

ST. JOHN'S RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

V. REV. MITRED ARCHPRIEST JOHN D. SOROCHKA, RECTOR

Fr. John's Cell # (570-335-3763)

PROTODEACON STEPHEN HOWANETZ

DEACON DIMETRIOS KRENITSKY

DEACON NATHANIEL SOROCHKA

706 HILL STREET MAYFIELD, PA 18433-2015

RECTORY (570) 876-0730 - FAX (570) 876-2534

WEBPAGE – www.stjohnsmayfield.org

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SUNDAY RADIO LIVE BROADCAST –WTRW – 94.3 THE TALKER

APRIL 15/28, 2024

THE ENTRY OF THE LORD INTO JERUSALEM – PALM SUNDAY

Apostles Aristarchus, Pudens, and Trophimus, of the Seventy. Martyrs Basilissa and Anastasia of Rome, disciples of Apostles Peter and Paul. St. Mstislav-Theodore, prince of Kiev.

Blessing of Palms and Pussywillows at Matins

Fish, Wine and Oil Allowed

EPISTLE: Phil. 4:4-9

GOSPEL: John 12:1-18

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sun., April 28: **THE ENTRY OF THE LORD INTO JERUSALEM – PALM SUNDAY** (*fish allowed on this day*)
DIVINE LITURGY w/blessing of Palms & Willows – 9:30 AM
VESPERS & BRIDEGROOM MATINS – 4:00 PM

Mon., April 29: **GREAT & HOLY MONDAY**
Presanctified Liturgy – 8:00 AM

Tues., April 30: **GREAT & HOLY TUESDAY**
Presanctified Liturgy – 8:00 AM

Wed., May 1: **GREAT & HOLY WEDNESDAY**
Presanctified Liturgy – 8:00 AM

Thur., May 2: **GREAT & HOLY THURSDAY**
Vesper/Liturgy of St. Basil – 8:00 AM
Matins w/Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels – 6:30 PM

Fri., May 3: **GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY** (*Strictest Fast Day of the Year!*)
Vespers – 2:00 PM
Matins w/Procession – 5:00 PM

Sat., May 4: **GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY**
Vesper Liturgy of St. Basil – 8:00 AM
Nocturns – 11:30 PM

Sun., May 5: **THE BRIGHT RESURRECTION OF CHRIST, THE PASSOVER (PASCHA) OF THE LORD**
Matins – Midnight
Paschal Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of Baskets – 9:00 AM **PASCHAL VESPERS – 4:00 PM**

Mon., May 6: **BRIGHT MONDAY – PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY – 9:30 AM**

Tue., May 7: **BRIGHT TUESDAY – PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY - 9:30 AM**

Sat., May 11: **BRIGHT SATURDAY**
CONFESSIONS – 3:30 PM **GREAT VESPERS – 4:00 PM**

Sun., May 12: **ST. THOMAS' SUNDAY, ANTI-PASCHA**
PRO-LITURGY – 8:00 AM **DIVINE LITURGY – 9:30 AM**
LITIYA FOR:
Helen Petrochko by the Sorochka Family Mary Tapyrik by daughter, Stacey
Thomas Pavuk by friends Elizabeth Kedrick by friends

ETERNAL LIGHT: IMO **HELEN PETROCHKO** Joseph & Karen Craparo. **MEMORY ETERNAL!**

ALTAR VIGILS: IMO **SERGIUS CHWASTIAK, JR.** by his brothers & sisters. **MEMORY ETERNAL!**

TABLE OF OBLATION: Health & God's blessings upon **CAROL & DANIEL SWIRDOVICH. MANY YEARS!**

ICONOSTAS VIGIL: Health and God's blessings upon **LINDA BROWNELL ZEFAN** on her birthday by her mother. **MANY YEARS!**

PALM SUNDAY ICON FLORAL WREATH: For the health of the **KASHETA & BAZINK FAMILIES. MANY YEARS!**

VIGIL LIGHTS: *Due to the increase in costs, our vigil light price is now **\$4.00**. We apologize for the price change; however, we have no control over our supplier's pricing. Please make note of the change when purchasing your vigil candles. Thank you.*

CONFESSION SCHEDULE: Wed., May 1: **7:30 AM** Thur., May 2: **7:30 AM** Sat., May 4: **7:30 AM**

