



## 2012 HOLY WEEK & EASTER Schedule of Services

You are encouraged to come & participate in the beautiful services of Holy Week & Easter. Come to witness the triumphant entry of our Lord into Jerusalem, to be there during His crucifixion, His death & burial, and hear the message of His glorious Resurrection. It is a rewarding & uplifting experience to attend these services.

Saturday, April 7 -

**(+)Saturday of Lazarus** 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
11 a.m. Communion Breakfast given by the Seniors  
Palm making and decorating for Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 8 -

**(+)Palm Sunday Morning** 9 a.m. Orthros  
10 a.m. Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Palm Crosses  
**Palm Sunday Evening** 6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Service  
Procession of Icon of Christ the Bridegroom

Monday, April 9 -

**Holy Monday Evening** 6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Service

Tuesday, April 10-

**Holy Tuesday Evening** 6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Service  
And the beautiful hymn of Sister Kassiane

Wednesday, April 11-

**Holy Wednesday Evening** 6:30 p.m. Holy Oil or  
Holy Unction Service (Everyone to be anointed for healing)

Thursday, April 12 -

**(+)Holy Thursday Morning** 8 a.m. Divine Liturgy of  
St. Basil commemorating the Last Supper

**Holy Thursday Evening** 6:30 p.m. Reading of the  
Twelve Gospels & the Procession of Christ Crucified.

Friday, April 13 -

**Good Friday Morning** 9 a.m. - 12 noon Preparation/  
Decoration of the Tomb of Christ (Kouvouklion)

**Good Friday Afternoon** 12:30 p.m. Royal Hour Readings  
1 p.m. Vesper Service of the taking-down of Christ's Body

**Good Friday Evening** 6:30 p.m. Lamentations Service  
and the Procession of the Tomb of Christ Outside.

Saturday, April 14-

**(+)Holy Saturday Morning** 10 a.m. Divine Liturgy of  
St. Basil (1st Resurrectional Service in anticipation)

**(+)Holy Saturday Evening** 11 p.m. Easter Vigil begins;  
12 midnight Resurrection Service Outside followed by  
the Orthros and Divine Liturgy of EASTER!

Sunday, April 15-

**EASTER SUNDAY** - 1-2 p.m. Vespers of AGAPE

**Please note:** 5 cross symbols (+) have been placed next to the days that there will be Holy Communion. Everyone is to prepare & receive Communion during Holy Week & Easter. If you have any questions regarding Communion, or what it means to be in good spiritual standing with the Church, please contact Fr. Manuel at 410-241-9690. Please note the time changes that have been made to allow children to be able to come to the services.



## AN EXPLANATION OF HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the week before Easter when we relive Christ's suffering and Death. During Holy Week we follow the footsteps of Christ, who passed from Death to Life. Open your heart to Christ. The events of Holy Week are the most moving of the year. To get the most out of them, participate in each day's services. Make prayer, fasting, confession, and Holy Communion essential parts of your Holy Week.

LAZARUS SATURDAY AND PALM SUNDAY introduce us to Holy Week and Christ's journey to the Cross. On Lazarus Saturday, we find that death is the enemy that Christ came to conquer, and that Christ is truly the Giver of Life! We, too, receive the promise of new life. PALM SUNDAY celebrates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Jesus entered the city on a donkey. The people met him with palm branches and cried, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" Christ came as King of Israel. He showed he was the triumphant but humble Messiah. We receive palm branches made into crosses today to show that we too accept Jesus as King, and that we are willing to follow Him to the Cross.

On PALM SUNDAY EVENING, HOLY MONDAY AND HOLY TUESDAY EVENINGS, we have the SERVICE OF THE BRIDEGROOM. This service helps us to understand Christ's passage from death to life -- and how each of us can also become free from sin and death. So we commemorate CHRIST THE BRIDEGROOM, by singing the "Hymn of the Bridegroom" warning us to be prepared for Christ's coming. The priest carries the Icon of Christ the Bridegroom in procession. We behold Christ as the Bridegroom of the Church, bearing the marks of suffering, yet preparing a marriage Feast for us in God's Kingdom.

HOLY WEDNESDAY EVENING Service asks us to repent of our sins and to forgive others. The Sacrament of Holy Oil or Unction is celebrated as we seek to be reconciled with God. The priest anoints us with holy oil that we may be healed physically and spiritually.

