

THE LIGHT OF THE EAST



ST. ATHANASIUS THE GREAT **BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

1117 South Blaine Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46221

Website: www.saindy.com Email: sabcc@indy.rr.com

Served by:

Pastor: Very Rev. Protopresbyter Bryan R. Eyman. D. Min. D. Phil.

Cantors: Marcus Loidolt, John Danovich

Business Manager: John Danovich

Phones: Rectory: 317-632-4157; Pastor's Cell Phone: 216-780-2555

FAX: 317-632-2988

WEEKEND DIVINE SERVICES

Sat: 5 PM [Vespers with Liturgy]

Sun: 9:45 AM [Third Hour] 10 AM [Divine Liturgy]

**Mystery of Holy Repentance [Confessions]: AFTER Saturday
Evening Prayer or ANYTIME by appointment**

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 6, 2014

SUNDAY OF
OUR HOLY MOTHER MARY OF EGYPT.
FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST.

Our Holy Father Euthyches, Patriarch of Constantinople.

The Passing of our Holy Father Methodius, Teacher of the Slavs.

PLEASE COME FORWARD AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY;
KISS THE HOLY ICONS, KISS THE HAND CROSS [OR RECEIVE
THE HOLY ANOINTING], & PARTAKE OF THE ANTIDORAN
[BLESSED BREAD].

SAT. APR. 5	5 PM	<i>Sub-Deacon John Russell & Family</i>
	6:15 PM	MYSTERY OF HOLY REPENTANCE [CONFESSIONS]
SUN. APR. 6	9:45 AM	THE THIRD HOUR
	10:00 AM	FOR THE PEOPLE
	11:30 AM	LENTEN SUNDAY LUNCHEON
	12:15 PM	PRE-ASSEMBLY MEETING
	1:15 PM	SUNDAY LENTEN VESPERS
MON. APR. 7		<u>Our Ven. Father George, Bishop of Mitylene.</u> NO DIVINE SERVICES ~ FATHER'S DAY OFF
TUE. APR. 8		<u>The Holy Apostles Herodian, Agabus, Rufus, Asyncritus,</u> <u>Phlegon and Hermes.</u>
	9 AM	LENTEN TERSEXT
WED. APR. 9		<u>The Holy Martyr Eupychius.</u> FATHER BRYAN IN MUNSTER
	9 AM	LENTEN TERSEXT [LEAD BY CANTORS]
	7 PM	AKATHIST OR PARAKLIS [LEAD BY CANTORS]
THU. APR. 10		<u>The Holy Martyrs Terence, Pompey and their Comp.</u> FATHER BRYAN IN MUNSTER
	9 AM	LENTEN TERSEXT [LEAD BY CANTORS]

WE WELCOME ALL OF OUR VISITORS PLEASE JOIN US FOR
OUR PARISH SOCIAL IN OUR ST. MARY HALL.

FRI. APR. 11 **The Holy Martyr Antipas, Bishop of Pergamum in Asia.**
9 AM **LENTEN TERSEXT**
7 PM **LITURGY OF THE PRE-SANCTIFIED**
 GIFTS

SAT. APR. 12 **LAZARUS SATURDAY.**
5 PM *Int. of Fr. Michael Lee & family*
6:15 PM **MYSTERY OF HOLY REPENTANCE**
 [CONFESSIONS]

SUN. APR. 13 **PALM [FLOWERY] SUNDAY.**
9:45 AM **THE THIRD HOUR**
 THE BLESSING OF PALMS &
 PUSSYWILLOWS

10:00 AM *FOR THE PEOPLE*
11:30 AM **LENTEN SUNDAY LUNCHEON**
1:15 PM **PALM SUNDAY LENTEN VESPERS**

GLORY TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY FOREVER!
SLAVA ISUSU CHRISTU! SLAVA VO VIKI!
CHRIST IS AMONG US! HE IS AND SHALL BE!
PLEASE FOR THE CHANGEABLE PARTS, HYMN NUMBERS,
AND PROPERES ON THE COLORED INSERT.

