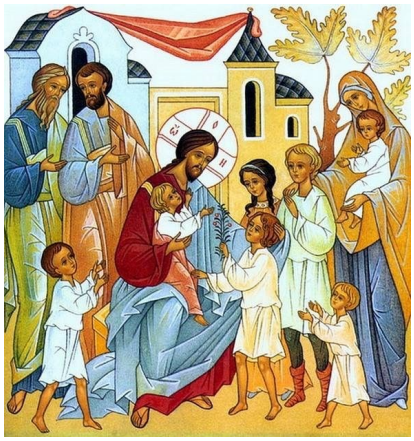
Address

Mail Form and Donation to:
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
PO Box 4567
Pocatello, ID 83205-4567

or offer a monetary donation through On-Line Giving through the Parish Website

Parish Website: www. Assumptionpocatello.net

or directly, On-Line Giving: http://assumptionpocatello.churchtrac.com/give



GODCHILD - GODPARENT SUNDAY APRIL 11th

There are few things in life more precious than the bond between a godchild and godparent. The role of the Godparent in the Orthodox Church is an important one.

Along with the parents, the Godparent is charged with the responsibility of assisting in the spiritual development of the child. In some cultures the Godparent is addressed by a special name (an example in Greek is "nouno/nouna".Whether a blood relative or not, the Godparent is now embraced as part of the "spiritual family" of that child.

Our **Annual Godparent-Godchild Sunday will be held on Sunday, April 11th.** We are asking that you invite your Godparents and Godchildren to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and to reaffirm the commitment that was made at baptism. If you are unable to join us at church you can join us virtually via livestream. The children are asked to bring their Baptismal Candle, that is to be lit as they approach for Holy Communion. If your child does not have their candle you may purchase a candle at the Candle Stand.

In some cases the Godparent may live far away. If this is the case, in order for no one to be excluded, the Church School child is encouraged to ask a close family friend or favorite aunt or uncle to "stand in" for the Godparent and attend the service.

THE AKATHIST HYMN

Friday Evenings at 6:00pm
The Salutation Service will be celebrated April 2, 9, and the entire Akathist Hymn on April 16th.

The Orthodox Church worships God alone. Yet, she does offer veneration to individuals who have been important human instruments of God in the history of salvation. Among those so venerated is Mary, the Mother of God, the Theotokos. The Orthodox Church greatly honors Mary because she was chosen to give birth to the Son of God.

The most beautiful and poetic service of the Orthodox Church in honor of Mary, the Theotokos, is the Akathist Hymn.

The Akathist Hymn is chanted in four parts during the first four Fridays of Great Lent. On the fifth Friday, the entire Service is chanted.

LITURGY OF THE PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS

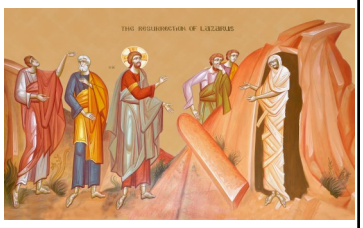
Wednesday Evenings 6:00pm
April 7, 14

The (regular) Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom is not celebrated in the Orthodox Church on Lenten weekdays. In order for the faithful to sustain their Lenten effort by participation in Holy Communion, the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts is served.

There is no consecration of the Eucharistic gifts at the pre-sanctified liturgy. Holy Communion is given from the Eucharistic gifts sanctified on the previous Sunday at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, hence its name of "pre-sanctified." This is not truly a Eucharistic liturgy but rather an evening Vesper Service followed by the distribution of Holy Communion.

It comes in the evening after a day of spiritual preparation and abstinence. The faithful who are unable to make the effort of total fasting because of weakness or work, however, normally eat a light Lenten meal in the early morning and abstain from noon until the conclusion of the Liturgy.

APRIL 24TH, SATURDAY OF LAZARUS DIVINE LITURGY -10:00



On **Saturday** of Lazarus following the Divine Liturgy and Holy Communion commemorating the raising of Lazarus from the dead, we invite all the faithful to join in fashioning Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday as well as helping decorate the church.

