

Sunday, April 10, 2022

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ST. ATHANASIUS UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH 55 MCMURCHY AVENUE REGINA SK. S4R 3G3

Parish Priest: Fr. Vasyl Tymishak

Cell Phone: 306-519-9030

Parish Office: 306-543-8008 E-mail: stathanasius@sasktel.net

Website: www.st-athanasius.ca

Facebook: https://facebook.com/reginaukrainiancatholicnorth/live

Parish Council President – Len Markewich
UCWLC President – Iryna Baran
UCBC President - Mark Woitas

Cell phone (call or text) : 306-536-4252
Seniors' Club President – Angie Lawryk
Ultimate A&B Youth - Lesia Lazurko

Knights of Columbus – James Empey, Grand Knight

Parish Coordinator of Care (PCC) - Mary Lou Senko @ 306-525-6437

ROSARY: Sunday – 9:10 a.m. (livestreaming)

DIVINE LITURGY: Sunday - 9:30 a.m. for the faithful. (livestreaming)

Weekday Liturgies - as scheduled

Confessions before every Divine Liturgy & Week Day Liturgies - As per the schedule

MEMBERSHIP AT ST. ATHANASIUS PARISH is recognized by <u>participating</u> in the Sunday Divine Liturgy and by fulfilling your baptismal responsibility in <u>contributing</u> to our Church Community activities by using your time, talents and treasures. Regular financial donations by use of Sunday envelopes is necessary for our parish to grow and prosper.

Please contact Fr. Vasyl if you know of any parishioner who is sick and wants to be visited.

St. John Paul II Syro-Malabar Parish – Fr. Daris Cherian

Phone: 1-416-262-9670

Parish Council Trustee – Arun Abraham Phone: (1-306-891-4302) E-mail: <u>abru.arun@gmail.com</u>

April 10, 2022 Vol. 50, No. 15



Although masks are not mandatory in our parish, we strongly encourage you to continuing wearing a mask!

СЛАВА ІСУСУ ХРИСТУ! СЛАВА НАВІКИ! GLORY BE TO JESUS CHRIST! GLORY BE FOREVER!

Welcome to all visitors and parishioners who are celebrating the Liturgy with us today. All are invited to the auditorium for coffee, juice, and cake to help us celebrate the First Holy Communicants.

TO ALL PARISHIONERS: During our Livestream and Videotaping, the video may capture the



likeness of those parishioners sitting in the pews during our services. This video will be kept for a maximum of 45 days. Other than those who choose to view the livestream as it happens, the video will not be released to third parties. As our video will stream on Facebook, we will comply with that website's regulations.

If you are uncomfortable being on video, please advise the Greeters when you enter the church and they will place you in a pew where you will not be captured.

Please join our services by visiting our website and clicking on the Livestream icon: https://st-athanasius.ca/ or on Facebook:

https://facebook.com/reginaukrainiancatholicnorth/live

WILLOW (PALM) SUNDAY - The Lord's Entrance Into Jerusalem

FIRST ANTIPHON: I love the Lord because He hears the voice of my supplication.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Because He has inclined His ear to me, I will call upon Him all my days.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

The pangs of death encircled me; the dangers of Hades caught me.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

I met with anguish and pain, I called upon the name of the Lord.

Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us.

Glory be . . . now and forever . . . : Only Begotten Son

THIRD ANTIPHON: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

TROPAR (Tone 1): Before Your passion, Christ our God, You gave proof of the resurrection of all by raising Lazarus from the dead. Like the children, we too, bear banners of victory and cry out to You the conqueror of death: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"

Let the house of Israel say that He is good and His mercy endures forever.

Before Your passion. . . .

Let the house of Aaron say that He is good and His mercy endures forever.

Before Your passion. . . .

Let all those who fear the Lord say that He is good and His mercy endures forever.

Before Your passion. . . .

AT THE LITTLE ENTRANCE: Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, We blessed you from the house of the Lord. The Lord is God and He has appeared to us.

Before Your passion. . . .

TROPAR (Tone 4): Buried with you in baptism, Christ our God, we have been made worthy of immortal life by Your resurrection. In praise we cry out: "Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.!"

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and for ever and ever. Amen!

KONDAK (Tone 6): Seated on Your throne in heaven, Christ our God, You received the praise of the angels, and riding the colt on earth, the shouts of the children. They cried out: "Blessed are You who came to restore Adam!"

PROKIMEN (Tone 4): Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, the Lord is God and has appeared to us.

VERSE: Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever.