YOUR GIFT TO THE LORD ~ THE MONTH OF MAR. 2014

<i>Date</i>	<i>Collection</i>	<i>Candles</i>	<i>Holy Day</i>	<i>Fundraising</i>	<i>Total Income</i>
<u>Mar. 2</u>	\$457.52	\$ 37.87	\$ 5.00	\$397.50	\$897.89
<u>Mar. 9</u>	\$1,037.36	\$98.00	\$5.00	\$356.96	\$1,497.32
<u>Mar. 16</u>	\$1,019.60	\$106.00	\$0.00	\$260.00	\$1,385.60
<u>Mar. 23</u>	\$648.48	\$88.00	\$0.00	\$154.50	\$890.96
<u>Mar. 30</u>	\$966.54	\$82.46	\$124.40	\$157.00	\$1,330.40
<u>TOTAL</u>	\$4,129.48	\$412.33	\$134.40	\$1,173.40	\$6,002.17

WE NEED YOUR HELP WITH TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE!

Upcoming celebrations of the Paraclis to the Theotokos
and Mystery of Holy Anointing "Ancient Healing Service" at 7 PM.

Wednesday April 16 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy and Holy Anointing [Holy Week]

Wednesday May 28 Festal Evening Prayer of the Ascension with Holy Anointing

Wednesday June 25 Paraclis and Mystery of Holy Anointing

<u>Candles Available</u>	<u>Monthly Donation</u>	<u>Intention</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Eternal Lamp	\$40.00	In Thanksgiving	Karen Ybarra
Icon Screen (6)	\$40.00	AVAILABLE	
Tetrapod (2)	\$30.00	Special Intention	Al Macek
Nativity Icon	\$25.00	Jesus, Mary ,Joseph	Richard Medwig
Theotokos of Vladimir Icon	\$25.00	Special Intention	Glen Grabow
Resurrection Icon	\$25.00	+Beau Callaway	Rebecca Becker
Annunciation Triptych	\$25.00	AVAILABLE	
Holy Table	\$40.00	Family & Friends	Dan & Olga Vaughn

Give a spiritual Gift to someone in need. We have candle Gift Cards you can send or give to a loved one, friend or someone in need of prayers. A single 6-day candle is \$5. For an entire month the cost is \$25. When giving your donation use the candle envelope in the back of the Church. Paired with it, take the candle card to give as a gift. In addition to the name on the candle, please specify a start date if you would like the Church to light the candle[s] in front of the Icons of our Lord or the Theotokos for you on a future date.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: our parishioners, family members, friends and others who are ill or infirm: **AMY CHIAPPE, ETHAN EYMAN, CULVER “RED” EYMAN, BOBBI SPAK, JULIE COLLINS, BJ NOVAK, DONALD STEIN, ELAINE WILSON, CORY ROMERO, KEVIN ZAHN, DR. CHARLOTTE NEUMANN, SONIA DOUGLAS-STANTON, RON ZELLER, NICHOLE RICHARDS, JUDY ERNST, BR. JAMES BROWN S.M., WILLIS WILLIAMS, BELINDA DORNEY, DAVID BLEVINS, FIREFIGHTER ROBERT KRAMER, KEITH SCOTT, DANNY ENCISO, AUSTIN MCGOFF, FR. DEACON MICHAEL GEORGE, MONICA KING GILBRECH, KATHERYN LOIDOLT, PAUL SUVAK.**

Pre-Eparchial Assembly Discussion and Proposals~

As in the Bishop’s Letter in last Sunday’s Bulletin we are to hold a Parish Meeting for the purpose of Discussions and Proposals for the 2014 Eparchial Assembly. At St. Athanasius we will hold this Meeting on TODAY starting around 12 NOON.

Adult Eastern Christian Formation Program will be on Pascha hiatus!

“Living the Liturgy” [An introduction to the Liturgy of the Byzantine Churches] will restart after the Pascha and Bright Week celebrations.

