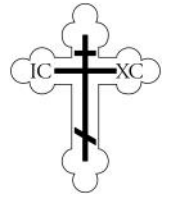




ALL-MERCIFUL SAVIOR ORTHODOX CHURCH

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NEWSLETTER FOR PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 2005

Pascha May 1! For Pascha we will gather at midnight at an established Orthodox Church for the Liturgy and blessing of baskets. At 12:30 p.m. on Sunday afternoon we will gather at the pavilion in Mary Moore Seawright Park, 907 Slaughter Lane, for Agape Vespers and our picnic. I would like to suggest an Easter egg hunt for that afternoon.

Church date	civil date	WEEKLY CALENDAR		
↓	↓	Apr. 24 / Apr. 11 Palm Sunday	<i>Fast, FOW**</i>	Appearance of Theotokos, Pochaev. Hours, Typika 10 am.
		Apr. 25 / Apr. 12 Holy Monday	<i>Fast</i>	St. Dmitri Rozhdestvensky, priest, new-martyr.
		Apr. 26 / Apr. 13 Holy Tuesday	<i>Fast</i>	St. Stephen, new-hieromartyr of Russia.
		Apr. 27 / Apr. 14 Holy Wednesday	<i>Fast</i>	St. Sergius Trofimov, new-martyr. Service 6:30 pm
		Apr. 28 / Apr. 15 Holy Thursday	<i>Fast, OW*</i>	Thur. of the Mystical Supper. Service 6:30 p.m.
		Apr. 29 / Apr. 16 Holy Friday	<i>Fast</i>	Fri. of Our Lord's crucifixion. Service 6:30 p.m.
		Apr. 30 / Apr. 17 Holy Saturday	<i>Fast</i>	Vigil or Eve of Pascha. Service noon; Pascha is midnight

* *OW* means that oil and wine are allowed on this day. **Today, Palm Sun., fish is also allowed.

MUCHAS GRACIAS

I would like to especially thank all those who helped prepare our new church for the visit of Bishop Peter and the wonderworking Kursk Root Icon. You know who you are. You are Mary, Katherine, Mary, Guy, Sola, Rafael, and everyone who gave so generously to place our mission into a church building. May the Lord God remember you all in His kingdom, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

AKATHIST

As announced, there was an Akathist this past Tues. evening at 7:00 p.m. Bishop Peter brought to us the Holy and wonder-working Icon called, in full, the Korenno-Kursk Mother of God. There is a booklet in the back of the church today, which explains the history of the miraculous Icon.

HOLY WEEK

Today, Palm Sunday, we begin to enter on the final stage of our journey to Holy Pascha and the resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead. Here is the schedule of shortened services we will keep this week:

Palm Sunday	Apr. 24	Service at 10 a.m. (in Russian churches pussywillows are blessed for palms)
Holy Wednesday	Apr. 27	Service at 6:30 p.m.
Holy Thursday	Apr. 28	Service at 6:30 p.m.
Holy Friday	Apr. 29	Service at 6:30 p.m.
Holy Saturday	Apr. 30	Service at noon (Pascha is at midnight)
Pascha	May 1	No service at our church; we will unite at another Orthodox Church at midnight. At 12:30 pm on Sun. afternoon, we will do Agape Vespers and have a picnic at the pavilion, Mary Moore Seawright Park, 907 Slaughter Lane. Holy Protection is having an afternoon service at the Burnet Road church—time to be announced.

NEWS FROM FATHER

The Visit of the Kursk Root Icon. Bishop Peter arrived in Austin Tuesday, Apr. 19, in the morning, with the Kursk Root Icon. That morning His Grace drove to Mercury, Texas, with the Icon. His Grace reported that Mercury is only about 2 1/2 hours from Austin. There was a small mission there several years ago, but the priest, Fr. Patrick Hubbard, had passed away. Dependent on my status as priest being resolved by the Russian Church, I have promised Vladika that I will serve the folks in Mercury at least once per month. With only a five hour round trip, twice a month may be possible.

Later on April 19, at 7 p.m., Vladika brought the wonder-working Icon to our church. Not all of you were able to make it to church that evening, but please know that we interceded before the Mother of God for you and the mantle of her prayers was placed over our humble community. On Vladika Peter's arrival, he was greeted with bread and salt, and before the Icon he led an akathist—a short service of prayer with many praises of the Mother of God. We sang in English and after, during the veneration, there were hymns by both the All-Merciful Savior faithful and members of the choir from St. John the Forerunner Church. Vladika Peter gave an inspiring talk on the history of the Icon and its miracles. This was an incomparable blessing. Afterwards we took Vladika to the Olive Garden for a festive supper. We were joined by some of the faithful from the St. John the Forerunner Church.

On Wednesday, Vladika visited the mission in College Station.

On Thursday, Vladika brought the Icon to Holy Protection Church, our sister parish of Russian-speaking Orthodox. There an akathist was sung in Slavonic and there was a Lenten banquet afterwards. After the banquet, I drove Vladika to Brackenridge Hospital, where he blessed Nina's premature baby, John, with the Icon. Finally Vladika left Austin on Friday morning. We were only able to get Vladika a prayer rope as a gift, but for such a trip and such expense, we ought to do something nicer for Vladika as soon as we cover our obligations next month.

Developments in the Birth of our Church. Much has happened this past week. There have been many expansions to our website (www.allmercifulsavior.com). Also, we received our taxpayer number from the Internal Revenue Service, which will allow us at last to open our bank account this week, at which point our checks can be deposited.

WISH LIST

Our new church has a need for:

- four tables on which to place candle boxes
- three icon stands
- a baptismal tub (an 8-foot-long stock trough will work)
- a nice, matching set of icons for placing along the walls
- shelves for our little bookstore in the back of the church

ORTHODOX BOOKSTORE

I highly recommend Christ the Light-giver Bookstore at St. John Orthodox Church, 800 W. Park St., Cedar Park, Texas.

SCRIPTURES FOR THE WEEK

Sun. Philippians 4:4-9; John 12:1-18

Mon. to Wed., all the Gospels are read, up to John 13:30.

Mon. Matthew 24:3-35

Tue. Matthew 24:36-26:2

Wed. Matthew 26:6-16

Thu. 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; Matthew 26:1-20; etc.

Fri. All the Passions from the Gospels are read today.

Sat. Book of Acts; Romans 6:3-11; Matthew 28:1-20

ON THE WEB & ON THE STREET

Russian Orthodox Church Abroad: www.rocor.org

Diocese of Chicago & Detroit: www.chicagodiocese.org

Holy Protection Orthodox Church, 5309 Burnet Rd., Austin, TX 78756 (this church has no priest at the moment)

St. Nicholas Orthodox Church, 3617 Abrams Rd., Dallas, TX: www.orthodox.net (priest is Fr. Seraphim Holland)

Theotokos of the Life-Giving Spring Orthodox Mission, Bryan/College Station, Texas (priest is Fr. Cassian Sibley)

St. Jonah Church, 2530 Old Louetta Loop, Ste 113, Spring, TX (Houston): www.saintjonah.org (priest is Fr. John Whiteford)

St. Vladimir Orthodox Church, 24 Tidwell Rd., Houston, TX: pictures at www.saintjonah.org. (priest is Fr. Ljubomir Kupec)