



The Prophet Elias Church

Address: 223 Church Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Phone: (831) 429-6500

Web: <http://www.propheteliassc.org>

Email: info@propheteliassc.org

Visiting Clergy

Phone: (831) 429-6500

Email: info@propheteliassc.org

Services Schedule

9:00 AM Sunday Orthros

10:00 AM Sunday Divine Liturgy

11:00 AM Sunday School - As announced

12:00 PM Sunday, Fellowship after Divine Liturgy

6:00 PM Paraklesis - TBD

6:00 PM Vespers - TBD

Bulletin for Sunday, April 28, 2024

Service Schedule



Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

O Lord and Master of my life!

*Take from me the spirit of sloth,
faint-heartedness, lust of power, and idle talk.*

*But give rather the spirit of chastity,
humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.*

*Yea, Lord and King! Grant me to see my own errors
and not to judge my brother,
for Thou art blessed unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Mark your calendars and attend services on our journey toward the joyous Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Lazarus Saturday, April 27: **1:00pm** Weave Palm Crosses (No Divine Liturgy)

2024 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Palm Sunday, April 28: **9:00am** Orthros, **10:00am** Divine Liturgy – Father Takahashi

Palm Sunday – April 28 evening: First Bridegroom Service: No Service

Holy Monday, April 29: **6:00pm** Second Bridegroom Service – Father Takahashi

Holy Tuesday, April 30: **6:00pm** Third Bridegroom Service – Father Takahashi

Holy Wednesday, May 1: **4:30pm** Fourth Bridegroom Service – **Rev. Protopresbyter John Kariotakis who retired from St. John the Baptist in Anaheim, California and will be accompanied by his Presvytera Katy.**

Holy Wednesday, May 1: **6:00pm** Holy Mystery of Unction – Father Kariotakis

Holy Thursday, May 2: **10:00am** Vespereal Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great – Father Kariotakis

Holy Thursday, May 2: **6:00pm** The Twelve Gospels – Father Kariotakis

Holy Friday, May 3: **10:00am** Royal Hours – Father Kariotakis

Holy Friday, May 3: **3:00pm** Un-nailing from the Cross – Father Kariotakis

Holy Friday, May 3: **6:00pm** Lamentations & Procession – **His Grace Bishop Ioannis**, followed by light refreshments

Holy Saturday, May 4: **10:00am** – The First Anastasi - Vespereal Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great followed by an Easter Egg Hunt for the children – Father Kariotakis

Holy Saturday, May 4: **11:00pm** Paschal Vigil – Father Kariotakis

Holy Saturday, May 5: **12:00am (midnight)** Anastasi Proclamation & Procession followed by Orthros and Divine Liturgy and Fellowship – Father Kariotakis

Great & Holy Pascha - Sunday, May 5: **12:00pm (noon)** Agape Vespers – Reader Service with Dr. Nick Itsines

PRAYERS FOR ALL IN NEED

Presvytera Vaso Paris, Matty Manzo, Vlad Voinea, Fotini Ballas, Bob Rible, George & Harriet Mainis, Jim Deamant, Yorgos Hadzis, Connie Mellis, Karen Krilanovich, Inna Shkolnik, Sam Khalil, Lesley, Leola, Dawn Sculley, Twan, Athena Wolfe, Evangelia, Marie, Adam Nikolopoulos, Bob Roberts, Selah

Call the church office (831) 429-6500 to add the name of someone in need of prayers.

Holy Week Schedule of Services



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Our News



EPITAPHIO CANDLES

To adorn the Epitaphio, you can purchase one or more of smaller candles on top or one of the larger corner candles.

- \$10.00 for a smaller candle
- \$25.00 for a larger corner candle

Candle donation can be made in cash or by check to Connie Mellis, using the memo line to specify for Epitaphio candle. Online donations can be made via our website by selecting SPECIAL APPEAL for candles.