PASCHA CELEBRATIONS~ THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF PARISHIONERS CHOSE THE SECOND OPTION FOR PASCHAL SERVICES.
10 AM RUSH PROCESSION, RESURRECTION MATINS FOLLOWED BY THE DIVINE LITURGY AND THE BLESSING OF PASCHAL FOODS. [PLEASE BRING YOUR PASCHAL FOOD BASKETS AND PLACE THEM IN THE FRONT OF THE TEMPLE BEFORE RESURRECTION MATINS PROCESSION.]
12 PM PASCHAL POTLUCK LUNCHEON
1:15 PM AGAPE VESPERS

PASCHAL LUNCHEON~ THE TRADITIONAL PASCHA LUNCHEON IN NEARLY EVERY BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH IS TYPICALLY A PUBLIC SHARING OF THE FOODS ABSTAINED FROM DURING THE GREAT FAST. PLEASE PLAN NOW TO REMAIN AT ST. ATHANASIUS FOR BOTH THE LUNCHEON AND THE AGAPE EVENING PRAYER. ALSO PREPARE ADDITIONAL FOODS TO SHARE WITH YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST!

THOMAS SUNDAY POTLUCK LUNCHEON~ WE WILL CELEBRATE THOMAS SUNDAY [APRIL 27TH] WITH THE FINAL BLESSING OF THE ARTOS AND OUR SPECIAL POTLUCK LUNCHEON. PLEASE PLAN ON BRINGING YOUR FAVORITE PASCHAL FOODS TO THE LUNCHEON!

WELLNESS CLASSES CONTINUE!

Every Tuesday during the Great Fast Glen Grabow is providing a series of DVD's to help permit the wellness of everyone of us. Please join us Tuesday evenings at 6 pm in our St. Mary Hall. Refreshments will be provided.

UPCOMING HOLY DAYS & SPECIAL SERVICES

AT ST. ATHANASIUS THE GREAT CHURCH

<u>WED. APR. 9</u>	7 PM	AKATHIST OR PARACLIS [LEAD BY CANTORS]
<u>FRI. APR. 11</u>	7 PM	LITURGY OF THE PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS
<u>SAT. APR. 12</u>		<u>LAZARUS SATURDAY</u> 10 AM CHURCH AND HALL CLEAN UP 5 PM VESPERS WITH DIVINE LITURGY 6:15 PM MYSTERY OF HOLY REPENTANCE [CONFESSIONS]
<u>SUN. APR. 13</u>		<u>PALM [FLOWERY] SUNDAY. THE ENTRANCE OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM.</u> 9:45 AM THIRD HOUR 10 AM DIVINE LITURGY 11:30 AM PARISH SOCIAL 1:15 PM PALM SUNDAY LENTEN VESPERS
<u>TUE. APR. 15</u>		<u>GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY</u> 9 AM BRIDEGROOM MORNING PRAYER 7 PM LITURGY OF THE PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS
<u>WED. APR. 16</u>		<u>GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY</u> 9 AM BRIDEGROOM MORNING PRAYER 7 PM LITURGY OF THE PRE-SANCTIFIED GIFTS
<u>THUR. APR. 17</u>	7 PM	VESPERS & LITURGY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

CATHOLIC RADIO 89.1 & 90.9 FM

FR. BRYAN WILL BE INTERVIEWED ON THE "FAITH IN ACTION" RADIO SHOW ON THIS WEEK. THE SHOW IS HEARD MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS AT 10 AM, TUESDAY AND THURSDAY AT 4 PM, AND SATURDAY AT 9 AM. YOU CAN ALSO HEAR IT AT WWW.CATHOLICRADIOINDY.ORG.

CHURCH AND HALL CLEANING~ WE NEED EVERYONE,S HELP TO CLEAN THE CHURCH AND ST. MARY HALL IN PREPARATION FOR GREAT AND HOLY WEEK AND THE HOLY PASCHA! AT 10 AM ON SATURDAY APRIL 12TH PLEASE JOIN US IN THE HALL WHERE WE WILL GET ORGANIZED AND ASSIGNED TO VARIOUS JOBS. WE DO NOT HAVE A CUSTODIAN, SO IT IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO COME AND HELP YOUR PARISH OUT!

