



## ST. GEORGE'S DIVINE SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK

Monday, March 29

*Great and Holy Monday*

**9:00 A.M. Bridegroom Matins**

Tuesday, March 30

*Great and Holy Tuesday*

**9:00 A.M. Bridegroom Matins**

Wednesday, March 31

*Great and Holy Wednesday*

**9:00 A.M. Bridegroom Matins**

**7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Holy Mystery of Anointing**

\* Holy Wednesday Services ask us to repent our sins and to forgive others. During the Liturgy of the Presanctified we celebrate the Holy Mystery of Anointing during which the priest anoints us with Holy Oil that we may be healed physically and spiritually.

Thursday, April 1

*Great and Holy Thursday*

**10:00 A.M. Vespers and the Liturgy of St. Basil the Great**

\* "Accept me this day, O Son of God, as a partaker of Your Mystical Supper" is the predominate message of this Service, which commemorates the Mystical Supper and the institution of the Holy Eucharist.

**6:30 P.M. Hierarchical Divine Services at St. Josaphat Cathedral in Parma, OH.**

Friday, April 2

*Great and Holy Friday-Good Friday (\*Strict Fast\*)*

**9:00 A.M. Matins of Our Lord's Passion-12 Passion Gospels "Strasti"**

\* We listen to the narratives from the four Gospels that relate to the events of Jesus' Holy Passion and His last instructions to His disciples.

**7:00 P.M. Vespers with the Procession and Burial of the Holy Shroud-Plashchanytsia**

\* During this Service we sing hymns that tell of Christ's Saving Passion, of His Mother's grief as she and her friends watch His agony, and the meaning of the Cross for all Creation. At the end of Vespers, the Shroud, which is really a cloth icon depicting Christ's sacred body, is carried in procession and placed in flowered bier that represents Christ's tomb.

## What should I have in my Easter Basket Pascha Basket?

**Paska-** The Easter Bread. Symbolic of Christ Himself, who is our True Bread. Usually a round loaf of bread decorated on the top with a Cross.

**Ham-** This meat is popular as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Pascha-Easter. Meat in the Pascha basket also symbolizes the calf sacrificed when the Prodigal Son returned home; the meat is a celebration of our return to Christ.

**Sausage-** A spicy, garlicky sausage of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity.

**Cheese-** Sweet cheese; mix farmer cheese with confectionary sugar, raisins, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. Indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things.

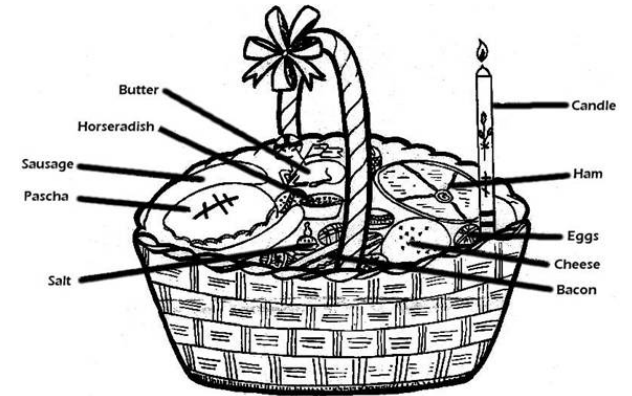
**Eggs/Pysanky-** Hard boiled eggs-decorated, indicative of new life and Resurrection.

**Horseradish-** A piece of the root or prepared horseradish with red beets. Symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. It is also included in the basket to remind us of the bitter drink given to Christ at his crucifixion, vinegar and gall.

**Butter-** Usually whipped (sometimes flavored with almond), is included in the basket to symbolize the Lamb of God, the Sacrifice made for the world. Some families use a lamb-shaped mold for their butter, which made the symbolism even stronger.

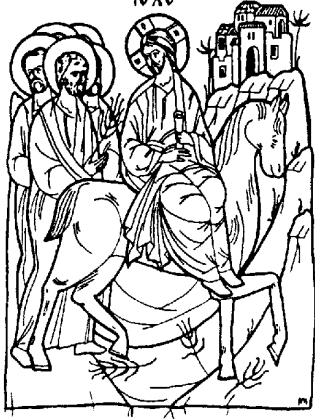
**Salt-** A condiment necessary for flavor; reminding the Christian of his duty towards others.

*If your family has never taken a Pascha basket to be blessed, the above Easter-Pascha basket traditions may give you some ideas for starting your own. If you regularly prepare a basket for the celebration of the Resurrection, take some time to explain the deep meanings of the foods and their preparation to your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Everyone will enjoy being involved: baking, decorating, eating!*



ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

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## *Palm Sunday*

We gather together today to celebrate Christ's entry into the city of Jerusalem. Today we celebrate Christ as the king who enters our own personal Jerusalem - our hearts. This is a momentary feast of joy and celebration, because tonight we begin the final part of our journey towards Pascha-Easter. Our mood changes from one of joy this morning to one of solemnity, almost of sorrow this evening as we lead up to the great sacrifice that Christ performed for us on the Cross.

The feast of Palm Sunday has been celebrated in our Church since the earliest days of Christianity, but the use of Palms

in connection with religious celebrations goes all the way back to Old Testament times. Oddly enough palm trees did not grow around the city of Jerusalem, and people would often buy imported palms for religious celebrations, in particular The Feast of Tabernacles celebrated at the temple in Jerusalem. The palm branch was used as a visual tool proclaiming the sovereignty of God as the true king of the Israelites.