EPISTLE: A reading from the Holy Apostle Paul to the Philippians (4: 4-9)

Brothers and Sisters! Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again, Rejoice! Everyone should see how unselfish you are. The Lord is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your

needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus. Finally, my brothers, your thoughts should be wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous, or worthy of praise. Live according to what you have learned and accepted, what you have heard me say and seen me do. Then will the God of peace be with you.

ALLELUIA VERSES: Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done wondrous deeds.

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

GOSPEL: John 12: 1-18

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the village of Lazarus whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they gave him a banquet, at which Martha served. Lazarus was one of those at table with him. Mary brought a pound of costly perfume made from genuine aromatic nard, with which she anointed Jesus' feet. Then she dried his feet with her hair, and the house was filled with the ointment's fragrance. Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one about to hand him over), protested: "Why was not this perfume sold? It could have brought three hundred silver pieces, and the money have been given to the poor." (He did not say this out of concern for the poor, but because he was a thief. He held the purse, and used to help himself to what was deposited there.) To this Jesus replied: "Leave her alone. Let her keep it against the day they prepare me for burial. The poor you always have with you, but me you will not always have." The great crowd of Jews discovered he was there and came out, not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. The fact was, the chief priests planned to kill Lazarus too, because many Jews were going over to Jesus and believing him on account of Lazarus. The next day the great crowd that had come for the feast heard that Jesus was to enter Jerusalem, so they got palm branches and came out to meet him. They kept shouting: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!" Jesus found a donkey and mounted it, in accord with Scripture: "Fear not, O daughter of Zion! Your king approaches you on a donkey's colt." (At first, the disciples did not understand all this, but after Jesus was glorified they recalled that the people had done to him precisely what had been written about him.) The crowd that was present when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead kept testifying to it. The crowd came out to meet him because they had heard he had performed this sign.

INSTEAD OF 'It is truly right': O my soul, extol the Lord, who sat on a donkey. God the Lord has appeared to us; let us celebrate the feast, and let us rejoice and extol Christ. With palms and branches in hand, let us raise our voices to Him in praise, saying: "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, the Lord is God and has appeared to us. Alleluia! Alleluia!

PROSTRATION REFRAIN: You have suffered the passion for us, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us!



Everyone is welcome to stay for coffee and cake today in the auditorium to help us celebrate our parish families three First Solemn Holy Communion recipients.

Congratulations to Connor Spruyt, Brinna Yanko and Harrison Yung on reaching this Sacramental milestone.

Karen Woitas



The Blessing and distribution of Pussy Willows will follow today's Liturgy. Please, limit one branch of willows per family.



St. Athanasius UCWLC is pleased to announce that Iryna Baran and her new Executive were installed at a meeting on Sunday, April 3rd, 2022. Thank you for taking on the positions. May God bless you all. May our Patroness, Our Lady of Pochaiv, guide you and protect you as you take on a new chapter in your lives.



COFFEE SCHEDULE: Coffee and socializing after Sunday Divine Liturgy has resumed. Please, if you can sign up for a Sunday to serve coffee, juice and cookies this would be very much appreciated. Coffee schedule sign up sheets are located in the front foyer desk and on the kitchen table. If no one signs up for serving this would be an indicator no one is interested in

having coffee after Sunday Divine Liturgy and will be discontinued. Also, the parish is looking for someone to be in charge of purchasing supplies for this weekly event. If you have questions, Carl and Linda Korchynski would be able to answer them. Please, help out when you can.

	APRIL GREETERS
April 10 (Palm Sunday)	Carl & Linda Korchynski
April 15 (Good Friday)	Rosanne Miller
April 17	TBD
April 24	Carl & Linda Korchynski

March 2022 Parish Council Highlights Hello everyone,

As a way to improve communication with all of you as St. Athanasius Parishioners we will be including a brief recap of the recent parish Council meeting. If there is other information you would like to know about do not hesitate to contact Parish Council.

Financial Update

- Inquiries regarding the balance of accounts is available by contacting the Parish office.

Business Arising

- The website re development continues as Father has looked at a first draft and will continue working with the developer on improvements.
- We will be meeting with our security company regarding the purchase of outdoor security cameras for the parish complex and the rectory.
- The photo icon project for the front lobby continues to be developed with installation hopefully by fall.
- Restarting Coffee we have restarted coffee after Sunday Liturgy. Please sign up to serve coffee as it can only happen with your support.
- Support for Ukraine The donations are noted weekly in the bulletin your generosity is very much appreciated, and Father Vasyl has begun the process of distributing funds.
- Mask Policy while the provincial mandates have expired, St. Athanasius will continue to encourage mask wearing while entering the parish and
- during Liturgy. Please respect everyone's choice regarding masks.