BRIGHT WEEK, HOLY DAY, AND VISITS FROM GUERIN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL~

Mon. Apr. 21 Bright Monday

9 AM Festal Divine Liturgy

Tue. Apr. 22 Bright Tuesday

9 AM Festal Divine Liturgy

7 PM Festal Evening Prayer

Wed. Apr. 23 Bright Wednesday & Feast of St. George

9 AM Third Hour

10 AM Festal Divine Liturgy [with Guerin students]

7 PM Welcome of the icon of Our Lady followed by the Akathist Hymn

Thu. Apr. 24 Bright Thursday

9 AM Festal Divine Liturgy

7 PM Moleben for the Victims of Abortion

Fri. Apr. 25 Bright Friday and Feast of St. Matthew

9 AM Third Hour

10 AM Festal Divine Liturgy [with Guerin students]

Fasting Regulations – 2014

Abstinence

The law of abstinence forbids the use of meat or meat by-products, permitting the use of eggs and dairy products.

Abstinence is to be observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays during the Holy Season of the Great Fast and on Holy Saturday.

Strict Abstinence

The law of strict abstinence (fast) forbids the use of meat, eggs and dairy products or any of their by-products.

All of the adult faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to observe Strict Abstinence. Those with valid medical reasons; pregnant or nursing mothers are not bound to fast.

Strict Fast and Abstinence is to be observed on the First Day of the Great Fast, Monday, March 3rd and on Great and Holy Friday, April 18th.

Dispensation

Pastors and administrators may, for a just cause, grant to the individual faithful and to individual families, dispensations or commutations of abstinence and strict abstinence into other pious practices.

Liturgical Directives

Presanctified Liturgy

The Liturgies of St. John Chrysostom or St. Basil the Great are not to be celebrated on the weekdays of Great Lent – **not even for funerals**. In compliance with the liturgical prescriptions of the Byzantine Catholic Church pastors and administrators should celebrate the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts during the Great Fast, that is, on Wednesdays and Fridays, if possible, and at least one of the first three days of Great and Holy Week. A stipend may be accepted for this Divine Liturgy and it is to be the only Divine Liturgy celebrated on that particular day.

GREAT FAST SUNDAY AFTERNOON VESPERS

The number of people who have returned to the Church for the Vespers has been most gratifying. The Great Fast is a time for all of us to spend more time in personal and community prayer. To help us to accomplish this goal, in keeping with our Byzantine Catholic Tradition, St. Athanasius the Great Parish will be celebrating Vespers on Sunday Afternoons during the Great Fast. We are celebrating this Liturgy 15 minutes after the close of our Lenten Luncheon and our Eastern Christian Formation Adult Enrichment Class, usually around 1:15 PM. Please join us for this special time of prayer, and also for the Akathist [Wednesdays at 7 PM] and the Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts [Friday at 7 PM].



It is time to order your Pascha and Pierogies [Pyrohi or Veranyky]

It is NOT too early to start ordering your Pierogies for each week during the Great Fast. Please call John Danovich at the Parish Office at 317-632-4157 to find out which varieties will be available and to place your order. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE PIEROGIES AND TO PREPARE OR

OTHER BAKED GOODS, SO PLEASE ALSO CALL JOHN TO VOLUNTEER. You may also call the Parish Office to order your Paschas now for your Paschal Baskets!

Please let all of your friends, neighbors and even your enemies know about what is cooking at St. Athanasius the Great Byzantine Catholic Church.

BYZANTEEN YOUTH RALLY JULY 10-13, 2014

The TRANSFIGURATION of Christ, of US, of our World

Mount St. Mary University Emmitsburg, MD

ages: 13-19 Cost: \$300.00 [plus transportation]

For more Information contact: Father Edward Cimbala

ByzanTEEN Rally 2014 at 908-725-06125

Your help is needed to prepare for Great and Holy Week and Bright Week!

St. Athanasius the Great Parish has a number of important events coming up during the next few weeks for Great and Holy Week and Pascha.

