

PALM SUNDAY -- FLOWERY SUNDAY



Icon of the Entrance into Jerusalem

March 28, 2021: Flowery (Palm) Sunday	
Epistle: Phil. 4: 4-9	Gospel: Jn. 12: 1-18
Mon., March 29	6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy
Tues., March 30	No Services Today
Wed., March 31	6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy with Holy Anointing
Thurs. April 1	Holy Thursday 6:00 pm Vespersal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
Fri., April 2	Good Friday 3:00 pm Vespers, Procession, Veneration of the Holy Shroud
Sat., April 3	Holy Saturday 3:00 pm Easter Basket Blessing 5:00 pm + Vespersal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
Sun., April 4	Pascha: Resurrection of Our Lord 9:00 Resurrection Matins; Procession 10:00 For Our Parishioners

Flowery (Palm) Sunday

First Antiphon

I have loved the Lord,* for He has heard the voice of my supplication.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, Savior, save us.*

Since He has inclined His ear to me,* I will call upon Him in all my hope.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, Savior, save us.*

The chains of death have surrounded me,* and the terrors of the grave have overtaken me.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, Savior, save us.*

I was filled with distress and sorrow * until I called upon the name of the Lord.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, Savior, save us.*

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Third Antiphon

Praise the Lord for He is good; His mercy endures forever.

O Christ-God, before Your passion You raised Lazarus from the dead* as a sign of the resurrection of all. * Therefore, we carry victory banners like the children * and cry out to You: “Hosanna in the highest! * Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”

Let the people of Israel say that He is good: His mercy endures forever.

O Christ-God, before Your passion You raised Lazarus from the dead* as a sign of the resurrection of all. * Therefore, we carry victory banners like the children * and cry out to You: “Hosanna in the highest! * Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.”

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Entrance Hymn

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord;
we bless You from the house of the Lord.

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Hymn to the Mother of God

Extol, my soul, the Lord seated on the donkeys colt. God is Lord and has appeared to us. * Come, let us celebrate this feast with joy. * With flowers and palm branches * let us magnifying Christ; and as we raise our voices, let us sing: * Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, our Savior.

The Mystery of Holy Anointing

On the evening of Great and Holy Wednesday, the Mystery (Sacrament) of Holy Anointing is conducted in Eastern churches. The Mystery of Holy Anointing is offered for the healing of soul and body and for forgiveness of

sins. The body is anointed with oil, and the grace of God, which heals infirmities of soul and body, is called down upon each person. This Mystery will be celebrated during the Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday at 6:00 pm.

Holy Week and Paschal Services

Great & Holy Week and Paschal Services provide us with an opportunity to spiritually enter into the saving events of Christ's Passion, Death, and Resurrection. There are services offered

throughout the week. Without these services, our week will be “ordinary and secular”. Don't do this to yourself. Make the week “Great and Holy” by making time for God!

MEDITATION FOR FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY

Have you ever felt alone even when surrounded by people? You feel that no one really knows you for the person you really are. Jesus knows how you feel. The Flowery Sunday Gospel story tells of one such occasion in the life of Jesus. Jesus knew the crowds singing 'hosanna' was hollow. They had hoped that Jesus would deliver them from political domination by Rome. Jesus had not come to give them political freedom. He had come to give them something more. He had come to Jerusalem during the Passover to be their sacrificial lamb. He had come to give them eternal life with God. Even the disciples did not comprehend the significance of that ride into Jerusalem. No one seemed to be aware that Jesus had come to Jerusalem to die. He would not set up an earthly kingdom, but he would establish a spiritual kingdom by

sacrificing himself. How lonely Jesus must have felt. Jesus carried the weight of loneliness. Jesus survived Flowery Sunday because he had hope and faith in his heavenly Father. Next time you feel alone or think that no one really understands your secret thoughts, take heart. Someone does know how you feel. He is waiting for you in the calm lonely eye of the stormy crowd. He went through his Flowery Sunday experience alone, so that you will not have to go through yours the same way. Even when those around you will not, or cannot understand you, God does! Reach out to Jesus Christ this Holy Week in special prayer, meditation and through Holy Confession. You will come to know Him more personally in His resurrection on Easter Sunday! A Blessed Holy Week!

SPIRITUAL REGULATIONS FOR THE GREAT FAST

Although our Church traditionally prescribed abstention from meat and dairy products in days gone by for the entire duration of the Great Fast, the following are the minimal Lenten regulations today:

Abstinence from meat and all dairy products on the First Day of the Great

Fast and on Good Friday.

Abstinence from meat only on all Fridays of the Great Fast as well as Holy Saturday. It is also traditional to abstain from meat on Wednesdays during the Great Fast.

The Fasting and Abstinence regulations are not binding on persons 60 or

older, the very poor, sick, nursing or pregnant women, children below the age of 14, and those who engage in physically very hard labor. However, all are urged, if able to do so, to observe the fasting and abstinence regu-

lations.

Such good deeds as almsgiving, visitation of the sick, Bible reading and praying for vocations to the priesthood and religious life are most earnestly recommended to all the Faithful.