EVENTS:

Tue., April 30: **CHURCH CLEANING – 6:00 PM**

Thur., May 2: **GRAVE SET-UP – following the Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels.**

APRIL RADIO BROADCAST: IMO **ANNA PELACHYK** by Michael & Susanne Yankovich, Ann Novajovsky & Nina & Larry Houman & family. **MEMORY ETERNAL!**

300 CLUB WINNERS: 4/21/24 - **\$50 – #249 – Pop S. ; \$25 – # 156 – Paul Vilgos ; \$25 – #363 – Daniel O.**

PALM SUNDAY PRAISE: "The Son and Word of the Father, like Him without beginning and eternal, has come today to the city of Jerusalem, seated on a dumb beast, on a foal. From fear the cherubim dare not gaze upon Him; yet the children honor Him with palms and branches, and mystically they sing a hymn of praise: 'Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna to the Son of David, who has come to save from error all mankind.'" (A hymn of the Light.)

BRIGHT MONDAY “OPEN HOUSE”: The “Open House” will take place in the church center on Bright Monday following the Liturgy. A sign-up sheet is located at the candle table in the church vestibule. Please bring your food items in disposable containers so cleaning up will be easy. If you bring a crockpot or any other type of personal container, please take it home for washing. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated! Everyone is invited – food donations are optional. **NOTE:** Along with the Open House, there will be an **EGG HUNT**. All youth are invited to participate.

JULY \$100 RAFFLE: We are now selling the July **CASH RAFFLE** tickets for this year. The drawing will be on **Tuesday, July 16** at 6 PM. If you are interested in purchasing tickets or helping sell some to family and friends, please contact Tanya Sorochka, Joan Zaleski, Sasha Fedorchak or Mott. Thank you! There are only **150** tickets to be sold. Drawing will be live on Facebook.

PASSION WEEK is the term used for this last week before Holy Pascha. It has this name because it commemorates the last days of the earthly life of our Saviour, His suffering, death on the Cross, and burial.

DONATIONS REQUESTED: If you have not donated towards the following for Great Lent as an act of almsgiving you may do so by contacting Fr. John or the sextons: Altar Candles - **\$75** each; Wine - **\$50** case; Incense - **\$40** lb. Oil - **\$40**.

HOLY WEEK & PASCHAL PROCESSIONS: The schedules are once again being organized for Holy Week and the Feast of the Resurrection. We did not have the schedules for the years during Covid, but we are trying to reinstitute this system – it is so much easier for Bill when trying to organize the processions during this sacred time. If you would be willing to participate, please see Bill so we can have an idea of how to prepare for the processions. Bill’s position is a voluntary one – please lighten the burden and stress of doing his work by volunteering instead of being asked to help. We realize that none of us are getting any younger, services can be lengthy, and aches and pains now exist where they didn’t before; but please try to help us keep our traditions. It hasn’t been easy since Covid, but we are getting back to a normal environment a little bit every day. We ask for your cooperation and support in helping to keep our traditions alive in our parish. Please see Billy today and offer him your help.

SPECIAL FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS/PASCHA: Donors are being sought for the Paschal Floral Arrangements needed to beautify our church for the Feast of the Resurrection. If interested in donating the “Special” Altar Flowers, Tetrapod Vases, Cross Flowers, Sprays for the Iconostasis, Baskets for the Baldachinos, Hand Cross. etc., please contact Malina (570)282-0101 or see her following church services.

VESPERS/BRIDEGROOM MATINS THIS AFTERNOON AT 4:00 PM: As we stand in church this afternoon at 4 PM, we are sunk in darkness. This is the end. We have seen the light: Christ has triumphed over the darkness of death by raising His friend Lazarus. He has sought – and received – the acclamation of His Kingship by His people Israel: *“Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.”* We have held high our palms and pussywillow branches and accepted His Kingdom. But soon these palms and branches will lie at home, and we will stand in darkness. The end has come. The first three days of Holy Week are referred to in the Church as *“The End.”* Jesus was walking into the very midst of those who sought to take His life. He experienced deep anguish within Himself (*John 12:27*). Despite the triumph of His Entry into Jerusalem, the outcome of His Passion was known, the Lord told His disciples that *“He must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.”* (*Matt. 16:21*)