- 1] Sat. April 12 @ 10 AM~ Church Cleaning and set up for Palm Sunday. [Please at this time bring your Pussywillows that will be blessed Sunday morning. They should be cut in 2 foot lengths.]*
- 2] Sun. April 13 @ 9:45 AM~ The Blessing of Palms and Willows will immediately follow the Third Hour. The distribution of Palms and Willows and Procession [outside if possible] PRECEDES the Divine Liturgy. Everyone carries the Palms and Pussywillows throughout the Liturgy, except at Communion time.*
- 3] Fri. April 18 from 8 PM until 12 midnight~ We need people to sign up and keep Vigil at the Tomb of our Lord. [Sign up sheet in the Parish Hall]*
- 4] Sat. April 19 @ 10 AM~ Your help is needed to change all of the altar vestments from Dark to Bright Colors, and to set up the Parish Hall for the Paschal Meal.[Paschal Foods will be blessed in the Temple at the close of the Divine Liturgy.]*
- 5] Wed. Apr. 23 @ 10 AM ~ We need to prepare and serve a lunch for the 50 students and chaperones from Guerin High School attending Liturgy.*
- 6] Wed. Apr. 23@ 7 PM~ We need people to greet the Icon of the Theotokos of Jasna Gora, Cantor the Akathist, prepare refreshments for visitors, and keep vigil in the Church until Midnight. [A great responsibility for our K of C Council to volunteer to do.]*
- 7] Fri. Apr. 25 @ 10 AM ~ Like Wednesday we need help to prepare and serve a lunch for 50 more students coming for Liturgy from Guerin High School.*

FATHER'S LITURGY QUESTION CORNER: *Father, when we are praying for our loved ones we sing "Eternal Memory!" Shouldn't we sing "Eternal memories" since we all have more than one "Memory" of the departed?*



This would be the case, if the hymn was intended to convey our memories of the deceased, but it is not! Contrary to this common understanding of it, the hymn is a supplication that God would remember the dead, for in the Bible it is God's "eternal memory" which keeps man alive.

Sheol [in Hebrew] or Hades [in Greek] or the Pit, the biblical realm of the dead is also called Abaddon. This is the condition of forsakenness and forgottenness by God. It is the situation of non-life since in such a condition no one can praise the Lord; and the praise of the Lord is the only content and purpose of man's life; it is the very reason for his existence. Thus, this most famous and final of the Orthodox funeral hymns is the prayer that the departed be eternally alive in the "eternal rest" of the "eternal memory" of God—all of which is made possible and actual by the resurrection of Jesus Christ which is the destruction of the Pit of Death by the splendor of Divine Righteousness and Life (see Ps 88; Hos 13:14; 1 Cor. 15; Eph 4:9; Phil 2:5-11; 1 Pet 3). Thank you for your question!

Father, what is the Melkite Greek Catholic Church?

Briefly, the Melkite Greek Catholic Church is the Byzantine Catholic Church that was originally made up of Arab Byzantine Catholics. Like our own Church it now serves people of every ethnic and racial background. Its head is His Holiness Gregory III Laham, Patriarch of Antioch and all of the East, of Alexandria and Jerusalem. The Patriarch alternates his residence between Damascus, Syria and Beirut, Lebanon. He is assisted by Patriarchal Vicars, who are Archbishops residing in Damascus, Cairo and Jerusalem. They have been seriously victimized by Islamist terrorists in Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon. We should keep them in prayer.

Father, What is the Catholic Church's official position on Freemasonry? Are Catholics free to become Freemasons?

Freemasonry is incompatible with the Catholic Faith, indeed the Christian Faith itself. Freemasonry teaches a **naturalistic religion** that espouses religious indifferentism, the position that a person can be equally pleasing to God while remaining in any religion or in none at all.

Masonry is a parallel religion to Christianity. The *New Catholic Encyclopedia* states, "Freemasonry displays all the elements of religion, and as such **it becomes a rival to the religion of the Gospel**. It includes temples and altars, prayers, a moral code, worship, vestments, feast days, the promise of reward and punishment in the afterlife, a hierarchy, and initiative and burial rites" (vol. 6, p. 137).

