



Orthodox Mission of the Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

302 W. Main Street
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

The Rev. Fr. Elias Yelovich, Pastor

<http://EntranceMission.org>

Great and Holy Friday: Quiet Solemnity! Week of April 18, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Glory to Thy Long Suffering O Lord, Glory to Thee!

Today, Brothers and Sisters, is Great and Holy Friday, the day on which the Savior of the World is crucified. Yesterday, on the Great and Holy Day of the Mystical Supper, we gathered together to participate in the Lord's promise that wherever and whenever we come together for the Holy Meal, He stands with us, serving in mercy and giving Himself to us for the forgiveness of sins and for the sanctification of our souls and bodies. The sacred lamb was consecrated for the tabernacle on the altar, so that the sick could be nourished from the Heavenly Food given on the day of the Last Supper. And in the evening, we gathered to hear the readings from the 12 Gospels in their entirety that tell the history of our Lord's betray, crucifixion, death and burial. Glory to Thy Long Suffering, O Lord, we sang. Glory to Thee!

Today we will come together for the Presanctified Liturgy and Vespers of the Descent from the Cross at 2 PM. The corpus of our blessed Lord and Master will be taken down from the cross and placed in the altar until the Feast of the Holy Ascension. **After a brief rest and simple refreshment we will then pray the Divine Service of Matins for Great and Holy Saturday beginning at 6 PM this evening.** We will take the Epitaphios, the Shroud of our Lord, in a simple and quiet procession and quietly sing praises to Him

in the center of the church; rose petals will be strewn as a sign of the Divine Mercy, Love, Forbearance, and ultimate Victory of our Lord – the first hint of the Resurrection to come on Holy Pascha. We will pray these services quietly, in union with those who have done so in the past and in humility and acquiescence to the wishes of those who inhabit the space above our little church.

On the morning of Great and Holy Saturday beginning at 9 AM we will gather for the wondrous Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil, Service at which Holy Fire comes down upon the faithful at the Great Church, the Church of the Holy Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) in Jerusalem. **Then, at 11:30 PM on Great and Holy Saturday, we will gather for the Midnight Office, the Matins of Pascha and the Divine Paschal Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom. We will so in great joy and with great effort to be as respectful as we can be in our joy for those who live above us.**

The two readings I have hyperlinked below describe the Holy Joy of those who have done likewise in far more difficult circumstances, in prison and prison camp. So many Orthodox believers, priests, bishops and laymen, have done likewise in the past. Read these accounts and resolve in your heart to be one with them in the joy of the Lord's resurrection and humility of their submission.

God willing, Brothers and Sisters, we will learn the lesson of sacrifice which the Lord is teaching us, and we will have our joy increased and fulfilled in oneness with the One Who gives Himself for us, so that our darkness may be filled with the power of His Divine Life-Giving presence – the Light of the World! Glory to Thy Long-Suffering, O Lord, Glory to Thee!

Quiet PASCHA of JOY:

- [Quiet PASCHA of Joy In Prison](#)
- [Quiet PASCHA of Joy In Prison Camp](#)

Remember what the LORD has done for you! Give Him thanks and praise! *Glory to His NAME for all things!* Pray for me, His most unworthy of priests.

In Christ our true God,

+Fr. Elias

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