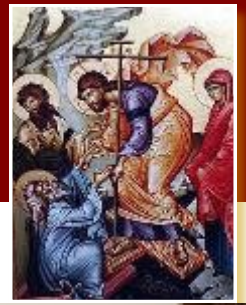




# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA

## ST. NEKTARIOS NEWSLETTER SUPPLEMENT



MAY 2023

### *Paschal Greetings from Around the World*

Language	Greeting	Response
Albanian:	Krishti U Ngjall!	Vertet U Ngjall!
Arabic:	El Messieh kahm!	Hakken kahm!
Armenian:	Kristos haryav ee merelotz!	Orhnial eh harootyunuh kristosee!
Eritrean-Tigre:	Christos tensiou!	Bahake tensiou!
Ethiopian:	Christos t'ensah em' muhtan!	Exai' ab-her eokala!
Georgian:	Kriste ahzdkhah!	Chezmaridet!
Greek:	Christos anesti!	Alithos anesti!
Indonesian:	Kristus telah bangkit!	Benar dia telah bangkit!
Romanian:	Hristos a inviat!	Adeverat a inviat!
Russian:	Khristos voskrese!	Voistinu voskrese!
Serbian:	Cristos vaskres!	Vaistinu vaskres!
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado!	En verdad ha resucitado!
Swahili:	Kristo amefufukka!	Kweli amefufukka!
Ukrainian:	Khristos voskres!	Voistinu voskres!



### *Christ is Risen!*

*Greetings to all on the day of the Resurrection!  
From Fr. Andreas and Fr. Nektarios and  
on behalf of our whole parish family!*



***“Come, receive the light from the never-setting Light, and glorify Christ, who is risen from the dead.”***



# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA

## *Lent Begins* February 27, 2023

“Lent is the period of time for self-examination by the believer; of putting on the spiritual armor of the Militant Church; of applying the riches of prayers and almsgiving; of adopting deeply the meaning of repentance; of atonement and reconciliation with God Almighty.”

From Great Lent - A Week by Week  
Meaning by Rev. George Mastrantonis



**Above:** Forgiveness Vespers and introduction of our new Director of Music ministry, Sam Herron, followed by a fellowship dinner

## Forgiveness Vespers

Before we entered the Lenten fast, we were reminded that there can be no true fast, no genuine repentance, no reconciliation with God, unless we are at the same time reconciled with one another.

On the evening of the Sunday of Forgiveness, the Church conducted the first service of the Great Fast. This service directs us further on the path of repentance and helps us to acknowledge our need for forgiveness from God and to seek forgiveness from our brothers and sisters in Christ.

## Clean Monday

Our clergy, staff and ministry leaders came together for teaching, prayer and strength for the fast. Each found a quiet place within the sanctuary to pray the Jesus Prayer separately and came back together to discuss our thoughts.



**Above:** Clean Monday gathering of staff and ministry leaders



**Above:** Presanctified Divine Liturgy and Saturday of Souls

## Weekly Services and teachings

The first week of Lent had an intensified service schedule with daily compline and the reading of the Canon of St. Andrew. The weeks that followed held Great Compline services on Mondays. Presanctified Divine Liturgy followed by teaching by Fr. Andreas along with a lenten dinner was held on Wednesdays. On Thursdays we offered a time over the lunch hour for parishioners to listen to teaching by guest speakers called, “Lent, Lunch and Learn. On Fridays we held Presanctified Divine Liturgy during the day and Small compline with Salutations to the Theotokos in the evening.



**Above:** The Small Compline Service with His Grace, Bishop Sevastianos of Zebulon

# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA



## Sunday of Orthodoxy

On the first Sunday of Lent, we commemorated the restoration of the holy and venerable icons. As everyone processed around the church on this beautiful day, they joyfully displayed their special icons from home. We venerated the icons in honor of the holy men and women of God who suffered and died for the truth of the gospel so that we might come to the knowledge of Christ.



## Veneration of the Holy Cross

On the third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent, the Orthodox Church commemorated the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Services included a special veneration of the Cross, which prepared the faithful for the commemoration of the Crucifixion during Holy Week.





# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA

## *Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos*

Celebrating with our sister parish, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Winston-Salem; and here at St. Nektarios, a feast day luncheon was offered in honor of all who were celebrating.



## *Sharing our Orthodox Faith*

At Vespers in March, we were pleased to be joined by a group from Providence Baptist Church. We thank them for their interest and respectful presence with us.



## *Saturday of Lazarus Divine Teaching Liturgy and Palm Cross Making*



# OUR JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK



## *Palm Sunday Procession*



## *The Bridegroom Services, Tuesday morning Philoptochos egg-dyeing and Holy Unction*





# OUR JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK

## *Holy Thursday Passion of our Lord*



## *Holy Friday Taking Down from the Cross*

GOYA members assisted in removing the icon of Christ from the cross

## *Decorating of the Kouvouklion*



## *Holy Friday Night Lamentations Service*



# OUR JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK



## *Holy and Great Saturday*

**Pictured left:** This year, on the morning of Holy and Great Saturday, our catechumens were baptized. This service was full of the coming Paschal joy. After the reading of the Epistle, the priests followed the custom of the tossing of laurel and flower petals, saying:

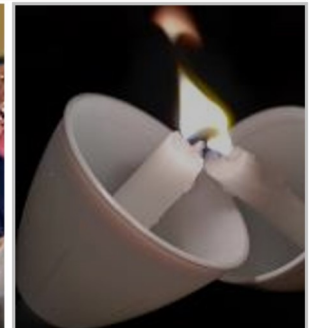
***"Arise, O God, and judge Thou the earth: for Thou shall take all heathen to Thine inheritance".***

Parishioners brought in baskets filled with their Paschal meal to break the fast after midnight. Tables of food were blessed at the end of the service.



## *Midnight Resurrection Service*

**B**efore midnight, the congregation gathered and sat in a dimly lit sanctuary. A few minutes before midnight the sanctuary darkened. The Fathers come out with one candle singing: ***"Come ye and receive light from the unwaning life, and glorify Christ, who arose from the dead."*** The priests then lit the acolytes' candles and each acolyte lit the candle of the person at the end of each pew until all candles were lit and the sanctuary was glowing with the joyous light of Pascha.





# OUR JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK



## GOSPEL READERS

**Arabic:** Emile Khuri, **Armenian:** Azad Khuri **French:** Naguib Farah, **Georgian:**  
Aka Vashakidze, **German:** Madeleine Tekin

**Latin:** Presbytera Maria Dalber, **Portuguese:** Ana Levantis, **Romanian:** Adina Cotoman,  
**Russian:** Tatiana Mukhammad, **Spanish:** Chantal Triantafyllides, **Turkish:** Mary Tash,  
**Ukrainian:** Mariia Hrehk, **Sign Language Interpreter:** Elizabeth Houpos

## *Agape Vespers*

Also called **Vespers of Love**, this service continues the celebration of Pascha. At this service the Gospel reading (John 20:19-25) depicts the first appearance of the risen Lord to his disciples, and is recited in as many languages as are known by those present in our parish. This symbolizes that the glorious resurrection of Christ is proclaimed to all the nations of the world.

## Agape Picnic Pascha Celebration