New Business

- Tabulators Parish Council would like to create a list of tabulators to count the donation envelopes on Sundays. Please see the notice in the bulletin on how you can help. We hope to start this after Easter.
- Seminarian The Eparchy notified St. Athanasius and St. Basils that Regina will be home to a seminarian and his family for a year starting sometime this summer. While there will be some financial costs to our Parish \$300 per month he will be able to assist with our parish needs as well.
- Rectory the Spring melt resulted in water seeping into the basement of the rectory. We have contacted an engineer to look for possible solutions at a reasonable cost.
- Marian Centre Lunch Project The Marian Centre has asked for support for their bagged lunch program. Parish Council is considering the request to buy groceries for approximately 130 lunches.

Thanks for your continued support as we are still negotiating this pandemic. *St. Athanasius Parish Council*

HOLY WEEK AND RESURRECTION CELEBRATION FOR ST. ATHANASIUS and Moose Jaw Pastoral District

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE April 11 - April 17, 2022

April 11 - HOLY MONDAY

6:30 p.m. Catechism

April 12 - HOLY TUESDAY

6:30 p.m. Confessions by Fr.Warren

7:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts with anointing of the sick livestreaming

APRIL13 - HOLY WEDNESDAY - No services at St. A's

6:30 p.m. Confessions at St. Basil's

7:00 p.m. Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts with anointing of the sick at St. Basil's

April 14 - HOLY THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. – Service of The Holy Passion with 12 Gospels – (Preparing the church for Holy Week Services) *livestreaming*



April 15 - GOOD FRIDAY

11:00 a.m. Holy Shroud Service in Moose Jaw

3:00 p.m. Vespers with Exposition Of The Holy Shroud *livestreaming*

7:00 p.m. Jerusalem Matins livestreaming

APRIL 16 - HOLY SATURDAY

10:00 a.m. Paschal Divine Liturgy in Glentworth

4:30 p.m. NADROBNE SERVICE IN THE CHURCH AND BLESSING OF EASTER BASKETS *livestreaming*



APRIL 17 - EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 a.m. Paschal Matins (Resurrection Matins) followed by DL with Bishop Bryan Bayda *livestreaming*Blessing of Easter Baskets following DL

1:30 p.m. Paschal Matins - Divine Liturgy - baskets blessing in

Moose Jaw



DONATIONS for Easter flowers to decorate our church for Easter are now being accepted. Please use either the specifically marked envelopes provided at the back of the church, e-transfers, or include with your regular donations and indicate "Easter flower donation". Thank you.



PRIEST'S EASTER GIFT is a gift of love and a tax receipt cannot be issued. If issuing a cheque, please make it payable to Fr. Vasyl Tymishak.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL: For health care worker

We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries, may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

APRIL FOOD BANK ITEM - BEANS

SPECIAL COLLECTION – HOLY LAND: as directed by the Chancery Office, the special collection for the month of April will be for the support of Christian communities, the needs of the church and upkeep of holy sites in the Holy Land. Please use the marked "Holy Land" envelopes provided in your donation box or the envelopes marked "Holy Land" at the back of the church.

SPRING DANCE - St. Basil's Parish Centre, 1717 Toronto St., Regina, SK. on Saturday, May 7th, 2022. Tickets \$25:00 each, deadline May 1st. Music by the Zayshley Band. For more information regarding this event, please contact Waverly at 306-537-6007, Myron at 306-352-8425, Nestor 306-761-0469 or Ukrainian Co-op at 306-522-3125.



21st Annual Divine Mercy Conference will be held on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24, 2022 at Our Lady of Peace Parish, 425 Broad St. N., Regina SK. Program begins at 1:30 pm, with a welcome and presentation by Shirley Oleskiw, Adoration & Prayers, followed by the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 3:05 pm celebrated by Very Rev. James Owolagba. His presentation will take place during his homily.

NOTICE: Although though there are no restrictions on numbers who can attend church services, some people are not comfortable in group settings, therefore we continue our livestreaming of services. Our parish expenses continue and it would be very much appreciated if you could continue to support the parish. There are a few options available to you: drop off your envelope at 54 McMurchy Avenue, mail in your cheque to 55 McMurchy Avenue, Regina, S4R 3G3, or you can also do an e-transfer to stathandeposit@sasktel.net. PLEASE COMPLETE THE MESSAGE FIELD and DO NOT USE ALIAS NAMES WHEN SENDING AN E-TRANSFER DONATION.

