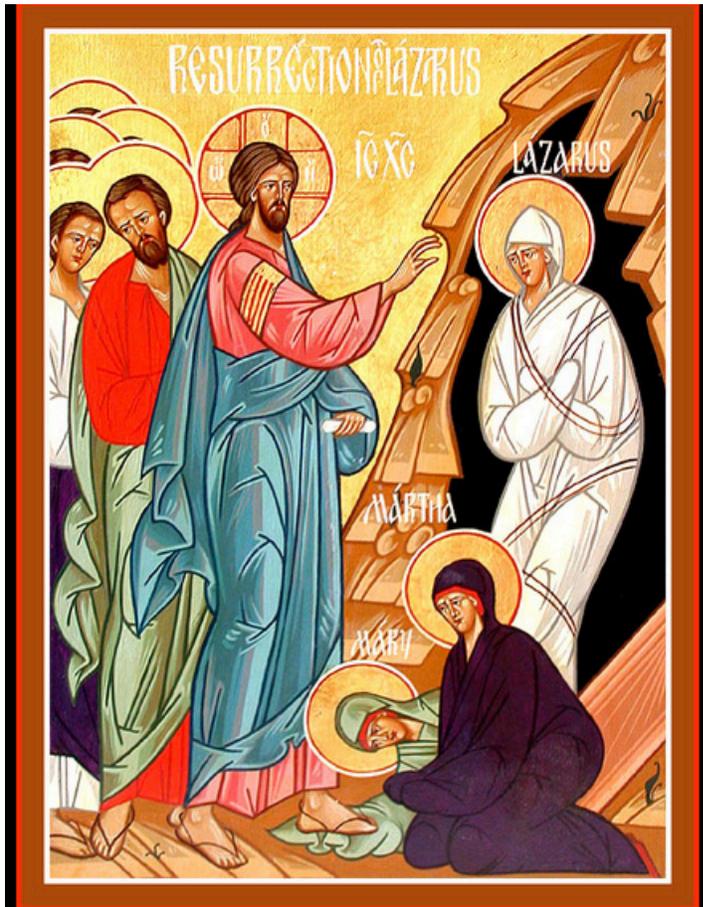


LAZARUS SATURDAY & PALM SUNDAY



*We have completed the forty days that profit our souls.
Let us sing: "Rejoice, city of Bethany, home of Lazarus!
Rejoice, Mary and Martha, his sisters!
Tomorrow Christ will come and raise your dead brother to life.
Bitter and unsatisfied, hell will hear His voice.
Shaking and groaning, it will release bound Lazarus.
The assembly of Hebrews will be amazed.
They will greet Him with palms and branches.
Though their priests and elders look on Him with envy and malice,
the children shall praise Him in song:
'Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord,
the King of Israel!'*

Parish Contacts

Fr. Gregory Wright, Rector
604-788-7546
frgregory@saintherman.net

Fr. Symeon Price, Attached
604-807-7451
fathersymeonprice@gmail.com

Fr. Dn. Theodore Matson
Deacon, Treasurer
604-897-2825
dntheodore@saintherman.net
treasurer@saintherman.net

Sava Duran, President
778-536-0739
president@saintherman.net

Donations: E-Transfer to:
treasurer@saintherman.net

Weekly Services:

Every Saturday:
530pm Great Vespers

Every Sunday:
930am Matins
10am Divine Liturgy
12pm Potluck Lunch
1pm Catechism Classes

Feast Days:
Please Check our Calendar

**7221 - 198B Street
Langley, BC V2Y 1R9**

Continued next page...



LAZARUS SATURDAY & PALM SUNDAY

Continued...

The above quote is from the final 'Lord I Call' Verse which will be sung at Lazarus Saturday Vespers on Friday April 3rd.

Lazarus Saturday Vespers marks the end of the 40 Days of Great Lent, and the beginning of what is often referred to as a Mini-Pascha Feast, right before we dive into Holy Week, in preparation for Great and Holy Pascha.

Lazarus Saturday is a very special and unique day in the Orthodox Church. It is not lightly that this day is often called a 'Mini-Pascha.'

In fact, Lazarus Saturday is the ONLY day in the church calendar where we celebrate a Sunday Resurrectional Festal Divine Liturgy on a day that isn't a Sunday!