RED PASCHA EGG DYEING ON HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 29TH, AT 10:00AM

Traditionally the dyeing of the red Pascha eggs (κόκκινα αυγά) is permitted on Holy Thursday representing the blood of Christ and rebirth. The Church needs 13 dozen eggs dyed and wrapped for the Resurrection Service and for Pascha Sunday's Agape Service. Each participant is asked to please bring two dozen eggs. We will be dyeing the eggs on Thursday, April 29th, following the morning Liturgy.

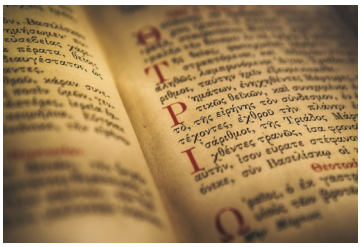
HELP DECORATE the EPITAPHION (Tomb of Christ) HOLY FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 30TH at 9:30AM

All those who would like to assist in decorating the beautiful Epitaphion (Tomb of Our Blessed Lord) are asked to arrive at church on Holy Friday morning at 9:30am. Everyone is invited to assist in this beautiful opportunity to decorate the Tomb of Our Lord.

PASCHA BASKET BLESSING and PASCHA EGGS at the RESURRECTION SERVICE May 2nd.

In the past few years the parish introduced a wonderful Orthodox tradition: the blessing of Paschal Baskets. In many Orthodox jurisdictions the faithful bring Paschal Baskets to be blessed. This beautiful tradition stems back to the early Christian Church where the faithful would bring their baskets to the midnight service to be blessed. We would like to encourage you to prepare a Paschal Basket and bring it to the Midnight Pascha Service. Place an unlit candle in your basket and cover the food with a colorful cover and place near the small sacramental table. The baskets will be blessed at the conclusion of the service with the red Pascha eggs.

THE AGAPE PASCHA (EASTER) SERVICE, SUNDAY, MAY 2ND at 11:00AM



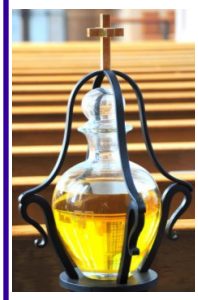
The faithful will gather once more for Great Vespers. With lighted candles we will sing, "Christ is Risen." The people greet one another with the salutation, "Christ is Risen", which is answered, "Truly He is Risen." In the Great Vespers, the Gospel according to John (20:19-25) is read in various languages, proclaiming the Good News of Resurrection all over the universe without discrimination. The fruit of faith in the Resurrection of the Lord is love. We invite those who know a language to participate in the reading of the Gospel of the Resurrection. Please let Father Constantine know ASAP what language you would like to read to avoid duplication. We have translations in various languages for your use.

LENTEN PRAYER OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN

"O Lord and Master of my life, take from me the spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to Thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own transgressions and not to judge my brother, for blessed art Thou unto ages of ages."

In the Orthodox liturgical tradition this Lenten Prayer of Saint Ephraim the Syrian is said many times, usually with prostrations and bows, so that the body prays as well as the mind. This repetition is helpful, for in our secular western culture the successful person is the one who impresses, the mover and shaker, the one who confidently puts himself (or herself) forward and is not shy of expressing an opinion, the one who wins, who dominates, who owns the room. That person is the one who we say "is going places," and who will certainly end up as CEO or VIP. It is all about self-promotion and self-assertion. Against such a relentless onslaught we need all the help we can get. We can't say the Lenten prayer too many times.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY CHRISMATION HOLY SATURDAY EVENING



On Holy Saturday Evening the moving service of Holy Chrismation will take place. During the early years of the Church on the eve of Holy Pascha, the Catechumens, those who were preparing to become Christian were baptized and brought into the Faith.