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION: <https://www.propheteliassc.org/about-things-to-know/donate>

Also, provide your list of Departed loved ones to be remembered on Holy Friday and your list of Living loved ones to be acknowledged on Holy Saturday. Blank forms are in the Narthex. Please give to Connie Mellis.

EVERYONE CAN HELP!

Please blow out candles, check to ensure doors are locked, and turn off lights before leaving the building. Before driving away, be sure the fence gates are latched. Thank you for taking time to keep our building secure.

Also, we need to be more mindful about what goes down the kitchen sink drains. Please **NO** coffee grounds, food scraps, plant leaves or blossoms, grease or oils should never down the kitchen sink drains. Please be more careful. Thank you for your cooperation!

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

It's up to us! We are still in the Lenten Season. It is the season of almsgiving. Alms are monies given to the poor or those in need. Prophet Elias is now needy, our church home.

Our Stewardship goal has been adjusted upward to \$120,000.00. Being a friendly parish is a wonderful quality, but in addition to friendliness, we need the finances to pay a permanent priest. We have prayed and it's been three years without a priest. Now, we need to make some substantive changes.

Did you know.....

- 75 Stewards have declared a commitment in 2024.
- \$120,000.00 equally divided is \$1,600.00 each.
- \$1,600.00 annually is \$133.00 per month.
- Or \$31.00 per week.

In past years, 15-20 Stewards make up 75% of our Stewardship giving. With every hope, these Stewards will continue their commitments. But by these results, others are giving much less.

How can we improve this dynamic?

Everyone can dedicate time to prayers, volunteer willingly for fundraisers, and commit to stretching monthly giving where possible.

We are the only ones who can make changes to provide for a priest.

Not a Steward yet at Prophet Elias? Please consider becoming a Steward by completing the 2024 Stewardship Commitment Card. Then you may submit donations in church.

Or on our church website at:

<https://www.propheteliassc.org/pe-general-donation>

(Be sure to scroll to the information box, drop the menu to Stewardship before entering your donation amount.)

Or mail your commitment to the Church office at:

Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church
223 Church Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Please keep Prophet Elias in your prayers, especially for a worthy priest.

Kostas Amberiadis, Chair

ST. KATHERINE'S CORNER

Hello Everyone,

As our Lenten journey continues, we are very fortunate to have a very supportive membership that is committed to helping the church make this journey prayerful, peaceful and beautiful.

Palm Sunday is approaching quickly. We will need some help on Saturday April 27 to weave the palms into crosses for church the next day. All are welcome. This is a wonderful activity for children. We will be meeting at the church on **Saturday, April 27 at 1:00 PM.**

Here is a video demonstration for weaving Palm Crosses: www.youtube.com/watch?v=uw3l101dbMo&t=9s

In addition, we are requesting our parishioners to supplement flowers for the Epitaphio. Thank you to all that had donated last week, and for those who mailed in checks for the flowers. We will also be accepting flowers from your garden or they can be store bought. **No red flowers for the Epitaphio, please. (Red flowers are used only for Pascha decor.)**

Please bring them to the church on **Thursday, May 2** (between 10am to 2pm) and put

them in water. If the daytime hours are inconvenient for you, flowers for the Epitaphio can be delivered to church on Thursday evening before The Twelve Gospels service.

The Epitaphio will be adorned with flowers on **Friday morning, May 3.**

On **Saturday morning, May 4** at the First Anastasi, please bring bay leaves and rose petals for the priest to toss around the church. Also, bring a dozen hard-boiled **red-dyed eggs** to be blessed and distributed after the midnight Divine Liturgy.

Thank you for your devotion and supporting St. Katherine's Philoptochos philanthropic missions. More to come about our next meeting.