Normally if we celebrate Divine Liturgy on a weekday or Saturday, we make a full prostration at the consecration of the Holy Gifts, and before receiving Holy Communion. On Sundays we don't do this. Likewise on Lazarus Saturday we do not make these Prostrations, as we are celebrating a Festal Divine Liturgy which is reserved for Sundays...with this one exception each year!

Our Lord's raising Lazarus from the dead before His own Passion is a foreshadowing of His Victory over death, and a promise of the general resurrection of the dead!

In Holy Baptism, we unite ourselves to Christ, and we participate in Christ's Death, Burial and Resurrection through our 3x immersion in the font; thus Lazarus Saturday is one of the most important days in the Church Calendar for Holy Baptism!

At Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy, instead of singing 'Holy God...Holy Mighty...Holy Immortal Have Mercy on us' the service books tell us to sing the Baptismal Hymn: "As many as have been baptized into Christ, have put on Christ..."

Those being Baptized on Lazarus Saturday will have the benefit of receiving Holy Communion on Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Holy Saturday and Holy Pascha! What a great way to start off as a newly Baptized Orthodox Christian!

This year, we will serve Holy Baptisms at 8am Lazarus Saturday, then serve Lazarus Saturday Divine Liturgy at 10am.

Continued next page...



LAZARUS SATURDAY & PALM SUNDAY Continued...

Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday have always been closely connected in the Orthodox Church. Even much of the Hymnography is connected!

Lazarus Saturday concludes with Palm Sunday Vigil, which we will serve at 530pm that same evening.

Palm Sunday Vigil is another very beautiful (and unique) service in the Church Calendar.

Palm Sunday Vigil is a combination of Great Vespers, Litya, and Matins. There are 2 Dismissals during this service (one after Vespers, and one after Matins), so those with young children are encouraged to join us for as much of the service as possible. It's better to bring the children to the first half of Vigil then leave after the Vespers Dismissal, rather than not attend at all!

The proper time for Blessing Palms (or Pussy Willows) for Palm Sundays is during Palm Sunday Vigil. We will be Blessing Pussy Willows at Palm Sunday Vigil; then we will be Blessing Palms after the Hours and before Diving Liturgy on Palm Sunday morning.

After serving Palm Sunday Divine Liturgy, before the veneration of the Holy Cross, we will take our Blessed Palms with us, and make a Festal Procession around the Church, remembering Christ's Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem, and those who cried out "Hosanna in the Highest...Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

The Feast of Palm Sunday is also a Fish Day in the Orthodox Calendar. This is a good opportunity to gain some strength and courage, as we approach Holy Week.

In the days that follow, we remember our Lord's betrayal by Judas, the Last Supper, our Lord's Passion, Crucifixion, Burial, then His Glorious Resurrection, when we will shout out: CHRIST IS RISEN!!!

Fr. Gregory



PASCHAL VESPERS & BBQ

**BBQ PIG & CHICKEN WILL BE PROVIDED,
PLEASE BRING A DISH TO SHARE!**

WITH KIDS ACTIVITIES

COME HUNGRY AND READY TO FEAST

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 3:30 PM

LAZARUS SATURDAY



ST. HERMAN'S CLEANING & CHILDREN'S EVENT

EVENT
SIGN UP



APRIL 4
AFTER LITURGY
UNTIL 3PM

Cleaners & Kids
Please Sign up
by April 2

QUESTIONS? : CONTACT KRISTY
KRISTYDURAN2@YAHOO.COM

Cleaning Bee Event

Inside & Lots of ways to help!
led by: **STACY**

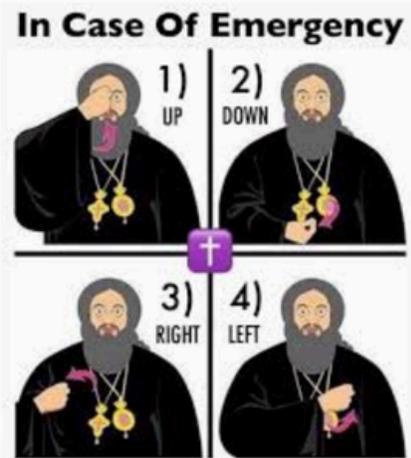
CHILDREN'S EVENT* INCLUDES:

- Snacks
 - Confession
 - Games
 - Lazarus Bread
- END BY 3PM

*PARENTS: THIS IS NOT A CHILD "DROP OFF" EVENT,
A PARENT OR GUARDIAN MUST STAY AND/OR
HELP AT CHURCH WITH THE 'CLEANING' EVENT

Church Etiquette...

