



ST. GEORGE'S DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, March 22	<i>The holy hieromartyr Basil of Ancyra</i>
	9:00 A.M. First and Third Lenten Hours
Tuesday, March 23	<i>Venerable martyr Nikon</i>
	7:00 P.M. Bethany Ministry Meeting
Wednesday, March 24	<i>Forefeast of the Annunciation</i>
	7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Thursday, March 25	Annunciation of the Mother of God
	7:00 P.M. Vesperal Divine Liturgy
Friday, March 26	<i>Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel</i>
	7:00 P.M. Lenten Mission in Aliquippa
Saturday, March 27	<i>Saturday of Lazarus</i>
Paska Bread Baking	5:00 P.M. Great Vespers with Litiya
Sunday, March 28	Palm Sunday/Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem
	9:30 A.M. Third Hour
	9:45 A.M. Order of Confession
	10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Palm & Willow Branches
	Festal Anointing-Mirovanya

The Epistle Reading will be Phil 4:4-9 and the Gospel will be Jn 12:1-18. Supplications will be offered for the soul of +Dora Nykyforuk, given by Michalina Spak (40th Day Commemoration). Supplications will be offered for the soul of +Anna Cheresnowsky, given by John & Vera Myschisin.

The Request of James and John

James and John were brothers. They were also disciples. They asked Jesus to grant them a request.

Follow the arrows to fill the blanks.

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Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast- Mary of Egypt

Every year on the Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast we remember our venerable mother Mary of Egypt. She is known in our Holy Church as the “Penitent Saint” and her story of life has been called “an icon in words of the theological truth of repentance”. As part of our Lenten journey, Saint Mary of Egypt can teach us something very great. As our venerable father Seraphim of Sarov repeated more than once to those who came to see him, the difference between a sinner who is lost and a sinner who finds his way to salvation, lies in nothing but determination. The grace of God is always there; but our response is not. But Mary of Egypt responded; through

the horror of her new perception of herself she responded to the holiness, the grace, the wholeness and sanctity of the Mother of God, and nothing, nothing was too much for her to change her life.

This example of hers is presented to us as a crowning moment of this spring of life, which is the Great Fast-Lent. The Church commemorates St. Mary for her recognition of her own sins as an example of how one can free oneself from the slavery and burden of wrongdoings. A week before we heard the teaching and call of Saint John of the Ladder, the one who has established a whole ladder of perfection for us to overcome evil and come to right. And today we see one who from the very depth of evil was brought to the heights of saintliness, and as the Canon of Saint Andrew of Crete says: “Be sure that God Who could heal the leprous could heal the leprosy which is yours.”

Her example of repentance should be an inspiration to all of us. We have a wonderful opportunity through the sacramental mystery of Penance to obtain forgiveness. The same Jesus who cured the leper with a touch and forgave sins with a word now uses a priest as His instrument to heal and forgive, to teach and console, to correct and encourage. As we near the final days of Lent, the Church gives us the example of Mary of Egypt so that we might not lose hope and to teach us that no sin is too great to be forgiven.

In Scripture we read: “though your sins be red as scarlet, I shall make them white as snow.” We still have time to make a good confession...May the example of Saint Mary of Egypt draw attention to our own need for repentance so that we, too, nourished by Holy Communion, may rededicate our lives to the service of God.

Announcements

Today: Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast

As we continue our Lenten journey we focus on this Sunday on the life of our venerable mother Mary of Egypt. The example of this “Penitent Saint” tells us that it is never too late in life - or in Lent - to repent. Christ will gladly receive all who come to Him, but their coming must be in serious and sincere repentance.

Welcome Fr. Robert!

On this Sunday we welcome to St. George’s Very Rev. Canon Robert Hnatyshyn. As part of our preparation for Pascha-Easter, Father Bob is here today to administer Holy Confession in both languages: English and Ukrainian. We thank him for being with us and we ask Our Lord to bless Fr. Bob for many happy and blessed years: *Многая Літа!*

Today: Lector’s Meeting

Following the Divine Liturgy today we will have a gathering of our Lectors in preparation for the upcoming Holy Week Divine Services. I ask all our Lectors to please be present for this gathering. Thank you.

Thank You!