April 3 Donations: 33 Sunday donation envelopes - \$2,415; 1 Building Fund envelope - \$20; 3 Easter Flowers envelopes - \$50; 1 Lenten Mission envelope - \$30; 6 St. A's Appeal for Ukraine Envelopes - \$965; 2 Easter Offerings envelopes - \$150, 1 Holy Land Offering envelope - \$100; 1 Eparchial Charities envelope - \$100 Decals & Ribbons - \$175; 2 Visitor envelopes - \$30; Loose Change - \$40.

E-Transfers – 6 Regular donations - \$660; 1 St. A's Appeal for Ukraine - \$400; 10 Pre-authorized Giving - \$1,675.



Let us pray for peace and the lives of our brothers and sisters in Ukraine.

ST. A'S APPEAL FOR AID TO UKRAINE



As we witness the horrors occurring throughout Ukraine many are asking, how they can help.

St. Athanasius has created the Aid for Ukraine Appeal that will run throughout April. Anyone who wishes to donate can do so in person, using the Aid for Ukraine envelopes available at the church, or online using "Aid for Ukraine Appeal" and your envelope number in the message box. All donations will be included on your 2022 Income Tax receipt. Also, you may etransfer, to stathandeposit@sasktel.net. Please note you are non-parishioner making a donation, please to complete the message field stating donation to Aid to Ukraine, your complete name and address so we can mail a receipt to you at the end of the year.

In the first two weeks of the campaign, your generous donations allowed us to send \$5005.00 to CNEWA (Catholic Near East Welfare Association), which with their matching campaign resulted in over \$10,000 being forwarded to help the people of Ukraine.

As the needs of millions of refugees continues to evolve, Father Vasyl has asked that we adapt our donations to help those refugees arriving in Regina or forwarded for those in need in Ukraine and we will be working with local and provincial organizations to have those valuable dollars have the maximum impact.

Thank You and God Bless, St. Athanasius Parish Council



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon Українська Католицька Єпархія Саскатуну

Employment Opportunity
Eparchy of Saskatoon
Archivist, Office Assistant

Part-time scheduled (14 hours per week)

The Eparchy of Saskatoon is accepting applications for a Part-time scheduled position of Archivist, Office Assistant (14 hours per week) on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with some flexibility. Safeguarding Protocols will be required, including Criminal Record Check, (prior to interview), and Covenant of Care Training for the successful applicant. Duties will commence on May 03, 2022. Please submit any inquiries and application with a cover letter and resume to admin.skeparchy@sasktel.net by 4:30 p.m., Friday April 22, 2022. Interviews will be arranged for April 25-27.

Summary and Accountability:

Under the direction of the Bishop and/or Chancellor or his designate, the Archivist, Office Assistant works to create, organize, and maintain the Eparchial archives. The Archivist will be responsible for the conservation of historical (or inactive) records as well as the management and systematic maintenance of current (or active) records in both paper and electronic form including the Data Management System. The successful candidate will assist with answering phone calls and door inquiries. This position has potential for increases in both hours worked and responsibilities agreed upon.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF SASKATCHEWAN CORPORATION

When: MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2022

(NOTE: This will be a virtual meeting via the Zoom meeting facility)

Time: Registration (Sign into Zoom) – 7:00pm to 7:30pm

Annual General Meeting – 7:30pm

Where: This will be a virtual meeting via the ZOOM Meeting facility.

MEMBERS WISHING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MUST REGISTER WITH THE UCFSASK OFFICE VIA EMAIL (<u>ADMIN@UCFSASK.ORG</u>) OR TELEPHONE (306-653-0138, EXT 223) BY NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022 – 4:00PM. A ZOOM MEETING INVITE WILL BE SENT TO ALL WHO HAVE REGISTERED FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Who: All members of a Ukrainian Catholic parish or mission within the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon who are 18 years of age or older are entitled to participate and vote at the meeting.

Purpose: This meeting is being called for the purposes of:

Approving the Financial Statement Reviewer's Report and the Annual Financial Statements for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2021.

Approving Bylaws or Amendment to the Bylaws – see below.

Reporting of activities and motions of the Directors to the membership Electing Directors

For transacting such other business as may properly come before an Annual General Meeting.