Making the Sign of the Cross & Raising Hands



A person looking around on a Sunday morning may notice that different people cross themselves at different times. To a certain extent, when to cross oneself is a matter of personal piety and not of dogma. However, there are times in the service when crossing oneself is called for:

- To cross: when you hear one of the variations of the phrase "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit"; before venerating an icon, Gospel, or Cross; when blessed with an icon, Cross, Gospel, or Chalice; entering and exiting the temple; when passing before the Altar.
- Not to cross: (only bowing of the head): when blessed with hand (as in "Peace be unto all"), or censed. In receiving a blessing from a bishop or priest one does not make the sign of the Cross beforehand.

In addition, please refrain from making the sign of the Cross before or after receiving Holy Communion, as this may accidentally bump the Chalice with your hand. Instead we cross our arms before approaching the chalice.

Raising hands in prayer is a very ancient practice, and following this practice in private prayer is certainly acceptable. However, even among the clergy, only the presiding priest raises his hands at various points in the Liturgy. The other priests do not. The deacons raise only one hand at these points, but never both.

In the Orthodox Church, the Faithful do not raise their hands in public worship (such as at 'let us lift up our hearts') as they do in many Protestant Churches.

The liturgical logic is that the person who is leading the people in prayer raises his hands on behalf of all the people, and so the people, deferring to that priest or bishop, allow him to do this alone.

On the other hand, in private prayers, you are the one presiding, so to speak, and so in this case you can raise your own hands in prayer.

Sunday School

CORNER



NOTE:
There will be No Sunday School
the 2 Sundays after Pascha
April 19 & April 26

Some tips for Holy Week and Pascha with Children

- Decide on the services you will attend as a family & Plan ahead
 - Simplify your extracurricular schedule as much as you can
 - Give yourself & your kiddos extra grace with later night services
- Have your kids review & color Holy week booklet from Sunday School
 - Battery operated candles are great for kids to hold safely
 - Clean and “beautify” your icon corner together
- Prepare your Pascha Basket(s) together
 - Enjoy other Pascha traditions like ‘egg dying’

Youth Happenings

GRADES 7-12



**Post-liturgy Youth Connection
every Sunday**

IN YOUTH ROOM UNLESS OTHERWISE DETERMINED



UPCOMING



PanOrthodox

Youth



Night

SATURDAY

APRIL 25

5:30-7:30



ST. HERMAN'S FELLOWSHIP HALL

collecting donations:

to fill lots of plastic eggs
for our PASCHA Egg Hunt



WANTED: TREATS & TRINKETS

-individually wrapped small
sweet treats (nut free!)

-small trinkets/toys
squishies, erasers, stickers,
stampers, snap bracelets,
tiny animals/cars

Questions?:
Contact Kristy
kristyduran2@yahoo.com

thank you!!!!!!

please bring to church by Holy Tuesday

Sunday, April 12 immediately following Paschal vespers

Annual PASCHA Egg Hunt!





Notes from the Choir...

The 10-day period from “Lazarus Friday” through to the first day of Pascha, is the most intense time in the Church year. St. Herman's will be celebrating services every evening, as well as several mornings. These services generally get progressively longer as we move through Holy Week. What an awesome (in the old and true sense of the word: awe-inspiring) responsibility this is for the choir. The hymnography of these services is unparalleled in both its poetry and theology.

These hymns offer a wealth of Scriptural references and allusions. On Holy Thursday evening, we will sing about Israel's failure to recognize their Messiah: “Israel, my firstborn son, has committed two evil deeds; He abandoned me the fountain of living water, and dug for himself a broken well” [Bonus points if you know, without Googling it, which book of the Prophets this is from—the answer is at the end of the article!]. On Holy Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, the Church explores in-depth the magnificent juxtaposition of Judas with the “sinful woman” [who anointed Jesus's feet and wiped them with her hair]: “She loosed her hair while he bound himself in wrath; she, in order to receive forgiveness; he in order to receive some silver “.

On Holy Saturday, the Communion verse references a Psalm [answer at the end!]: the Lord awoke as one asleep...” Those are just a few of the innumerable examples.

