

**DIVINE LITURGIES FOR THIS WEEK****Palm Sunday, March 28, 2021**

9:00 AM - Lit. God's blessing for Alla Korostil family

11:30 AM - Lit. God's Blessings on Our Parishioners

*Blessing of willows after each Liturgy.**Children's Easter Egg Hunt outside, after both liturgies, Sponsored by Holy Name Society)***Holy Monday, March 29, 2021**

7:00 PM - Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

**Holy Tuesday, March 30, 2021**

7:00 PM - Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts

**Holy Wednesday, March 31, 2021**

7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

**Holy Thursday, April 1, 2021**

7:00 PM - Matins, Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels

**Good Friday, April 2, 2021**

9:00 AM - Vespers and Procession,

Exposition of the Holy Shroud (choir "Boyan")

7:00 PM - Jerusalem Matins

**Holy Saturday, April 3, 2021***Confessions in Church, 1:00 to 4:00 PM*

6:30 PM - Nadhrobne (Prayer at the Tomb)

7:00 PM - Procession &amp; Resurrection Matins

**Resurrection of Our Lord, Pascha, April 4, 2021***Epistle - Acts 1:1-8; Gospel - Jn 1:1-17*

9:00 AM - Divine Liturgy, Ukrainian

11:30 AM - Divine Liturgy, English

**Great & Holy Week and Paschal Service.**

The services will be held each evening commemorating the betrayal, suffering and death of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Please look at the Holy Week Services for the particular Services and times. I urge all our faithful to come and walk with Christ as He journeys to Calvary this week for our salvation. Come and experience the immense pain and suffering that He endured for us. Experience the love and compassion He showed for all mankind. Make this Holy Pascha a special Resurrection for all of us!

**Memorial Donations****Bishop Gabro School Endowment Fund:**

\$325.00 - Co-workers of Donna M. Franqui,

In Memory of + EDWARD BISHOP

**Church:**

\$25.00 - Joyce Adamshick,

In Memory of + JOSEPH W. YURECHKO

**Sincere Sympathies**

Condolences are extended to the family and friends of +ALEXANDRA MELNYK, who recently was called to her eternal reward. The family requests any memorial donations be to the Bishop Gabro School Endowment Fund.

**Paska and Bread Sale**

Our parish is having an Easter Paska sale this year. Round Paska \$12 and Small Braided Loaf \$5.

ALL PROCEEDS TO SUPPORT THE PARISH.

Please sign up in the vestibule or call the Rectory at 732-826-0767. All orders to be placed by March 29th.

Pickup will be Holy Thursday between 5 and 7 pm or Good Friday after the 9 am Vespers until 12pm. Pickup is in the Church Basement. Leave your phone number on the form.

**Blessing of Easter Food Baskets**

Baskets will be blessed in the school hall on Holy Saturday at 2:00 and 4:00 PM. Baskets will also be blessed outside the church at 5:00 PM, weather permitting.

**Pussy Willow Branches**

We thank the Putykewycz/Zakanycz Family for donating the beautiful pussy willow branches for Palm Sunday in memory of: + PETER & MARGARET ZAKANYCZ and + STEPHAN & OLGA PUTYKEWYCZ.

**Thank You!**

Thank you to men from the Holy Name Society who put mulch around the church and to all who came to clean the church this past week and for bringing so much happiness and enthusiasm. The church grounds are beautiful and the church is sparkling and will reflect the glory we give to God this Easter season! THANK YOU!

**10th Anniversary of the Enthronement as Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.**

Exactly ten years ago, on March 23, 2011, the Electoral Synod of Bishops of the UGCC elected Bishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk as Father and Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. He was enthroned as Primate of the UGCC on March 27, at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ in Kyiv. "This year marks the tenth anniversary of this historic event. While ten years is only a short moment in eternity, nevertheless, we take this opportunity to thank God for His Beatitude Sviatoslav and to reflect together on our journey with him under his pastoral care. At the same time, we look forward to the future with our Patriarch and imagine all the possibilities for our Church in the decade to come," said the Head of the celebration's Organizing Committee, Metropolitan of Philadelphia, Borys Gudziak.

**Blessing of Easter Baskets.**

The Holy Spirit reminds us "not to reject the traditions of our elders, which they have learned from their fathers" (Sirach 8:9). Together with the Byzantine Rite, we have inherited many meaningful customs which make our liturgical worship inspiring, spiritually rich, and close to the heart of our people. Among these venerable customs we count the custom of blessing food at Easter. This venerable custom was brought to the United States by our fore-fathers. As we celebrate the Pasch, a feast of new life, we bless the food sustaining our physical life. Thus our custom has its meaning even today and, therefore, it should be piously observed. At the appointed time of the blessing of the paschal foods, the basket is brought to the church. Having prepared themselves during Lent and by making their Easter confession and receiving Holy Communion, the faithful eat the blessed food on Easter Sunday and the days following Easter

**QUESTIONS ABOUT FAITH.**

- *Why is it that the Church instructs Catholics to abstain from meat on Fridays (as well as Ash Wednesday and Good Friday)?*

Since it is believed Jesus Christ suffered and died on the cross on a Friday, Christians from the very beginning have set aside that day to unite their sufferings to Jesus. This led the Church to recognize every Friday as a "Good Friday" where Christians can remember Christ's passion by offering up a specific type of penance. For much of the Church's history meat was singled out as a worthy sacrifice on account of its association with feasts and celebrations. In most ancient cultures meat was considered a delicacy and the "fattened calf" was not slaughtered unless there was something to celebrate. Since Fridays were thought of as a day of penance and mortification, eating meat on a Friday to "celebrate" the death of Christ didn't seem right.

- *Why is fish not considered "meat"?*

According to the USCCB, the laws of the Church classify the abstinence from "land animals."

*Abstinence laws consider that meat comes only from animals such as chickens, cows, sheep or pigs – all of which live on land. Birds are also considered meat.*

Fish, on the other hand, are not in that same classification. *Fish are a different category of animal. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles (cold-blooded animals) and shellfish are permitted.*

In Latin the word used to describe what kind of "meat" is not permitted on Fridays is *carnis*, and specifically relates to "animal flesh" and never included fish as part of the definition. Additionally, fish in these cultures was not considered a "celebratory" meal and was more of a penance to eat.

Our current culture is much different as meat is generally considered the cheaper option on the menu and no longer has the cultural connection to celebrations. This is why many people are confused about the regulations, especially those who love to eat fish and do not consider it a penance.

In the end, the Church's intention is to encourage the faithful to offer up a sacrifice to God that comes from the heart and unites one's suffering to that of Christ on the cross. Meat is given as the very basic penance, while the purpose of the regulation should always be kept in mind. For example, it does not necessarily give a person the license to eat a lobster dinner every Friday in Lent. The whole point is to make a sacrifice that draws a person closer to Christ, who out of love for us made the ultimate sacrifice a person can make.