On HOLY THURSDAY MORNING, we celebrate the Last Supper Jesus ate with His disciples. At the Last Supper, Jesus offered Himself as the true food for all of us. The bread and wine of this meal became the Body and Blood that gives us eternal life.

On HOLY THURSDAY EVENING at sunset begins GOOD FRIDAY, which is a day of mourning, fasting and prayer. We commemorate the Passion of Jesus Christ. On this day, our Lord went to the Cross and died to take away our sins. The power of death and the reality of evil rule the world on this dreadful day. Yet, Jesus Christ's death marks the beginning of His and our victory over death's power. Twelve Gospel readings are

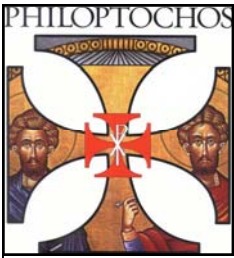
read from the Four Gospels relating the events of Jesus' Holy Passion and His last instructions to the disciples. After the fifth Gospel, the crucifix is adorned with flowers and carried in procession. This symbolizes Christ's coming to Golgotha to offer Himself as the sacrifice for the world's sins.

ON GOOD FRIDAY AFTERNOON, we conduct the Vespers of the Apokathelosis (taking down from the cross) which marks the beginning of Holy Saturday. The priest takes Christ's body down from the Cross, wraps Him in a white cloth and places it on the Altar table as a sign of His burial. A cloth Icon Shroud depicting Christ's sacred body, called the Epitafios is carried in procession and placed into a flowered bier that represents Christ's tomb. ON GOOD FRIDAY EVENING, the Orthros of Holy Saturday is conducted where we sing the Hymns of Lamentations. We lament Jesus' undeserved death for our salvation. With both sorrow and joy we sing the Lamentations to Him who is buried, and yet who we already know is the Risen Lord and the Giver of Life. The Epitafios is taken in a procession around the Church.

ON HOLY SATURDAY MORNING, we celebrate the Divine Liturgy. This is the Blessed Sabbath, a day of strict fasting, but a day of hope and waiting. We know that because Christ died, death is no longer the end of life. Christ descended into Hell that death itself might be destroyed. Today's liturgy anticipates the Resurrection.

HOLY PASCHA - EASTER SUNDAY begins on Holy Saturday night at midnight. Easter is celebrated with the Divine Liturgy. On this day, we celebrate Our Lord's Glorious Resurrection. The Resurrection Service begins at midnight in a darkened church where we receive the resurrection light from the priest and we proceed outside to proclaim the Resurrection. The congregation hears the good news of Christ's triumph through the Gospel reading. The joyous hymn of Christ's Resurrection is triumphantly chanted - "Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life." The Paschal Liturgy and Sermon of St. John Chrysostom invite us to take part in the feast of the resurrection and to receive Holy Communion. On EASTER SUNDAY AFTERNOON, we gather to celebrate the "AGAPE" Vespers, where we embrace and forgive one another, while sharing Christ's gift of new life.

HOLY WEEK IS A MAGNIFICENT CELEBRATION OF CHRIST'S PASSION AND RESURRECTION. Participate in the services of Holy Week. Reflect on Christ's supreme sacrifice and His victory over death. Prepare yourself to receive the Sacraments of Holy Confession, Holy Oil and Holy Communion. Let Christ's glory enter your life during Holy Week, Easter, and forever. Amen.



Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society  
Sts. Mary Magdalene and Markella  
Greek Orthodox Church



SPECIAL DONATION FOR  
FLOWERS FOR THE TOMB OF CHRIST

Holy Week and the Easter Celebration is approaching quickly and it is such a beautiful time of the Church year. It is a very spiritually uplifting experience and opportunity to become closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to our Church Family. The special services and hymns that we hear during Lent and Holy Week are so inspiring and moving. As a long standing tradition, we decorate the tomb of Christ with beautiful flowers to express our love to Christ, just as we would send flowers to someone when they pass away. The tomb of Christ is a wooden structure called in Greek "kouvouklion." Many people refer to it as the Epitafios, but the Epitafios is actually the icon tapestry that is placed inside the tomb. It is the icon of Christ in the tomb and that is what we kiss or venerate when we approach the tomb.

This year we will decorate the tomb on Good Friday, April 13th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The task is led by our Ladies Philoptochos Society, but you are cordially invited to come and help decorate the tomb on Good Friday morning at 9 a.m. We could use as many hands as possible. In addition, everyone is welcome and encouraged to make a contribution towards the cost of the flowers and the supplies needed for the Epitafios.

