



Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. John the Baptist Paschal Newsletter, April/May 2021 - UPDATED

At the present time and until May 20th we are limited to 10 individuals in Church at any one time, which includes the priest(s), singers, computer/camera operator and usher(s). All services will continue to be open for attendance in accordance with the current guidelines. We thank you for your patience and understanding.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Fr. Bohdan.

Saturday, April 24th - Lazarus Saturday. *Heb. 12: 28 - 13:8; Jn. 11: 1-45.* The Divine Liturgy will be served at 9:30 AM.

Great Vespers will be served at 5 PM.

Sunday, April 25th—Palm Sunday, the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem. *Phil. 4: 4-9; Jn. 12: 1-18.* *The Divine Liturgy which was served yesterday morning will be live-streamed today at 9:30 AM.*

Thursday, the 29th—Holy Thursday, Commemoration of the Last Supper. The Vespertal Divine Liturgy will be served at 9:00 A.M. *1 Cor. 11:23-32; Mt. 26:1-20, Jn. 13:3-17, Mt. 26:21-39, Lk. 22:43-45, Mt. 26:40-27:2.* Confession from 8:30 AM.

Matins of Great and Holy Friday, “Strasti,” with the reading of the 12 Passion Gospels, will be served from 6—8 PM. ** This service will be live-streamed.*

Friday, the 30th—Great and Holy Friday. Vespers with the Deposition of the Holy Shroud will be served at 5 P.M. ** This service will be live-streamed.*

Saturday, May 1st—Great and Holy Saturday. Commemoration of our Lord’s Descent into Hades. The Vespertal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great will be served at 9:00 AM. *Rm. 6:3-11; Mt. 28:1-20.* Confession from 8:30 AM.

Sunday, May 2nd - PASCHA. THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST. *Acts 1: 1-8; Jn. 1: 1-17.* Paschal Orthros (Matins) will begin at 7 AM, followed immediately by the Paschal Divine Liturgy, and will be live-streamed. Following the dismissal of Liturgy (at 9 AM) - Father will read the prayers for the blessing of paschal foods, following which those watching at home may then sprinkle their basket with Holy Water.

Please remember that in accordance with our pious ancient tradition we do not kneel in Church from Pascha until Pentecost.

Paschal (Agape) Vespers. *Jn. 20: 19-25.* Paschal Vespers will be served at 3:00 P.M.

Monday, May 3rd—Bright Monday. Paschal Matins followed immediately by the Divine Liturgy will be served at 9:00 A.M. *Acts 1: 12 - 17, 21 -26; Jn. 1: 18 - 28.*

Saturday, May 8th—Bright Saturday. *Acts 3: 11-16; Jn 3: 22-33.* The Divine Liturgy will be served at 9:30 AM.

Great Vespers will be served at 5 PM.

Sunday, May 9th—Antipascha, Sunday of the Doubting Thomas. *Acts 5: 12 - 20; Jn. 20 - 19 - 31.* The Divine Liturgy which was served yesterday morning will be live-streamed today at 9:30 AM.

Parish Bulletin. In order to better communicate with our parishioners and friends we circulate our parish bulletin by e-mail every Friday. This is an easy and excellent way to stay in contact with our parish and community. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive our parish bulletin by e-mail, please forward your or their e-mail address to Fr. Bohdan at priest@stjohnshawa.org.

If you are not able to participate in our Paschal services through our live-streaming please read these prayers over your paschal foods at 9 AM on May 2nd, then sprinkle them with Holy Water:

Prayer for the Blessing of Bread (Paska)

O Holy Master, Almighty Father, Pre-eternal God! Of Your good will deign to bless this bread with Your Holy Spiritual blessing, that it would be for those who partake of it unto salvation of the soul, bodily health, protection against all physical illness and every attack of the enemy. Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, who came down from heaven, grants life and salvation to the world, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer for the Blessing of the Paschal Lamb

Look down, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, on this fleshmeat and sanctify it, as You sanctified the ram which faithful Abraham brought to You, and the lamb which Abel offered to You as a whole-offering. Likewise the fatted calf which You commanded to be slain for Your Prodigal Son when he had returned again to You; that as he was granted to enjoy Your grace, so too may we enjoy these things sanctified and blessed by You, for the nourishment of us all. For You are the True Nourishment and the Bestower of good things, and to You we ascribe glory, together with Your Father Who is without beginning, and Your Most-Holy, God, and Life-creating Spirit now, and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Prayer for the Blessing of Milk, Butter, and Other Foods

O Master, Lord our God, the Creator and Maker of all things: bless this curdled milk, and with it these eggs, and preserve us in Your goodness, that partaking of these, we may be filled with Your gifts, which You bestow on us ungrudgingly, together with Your unspeakable goodness. For Yours is the dominion and Yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Paschal Graveside Services (“Provody”) will be held at:

Ss. Volodymyr and Ol’ha Cemetery in Courtice: on Sunday, May 30th, beginning at 1:30 PM according to the following order: central section, north section, west section, south section,

Thornton Cemetery in Oshawa: on Sunday, May 30th, beginning at 4:00 PM.

Union Cemetery here in Oshawa: on Saturday, June 5th, from 11 AM (beginning on the south side by King Street).

St. Volodymyr Cemetery in Oakville: on Sunday, June 6th, beginning at 2:00 PM.

St. Mary’s Bukovynian Cemetery in Oshawa: on Sunday, June 20th, at 12:30 PM.

For all other cemeteries, or to arrange a different day or time at the above listed cemeteries, please contact Fr. Bohdan directly.

Please note that we will abide by the COVID guidelines which are in force at the given time regarding masks, physical distancing, etc. If you do not feel comfortable being present for these graveside blessings please feel free to ask Father to serve the memorial at the grave of your loved one(s) and he will gladly do so.