On Palm Sunday evening the Services of Holy Week begin with the *Bridegroom Matins*. *Gospel readings on the first three days divulge the entire content of the final discourses of Christ. In these discourses He is far from the “sweet Jesus” of popular imagery. He speaks with clarity concerning the end of this age. “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only...Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.”* (*Matt. 24:36, 42*)

When we attend all of the services during Great Lent and Passion Week, we realize that all of the things heard about and experienced throughout those weeks, all the things we have been called to do and to be in order to partake worthily of the Master’s table, are impossible without Christ’s mercy and help. And now we stand in the lengthening shadow of Calvary. Judas made his choice. He has hanged himself in remorse, and Christ is in the hands of lawless men.

What motivated Judas to commit this terrible act? In the mind of the Church, the motive is the greed for money and a general love for the choking pleasures of the world. Judas had the same opportunity to be with Jesus and to learn at His feet, but he “refused to understand,” as the Church hymns say. He exchanged all this for thirty pieces of silver. The question remaining to be answered by us is this: What is Christ worth in our lives? Do we take proper advantage of all the opportunities given to us to live in Him and learn about Him?

PALM SUNDAY: Today commemorates the triumphant entrance of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. The people of Jerusalem received Christ as a king, and, therefore, took branches of palms and went out to meet Him, laying down the palms in His path. The people cried out the prophecy of Zechariah: *“Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel”* (v. 13; of Zechariah 9:9). The celebration of the Jewish Passover brought crowds of to Jerusalem. They had heard of the works and word of Christ, especially about the resurrection of Lazarus. All the events related to Christ had a Messianic meaning for the Jewish people at the time. This vexed the high priests and Pharisees. As usual, Christ went to the Temple to pray and teach. That evening Christ departed for Bethany. The tradition of the Church of distributing palms on this Sunday comes from the act of the people in placing the branches of palms in front of Christ, and henceforth symbolizes for the Christian the victory of Christ over evil forces and death.

HOLY WEEK: The period of Great Lent includes the days of Holy Week. This is the time when Christians who went through the whole period of Lent in prayer and fasting approach the Feast of Feasts to celebrate the Passions of Christ and His Resurrection. During the entire Lenten Period, the faithful try to practice and live the ideals and standards of this period in the light of Easter. This is why the Hymnology of the entire period of Lent, especially during Holy Week, refers to the Resurrection of Christ as the center of the Christian Faith. Each day of Holy Week is dedicated to the events and teachings of Christ during His last week on earth. The faithful who participate in the services of this week are more conscious of their duties to themselves and to their neighbors through fasting, giving alms, forgiving the trespasses of others; in other words, participating, day by day, in the spirit of the Gospel of Christ.



Holy Week



Monday

Jesus cleanses the temple and curses the fig tree; God prepares those who will accept His sacrifice



Palm Sunday

Jesus entered as a king; God prepared His sacrifice



Tuesday

Jesus teaches in the temple for the last time; God sends the invitation to come enjoy His sacrifice



Wednesday

Judas betrays, Mary perfumes; God waits for the response to the invitation



Holy Thursday

Jesus offers His body and blood in the last supper; God offers His sacrifice



Good Friday

Jesus dies on the cross; God accepts His sacrifice (a sweet smelling aroma)

Resurrection Sunday



Jesus is risen; God gives us eternal life in Jesus (the real treasure)



Bright Saturday

Jesus takes the saints from Hades to Paradise; God receives His saints to Him



Holy Week



Great and Holy Thursday

On Thursday of Holy Week four events are commemorated: the washing of the disciples' feet, the institution of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, the agony in the garden of Gethsemane, and the betrayal of Christ by Judas.

The Institution of the Eucharist

At the Mystical Supper in the Upper Room Jesus gave a radically new meaning to the food and drink of the sacred meal. He identified Himself with the bread and wine: "Take, eat; this is my Body. Drink of it all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant" (Matthew 26:26-28).

