

PALM SUNDAY -- FLOWERY SUNDAY



Icon of the Entrance into Jerusalem

March 25, 2018

FLOWERY SUNDAY - ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOST HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

A Prayer for the Construction of a New Church

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Cornerstone of Your holy Church, Giver of every good gift, the One who first loved us, look down upon us Your people who desire to build a new church unto Your glory and grant us the wisdom, strength, and resources to accomplish this task in accordance with Your will. Remember the friends and benefactors of this parish who support the construction of this holy church and bless them with Your good things. And as You did proclaim that even if Your disciples were silent, the very stones would cry out, so also grant that this holy church may proclaim You and draw all who dwell in the surrounding area to worship You in spirit and in truth. In flame our hearts with love for You that we may offer to You ourselves and all You have given us to the glory of Your holy Name. For You are the true Philanthropist—the Lover of Mankind—and to You do we send up glory, together with Your eternal Father, and Your most holy, good, and life-creating Spirit, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

The Mystery of Holy Anointing

will be served on Great and Holy Wednesday, March 28th, at 9:30 in the morning **and** at 6:30 in the evening. The Church's practice of anointing with holy oil for the healing of soul and body dates back to Apostolic times, when St. James wrote, "Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the presbyters (priests) of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14) Those who wish to receive this Mystery should approach after having made a recent Confession.

Please help!

We need volunteers on Holy Saturday, March 31 following Jerusalem Matins in order to prepare the Church for the feast of Pascha.

The Liturgy is not about you and me. It is not where we celebrate our own identity or achievements or exalt or promote our own culture and local religious customs. The Liturgy is first and foremost about God and what He has done for us.

– Cardinal Robert Sarah

Prayer Books for sale:

Daily Prayers of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. A compendium of prayers prepared by the North Anthracite Protopresbyterate of the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Philadelphia. It is in English and available for \$5.00. Please speak to Fr. James.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR GREAT AND HOLY WEEK
MARCH 26 – APRIL 1, 2018

MONDAY, MARCH 26 - GREAT AND HOLY MONDAY - Великий Понеділок
6:30 PM – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

TUESDAY, MARCH 27 – GREAT AND HOLY TUESDAY - Великий Вівторок
9:30 AM – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28 – GREAT AND HOLY WEDNESDAY - Великий Середа
9:30 AM – Bridegroom Matins and Holy Mystery of Anointing
6:30 PM – Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts & Holy Mystery of Anointing

THURSDAY, MARCH 29 – GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY - Великий Четвер
9:30 AM – Matins of Betrayal
6:30 PM – Vespers of the Passion and Procession with the Shroud of Repentance

FRIDAY, MARCH 30 – GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY - Велика П'ятниця
9:30 AM – Matins of the Passion (12 Gospels)
6:30 PM – Vespers of the Passion and Procession with the Shroud followed by the Holy Mystery of Repentance

SATURDAY, MARCH 31 – GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY - Велика Субота
9:30 AM – Jerusalem Matins

SUNDAY, APRIL 1 – THE GLORIOUS FEAST OF PASCHA - Пасха
THE RESURRECTION IN THE FLESH OF OUR LORD, GOD, AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
7:30 AM – Paschal Matins
9:30 AM – Paschal Divine Liturgy followed by Blessing of Baskets

PLEASE NOTE: (1) One of the precepts of the Church which binds all faithful is that they receive the Holy Eucharist at least once a year during the Paschal Season. In order to receive worthily and not unto condemnation, the faithful are also required to avail themselves of the Holy Mystery of Repentance before receiving Holy Eucharist. The Holy Mystery of Repentance can be received before or after any of the services throughout Great and Holy Week or by appointment. (2) According to the particular law of the Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church, Great and Holy Friday is a day of **strict fast**. This means that no meat, meat products, dairy or alcohol may be consumed on this day (abstinence) and the size of the main meal of the day should be less than the other two meals combined (fasting). For those following the full prescriptions of the Lenten Triodion, these rules apply throughout Great and Holy Week. (3) The proper time for the Blessing of the Paschal Foods is immediately after the Divine Liturgy on Pascha. The foods are then taken home to be eaten by family and friends, thus extending the Feast of Pascha into our homes and the world.