Masonry is also a secret society. Its initiates subscribe to secret blood oaths that are contrary to Christian morals. The prospective Mason swears that if he ever reveals the secrets of Masonry—secrets which are trivial and already well-known—he wills to be subject to self-mutilation or to gruesome execution. (Most North American Masons, admittedly, never would dream of carrying out these punishments on themselves or on an errant member. But this was not always the case historically, nor is it the case in Masonic societies in Latin America or Europe.)

Historically, one of Masonry's primary objectives has been the destruction of the Catholic Church; this is especially true of Freemasonry as it has existed in certain European and Latin American countries. In the United States, Freemasonry is often little more than a social club, but it still espouses a naturalistic religion that contradicts orthodox Christianity. **(Those interested in joining a men's club should consider the Knights of Columbus instead.)**

The Church has imposed the penalty of excommunication on Catholics who become Freemasons. The penalty of excommunication for joining the Masonic Lodge was explicit in the 1917 code of canon law (canon 2335), it is implicit in the 1983 Latin code (canon 1374), as it also appears in the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches (canon 1448.2) which states: *One who joins an organization which plots against the Church, is to be punished with an appropriate penalty.*

THE FALSE RELIGION OF FREEMASONRY [PAGE 2]

Because the revised codes of canon law are not explicit on this point, some drew the mistaken conclusion that the Church's prohibition of Freemasonry had been dropped. As a result of this confusion, shortly before the 1983 code was promulgated, the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a statement indicating that the penalty was still in force. That means any Catholic who joins the Freemasons is in the state of deadly sin, and is excluded from receiving the Eucharist.



The history of Freemasonry is filled with numerous instances of the Lodge attempting to destroy orthodox Christianity, especially the Orthodox [in Russia] and Catholic Churches. It was the Freemasons, who having gained control of the government of Mexico in the 1920's set about destroying the religious

freedom of Catholics. They closed, desecrated and destroyed numerous Catholic Churches. The Masonic controlled government forbade the construction of new Churches, the wearing of clerical and religious attire, public religious processions, and the celebration of the Holy Mysteries [Sacraments]. They also passed laws forbidding Catholic priests to perform marriages, and making it a felony to sacramentally bless a marriage before it was performed civilly. Over 10,000 Catholics were martyred for their Faith during this time, including numerous priests who refused to abandon their congregations. *[The picture above is of Mexican soldiers, led by an officer who was a Freemason, martyring a priest for illegally celebrating the Liturgy.]*

Your Pastor has many Protestant, Jewish and non-religious friends who are [or were] Freemasons. **Most did not even know about the anti-Catholic and anti-Christian basis of Freemasonry.** In addition to the Catholic Churches, numerous Orthodox Churches, and Evangelical Protestant Christian communities forbid membership in the Freemasons! If you know any man active in the Freemasons you should bring this reality to their attention and call upon them as faithful Christians to abandon the false religion of Freemasonry.



Fifth Sunday in the Great Fast *St Mary of Egypt*

A Prelude to Salvation

The sixth week of the Great Fast has a two-fold designation in our liturgical books. First of all, it marks the end of this fasting season. We also fast during the Great and Holy Week of the Lord's Passion, but that observance is not part of the Great Fast. The Great Fast has prepared us to celebrate the paschal mystery of Christ's saving passion, death and resurrection by inviting us to refocus our lives on God in repentance.

During the Holy Week our fasting has a

different character: it is a way of observing the sorrowful events of this week: the plotting against Christ, His betrayal, passion, death and burial. Between the two fast periods we observe the double feast of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday. This last week of the Great Fast is simultaneously a week of preparation for these feasts. In our liturgical books this week, then, is called the Week of Palms, looking forward to that celebration.

The hymns prescribed to be sung this week in

Vespers, Orthros (Matins) and the Presanctified Liturgy reflect both of these themes. On one hand the services include chants focused on the end of the Great Fast such as the final sticheron sung this coming Friday:

“Count us worthy of beholding the week of Your Passion, O Lover of Mankind, for we have completed the forty days of the Fast for the profit of our souls. Let us glorify Your mighty deeds, Your ineffable dispensation for our sake, singing with one mind: ‘O Lord, glory to You!’”