We have learned to equate food with life because it sustains our earthly existence. In the Eucharist the distinctively unique human food - bread and wine - becomes our gift of life. Consecrated and sanctified, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. This change is not physical but mystical and sacramental. While the qualities of the bread and wine remain, we partake of the true Body and Blood of Christ. In the eucharistic meal God enters into such a communion of life that He feeds humanity with His own being, while still remaining distinct. In the words of St. Maximos the Confessor, Christ, "transmits to us divine life, making Himself eatable." The Author of life shatters the limitations of our createdness. Christ acts so that "we might become sharers of divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4).

The Eucharist is at the center of the Church's life. It is her most profound prayer and principal activity. It is at one and the same time both the source and the summit of her life. In the Eucharist the Church manifests her true nature and is continuously changed from a human community into the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, and the People of God. The Eucharist is the pre-eminent sacrament. It completes all the others and recapitulates the entire economy of salvation. Our new life in Christ is constantly renewed and increased by the Eucharist. The Eucharist imparts life and the life it gives is the life of God.

In the Eucharist the Church remembers and enacts sacramentally the redemptive event of the Cross and participates in its saving grace. This does not suggest that the Eucharist attempts to reclaim a past event. The Eucharist does not repeat what cannot be repeated. Christ is not slain anew and repeatedly. Rather the eucharistic food is changed concretely and really into the Body and Blood of the Lamb of God, "Who gave Himself up for the life of the world." Christ continually offers Himself to the faithful through the consecrated Gifts, i.e., His very own risen and deified Body, which for our sake died once and now lives (Hebrews 10:2; Revelation 1:18). Hence, the faithful come to Church week by week not only to worship God and to hear His word. ***They come, first of all, to experience over and over the mystery of salvation and to be united intimately to the Passion and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.***

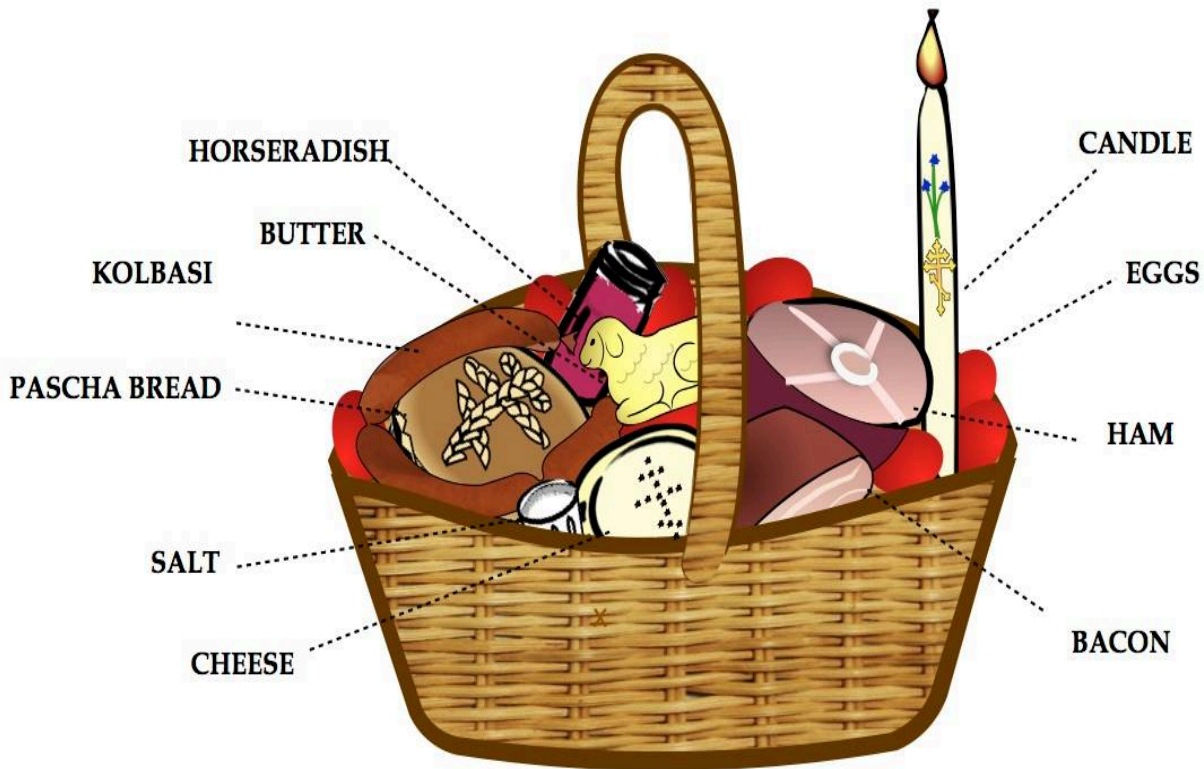
In the Eucharist we receive and partake of the resurrected Christ. We share in His sacrificed, risen and deified Body, "for the forgiveness of sins and life eternal" (Divine Liturgy). In the Eucharist Christ pours into us - as a permanent and constant gift - the Holy Spirit, "Who bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God - and if children - then heirs with Christ (Romans 8:16-17).