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 each day this 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!

Don't Wait Until It Is Too Late

Start arranging your schedule today so that you can be present for Holy Friday through Pascha. Absolutely no one should miss these services. Put God first: take off work and stand by the Cross of Christ.

Warm Welcome!

We warmly welcome all of our visitors! It's good to have you with us!



Flower Collection

Special envelopes are available in the back of the church do help with the purchase of flowers for the Feast of Pascha.

Mark your calendars: On Sunday, April 15th, we will have our annual parish Sviachenne meal. Invite your family and friends.

I saw all the devil's traps set upon the earth, and I groaned and said: "Who do you think can pass through them?" And I heard a voice saying "Humility."

– *Anthony of Egypt*

TIPS FOR A BLESSED HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA

- Make participation at the Services a top priority.
- In our homes we should strive to "keep out the world" and enter into the peace, solemnity, and theology of the events of the last days of our Lord.
- Be sure to read the last chapters of the Holy Gospels that speak of the Passion, Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ.
- Last year's pussy willows should be placed outside in an area to decay where they will not be disturbed. They are holy and should not be simply thrown out with the garbage.
- Before venerating Holy Objects, such as the Cross, the Chalice, Icons, or the Winding-Sheet, make sure to wipe off your lipstick or chapstick. Reminder: we do not kiss the face of our Lord, His Mother, or the Saints – instead kiss the hands or feet.
- If you haven't yet made your Confession during Great Lent, there are several opportunities during Great and Holy Week or speak with Fr. James to arrange a time.
- Try to make amends with those we may be upset with or those who are upset with us, so that on Pascha we can joyfully sing, "Let us call brothers, even those that hate us, and forgive all by the Resurrection!" (Paschal Canon)
- Try to stay after the service on Pascha morning for the blessing of baskets. Let us share in the joy of the Lord's Resurrection with fellowship and love.
- During Bright Week, let the joy of praising the Lord's Resurrection accompany you throughout Bright Week, the Paschal season, and your whole life.

Квітна неділя

Осанна! Благословен той, хто йде в ім'я Господнє!

Йоан 12, 1-18

Сьогодні Ісус відчиняє нам двері Небесного Царства. Єрусалим є символом того Царства, його прообразом. Єрусалим – це «ікона миру». Так, це образ Царства справедливості і миру, сопричастя з Пресвятою Трійцею, до Якої Ісус бажає ввести нас вже тепер. Ціною цього миру є боротьба і перемога над поділами, ненавистю, обманом, гріхом, заплата за які – смерть. Син Давидів приходить підкорити своє місто, тобто те заховане місце, в яке Він приносить свій мир. І цим захованим місцем є серця людей, наші серця. Впродовж цього тижня триватиме боротьба нашого улюбленого Царя, боротьба за знищення в нас гріха і смерті. Його воскресення – це перемога Його хреста над нашим гріхом, перемога любови над нашою смертю.

Але все починається сьогодні. Він входить до нашого життя через своє пониження. Смирнення Ісуса, Його лагідність – це вузькі ворота до Небесного Царства. Тому ми маємо бути серед тих малих, кому Отець відкриває тайну свого Сина. Саме діти в той час вітали Ісуса лагідного і сумирного серцем, і саме через таку поставу ми також можемо відкрити Ісусові доступ до нашого серця.

Як ми прийматимемо Його впродовж цього тижня? Він так часто приходить до нашого життя, але чи визнаємо ми це? Важливо йти Йому назустріч так, як діти, дарувати себе Йому, оспівуючи Його. Наша доросла мовчанка часто є німотою, сумішшю страху, недовіри чи байдужості. Мусимо висловлюватися перед «тим, хто приходить в ім'я Господнє» (див. Йо. 12, 13), висловлюватися з безпосередністю серця дитини, адже в улюбленому Сині до нас приходить Отець.