Access to Documents: Annual Meeting Documents and the Financial Statements are posted on the Ukrainian Catholic Foundation of Saskatchewan website – <u>www.ucfsask.org</u> .You may also pick- up copies at the Foundation Office at 214 Avenue M South, Saskatoon Sask.

Bylaw Changes: Bylaw 6.6 & Bylaw 6.9 – Change to allow Eparch to appoint a proxy for meeting of Members.

Bylaw 7.6 - ineligible for election after eleven months to "after 5th term ended" from after eleven months "after 3rd tern ended".

UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC FOUNDATION OF SASKATCHEWAN CORPORATION Call for Nominations to the Board of Directors of Ukrainian Catholic Foundation of Saskatchewan

The Ukrainian Catholic Foundation of Saskatchewan is searching for people who are interested in serving on our Board of Directors. To qualify, a person must be 18 years of age or older, a resident of Canada and a member in good standing with a Ukrainian Catholic Parish or Mission within the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon.

The Board has two vacancies from the Saskatoon Deanery. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors as a Deanery Representative from the Saskatoon Deanery, please contact the Office Administrator, Iris Owchar at 306-653-0138, ext 223, or email your intention to admin@ucfsask.org. Each nomination will require a letter of support from your Pastor. Nominations will close on Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 4:00pm. Directors will be elected at the Annual Meeting on Monday, April 25, 2022.



Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon Catholic Youth Leadership Academy



Facilitator Position Description 2022-2023

What is CYLA?

CYLA is a leadership training program (14+) based on the Salesian program of St. John Bosco. This program has been adapted for our Canadian youth and our Byzantine Ukrainian Catholic faith.

CYLA Goals:

- to form young leaders who will serve our parishes, camps, and places of need.
- to evangelize and form missionary disciples who will inspire and courageously profess their faith.
- to equip young leaders with the knowledge of our Byzantine Ukrainian Catholic tradition (based on the UGCC Catechism "Christ Our Pascha").

• to build a unique inspiring community of young people who love Christ and want to follow the footsteps of the missionary spirit of Holy Mary.

Position	Program Facilitator (Age 20-37)				
Employer	Eparchial Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office				
Facilitator Benefits	 CYLA Leadership Training Certificate granted by the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon on behalf of the Eparch of Saskatoon. Volunteer hours (if needed). Honorarium of \$600.00. 				
# of Positions	5				
To apply	Apply online CYLA Online Application https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSdUjYLyd7U7Sf3GNFn2EC-ctLyLLrduj5BJiajG7lAsehVquw/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0				
Application Deadline	April 29, 2022				
Personal requirements	 A faith-filled young adult or an adult actively living the faith and possessing a commitment to and understanding of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. A genuine affection for young people and children. 				
_	Enthusiastic, and with the fire to serve and to spread love.				
Program requirements	 Must attend training sessions which consists of: two-hour introductory meeting in the beginning of May. two-hour zoom meeting with a Salesian trainer and facilitators in June 2022. one full weekend with two overnight stays (Friday evening – Sunday evening) in August 26-28, 2022. Transportation will be provided. Under the supervision of Eparchial Youth Minister and together with other facilitators, to be responsible for organizing and leading CYLA 2022-2023. This includes: assist and participate in promoting CYLA (May – September 2022) – to be a part of promoting team. attend organizational meetings and contribute to organizing CYLA program. be present and facilitate at least three weekends out of four that are required by the program for the participants (September 23-25, November 18-20, March 10-12, May 26-28) with two overnight stays. Transportation to and from sites will be provided. throughout the year, in community with other facilitators, be accompanied by a Salesian trainer via zoom in order to share experiences, to grow, to improve the program, to strengthen community and support each other. After completion of the 2022-2023 CYLA Program attend the final feedback session with a Salesian trainer and facilitators in June 2023 provide evaluation of the program. 				
Document Requirements	Criminal Record Check & Vulnerable Sector Search (Annual Affirmation of Status) Safeguarding training Modules, I, II Sign Covenant of Care Commitment form and Confidentiality Agreement				
Program mission:	Current First Aid & CPR BLS(C) Certification is an asset				
Be a light for all to see					
For More information puwitness2youth@skep	olease contact: Viktoriia Marko, 306-914-0355, parchy.org				



His Grace, Metropolitan Archbishop Lawrence Huculak, OSBM Його Високопреосвященство Митрополит Лаврентій Гуцуляк, ЧСВВ

