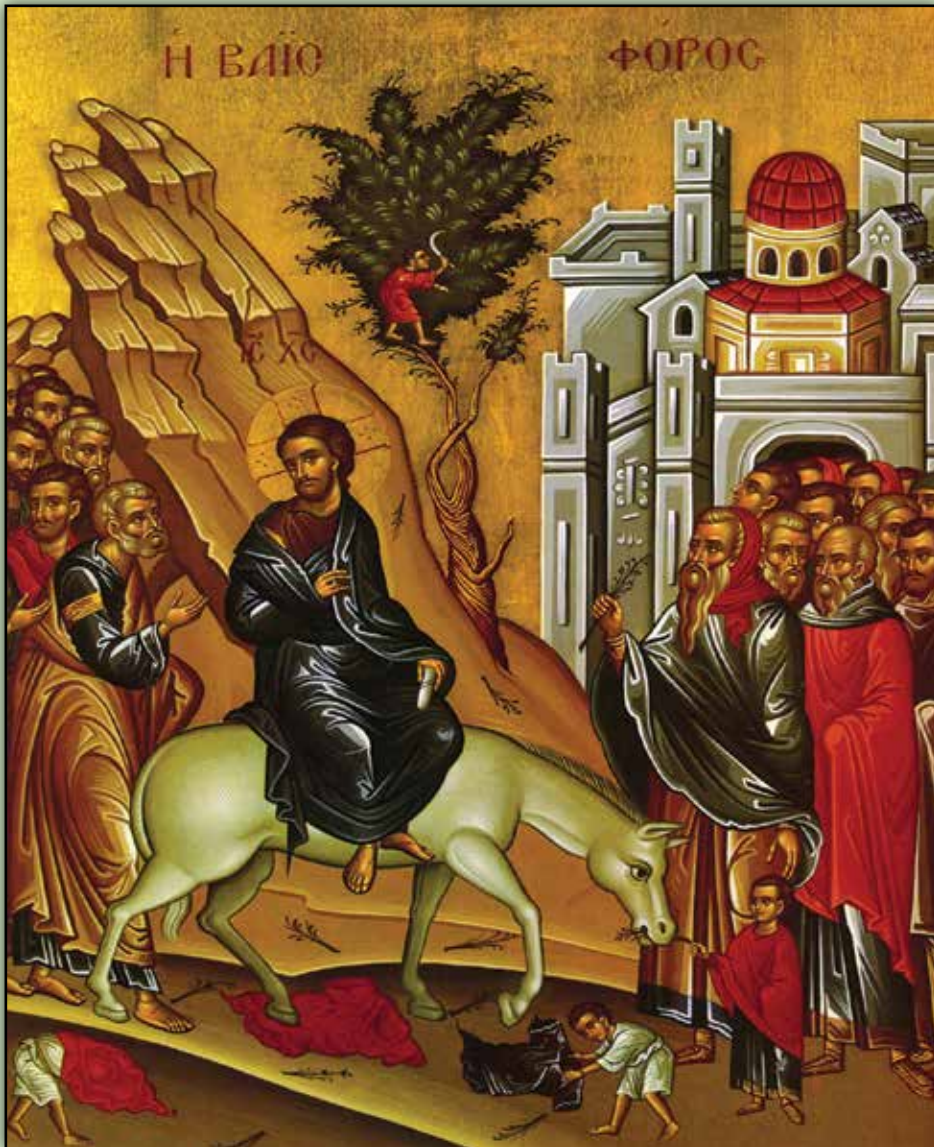


THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM PALM SUNDAY



Icon of the Entrance into Jerusalem

April 2, 2023: Flowery (Palm) Sunday

Epistle: Phil. 4: 4-9

Gospel: Jn. 12: 1-18

Mon., April 3 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy

Tues., April 4 **No Services Today**

Wed., April 5 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy; Anointing

Thurs., April 6 6:00 pm Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Fri. April 7 **Holy and Good Friday**
3:00 pm Vespers, Procession, Veneration of the Holy Shroud

Sat., April 8 **Holy Saturday**
3:00 pm Easter Basket Blessing
5:00 pm Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
Please note this temporary change of time.

Sun., April 9 **Resurrection of Our Lord: Pascha**
10:30 Resurrection Service: Divine Liturgy for Easter

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.*

* * * * *

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.”