Please use the attached envelope to make your contribution for flowers for Good Friday. You can either mail it in at your earliest convenience or bring it with you to Church this coming Sunday. Envelopes should be brought in by Palm Sunday, April 8 but you can still make a contribution up until Good Friday evening. We thank you for your generous donation & we wish you a very blessed Holy Week & Easter.

Sincerely,  
*Mrs. Irene Tsambikos*, Philoptochos President

**PHILOPTOCHOS EASTER BREAD SALE**

We will be selling the traditional Sweet Easter Bread Tsourekia on Palm Sunday. You can place your order this Sunday April 1st. Breads are \$12.00 each.

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\* **Lily Plants for EASTER** \*  
\* If you would like to donate a Lily Plant for Easter, please sign up and pre-purchase \*  
\* them at the Candle Stand before Easter. They are \$15 for each lily plant. \*  
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# GREEK FESTIVAL

## MAY 18, 19 & 20, 2012



STS. MARY MAGDALENE & MARKELLA  
 3716 DUBLIN RD DARLINGTON, MD  
 WWW.GOCHC.ORG  
 RT 1 & 440 – JUST 15 MINUTES NORTH OF BEL AIR



GREEK FOOD & DESSERTS

BEER, WINE & LIQUOR

GREEK MUSIC

AMUSEMENT FOR KIDS

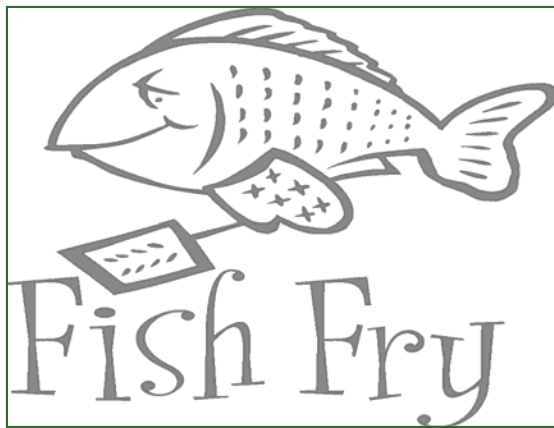
VENDORS

May 18<sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm to 10:00 pm  
 May 19<sup>th</sup> 12:00 pm to 10:00 pm  
 May 20<sup>th</sup> 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm



FOR INFORMATION CALL  
 (410) 836-9754

## Traditional Greek-style Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon



Sunday, April 8, 2012  
 after Church services

\$12.00 for adults

Children under 10 eat free

Get your tickets this Sunday.

Luncheon to benefit the Church.

Pot Luck Dinner-Family Night

Sts. Mary Magdalene & Markella G.O.C.

Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00-11:00 PM.