Orthodox Celebration of Holy Thursday

Several unique services mark the Orthodox celebration of Holy Thursday. The main service of the day is the Vespers Divine Liturgy of Saint Basil that is conducted on Holy Thursday morning. This Liturgy commemorates the institution of the Holy Eucharist.

HOW TO PUT TOGETHER A TRADITIONAL EASTER BASKET

"TEXT ADAPTED FROM AN ARTICLE BY FR. BASIL KRAYNYAK, GCU MESSENGER, APRIL, 1979" ILLUSTRATED BY FR. JONATHAN BANNON



PASCHA - The Easter Bread (Pron. Pa-ska.) A sweet yeast bread rich in eggs, butter, etc. Symbolic of Christ Himself who is our True Bread. Usually round loaf baked with a golden crust decorated with a symbol indicative of Christ. Sometimes a cross (+) of dough is placed on top encircled by a plait given it a crowned effect or Greek

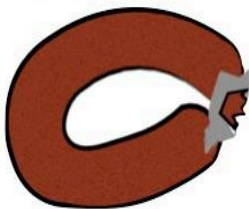
CHEESE - (Rusyn: Hrudka or Sirec) A custard type cheese shaped into a ball having a rather bland but sweet taste indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things. Also creamed cheese is placed in a small dish and both are decorated with symbols (see Pascha) out of cloves or pepper balls.



HAM - (Rusyn: Šunka - pron. shoon-ka.) The Flesh meat popular with the Slavs as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Easter. Some may prefer Lamb or Veal. This is usually well roasted or cooked as well as other meats so the festivity of the day will not be burdened with preparation and all may enjoy the Feast.

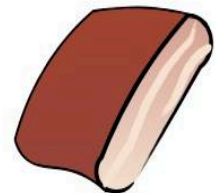


BUTTER - (Rusyn: Maslo pron. ma-slo.) This favorite dairy product is often shaped into a figure of a Lamb or small cross and decorated as the cheese. This reminds us of the goodness of Christ that we should have toward all things.

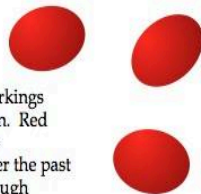


SAUSAGE (Rusyn: Kolbasi-pron. kol-bus-i.) A spicy, garlic sausage of pork products indicative of God's flavor and generosity.

BACON - (Rusyn: Slanina pron. sla-ni-na) A piece of uncooked bacon cured with spices. Symbolic of the overabundance of God's mercy to us.



EGGS (Rusyn: Pisanki pron. pi-sun-ki) Hardboiled eggs brightly decorated with symbols and markings made with beeswax, indicative of new life and resurrection. Red eggs are also traditional date back to a story with St. Mary Magdalene. Having been dyed with onion skins saved over the past year, red shows the color of life and victory that came through Christ's blood.



SALT - (Rusyn: Sol' pron. sol') A condiment necessary for flavor reminding the Christian of his duty to others.



HORSERADISH (Rusyn: Chrin pron. khryn) Horseradish mixed with grated red beets (optional) symbolizes the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. A bitter-sweet red colored mixture reminds us of the sufferings of Christ.

These articles are placed in a wicker basket. A decorated candle is placed inside and is lit at the time of the blessing. A linen cover usually embroidered with a picture of the Risen Christ or symbol with the words "Christ is Risen" is placed over the food when brought to the Church. In some places a large Easter Bread (Pascha) is made and brought separately in a large linen cloth. If the origin of the people was from a wine growing area, a sweet wine may be brought

