21/04/2022

Holy Thursday observed throughout Orthodoxy today



Today our Orthodox Church observes Holy Thursday. On the evening of this day, the eve of the feast of unleavened bread – Passover -our Redeemer broke bread with His twelve disciples in the Holy City of Jerusalem.

He blessed the bread and the wine, and gave us the Mystery of the Divine Eucharist. He washed the feet of the disciples as an example of humility. He said openly that one of them was about to betray Him, and He pointed out the betrayer by revealing that it was he "…that dippeth his hand with Me in the dish." And after Judas had straightway gone forth, Jesus gave the disciples His final and sublime instructions, which are contained in the first Gospel Reading of the Holy Passion.

After this, the God-man went forth to the Mount of Olives, and there He began to be sorrowful and in anguish. He went off alone, and bending the knees He prayed fervently. From His great anguish, His sweat became as it were great drops of

blood falling to the ground. As soon as He had completed that anguished prayer, lo, Judas came with a multitude of soldiers and a great crowd; on greeting the Teacher, guile fully with a kiss, he betrayed Him.

Holy Myrrh at Ecumenical Patriarchate



Ahead of Holy & Great Pascha, Easter Sunday, preparations conclude today at the Ecumenical Patriarchate to produce the Holy Myrrh, or Chrism, a visible sign of the transmission of the Holy Spirit upon members of the Church. The sharing of the Holy Myrrh forms a tangible bond that unites all Orthodox Christians worldwide and through time.

With the blessing of the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, His All Holiness Bartholomew I, the preparation began this year, a decade after the last the Holy Myrrh was produced and shared.

Sacrament of the Holy Unction observed in Jerusalem

In the Holy Land, the Sacrament of the Holy Unction was observed at the Church of Sts. Constantine and Helen on Holy Wednesday in Jerusalem, in preparation for the welcoming of the Lord’s Passion and of Holy Pascha.

The Holy Unction was officiated by the Patriarch of Jerusalem, His Beatitude

Theophilos III, along with six Archbishops of the Patriarchal throne.

Easter message by Archbishop of Albania Anastasios



In southeast Europe, the Archbishop Durres, Tirana and All Albania, His Beatitude Anastasios, in his Easter message, among others, touched on the fratricidal war in Ukraine, stated that “…Ultimately, only love can be victorious over the arrogant strength of power, therein affirming our bond with the God of peace and reconciliation.”

Easter message by Patriarch of All Romania Daniel



Still in the same wider region, the Patriarch of All Romania, His Beatitude Daniel, in his Easter message, emphasized the message of the Lord’s Resurrection, as well as the need for the faithful to intensify their contributions to their fellow man.

His Beatitude also called on the faithful to pray for an end to the war in Ukraine.