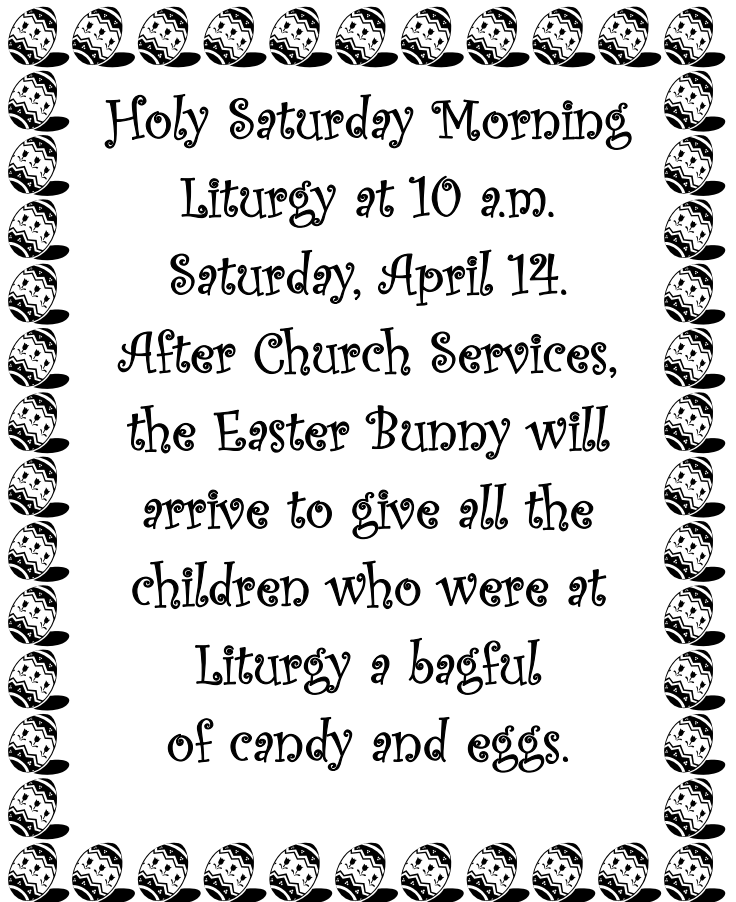


Will include  
 Food, Beverages  
 Music and Dancing.

Fun for kids of all ages  
 Everyone is invited to  
 Church Family Night  
 Pot Luck Dinner and  
 Easter Party.

If you would like to bring a dish(meat allowable) please contact

Kim Karas 410-457-4194 or Fotini Kaminaris 410-515-1510



Holy Saturday Morning

Liturgy at 10 a.m.

Saturday, April 14.

After Church Services,

the Easter Bunny will  
 arrive to give all the

children who were at

Liturgy a bagful

of candy and eggs.



### A STEWARDSHIP MEDITATION FOR HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Stewardship is adopting a heightened spiritual way of living for the Christian; it is realizing that all we have is a gift from God. It is not just deciding how much we are going to give to the Church. That is just one part of what Stewardship is all about. As a matter of fact, there is a principle found throughout the Scriptures concerning "giving", it says: "When you give, you gain what you cannot buy with your money."

We are about to enter Holy Week and on Holy Tuesday evening we will commemorate the woman who offered precious ointment to our Lord. In Mark 14:3-9, we read about a woman gave Jesus a gift of precious ointment. It was a foreshadow of Christ's self sacrifice for mankind and ascending the Cross to die for our sins. She was anointing him in anticipation of his forthcoming death. There were some people present who called her gift a "waste." They said the ointment could have been sold and the money given to the poor. Jesus rebuked their hypocrisy, for gifts given from the heart are always accepted by the Lord. This woman gave Jesus something precious, her best gift, the best she could do. When you give to the Church, you are giving for Christ's work to be done. Yes, bills and salaries need to be paid, but more importantly you are giving for a holy reason and a holy task to be done. We should ask ourselves if we are giving what we should be giving and what we could be giving. Is our giving coming from our hearts filled with love?

Notice what else Jesus said about this woman's gift: "I say to you, wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what she has done will be told in memory of her." She couldn't buy that kind of testimony for any amount of money; but her giving obtained it for her. Our giving does not stop when we put a check into our Stewardship envelope. Our giving continues to live on as a testimony to God's presence. Our money is transformed into Christian work and results on the parish level, the Metropolis level, the Archdiocesan level and the Patriarchal level. You can't put a price on that. You cannot buy an eternal soul, but through giving you can make eternity possible for your soul, your family's and for others. You cannot buy the blessings of God, but through giving you can release God's blessing through the Church.

As we approach Holy Week and Easter let us ask ourselves if we are giving in the spirit of the woman who anointed Jesus with the costly ointment? Have we increased our Stewardship Commitment for this year? Did we do it last year? Or did we lower it out of fear or anger for the world's financial situation. If you haven't pledged for this year, we ask you to make your commitment as soon as you can and to consider raising it if you can. Also, does our giving reflect generosity of spirit, which provides blessings that "money cannot buy." "Is our Stewardship Commitment for this year a loving gift, a generous gift, a gift coming from your heart? Let's all join hearts and hands in the Body of Christ and give our best to the work of the Lord for this year. May the Lord say about you: he has given his best, she has given her best.

### Sts Mary Magdalene & Markella Greek Orthodox Church Stewardship 2012

Fair Share Giving: \$225,000(2012 Budget) divided by 185 families/stewards = \$1280

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children (under 18) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

I gratefully pledge the following commitment in support of my church and its ministries:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Fair Share \$100/month (\$1200 yearly)
- \_\_\_\_\_ More than Fair Share \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month
- \_\_\_\_\_ Less than Fair Share \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per month

Is Sts. Mary Magdalene and Markella your primary Church? _____ yes      _____ no
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_