On Holy Saturday evening, May 1st, prior to the Resurrection Service and before the church sanctuary goes dark, two Catechumens **Corrinthia Alisa Yanase (St. Kassiani the Hymnographer) and Dante Anton Dedic (Saint Anthony the Great)** will be anointed with Holy Chrism and embrace the Orthodox Faith. Following their anointment they will be the first to receive the Light of the Resurrection from the Paschal Candle and distribute it throughout the sanctuary, as well as the first to receive Holy Communion during the Liturgy.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY CONFESSION

The Sacrament of Holy Confession along with other Lenten preparations are important for our spiritual growth. The Sacrament is made up of five factors that must be fulfilled in order to receive the Sacrament worthily:

- the sense of sin and the knowledge of it
- contrition
- firm resolve for amendment
- faith in the saving power of Christ alone
- reconciliation with one's neighbor against whom one has sinned.

How can one prepare for Holy Confession? Preparation is a prayerful examination of feelings, thoughts, words, acts, attitudes, habits, values, priorities, goals, direction and way of life. Pray and think about your confession over several days. Ask God to help you perceive your sins and to make a thorough confession of them. Take a pencil and paper and specify your sins so that at the time of the sacrament, you will be able to make a thorough confession from the list, without confusion or lapse of memory.

Please arrange an appointment with Father Constantine.

THE MISSING PART OF THE PUZZLE - AN IDEAL CHRISTIAN LIFE

As we struggle towards our communion with God and grow in His image and likeness we must first master ourselves. The Fathers tell us that includes work, which consists of such practices as fasting, praying, prostrations, and worship. As Orthodox Christians, responsibility goes considerably beyond what the Fathers exhort us to do. We must be concerned with our relationships towards others, our family, friends, enemies, the poor, the alone, the addict, the emotionally spent veterans; indeed to all we must be a source of help and comfort. All must be a part of our growth towards perfect communion with God Who created us.

If we Orthodox Christians are to be transformed, self-mastery etc. is a must. For we need to mold ourselves into a spiritual manner of living, thinking and doing such things that are well pleasing to God. The ideal Christian must make an effort in avoiding evil and bad choices, for they are not in the "image and likeness" of God.

The virtue of LOVE stands as the mark of the Christian. As Saint Anthony terms it, "goodness and doing good to others." It was Christ Himself who said, "By this will all men know that you are My disciples, if you love one another." The question of course arises, what does one mean by the word LOVE in terms of Christian understanding? For the Christian, LOVE is "Christ-like" love. "Christ-like" love is expressed through unselfish giving of oneself for others, for their wants and needs. This "Christ-like" love is (or at least should be) expressed in our personal daily life, the way we treat our family and those around us. This love is what one has termed "disinterested benevolence". There is nothing in it for me save our own desire to give and love. It should be for an ideal Christian an attitude of love in response to the love that God has given. God's love, His philanthropy, His concern is what must motivate us.

Out of goodness and doing good to others comes our next response for those of us searching for Christian perfection: PIETY and MEEKNESS. Piety is a quality of respect for God and reverence that would be not only expressed in worship, which is our "thankful response" to God in the Trinity, but emulating Christ in our lives. Christ said, "behold I am meek and humble of heart," and also to His followers, "blessed are the meek." With a pious Christian way of living, one cannot but begin to realize that pride is the very foundation of a life not in accord with the Christian ideal. Pride is the enemy of all that we hope to accomplish; it is from pride that all other sin and imperfections are derived. Pride is the action of a man who looks down upon all others; just like the Pharisee. It is pride that has lead to wars, hatred, corruption, prejudice, anger, selfishness, etc. Meekness or humility is seeing yourself as no better than the next person, the forgetting of oneself and concerning oneself with the person next to us. Pride is like a cancer that eats away at us and any possibility of love.

Another important aspect of an ideal Christian life is to WITNESS. For it is by our actions and words that we profess our beliefs. Witnessing is not only important, it is necessary. Saint Paul tells us in his letter to the Ephesians we are, "co-workers with God" and "God's work must truly be our own." We as ideal Christians should want to share our joy, our life and faith with those who are blind and unfamiliar with the life and faith in Christ and the Christian way of life. We should desire to witness for Christ's Holy Church and bring those outside of it to the fullest joy of being a member of it, thus an opportunity to attain perfection (Theosis) and grow in the "image and likeness" of God. We should also strive to invite others who are searching for meaning and direction in their life into the Body of Christ which is the source of one's spiritual life. Therefore, the ideal Christian is one who would do his utmost to share and witness his life "in Christ" with meekness and humility. Truly one who would transform his life and become a light to others.

SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS APRIL 4th

A Special service will take place at the conclusion of the Liturgy dedicated to the Sunday of the Holy Cross. A procession will take place with the students of the Sunday School. Students are asked to bring with them Crosses they decorated a few years ago for the procession. If they do not have one, Crosses will be provided.

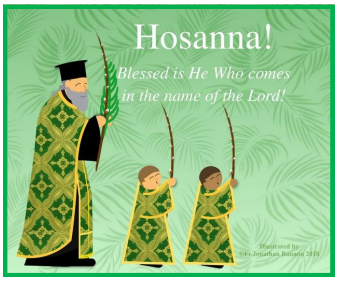
SUNDAY, APRIL 11th, THE PARISH WILL OBSERVE GODPARENT-GODCHILD SUNDAY

Parents, please make sure you inform Candice Apostle the name and complete address of your child's godparents. If your child's godparents are out of town and unable to attend, parents or surrogate godparents or friends are asked to accompany your child and prepare to receive Holy Communion with them. Those who have their Baptismal/Chrismation Candles are asked to bring them and light them as they approach the chalice. Please have your children also wear their baptismal cross for this special Sunday.

NEW WEEKLY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION RESOURCE MATERIAL FOR OUR YOUTH (LENT TO PENTECOST)

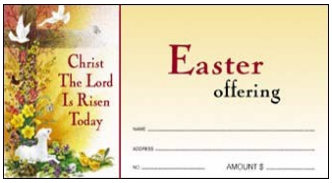
This wonderful resource material will aid in teaching our children/youth Sunday lessons, from the First Sunday of Lent through Pentecost. This series of educational resources is designed to foster an understanding and desire to grow closer to Jesus Christ through the riches of our Orthodox Faith. It is also scripturally based using the Orthodox Study Bible. On a weekly basis you will receive the following: Study Guides that correspond with the Student Handouts, providing discussion questions, instructional notes, "prompting" questions with possible answers, for encouraging dialogue with children/youth of different age levels and comprehension. The Study Guides are intended for teachers and/or parents and can be flexed based on student needs and their comprehension level of the Orthodox Faith. The material is divided into Grades K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12. Questions contact Fr Constantine.

PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION SUNDAY, APRIL 25th



Depending on the weather at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy a procession with the entire congregation will process outside around the church celebrating Our Lord's entrance to Jerusalem.

PASCHA OFFERING ENVELOPE



During this Holy Pascha Season it is important for us to seek oneness with Our Lord, remembering how through His sacrifice He opened the gates for us to a heavenly eternal life. Likewise let us express our love and devotion to Him with an offering to His Assumption Church so that we may continue to cultivate the Good News of our faith in Southeastern Idaho.

ASSUMPTION 2021 Stewards as of 3/25

Father Constantine A. Zozos
Betty Angelos
James Annest
Chris Arvas
Belayneh Yimer and Mahlet Asfaw
John N. Christ
Mary Frances Cozakos
Nick Cozakos
Arthur Dolson
Chris Drakos
Les and Helene Poulos Edmo
Angela Fullmer
Vicky and Rocky Fullmer
Nicholas and Stella Gdontakis
Ted Georges
Vivian Goodner
Frank Grant
Beverly Harmer
Dave and Jeanne Harmer
Dean and Kathy Harris
Goldie Homan
Philip Homan
Wilma Homan
Anthony and Svitlana Hoskin
Gus and Demetra Kalabokias
John Davis Katsilometes
Maria Katsilometes
Konstantina Manolis
Thomas and Tracey Hugie
William James McCurdy
Mitch and Sophie McCurry
John and Stephanie Mermigas
Robert and Kaitlin Miklos
Patricia Pahis
Gregory and Olenda Painter
Sam and Filio Paloukos
Yolanda Riech
Scott and Tressa Rockwood
David Sandborgh
Kade and Devyn Schmalz
Annie Semons
Rita Sherburne
Karen Solomon
LuAnn and Philip Spain
Steven and Jacqueline Swanson
Travis and Ryan Swore
Tim and Maria Swore
Nicholas and Tacia Tsakrios
Vadym Ustianskyi
Anna and John Ross Workman
Nikko and Corrinthia Yanase
Eleni Young