Another significant aspect of the Holy Week hymnography is its exploration of many of the “players” involved in the action, either directly or indirectly. As noted earlier, there is much to say about the betrayer, Judas: “oh, the wretchedness of Judas; he was unwilling to understand”

The Church also looks at those who remained faithful to the Lord: “Joseph and Nicodemus took You down from the Tree... and in grief and tender compassion lamented...’how can I touch Your most pure Body with my hands...”. At many points we ponder the sacrifice of the Theotokos: “I am torn asunder with grief; my heart is wounded unto death, seeing Thee unjustly slaughtered, O my Son,” said the All-Pure Virgin in her tears”. We even sing as the voice of the Lord: “I gave My back to scourging. I did not turn My face from spitting. I endured the Cross for the salvation of the world.”

Continued next page...



Notes from the Choir...*Continued...*

These hymns also delve into the response of creation itself, to the Crucifixion of its Creator and God. “When the sun saw You hanging on the Tree, it wrapped itself in darkness; the earth quaked and trembled in fear”. And “clothed in black robes of mourning, like faithful servants, Sun and Moon together, O my Saviour, were darkened completely at Thy death”.

We even get a glimpse of Hell's reaction to its defeat: “Today, hell cries out groaning: my dominion has been shattered. I received a dead man as one of the dead, but against Him I could not prevail. There are many such examples that show the cosmological significance of Christ's Passion, Crucifixion, Descent into Hell, and Resurrection.

These events are the fulcrum not only of all of human history but of the history of the entire cosmos.

That was just a brief overview of some of what the choir will sing during Holy Week, on behalf of all of us at St. Herman's. Somehow, we must sing these hymns reverently and beautifully, while attempting to convey the depth of the meaning of the words. We will do our best with the very little rehearsal time we were able to manage. Please pray for us and forgive us in advance for the mistakes we will inevitably make.

Andrea Rajan, Lead Choir Director

**[Answers:
Jeremiah, Psalm 77]**



— 3rd Annual Young Adult's Retreat —

“Marriage, Love, & Sexuality: A Cultural Crossroads”

Who

Catechumens & Orthodox Christians age 18-35ish (must be graduated high school)

When

May 1-3 (Fri - Sun)

Where

Entheos Conference & Retreat Centre (30 mins west of Calgary)



Mother Melania is the abbess of the community of Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, California.

“Marriage, Love, and Sexuality: A Cultural Crossroads. We examine the changes in the English definitions of these words from the 1828 Webster dictionary down to the present, and compare them to each other and to the ancient Christian understanding of these terms. We posit that the main theme unifying the ancient Christian view is the joyful, voluntary self-sacrifice of Christ on the Cross; whereas, our secular world unifying theme (to the extent we have one) is the pursuit of pleasure.”

Sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/ztHcM3NuziPgiyzF9>

After registering, payment can be sent via e-transfer to:

treasurer.stherman@yahoo.com

Email panorthodoxyoungadultsretreat@gmail.com with questions

April 2026

**Father Gregory's day
off is Tuesday
Emergency phone calls ONLY**

**Great Vespers start at 5:30pm
Sunday Hours start at 9:30am
Divine Liturgy starts at 10am
Children's Sunday School 9:30am Sundays (in Church Hall)
Youth Connection- after liturgy during lunch in the youth room**

Fr. Gregory Wright 604-788-7546 frgregory@saintherman.net

 **Strict Fast** (No meat, fish, wine, oil, dairy, eggs)

 **Fish, oil and wine** (No meat, dairy and eggs)

 **Wine & Oil** (No meat, fish, dairy, and eggs)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 9:30 Hours & Liturgy - Palm Sunday 6pm Bridegroom	6 6pm Bridegroom	7 6pm Bridegroom	8 6pm Bridegroom	9 10am - Holy Thursday Liturgy 6pm 12 Gospels	10 6pm Great Vespers	11 10am - Holy Saturday Liturgy 11:30PM Pascha Liturgy
12 3:30pm - Pascha Vespers & BBQ	13 6pm Bridegroom	14 6pm Bridegroom	15 6pm Bridegroom	16 6pm 12 Gospels	17 All night Vigil	18 5:30pm Great Vespers & Confessions
19 9:30 Hours & Liturgy Blessing of the Graves	20 6pm Bridegroom	21 6pm Bridegroom	22 6pm Bridegroom	23 6pm 12 Gospels	24 6pm Great Vespers	25 5:30pm Great Vespers & Confessions 5:30pm - Youth event
26 9:30 Hours & Liturgy	27 6pm Bridegroom	28 6pm Bridegroom	29 6pm Bridegroom	30 6pm 12 Gospels	Father Gregory will be away April 20-24	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> 4th - Listen for announcements re: cleaning and kids activities 13-19th - Fast Free Week </div>						