Respectfully,
Aphrodite Roberts

RECYCLING PROGRAM

Alexa Bolas continues to lead our recycling efforts. Please remember to bring us your recyclable items. Thank you to all who support this important fundraising effort. Also, please continue to support our on-going Philoptochos declutter fundraiser! If you have books, CDs, DVDs or games (PlayStation, Xbox, Wii) that you no longer want, please tell us what you wish to donate in an email to: stkatherine@propheteliassc.org

Thank you again for supporting St. Katherine's Philoptochos philanthropic missions.

Together we are making a difference!

GOT COFFEE?

Everyone is invited to reserve a Sunday by signing the clipboard on the buffet table, which also includes clean up. You can also sign up by Email to: office@propheteliassc.org. Blessings to all who volunteer for our Sunday Fellowship. When no one signs up only coffee will be available.

4-28-24 - Madeline Hnatowich-Dean (Palm Sunday)

5-3-24 - St. Katherine's Philoptochos (Holy Friday following Lamentations)

5-4-24 - Sondra Lee Traylor (Holy Saturday)

5-5-24 - Sondra Lee Traylor (Holy Pascha)

5-12-24 - Dawn & Tim Sculley (Mother's Day)

5-19-24 - ??

5-26-24 - ??

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Dear Sunday School Families,

Kali Sarakosti!

On **May 12** we will have our final lesson for the Sunday School Year. Our lesson is titled: **We Pray Alone and with Others**. Our students will be able to:

Recognize the ways we pray

Learn the story of St. Ephrem the Syrian

Write a prayer

Thank you so much for bringing your children to Sunday school this year and giving them the gift of growing spiritually, coming closer to God, and developing a strong sense of identity as an Orthodox Christian. I wish you all a restful and happy summer break.

With Love in Christ,

Angela Santiago, Sunday school teacher

UPCOMING GYRO EVENT

June 29, 2024 – 12PM-8PM. Details to follow.

UPCOMING VISITOR FROM SWEDEN

Father Milutin will be in California from June 22 to July 3, 2024. He has received permission from the Metropolis to serve twice at Prophet Elias. Save these Dates:

Sunday, June 23: 9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy - Holy Pentecost

Sunday, June 30: 9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy

He is looking forward to his visit and parish events are being planned. Come and welcome him! Details to follow.

MEET THE SAINTS

Saint Mary of Egypt: Presented by Dr. Nick Itsines, Maia Tamanakis, Joanna Stebbins

Mary of Egypt was a desert ascetic who repented of a life of debauchery. She lived during the sixth century, and passed away in a remarkable manner in 522.

She began her life as a young woman who followed the passions of the body, running away from her parents at age twelve for Alexandria. There she lived as a harlot for seventeen years, refusing money from men, instead living by begging and spinning flax.

One day she met a group of young men heading by sea to Jerusalem for the veneration of the Holy Cross. Mary went along. When the group reached Jerusalem and went toward the church, Mary was prohibited from entering by an unseen force. After three attempts, she remained outside on the church patio, where she looked up and saw an icon of the Theotokos. She began to weep and prayed with all her might that the Theotokos might allow her to see the True Cross. She promised she would renounce her worldly desires and go wherever the Theotokos may lead her.

After this heart-felt conversion at the doors of the church, she fled into the desert to live as an ascetic. She survived for years on only three loaves of bread and thereafter on scarce herbs of the land. For another seventeen years, Mary was tormented by "wild beasts and passions" but led by the Theotokos.

Following 47 years alone, she met the priest St. Zosima in the desert, who pleaded with her to tell him of her life. She recounted her story with humility and her gift of clairvoyance. She had never met Zosima but knew his life story. Finally, she asked Zosima to meet her again the following year at sunset on Holy Thursday by the banks of the Jordan.

Zosima did so. Then Mary appeared on the opposite side of the Jordan. Crossing herself, she miraculously walked across the water and met Zosima who was holding the Holy Mysteries. Mary then received communion and walked back across the Jordan. He gave Zosima instructions to return to where they first met in exactly a year.