On this Palm Sunday we raise our palm and willow branches to celebrate Christ as the king who enters our hearts, our own personal Jerusalem. But is Christ able to enter? Is there room in our hearts for Christ to rule as king? Often the doors of our hearts are locked. Often Christ is unable to enter because there is already another king of the heart - ourselves. And how do we solve this problem of trying to let Christ in? How do we instill within ourselves the one thing that is missing - God? The answer is to surrender. Surrender to the will of God. Surrender your life to the one who gave you life. We are constantly bound and held captive by the temporal things of this life. We are prisoners of our own selves, of this world, of our careers, of money, of the politicians who rule over us, we are even slaves to our own passions. The only way to find peace, to find true happiness, to experience true love is to surrender yourself to God, to make Him your king, to live in total communion with Him.

At the end of the Divine Liturgy you will receive palm and willow branches, let us take them to our homes and place them somewhere where we can always see them. Let the palm and willow branches remind us that Christ is the king of our families, that Christ is the king of our hearts, that Christ is the only true answer to happiness and meaning in our lives. Amen.

Saturday, April 3

## *Great and Holy Saturday*

*(Church is open for prayer: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon)*

### **10:00 A.M. Jerusalem Matins - The Hymns of Lamentation**

\* This is the Blessed Sabbath, a day of fasting, but a day of hope and waiting. We know that because Christ died, death is no longer the end of life. Christ descended into hell that death itself might be destroyed.



Saturday, April 3

## **Paschal Vigil begins....**

### **8:00 P.M. Resurrection Matins, Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Paschal-Easter Food**

\* In the darkened Church, the faithful receive the Resurrection Light from the priest and form a procession out of the Church. The joyous hymn of Christ's Resurrection is triumphantly chanted- "Christ is Risen!-Χριστος Воскрес!" The Paschal Divine Liturgy invites us to partake in the Feast of the Resurrection and to receive Holy Communion.

Sunday, April 4

## **Great and Holy Pascha-Easter Sunday**

### **10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy & Blessing Paschal-Easter Food**

\* We sing "Christ is Risen!-Χριστος Воскрес!" repeatedly. As we receive the Holy Eucharist, we share in the mystical communion with the Risen Christ, who has conquered death once and for all.

***This year for Great and Holy Week, choose to follow Christ through the Passion of His betrayal, His Crucifixion, and His burial and into the radiant light of His glorious Resurrection on the third day!***

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## Announcements

### Palm Sunday

As a parish family we celebrate the Entry of Our Lord Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. As part of our Palm Sunday celebration we will have the blessing of palm and willow branches. At the end of the Divine Liturgy please come forward to receive Festal Anointing-Mirovanya and to receive these "branches of victory" as we sing: "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!"

### Welcome Fr. Michael!

On this Sunday we welcome to St. George's Fr. Michael Lenz, OFM, from Holy Family Friary in Bellevue. As part of our preparation for Pascha-Easter, Father Michael is here today to administer Holy Confession. We thank him for being with us and we ask Our Lord to bless Fr. Michael for many happy and blessed years: *Многая Літа!*

### Paska Bread

Our delicious Paska-Easter bread is ready for pick-up! Following the Divine Liturgy you may pick up your Paska bread in our Church hall. It was a blessing to see us come together to continue this unique tradition of baking Easter bread. From the bottom of my heart I want to thank you for being here and working together.

### Pastoral Letter

In preparation for the Feast of the Resurrection we have received the 2010 Pastoral Letter for Pascha-Easter of the Ukrainian Catholic Hierarchy of the USA. The entire text is posted on the bulletin board in the Church vestibule.

### Set-up Tomb & Flowers

On Holy Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. we will be preparing the Tomb and flowers for Good Friday. Please come and be part of this venerable custom of preparing the Tomb and flowers for Our Lord.

### Good Friday-Cross Walk

On Good Friday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, we are invited to join our brothers and sisters from the Brighton Heights Churches for the Good Friday neighborhood Cross Walk. This prayerful event will begin at 12:00 noon (weather permitting) at Brighton Heights Lutheran Church (3830 California Avenue, across from Miller's Restaurant). If you are unable to walk, you are welcome to drive along. We are all invited to share this time of prayer together as a community of faithful on this Good Friday.

## Scholarship

The Education Board of St. George's is happy to announce that students who are attending or are planning to attend Duquesne University should be aware of the availability of the Estina Franzak Perpetual Scholarship Fund. The Fund is intended to benefit students of Ukrainian ethnicity in their studies at Duquesne University. The amount of scholarship varies. Scholarships are awarded on an academic year basis. Recipients from prior years will be considered for renewal of awards, provided that they demonstrate satisfactory academic progress. Applications must be submitted to the Education Board of St. George Ukrainian Catholic Church by May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

## Pyrohy

Our total income from last week's sale was \$1322.00. Thanks to all our dedicated pyrohy workers. We will now be closed for our Easter break until Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Enjoy your Easter break and thank you once again for all the hard work and dedication.

## Collection- May God bless you...

The total for Sunday, March 21, 2010 was \$1377.40.

*The names and prayerful intentions of our parishioners that donated towards our Easter Flowers will be published on Thomas Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. Sincere thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity!*

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plan to attend*