На сьогоднішній Божественній літургії, так само, як і в четвер та наступної неділі, ми можемо застановитися над моментом, якого, можливо, не помічаємо на богослуженні. Ми завершуємо першу молитву подяки Отцеві, викликаючи зі всіма святими і всіма ангелами: «Свят, свят, свят Господь саваот» (див. Іс. 6, 3). А в таїнстві

Нового Завіту додаємо: «Осанна! Благословен той, хто йде в ім'я Господнє!» (Йо. 12, 13). Ми промовляємо від свого імени слова прослави дітей Ісусові під час Його входу до Єрусалиму. Адже в цю мить у Пресвятій Євхаристії ми разом з Христом входимо в дійство Його страстей та воскресення, «спомин» яких чинимо на Божественній літургії, але це не лише спогад про Нього. Це факт, який стає дійсним, реальним через нашу участь у Ньому через святе причастя.

Чи розуміємо ми зміст того, що співаємо? «Осанна!» – це більше, ніж оклик. Це наполегливе благання, що дослівно означає: «ну спаси ж нас!». Ісус приходить в ім'я Отця, щоб спасти нас. Нехай цей оклик іде зі щирости нашого серця, так, як запрошує нас до цього євхаристійна молитва словами: «Вгору піднесім серця!».

Святий Дух, Який учить дітей Отця жити, допоможе нам вийти з нашої німоти. Нехай молитва нашого серця буде насамперед молитвою прослави. «Осанна! Благословен той, хто йде в ім'я Господнє!» (Йо. 12, 13), – вітали діти Ісуса словами псалма (див. Пс. 118, 26), не знаючи походження цих слів, а лише чуючи їх у своїх сім'ях. Святий Дух хоче навчити нас молитися словами прослави, які Він надихнув. Книга Псалмів – це книга «Прослави», це невичерпний скарб молитви Божих дітей. Завдяки цій книзі Святий Дух-Утішитель підказує нашому серцю, як співати, як прославляти та хвалити Отця, Який дає нам своє Слово, як оспівувати Його власним Словом, Ісусом, Якого Він дає нам. Для Нього велика радість, коли Він бачить, що ми розуміємо Його батьківське серце, коли чує, як повторюємо Його Слово своїми людськими вустами. «Прийди, Господи Ісусе!» (Од. 22, 20), «Благословенний ти, що йдеш в ім'я Господнє!» (див. Йо. 12, 13), «Спаси ж нас! Осанна!».

Жан Корбон, *Це називається світанком,*
Львів, Свічадо 2007

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY UNCTION

From "These Truths We Hold"

This Sacrament is described in Holy Scripture by St. James the Brother of the Lord: *Is any among you sick? Let him, call for the elders of the Church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven* (James 5:14-15).

From the above text, we can see that this Sacrament has a twofold purpose bodily healing and the forgiveness of sins. The two are joined, for man is a unity of body and soul and there can be no sharp distinction between bodily and spiritual sicknesses. Of course, the Church does not believe that this anointing is automatically followed by recovery of health, for God's will and not man's prevails in all instances. Sometimes the sick person is healed and recovers after receiving the Sacrament, but in other cases he does not recover, but the Sacrament, nonetheless, gives him the spiritual strength to prepare for death.

The Sacrament is formally performed by seven Priests, reflecting an ancient practice of performing in the course of seven days, each day having its own prayers, although, if due to necessity, it can be performed by three or even one Priest. At each of the anointings the following prayer is repeated:

Holy Father, Physician of souls and bodies, Who sent Thine Only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ Who healed every illness and delivered from death, heal Thy servant from the weakness that holds his/her body, of either body or soul, and enliven him/her by the grace of Thy Christ, by the prayers of the All-holy Lady Theotokos and all the Saints.