When he did so, he found Mary's body with a message written on the sand asking him for burial. She had died immediately after receiving the Holy Mysteries the year before (and thus had been miraculously transported from that spot where she now lay). Amazed,

Zosima began to dig, but soon tired. Then a lion approached and began to help him. Thus St. Mary of Egypt was buried.

Zosima returned to his monastery and told all he had seen. He died at almost a hundred years old.

Later, the story of Mary's life was written down by St. Sophronius, Patriarch of Jerusalem.

The Church commemorates her feast day on the day of her repose, April 1, additionally, she is commemorated on the 5th Sunday of Great Lent.

Gospel and Epistle Readings

Matins Gospel Reading

Palm Sunday

The Reading is from Matthew 21:1-11; 15-17

At that time, when Jesus drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, he sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If any one says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet, saying,

"Tell the daughter of Zion,
Behold, your king is coming to you,
humble and mounted on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their garments on them, and he sat thereon. Most of the crowd spread their garments on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" And when he entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, "Who is this?"

And the crowds said, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee." But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying out in the temple, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" they were indignant; and they said to him, "Do you hear what they are saying?" And Jesus said to them, "Yes; have you never read,

'Out of the mouths of babes and sucklings, you have brought perfect praise'?"

And leaving them, he went out of the city to Bethany and lodged there.

Epistle Reading

Prokeimenon. 4th Mode. Psalm 117.26,1.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His mercy endures forever.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9.

BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

Gospel Reading

Palm Sunday

The Reading is from John 12:1-18

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard

and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

Hymns of the Day

Apolytikion for Palm Sunday in the 1st Mode

O Christ our God, before Your Passion, You raised Lazarus from the dead to confirm the common Resurrection for all. Therefore, we carry the symbols of victory as did the youths, and we cry out to You, the victor over death, "Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. "

Apolytikion for Palm Sunday in the 4th Mode

O Christ, Our God, we have been Buried with You through Baptism, and by Your Resurrection made worthy of Life immortal. Praising You, we cry out, "Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord."

Seasonal Kontakion in the Plagal 2nd Mode

In Heaven, He is seated upon a Throne and on earth He rides upon a foal. O Christ our God, accept the praise of the Angels and the hymn of the Children who cry out to You, "Blessed are You who comes to recall Adam."

