



Ukrainian Orthodox Church of St. John the Baptist Paschal Newsletter, April 2019

Confession and Communion for the elderly and infirm. Orthodox Christians traditionally approach for Confession and Communion before Pascha. Fr. Bohdan will gladly bring communion to any of our elderly or infirm parishioners in their house, nursing home, or the hospital. Please contact him to arrange for a convenient day and time.

Saturday, the 20th - Lazarus Saturday. *Heb. 12: 28 - 13:8; Jn. 11: 1-45.* The Divine Liturgy with Requiem will be served at 9:30 AM.

Great Vespers with Litia will be served at 5 PM.

Sunday, April 21st—Palm Sunday, the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem. *Phil. 4: 4-9; Jn. 12: 1-18.* The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom with the blessing of willow branches will be served at 10:00 AM. Confession from 9:00 A.M. Our sisterhood members will be collecting money for flowers for the Lord's Tomb after Liturgy.

Wednesday, the 24th—Great and Holy Wednesday. The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts will be served at 9:30 A.M. *Exodus 2:11-22; Job 2:1-10; Mt. 26:6-16.* Confession from 9 AM.

Thursday, the 25th—Holy Thursday, Commemoration of the Last Supper. The Vespereal Divine Liturgy will be served at 9:30 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.*

Thursday, the 25th—Matins of Great and Holy Friday, “Strasti,” with the reading of the 12 Passion Gospels, will be served from 6—8 PM.

Friday, the 26th—Great and Holy Friday. The Royal Hours will be served from 9:30 - 11:00 AM

Vespers with the procession of the Holy Shroud will be served at 5 P.M. All altar servers and sacristans are asked to be in the Church no later than 4:30 P.M. to review the service order and responsibilities for the Paschal services.

Saturday, the 27th—Great and Holy Saturday. Commemoration of our Lord's Descent into Hades. The Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great will be served from 11 A.M.—1:30 PM. *Rm. 6:3-11; Mt. 28:1-20.* Confession from 10 AM.

All parishioners are encouraged to visit the Church today, whether to attend a service or simply venerate the plashchanytsia and hold vigil in silent contemplation. Those wishing to approach for confession before Pascha may do so this afternoon following Liturgy (Father will be in Church till approximately 4 PM), or between 7:00 and 9:00 P.M. this evening.

We will read the Acts of the Apostles from 7:00 till 9:00 P.M. All parishioners are encouraged to attend and are welcome to read a chapter.

The Midnight Office (“Graveside Service”) will be served at 9:00 P.M.

Sunday, the 28th—PASCHA. THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, GOD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST. *Acts 1: 1-8; Jn. 1: 1-17.* The Paschal Procession will begin at 5:30 A.M., followed immediately by Matins and the Paschal Divine Liturgy. The blessing of Paschal foods will take place after Liturgy.

During the Paschal Services when the priest greets us with the words “Khrystos Voskres!”/”Christ is Risen!” we reply “Voistynu Voskres!”/”Truly, He is Risen!”. Towards the end of Matins, during the Paschal Verses, at the words “Let us embrace each other joyously”, Father will proceed out to the ambon, and everyone should then proceed forward to exchange the paschal kiss (i.e., they kiss each other thrice on the cheeks) and receive from him a red egg.

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. Plan to participate in this joyful, beautiful and unique service!

Monday, the 29th—Bright Monday. The Paschal Divine Liturgy will be served at 9:30 A.M. *Acts 1: 12 - 17, 21 -26; Jn. 1: 18 - 28.*

The Blessing and Groundbreaking ceremony for our new parish hall will be held after Liturgy, at 11 AM, in the parking lot to the west of the Church. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

Saturday, May 4th—Great Vespers will be served at 5 PM.

Sunday, May 5th—Antipascha, Sunday of the Doubting Thomas. *Acts 5: 12 - 20; Jn. 20 - 19 - 31.* The Liturgy will be served at 10 AM. Following the Liturgy everyone is invited to the Fellowship Room under the Church for our traditional “Sviachene” Paschal meal.

Decorum during Holy Week Services. Passion week is the most solemn week of the entire year. All pious Orthodox Christians should attend as many services as possible—as a minimum, to attend one of the services on Holy Thursday; the Holy Friday evening service; and one of the services on Holy Saturday. Confession and Communion are available on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday of Holy Week. When in church we should REFRAIN FROM ANY AND ALL UNNECESSARY CONVERSATION. Our attention should be focused on the events which we are commemorating—the betrayal, suffering, crucifixion, and death of our Lord. We should be contemplating our own sins, for which He suffered and died. We thank you in advance for contributing to a quiet and pious atmosphere in Church.

Parish Bulletin. In order to better communicate with our parishioners and friends, as well as to save trees, we now circulate our parish bulletin by e-mail. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive the bulletin by e-mail, please forward your or their e-mail address to Fr. Bohdan at bhradio@sympatico.ca. This is an excellent way for all those who are away at school, homebound, who live at some distance from the church, etc. to maintain contact with their parish. Thank you!

Please accept our best wishes for a worthy celebration of Holy Week and Pascha!

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

Ss. Volodymyr and Ol’ha Cemetery in Courtice: on Sunday, May 5th, beginning at 1:30 PM according to the following order— west section, south section, central section, north section.

Thornton Cemetery in Oshawa: on Sunday, May 5th, beginning at 4:00 PM.

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

St. Volodymyr Cemetery in Oakville: on Sunday, May 12th, beginning at 2:00 PM.

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