Fifth Sunday in the Great Fast [page 2] Other chants reflect

the coming feast, recalling Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem. At Orthros on Monday, for example, we sing: "O faithful, let us prepare to celebrate Palm Sunday, joyfully observing the forefeast from this present day onwards, so that we may be counted worthy to see the life-giving Passion."

The Death of Lazarus

Even more of this week's hymnody recalls the raising of Lazarus, whom the Gospel describes as having died four days before Christ raised him. We hear about Lazarus' illness and death as well as Jesus' assertion that "*This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it*" (Jn 11:4).

In the Gospel of John, the raising of Lazarus and Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem are connected. We read that Jesus called Lazarus from the tomb at some time before His final trip to Jerusalem (see Jn 12:1). Yet the same Gospel points out that: "*...the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign*" (Jn 12:17-18).

Jesus' return to Bethany sparks the triumphal reception which Jesus received to the excitement over the raising of Lazarus.

Our liturgical hymns take up this connection:

"The Lord comes, seated upon the colt of a donkey, as it is written. O peoples, make ready to receive Him in awe as the King of all, and to welcome Him with palms as Victor over Death and Hades; for He has raised Lazarus!"

Each day of this week brings us closer to the commemoration of Lazarus' rising. Thus on Monday we pray:

"The door of the forecourt is opened that leads to the raising of Lazarus: for Christ has come to awaken the dead man, as though from sleep, and to overthrow Death by Life."

Fifth Sunday in the Great Fast [page 3]

At Orthros on Tuesday we sing a similar hymn:

“Be glad, Bethany! For Christ shall come to you, performing in you a great and awesome miracle. Binding death with fetters, as God He will raise up Lazarus, who was dead, and who now magnifies the Creator.”

On Wednesday, four days before we celebrate Lazarus’ rising, we remember his death:

“Lazarus, the friend of Christ, has died today: he is carried out for burial, and Martha’s companions lament in sorrow for her brother. But Christ comes to him in joy, to show the nations that He is Himself the Life of all.”

This hymn sung on Thursday adds another note for our consideration:

“For two days Lazarus has been in the tomb and sees those dead from all generations. He beholds strange and awesome things and a countless multitude held within the powers of Death. Looking at his tomb, his relatives weep bitterly; but Christ is on His way to give life to His friend and to consummate His plan for all mankind. Blessed are You, O Savior: have mercy on us!”

The plan of God is not simply to revive Lazarus, but to deliver the human race – that “countless multitude” – from the power of Death.

The Saturday of Lazarus

The celebration of Lazarus’ rising is based on the Gospel story of that event (*Jn 11*). The hymns of the feast point to its meaning for us as the Church has understood it:

- *The raising of Lazarus was to prepare the disciples – and us – for Jesus’ death and resurrection.* “O Lord, in Your desire to assure Your disciples about Your resurrection from the dead, You came to the tomb of Lazarus.”
- *The raising of Lazarus also prepared Death for its ultimate defeat.* As we pray at compline, “Even before Your crucifixion You made Death tremble before You, O Savior.”
- *The raising of Lazarus provides us with an assurance of our own ultimate resurrection.* As we say repeatedly on this feast, “You confirmed

Fifth Sunday in the Great Fast [page 4] the future resurrection of all” (troparion) by this event. Lazarus thus became “the prelude of salvation and rebirth” (Vespers) for all believers.

As with Palm Sunday, this feast is popularly celebrated with a focus on children. Many Greeks prepare a Lazarus-shaped bread distributed to the children with fruits and nuts as a feast-day treat. In Cyprus, Lebanon and other parts of the Middle East, children go from house to house singing carols. They reenact the raising of Lazarus for which they are suitably rewarded.

