

Ss. Cyril & Methodius Ukrainian Catholic Church

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Rev. Nestor Iwasiw, Pastor

Misplaced Expectations

A young boy returned from his first major league baseball game very disappointed. Even though his favorite team won the game, the young boy said to his grandfather, "I'll never go to another game again!" "Why not," his grandfather asked, "your team won the game -why are you disappointed?" The boy answered, "I wanted my favorite player to hit a home run to where I was sitting and I wanted to catch the ball and I wanted to get it autographed after the game!" "I've been hoping for that all my life, too," said his grandfather with a smile.

Quite often, the disappointment that we feel towards a person or about a situation or circumstance is due to the fact that our expectations of that person or about that situation are misplaced, misguided, or misunderstood. We see an example of this in today's Gospel reading about our

Lord's entrance into Jerusalem.

Many of the same people who enthusiastically greeted Jesus when He entered into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday would just as passionately demand His crucifixion only a few days later. Why? It is because their expectations of Him were misplaced. That is, many people presumed that the long-awaited Messiah would be a great military leader or a political revolutionary who would lead them out of Roman subjugation and into independence. They did not consider the possibility of a Messiah who would conquer not armies, but death itself.

What do we expect from God? Like the little boy at the baseball game, are we disappointed when we don't get what we want? Let us recall that the Lord knows what we need even before we ask or are aware of it!

THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM PALM SUNDAY



Icon of the Entrance into Jerusalem

March 29, 2026: Flowery (Palm) Sunday	
Epistle: Phil. 4: 4-9	Gospel: Jn. 12: 1-18
This Weekend	4:00 pm For Our Parishioners 10:30 + Mary Patricia Brown (Howard Smith)
Mon., March 30	Holy Monday 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy
Tues., March 31	No Services Today.
Wed., April 1	Holy Wednesday 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy; Holy Anointing
Thurs., April 2	Holy Thursday 6:00 pm Vespersal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great
Fri., April 3	Good and Holy Friday 3:00 pm Vespers, Procession and Veneration of the Holy Shroud
Sat., April 4	Holy Saturday 3:00 pm Easter Basket Blessing 5:00 pm Vespersal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for Easter
Sun., April 5	Pascha: Easter Sunday 10:30 Procession, Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy

First Antiphon

I am filled with love* for the Lord will hear the voice of my plea.
Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.
 For He has inclined His ear to me,* and I will call to Him all the days of my life.
Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.
 The pangs of death encircled me,* the trials of Hades befell me.
Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.
 I met with anguish and pain,* and called upon the name of the Lord.
Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

ing the Easter blessing, the Pysanky are considered a 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.

EASTER IS AROUND THE CORNER!

Easter is April 5, 2026 and we will need volunteers to decorate. Setting up the Lord's Grave and decorating it

will take place Holy Thursday (April 2nd) following the 6:00 pm Vespersal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT

Olyphant Borough Alert: On Saturday, April 4th at 1 PM Olyphant Borough will be hosting the Annual

Easter Egg Hunt at Wargo Park! Hope to See you there!

COLLECTION PROCESSING TEAM

The Collection Processing Team for the month of March 2026 is

Team #3: Marlene Zelno, Cheryl Matuszewski, and Carol Zadarosni.

Sunday Collection for March 21 & 22, 2026: \$2,157.00

Sincere thanks to all of you for your kindness and generosity.

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

Happy Birthday and Mnohaya Leeta to the following Parishioners who celebrated their birthday in March:

Leo Danylak
 Rosemary Mizerak
 John Nasevich

Anne Victoria
 Nasevich
 John Sakson, Sr.

John Turko, Jr.
 Joey Turko
 Quentin Turko

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.

THE EASTER BASKET



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.

Ukrainians traditionally bless eggs, butter, bread, salt, horseradish, ham, kielbasa, lamb, and cheese 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, "In deed, He is risen!".

The Ukrainian Pysanky are an ancient tradition. It is a raw egg, richly decorated with symbolic patterns, that is never eaten. After receiv-

Third Antiphon

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.*

Assuring us before Your Passion of the general resurrection,* You raised Lazarus from the dead, O Christ God:* and so, like the children we also carry signs of victory* and cry to You, the conqueror of death:* Hosanna in the highest!* Blessed is He who comes* in the name of the Lord.

Therefore, let the house of Israel say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever.*

Assuring us before Your Passion of the general resurrection,* You raised Lazarus from the dead, O Christ God:* and so, like the children we also carry signs of victory* and cry to You, the conqueror of death:* Hosanna in the highest!* Blessed is He who comes* in the name of the Lord.

Therefore, let the house of Aaron say that He is good, for His mercy endures forever.*

Assuring us before Your Passion of the general resurrection,* You raised Lazarus from the dead, O Christ God:* and so, like the children we also carry signs of victory* and cry to You, the conqueror of death:* 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,* the Lord is God and has appeared to us.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has worked wonders.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Hymn to the Mother of God

My soul, magnify Christ who was seated on a foal. The Lord is God and has appeared to us:* together let us celebrate.* Come with great rejoicing; let us magnify Christ* with palms and olive branches,* and with songs let us cry aloud to Him:* Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, our Savior!

Communion Hymn

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord;*
God the Lord has appeared to us.
Alleluia, alleluia,* alleluia.

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 forgive-

ness 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 this week “Great and Holy” by making time for God!

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.

had fallen into the river while chasing butterflies.

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

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 life-giving habit of frequenting the Holy Mysteries (the Sacraments)!

CEMETERY GRAVE DECORATIONS

Our Cemetery Care-Takers are beginning to prepare our Cemetery