



## *A Special Pascha Tree the Triodion Sundays*

By Fran Hourican Zappalla, Saint George Church, Media, PA

### **Materials**

- ❖ Brown construction paper for the tree
- ❖ Green construction paper for the leaves
- ❖ Various colors of construction paper for flowers and butterflies
- ❖ Black markers
- ❖ White tissue paper for cocoons – Please refer to #7 below.
- ❖ Scissors
- ❖ Patterns are not included

**Note:** The above drawing is only an artistic rendition of what the tree could look like after Pascha. Adjust the size of the tree and leaves to fit your space. Write the names of the Pre-Lenten and Lenten Sundays of the Great Fast on the leaves.

**Note from Fran:** “When we talked about Christ going into the tomb and the Resurrection, I spoke about how a caterpillar goes into a cocoon and turns into a beautiful butterfly during Lent. We made caterpillars (pipe cleaners), put them in cocoons (made of tissue paper) and hung them on our tree. Adding the butterflies to the tree connected the lessons.”

### **Procedure:**

1. Cut a tree from the brown construction paper
2. Attach it to the bulletin board or adhere it to the classroom wall with plastic putty. The tree starts out bare.
3. Label one branch as "The Preparatory Sundays."
4. Each Sunday add a leaf with that week's theme.
  - ❖ Place the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee, the Sunday of the Prodigal Son, Judgment Sunday and Forgiveness Sunday leaves on the branch marked "Preparatory Sundays."
  - ❖ Place the Sundays of Orthodoxy, Saint Gregory Palamas, the Cross, Saint John Climacus, Saint Mary of Egypt and Palm Sunday throughout the tree, as well as some blank leaves to fill in the tree.
5. Since there are no classes on Pascha / Easter Sunday, be sure to visit your classroom during Holy Week to add flowers and butterflies.
6. When the students return on SaintThomas Sunday, they will find their tree will have "bloomed."