NO

COFFEE GROUNDS

FOOD SCRAPS

PLANT LEAVES or BLOSSOMS

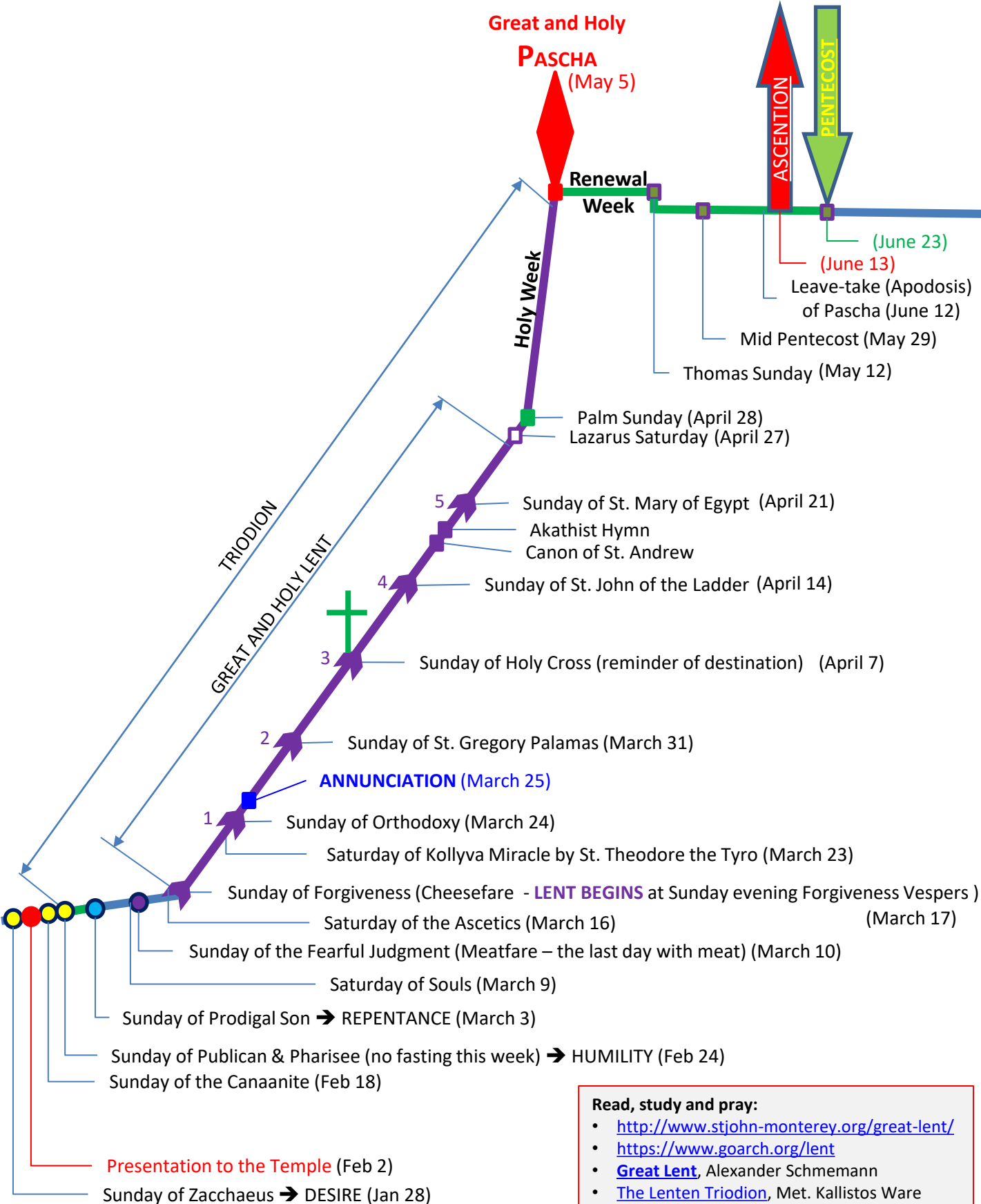
GREASE or OILS

DOWN THE DRAINS

~ ~ JUST WATER ~ ~

Thank you for your cooperation!

The Orthodox Paschal Season - a Time for Transformation



OUR LENTEN JOURNEY



**PREPARING FOR THE PASSION
& RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD**



ST. LAWRENCE PRESENTS

Gatsby Night

OUR ANNUAL BRIGHT FRIDAY FORMAL DINNER AND DANCE

MAY 10TH

ARRIVE:

5 PM WITH DINNER SERVED AT 6 PM

SCOPAZZI'S RESTAURANT

13300 BIG BASIN WY, BOULDER CREEK

TICKET PRICE

PER PERSON

—
\$65 NON-ALCOHOL

\$70 WITH WINE

Age Requirement: Highschool +

Tickets sold every Sunday until 4/28

Contact: Mariana Timmer

claychalet.timmer@gmail.com





Saint John's Paschal Picnic

Saturday, May 11 – 11 am to 4 pm

Lamb and Chicken Barbeque

Music – Dancing – Games – Jump House – Easter Egg Hunt

Tickets: Adults - \$30 / \$35 at the door, Children 5-12 year - \$15

@Monterey County Sheriff's Posse Grounds, 395 Old Natividad Road, Salinas



2024 SUMMER CAMP DATES:

SESSION 1: JULY 7 - 13

SESSION 2: JULY 14 - 20

SESSION 3: JULY 21 - 27

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SUMMERCAMP
AT SAINT NICHOLAS RANCH



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Rolling applications & acceptance happening now! Limited availability for **Northern California & Chicago.**