Seven Epistle and Gospel readings are said and seven anointings are performed. After the seventh, the open Gospel Book is placed over the head of the one receiving the Sacrament, during which the senior Priest reads the Absolution Prayer containing the following: I do not lay my sinful hands on the head of him who comes...but Thy mighty and powerful hand, which is in the Holy Gospel. This replaces an ancient practice of laying-on of hands.

We must note that this Sacrament is not only for those on their deathbed, but for anyone who is sick. It may also be performed over the healthy as well (as is the custom on Holy Wednesday in many places) and in Greece it is often performed over the healthy before Holy Communion, since the rite also contains elements of repentance, although it should be noted that this does not replace the Sacrament of Confession.

A PRAYER FROM THE MYSTERY OF HOLY UNCTION

O gracious and loving, compassionate and ever merciful Lord, plentiful in mercy, and rich in beneficence, the Father of bounties, and God of all comfort, Who through Thy holy Apostles has empowered us to heal the infirmities of Thy people by oil and prayer: Confirm this oil unto the healing of those who shall be anointed therewith; unto relief from every ailment, and from every malady; unto deliverance from evils of those who in firm hope await salvation from Thee. Yea, O Master, Lord our God, we beseech Thee, O Almighty One, that Thou wilt save us all.

O only Physician of souls and bodies, sanctify us all. Thou dost heal every infirmity, heal also Thy servants. Raise them up from their sickness, through the mercies of Thy goodness. Cast out by Thy mighty hand every sickness and malady so that being raised they may serve Thee with all thanksgiving; and that we also, who now share Thine inexpressible love towards mankind, may sing praises and glorify Thee who dost perform deeds great and marvelous, both glorious and transcendent.

For Thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God; and to Thee do we send up glory, together with Thine only-begotten Son, and Thine all-holy and good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

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ПРИГАДУЄМО УСІМ ПАРАФІЯНАМ

Щоб гідно приймати Святі Тайни парафіянин повинен жити за правилами віри та поважно підготувитися. Добрі (віддані) парафіяни є ті котрі:

1. В неділі й свята беруть участь в Святій Літургії
2. Знають загальні правди й молитви нашої віри
3. Записані до парафії
4. Жертвують час, таланти і матеріально підтримують парафію і заповнили щорічне заповнення пожертви

A REMINDER TO ALL PARISHIONERS

Reception of the Sacraments requires the committed practice of the faith and serious preparation. Committed parishioners are those who:

1. Attend Divine Liturgy on all Sundays and Feast Days
2. Know and understand the basic prayers and tenets of our faith
3. Have enrolled in the parish
4. Give of their time, talents and financial resources and have filled out the annual pledge form

From Patriarch Sviatoslav

The head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kiev-Halych, Ukraine, spent years working in Argentina.

"Our most vibrant parishes in Argentina are Spanish-speaking," he said.

When Archbishop Shevchuk met with young people at a Winnipeg parish Sept. 7 (2012), he told them not to worry about not being able to speak Ukrainian.

"This is not a church of Ukrainians, it's a church of Christ," Archbishop Shevchuk said. "We are a global church. We are a church of the Ukrainian tradition."

<http://www.cnewa.org/default.aspx?ID=1932&pageTypeID=8&sitecode=HQ&pageno=1>

Sunday offering for March 18

Amount	Number
\$5.00	1
\$20.00	6
\$26.00	1 (loose)
\$30.00	1
\$40.00	2
\$50.00	3
\$90.00	2
\$105.00	1
\$300.00	1
<hr/>	
\$906.00	

Visitor Total: \$70.00

Parishioner Total: \$836.00

Average / parish household (43): \$16.39

Weekly Stewardship Goal: \$2200.00

Deficit: <\$1469.00>



**Українська Греко-Католицька Церква
Святого Йоана Хрестителя
St. John the Baptizer
Ukrainian Greco-Catholic Church**

4400 Palm Avenue
La Mesa, CA 91941
Parish Office: (619) 697-5085

Website: stjohnthebaptizer.org

Pastor: Fr. James Bankston
frjames@mac.com
Fr. James' cell phone: (619) 905-5278

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