Resuscitation, not Resurrection

Lazarus’ rising is thus an icon of Christ’s resurrection at Pascha and ours at the Last Day. Lazarus, however, was not raised to eternal life at this time. Rather he was brought back to the life of this world. According to St. Epiphanius of Cyprus (367-403), he lived for another thirty years or so. The Gospel asserts that Lazarus was a wanted man; “*The chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus*” (Jn 12:10-11). He is said to have fled the wrath of Christ’s enemies for Cyprus where he helped Paul and Barnabas establish a church. Eventually he became Bishop of Kition (today’s Larnaka) and died as a martyr in AD 63.

As we complete these forty days of profit to our souls, let us exclaim: “Rejoice, O Bethany, birthplace of Lazarus.” And you, his sisters, Mary and Martha, rejoice as well! For tomorrow, Christ will come and give life to your dead brother by a word. Bitter and insatiable Death will hear His voice; and trembling with fear and groaning bitterly, it will release Lazarus still wrapped in his shroud. The Hebrews, astonished at this miracle, come to meet Him, carrying branches and palms. And the children will rejoice to see the One on whom their fathers look with hate. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel!

Vespers of Lazarus Saturday

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN THE MILITARY ESPECIALLY THOSE SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN AND IRAQ.

MAJOR CRAIG M. EYMAN DO~ is Fr. Bryan's 2nd youngest brother. He has reentered the Army Reserve and is currently serving with the 848th FST [Forward Surgical Team] stationed in Twinsburg, OH. He has returned to his family in Solon, OH.

CAPTAIN BRIAN HEWKO~ has been a friend of Fr. Bryan. Brian is from St. Anne Byzantine Catholic Church in Austinburg, OH. He is a 2008 graduate of West Point. Brian has completed his training in Army Intelligence and is serving in South Carolina awaiting deployment.

CAPTAIN CHRISTINA MOMONIER~ is a friend of Fr. Bryan. Christina is from Baltimore, MD is a Byzantine Catholic She is currently serving at Ft. Benning, GA.

CAPTAIN [FATHER] JOSEPH BRANKATELLI USA ~ is a friend of Fr. Bryan and a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland and the Archdiocese for the Military Services USA. Fr. Joseph has returned to the United States and continues to serve the Military Archdiocese at Fort Bragg, NC.

SPECIALIST 3 KATIE WELLER USAF and AIRMEN FIRST CLASS

JOHANN WELLER USAF ~ are friends of Fr. Bryan and members of St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church in Harrisburg, PA. Before entering the Armed Forces they were active with the BYZANTEEN Youth Rallies.

PRIVATE CODY ROMERO USA, STAFF SERGEANT NIKO ROMERO, and STAFF SERGEANT RORY ROMERO Sons of Sonia Stanton. Cody recently received the Military Blessing at our Church and is serving at Fort Benning, GA. His brother Rory has been deployed to Afghanistan.

PRIVATE JACKSON RUANE USA~ Jackson is formerly from St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Parish in Ashtabula, OH. He has completed Basic Training and was deployed to Korea on September 9, 2013.

PRIVATE ABIGAIL BROWN USA~ is the Grand Niece of parishioner Belinda Dorney. She was recently promoted to PFC and is training in Army Intelligence at a base in Arizona. She is serving in Oklahoma.

2ND LT. AARON JACOBSON~ from Mounds View, MN is a friend of Fr. Bryan. He is a 2013 West Point graduate, who has just completed his special training as a platoon leader. He is serving in Ft. Drum, NY.

May God, in His infinite Love and Mercy, guide and protect all of those serving our Republic in the Armed Forces.

Welcome to St. Athanasius Byzantine Catholic Church of Indianapolis, IN. We are a Byzantine Catholic Community that, as part of the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy [Diocese] of Parma, is in Communion with Pope Francis I and the other Catholic Churches. If you remain until the end of the Divine Liturgy; you will fulfill your Sunday Obligation. [If you leave early you do not fulfill your Sunday obligation.] We welcome to Holy Communion all Orthodox and Catholic Christians, who are able to receive Holy Communion in their own parish Church. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, all should come forward to kiss the Holy Cross, or be anointed with blessed oil, and share in the Blessed Bread. Then join us in our St. Mary Hall for our Coffee Social. THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!