OUR CONDOLENCES

In your Christian Charity, please remember the soul of our Parishioner + **Ron Dushney** who recently fell asleep in the Lord. He was buried from

St. Cyril's on Saturday, March 20th. May his memory be eternal! *Vichnaya Pamyat.*

LET THE LITTLE CHILDREN COME

All children of our parish (newborn infants and older) are to be receiving Holy Communion every week at the Saturday evening or Sunday morning Divine Liturgy. Children who have not yet made their First Confession may receive without any hesitation or

reservation. What our children learn during their young and impressionable years, they will take with them into their adult lives. Let us teach them early the beneficial and lifegiving habit of frequenting the Holy Mysteries (the Sacraments)!

EASTER BASKET BLESSING WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF ZHYROVYTSI

While maintaining social distancing, Parishioners will gather to either the right side or the left side of the Shrine. At the appropriate time, Helpers will direct each Parishioner to enter from the SIDE of the Shrine, carrying their food basket. Father Nestor will bless each food basket as it passes. Then, those who had their baskets blessed will continue down the

center walkway and leave. In order to keep a smooth flow of baskets, we will alternate from side to side.

There will be plenty of parking in either of our two parking lots AND there will be plenty of room to socially distance and stand in our driveway behind the Church. Once the blessing begins, we should be able to move at a good pace. Please wear your

mask. All this will insure SAFETY together.
and EFFICIENCY as we all rejoice

THE EASTER BASKET



symbolism. The egg is a sign of hope and resurrection. The butter, shaped into the form of a lamb, represents Christ, the innocent victim. By the lamb's blood, the Israelites were saved. By Jesus's blood, all men are saved. The round bread with a braided cross on top represents Christ, our earthly and heavenly food. The salt represents the truth of His message.

Ukrainian traditionally blessed foods of eggs, butter, bread, salt, horseradish, ham, kielbasa, lamb, cheese and wine for Easter. This makes up the first meal after the strict fasting of Great Lent. The head of the household brings the basket of food to the church for the blessing. After the Easter Liturgy, the father takes the foods home. He takes a piece of blessed egg saying, "Christ is risen!" and all reply, "Indeed, He is risen!"

Each food holds a special

The horseradish is the bitter herb representing Christ's bitter passion. The blessing of the ham celebrates the breaking of the old law that forbade certain meats. But kielbasa formed into links, reminds us of the chains of death that Christ broke. The cheese celebrates the ending of the great Lenten Fast. Wine, the drink of the Passover and the Last Supper, is blessed. Its drinking gladdens our hearts like the joys of the resurrection.

The Ukrainian Pysanky is an

ancient tradition. It is a raw egg, richly decorated with symbolic patterns, that is never eaten. After receiving the Easter blessing, the Pysanky are considered talisman protecting against lightning and fire. The eggs are exchanged with one another as a token of love and friendship. Symbols of little fish, crosses and ladders

express religious meanings. The fish and eight pointed star represent Christ. The ladder suggests prayer. Tiny dots represent tiny tears Mary shed witnessing her Son's death. Krashanky, on the other hand, are the hard-boiled eggs brilliantly colored that are eaten at the Easter meal.

FURNITURE/RUMMAGE SALE 2021

The date has been set for the 11th Annual Fundraiser Furniture/Rummage Sale for Friday, April 23, and Saturday, April 24th, 2021. Volunteers will be working Pre-Rummage Sale, starting on Wednesday, April 7th at 10:00 a.m. through Saturday, April 10th for the 1st week. Everyone is welcome to help out for the CHURCH fundraiser. Lauren will continue for the 11th year as our chairman with a lot of volunteers to make it happen. Contact Lauren at 570-383-0319 and cell 646-241-9443 for additional information.

Due to the 2020 pandemic, the "If and When" rummage sale was delayed. The outside furniture sale (August 2020) and the "Market Place" at the School gym, during the last 4 months of the year was successful, considering the environment. The School gym is packed with merchandise that would have been sold if we had a traditional rummage sale in September 2020. Now is the time to have a spring sale in April with all the merchandise only. We need you to help to make this event, financially successful for St. Cyril's Church. Future bulletins will list the schedule for the pre-sale set-up and the actual sale. Call Lauren.

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM...

The Collection Processing Team Zelno, Dorothy Zinsky and Cheryl for the month of March 2021 is Matuszewski.
Team #3: Helen Pagnotti, Marlene

Sunday Collections for March 20 - 21, 2021: \$

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Palm Sunday

The hymns and prayers celebrating Christ's glorious journey into the Holy City reflect both the joy and the concern about what shall in short time occur in this City.

The introductory Vespers' hymn expresses these sentiments in these words: "Today the grace of the Holy Spirit has gathered us together, and we all take up Your Cross and say; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!" The Palm Sunday exclamation, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord" is repeated over and over and we know that it was also taken into the Liturgy's solemn hymn, "Holy, holy, holy ..."

A Palm Sunday liturgical text beautifully expresses the full dimensions of this greeting when it says, "Blessed are You, You have come and are

coming again in the name of the Lord God our Savior!" The serene sunshine of the Palm Sunday could not last long. Evening is approaching of the first day of the Holy Week. Jesus' enemies were not idle; they gather and debate how to stop any similar demonstration. He should be arrested.

The Church reminds us of this change: "As we pass from one Divine Feast to another, O faithful, let us go with haste to the reverent and saving celebration of Christ's sufferings. Let us behold Him undergo voluntary suffering for our sake, and let us sing to Him with thankfulness a fitting hymn: O Fountain of tender mercy and Haven of salvation. Lord, glory be to You!" The Great, Holy Week of Christ's Passion began.

Father Vladimir Vancik