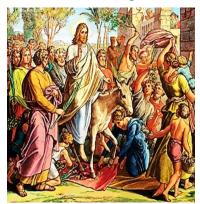
Easter Food Basket

Easter Food Basket

It is traditional that during the Great Fast (Lent), the faithful fast and abstain from meat and dairy products as much as possible. To show their joy and gratitude at the end of this time of fasting, people take to Church baskets of food which are to be blessed and then consumed on Easter morning to "break-fast". The traditional Ukrainian Easter morning breakfast of hard-boiled eggs, various meats, sausages and ham, butter, decorative paska, salt, horseradish, and cheese is a very special treat. This meal is very much looked forward to, especially in light of the symbolism of the foods that are consumed. In the Ukrainian tradition, the Easter basket foods symbolize:

Paska — Christ, Our Bread of Life
Eggs — New Life and the Resurrection of Christ
Horseradish — The Passion of Christ
Bacon — God's Mercy
Cheese — the moderation that Christians should show in all things
Salt — The duty of Christians to others
Ham — The great Joy and abundance of Easter
Butter — The goodness of Christ
Kovbasa — God's favor and generosity

Palm Sunday



The Holy Week before Easter begins with Palm Sunday, also known as Willow Sunday (Flowery Sunday). In the liturgical hymns of Palm Sunday, we sing of the children of Jerusalem, who greeted Christ as King even though the Pharisees and scribes refused to accept Him: "O, evil and adulterous generation, why have you treated your Lord so faithlessly? ... Why have you rejected the prophet's words which proclaim him? Your own children sang to your shame today: 'Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'

Just as the people greeted Christ with branches from trees, so Christians also greet Christ with "palms of virtue" as he enters upon his voluntary Passion.

This day commemorates the triumphant entrance of Jesus into the city of Jerusalem,

when so many proclaimed Him "King" and placed palm branches on the ground in the path of His travel. In Ukraine, it was often very difficult to obtain palms for this day, so pussy willow branches were substituted. The pussy willow was one of the first trees to show signs of early spring life, so its branches were selected as the ones to be blessed at Sunday services and distributed to the faithful. After Palm Sunday services, it was customary for Ukrainians exiting church to gently tap each other with the blessed pussy willow branches.



But the tapping of friends with the pussy willow branches was actually a wish for good preparation for Easter time, a wish for good health, wealth and happiness. The tapping was usually accompanied by the phrase: "Не я б'ю – верба б'є, за тиждень – Великдень!" "The willow is hitting, I'm not hitting, one week from today, it will be Easter" The blessed willow branches were then taken home and were placed in front of, behind or above holy pictures in the home. These branches would replace the branches that had been placed the previous year. The branches which were taken down were carefully burned.

Holy Week - The Passion of Christ

During the Holy week services, you are encouraged to pray with us and spend some time in the church with family/personal quiet meditation and prayer on this special week of the year.



In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah gives witness to the suffering of the Servant of God, which the Church recognizes to be the suffering of Christ:

He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account. Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases; yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted. But he was

wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth (Is 53:3-7).

Jesus himself foretold his future Passion: "Everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be handed over to the Gentiles; and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again" (Lk 18:31-33). Christ voluntarily accepts suffering and death, in order to conquer death. "It was not death which accepted life, but Life which accepted death."

In her liturgical tradition, with various images presented by the sticheras of the Passion, the Church prayerfully hymns the salvific suffering of the Son of God. Allowing himself to be bound in the garden of Gethsemane, Christ unbinds the chains of sin of the forefather Adam.

Christ accepts the sentence of death, in order to offer the forgiveness of sins. With the reed, a sceptre of shame, Christ inscribes people into the Book of Life. With the stripping of his garments on Golgotha, Christ tears away the covering of hypocrisy from human sin. Allowing himself to be nailed to the cross the Lord puts an end to the desire of Adam for the forbidden fruit. Humanity's written record of sins is nailed to the cross, and the lance of the centurion tears as under our debt obligations.

The tree of the cross, an instrument of death, becomes the tree of life. The body of Christ, raised upon the cross, becomes a beacon of light, lit by God, in order to find the lost drachma—the sinner. The arms of Christ spread out upon the cross become the embrace of God and a blessing for all people. The place of the crucifixion becomes Paradise, because the tree of the Cross issues the shoot of life—Christ. He fell asleep on the cross and was pierced with the lance; and from his pierced side poured forth blood and water. Therefore, with blood he redeemed all the nations, and with water he cleansed them. He who dies from the famine of sinfulness feeds the human race with the Body that is flesh of his own flesh.