* * * * *

Entrance Hymn

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

* * * * *

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.

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!

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!

Easter is Just Around the Corner!

Easter is NEXT SUNDAY, April 9, 2023 and we will need volunteers to decorate. Setting up the Lord's Grave and decorating it will take

place this Holy Thursday (April 6th) following the Vespers Divine Liturgy at 6:00 pm.

Our Lord's Grave

The interior of Our Lord's grave has been recently redone. This upgrade was necessary due to some water staining issues inside the tomb. We thank the talented Angels who undertook this very challenging task.

We also have a new Plashchanytsia (Shroud). This was a gift from Basil and Anna Chaykosky, and Michael and Shirley Romanovitch. We

will bless this new Plashchanytsia during the 4:00 Divine Liturgy this Saturday.

It is very gratifying to see these improvements. We thank everyone that helped to make this happen. May God reward you for your generosity and grant you many happy and blessed years.

THE EASTER BASKET

Ukrainians 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

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. 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 Pysanka is an ancient tradition. It is a raw egg, richly decorated with symbolic patterns, that is never eaten. After receiving the Easter blessing, 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.

THE LEGEND OF THE PUSSY WILLOWS

According to an old legend, a mother cat was crying at the bank of the river in which her kittens were drowning.

The willows at the river's edge longed to help her, so they swept their long graceful branches into the water to rescue the tiny kittens who had fallen into the river while chasing

butterflies.

The kittens gripped on tightly to their branches and were safely brought to shore. Each springtime since, goes the legend, the willow branches sprout tiny fur-like buds at their tips where the tiny kittens once clung.

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)!

Prayers for Fr. Paul Wolensky

Please keep Fr. Paul Wolensky in your prayers. He collapsed at home and it was three days before he was found. Currently, he is recuperating in the Wilkes Barre General Hospital. He will then be released to a rehab facility.

UPDATE: Fr. Paul has been transferred from the Hospital to the Meadows Rehab Center in Dallas, PA. He still has a long road ahead of him as he recovers. He appreciates all the prayers that are being offered up for him.

Cemetery Grave Decorations

Our Cemetery Care-Takers are beginning to prepare our Cemetery in anticipation of the Spring season. They ask that all Christmas and artificial decorations be removed from the graves. These decorations

can get in the way of grass cutting, damage our equipment, or even result in an injury. Any left-over decorations can be retrieved by the Cemetery garage.

Flower Fundraiser

We are sponsoring an Easter Flower Sale and Hanging Basket Flower Sale, partnering with Jerry's For All Seasons. Flower Flyer with ordering information are available in the Church Vestibule. Please take some

to help out by distributing them to friends and neighbors. Call Jule (570) 357-6171, Michaelene (570) 209-2026, or Mary Ann (570) 489-4648 with any questions.

Collection Processing Team...

The Collection Processing Team for the month of April 2023 is Team #4:

Ron Barkofsky, Steve and Jeanie Cucura.

Sunday Collection for March 25 & 26, 2023: \$

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

135 River St., Olyphant, PA 18447-1435

Telephone: 570-291-4451 Fax: 570-489-6918

Web Site: stcyrils.weconnect.com

E-Mail: sscyrilandmethodius@comcast.net



Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Hailing the Way, the Truth, and the Life

All the deceased will arise at the sound of the trumpet and sing praise to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Resurrector of their bodies. O Father who created Adam from dust, O Son who by your cross delivered Adam's race from ruin, resurrect me and set me at your right hand, that I might glorify your name!

You do I worship, O Christ our Savior. You are the Resurrector and Savior of all the departed who were baptized in your name and confessed your cross and your death. Blessed is Christ who promised life and resurrection to Adam's children in the day of His coming. We too shall arise and exalt him along with the saints who have been pleasing to him. Praise to you! By your Resurrection didn't you grant all the mortal race the hope of life and resurrection? And

we offer you praise, for you are the Resurrector of all flesh.

You mortals, exalt and praise Him who by His death emptied the dominion of death and promised all the mortal race life and resurrection. May the soul that has sought refuge in your cross and inherited eternal incorruptible treasure praise and exalt you together with the spirits that number her among your ranks.

Fitting it is to worship the Father who sent us His Only-Begotten Son, who saved our race from death and Satan, and sits at the right hand of His Father entreating His compassion on behalf of all of us.

St. Ephrem the Syrian

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com**