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please offer names (first name only) to our clergy of those who are suffering from illnesses or challenges in life so they can be included in our prayers during the divine services. The prayer list will be published in The Epistle Newsletter monthly so that our parishioners can include the names in their personal prayers as well. Contact Father Constantine (805) 570-6525 to submit your names.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

Heavenly Father, physician of our souls and bodies, who sent Your only begotten Son and Lord Jesus Christ to heal every sickness and infirmity, visit and heal also your servants, ***Martin, Gayle, Alicia, Dianna, Chelsea, Dell, Vasiliki, Gregory, Dimitri, Oleg, Tania, Ocey, Ethel, Alvin, Frances, Carol, Robert, Casi, Jack, Carol, Roger, Roxanne, Bill, Anna, Steve, Christopher, Freda, Larry, Maria, Judy, Ignatius, Elaine, George, Barbara, Nicholas, Matthew, Jeff, Jacqueline, Dianna, Alton, Anna, Pete, Betty, Larry, Paula, Stacey, Orestes, Helen, Catherine, Andrew, Mary, Steve, Nicholas, Scarlett, Elizabeth, Marie, Demetrios, George, Martha, Melissa, Galina, Sofia, Cheryl, Christ, Carolyn, Paul, Mary, Nick, John, Elaine, Nicholas,*** of all physical and spiritual ailments through the grace of Your Christ. Grant them patience in this sickness, strength of body and spirit and recovery of health. Lord You have taught us through Your Word to pray for each other that we may be healed. I pray that You heal these, Your servants, and grant to them the gift of complete health. For You are the source of healing and to You I give glory. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
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Email
assumptiongochurch@gmail.com

Parish Organizations & Ministries

-Parish Council: Tressa Rockwood

-Church School, Youth Ministry: Angela Fullmer

-Philoptochos Society: Tressa Rockwood

-Choir: David Sandborgh

-Acolytes: Dean Harris

-Bible Study: Fr. Constantine Zozos

-Chanters: Olenda Painter, David Sandborgh, Vivian Goodner

-Catechism Class: Father Constantine

-Readers: Dean Harris, John Apostle, William McCurdy, Gregory Painter

-Holy Bread: Rebecca Tysor, Trisha Reddin, Sophie McCurry, Evangelia Papapavlos, Demetra Kalabokias

-Youth Dance Group: Angela Fullmer

-Youth and Young Adult: Fr Constantine

-Zoom Coordinator –Tracey Hugie

Studying the Scriptures

Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk once wrote, "one must specially read the Holy Scriptures and, after them, other Christian Orthodox books, little by little, with understanding; if you do not at first understand what you are reading. Put it aside - later on it will become clearer." Saint Tikhon emphasized the importance of applying in deed what has been read in the scriptures. "if you only sharpen your mind from the book without changing your will, you will be worse for the reading than you were before."

When studying the Bible, then, we should

- Open ourselves to God and His will for us;
- Listen for God rather than the echo of our own voice;
- Seek to discern God's Truth instead of trying to prove points about which we have already made up our minds;
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide us and to allow the scriptures to enlighten us; and
- Strive to discern Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, as He is revealed to us through the written word.

3rd Sunday of Lent
APRIL 4th

VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS
HALF WAY TO PASCHA!
Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6
Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1

Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!

4th Sunday of Lent
APRIL 11th

ST JOHN of the LADDER
Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20
Gospel: Mark 9:17-31

Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!

5th Sunday of Lent
APRIL 18th

ST MARY of EGYPT
Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14
Gospel: Mark 10:32-45

Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.

FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY!
APRIL 25th
GREAT WEEK BEGINS

GREAT AND HOLY WEEK
ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM
Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9
Gospel: John 12:1-18

Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY
APRIL 30th

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY
JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS
CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE

Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.

FEAST OF FEASTS!
MAY 2nd
NO FASTING!

BRIGHT WEEK
HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)
Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17

Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!