Sincere thanks to all who participated in our Lenten Mission here at St. George’s. In a special way I wish to thank our parishioners who helped prepare this event: members of our Chant Group, preparation and serving the food, set-up of the Church hall, welcoming in the Church vestibule and our Acolytes. Thank you.

Bethany Ministry

On Tuesday, March 23rd, the meeting of the members of the Bethany Ministry will take place at the parish office at 7:00 p.m. I ask all members to please be present for this meeting during which we will plan visits to the shut-ins of our parish family during Holy Week and Pascha. Thank you.

Willow Branches

As we come closer to Palm Sunday, please remember that we will be in need of willow branches for the blessing of palms and willow branches next week on Palm Sunday (March 28th). With the weather being warmer we should prepare them now and store them downstairs in the Church hall. If you are able to obtain willow branches, please let Fr. Valerian know after the Divine Liturgy.

Feast of the Annunciation

On Thursday, March 25th, we will celebrate the Feast of the Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos. This is a Major Holy Day in our Liturgical calendar. To celebrate the “beginning of our salvation, and the revelation of the eternal mystery,” we will have a Vespers Divine Liturgy which is prescribed on this day at 7:00 p.m. Come and celebrate this feast of “good tidings”, that teaches us of our own personal annunciation, that we must accept the preludes of our salvation, which is the greatest notification in our life.

Pyrohy

Our total income from last week’s sale was \$1565.00 Sincere thanks to all our dedicated pyrohy workers for their hard work during this Lenten Season. Our last days of pyrohy sales before Easter will be next Thursday and Friday, March 25-26. Thank you!

Collection- May God bless you...

The total for Sunday, March 7, 2010 was \$1170.00.

Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!

Making Easter Bread-Paska

It has been a wonderful tradition at St. George’s to prepare our delicious Easter Bread-Paska. We wish to preserve this wonderful tradition but this year we are very much in need of your help in the making of the Easter Bread. In the Church vestibule we have time slots that indicate the time we need your help. I ask that you please offer your time next **Saturday, March 27th**, to continue this wonderful tradition of making Paska Bread.

The price per a loaf this year is \$7.00. In the Church vestibule we have a sign-up sheet for placing your orders. I ask you to write down your name and amount of Paska Bread (plain or raisin) you wish to order. You may pick-up your order on Palm Sunday, March 28th, following the Divine Liturgy.

Please remember that the making of Easter bread-Paska depends on YOU! ONLY if we have enough workers can we continue this St. George’s tradition. Thank you!

Our Svyachene- Easter Dinner

Mark your calendars for our Svyachene-Easter Dinner which is planned for Sunday, April 18th, starting at 11:30 a.m. As part of this celebration the children of our Church school will have their annual Easter Egg Hunt on the parish grounds. We will also have a raffle of different gift baskets and prizes. Tickets for this Easter Dinner are \$8.00 per adult, children are \$4.00 (12 and younger). You can obtain tickets for this event before and after the Divine Liturgy in our Church vestibule from our ticket sellers, Ms. Eva Hlovchiec and Mrs. Orysia Barshowski. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this happy event.

The Annunciation of the Most Holy Theotokos

Think, for a moment, about the icons you see at the front of an Eastern Church. Facing the Holy Altar, you will see the icon of the Archangel Michael at the left, and the icon of the Archangel Gabriel at the right. The Archangel Michael was sent by God to have Adam and Eve leave Paradise. And it was the Archangel Gabriel who was sent by God to the Blessed Virgin Mary to announce that she would give Birth to the Christ Child, Who would save the world.



This second event, known as the Annunciation (announcement) took place on March 25th, over 2000 years ago. The Angel found the Blessed Virgin Mary and told her she was going to have a child. Naturally, she was alarmed at first and asked many questions. “Do not be afraid,” said the Angel Gabriel, “the Lord is with you because God has chosen you among all the women in the world and in history.” Mary could have said “no,” or given a whole list of reasons why she did not wish to accept God’s invitation. But instead, she said, “Let it be according to the will of God.” She allowed herself to be an instrument of God. She did not change nor did she become a robot or a puppet. She let the Holy Spirit come within her and her life. She let God bless her and guide her. She let the baby Jesus be born of her. The Feast Day of the Annunciation is a very important holiday for all Christians, because the Blessed Virgin Mary said “YES” all of humanity had a chance to be saved.

