

Sunday Bulletin – April 5th, 2026
6th Sunday of Great Lent
Palm Sunday. The Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem.



Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church
1025 N Belle Vista Ave, Youngstown, Ohio 44509



Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian
Orthodox Church

Українська Православна
Церква Св Петра і Павла

1025 N. Belle Vista Ave
Youngstown, OH 44509

Phone: 330-799-3830

Email: stspeterpauluoc@gmail.com

Fr. Mykola Zomchak
Pastor

Anna Anderson
Choir Director

Chuck Woloschak
President of the Parish

Ministries:

Altar Servers
Church Choir
Church School
Adult Education

St. Mary's Sisterhood

Sts. Peter & Paul Brotherhood

Senior UOL Chapter

Junior UOL Chapter

Youth Ministry

Orphanage Mission Ministry

Bingo Team

Fr Mykola Zomchak - Editor

Website:

<https://www.stspeterpauluoc.org>

STS Peter & Paul UOC

*Having suffered the Passion for us,
O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us*



Sunday Bulletin – April 5th , 2026

6th Sunday of Great Lent

Palm Sunday. The Entry of the Lord into Jerusalem.

**In Memory of
Richard Joseph Sernulka** - bull 8

**In Memory of
Mykola Prychodczenko** - bull 9

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- **Orthodox Christianity 101:**
 - The Holy Week** - bull 16

CHANGEABLE PARTS OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

Tone 1 Troparion

By raising Lazarus from the dead before Your Passion, You confirmed the universal resurrection, O Christ God. Like the children with the palms of victory, we cry out to You, O Vanquisher of Death: “Hosanna in the highest!// Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord.”

Tone 4 Troparion

When we were buried with You in baptism, O Christ God, we were made worthy of eternal life by Your Resurrection. Now we praise You and sing: “Hosanna in the highest!// Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord!”

Tone 6 Kontakion

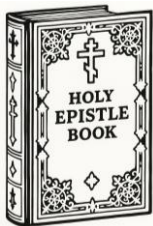
Sitting on Your throne in Heaven, carried on a foal on earth, O Christ God, accept the praise of angels and the songs of children, who sing:// “Blessed is He Who comes to recall Adam!”

(The Trisagion is sung.)

Tone 4 Prokeimenon

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. / God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us.
V. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever. (Ps. 117:1)

The Reading is from the Letter of St Paul to Philippians 4:4-9



Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Alleluia and Verses Tone 1

V. O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! (Ps. 97:1)

V. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. (Ps. 97:5)

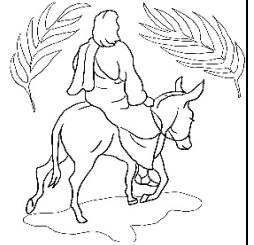
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

The reading is from the Gospel according to John 12:1-18



Then, six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was who had been dead, whom He had raised from the dead. There they made Him a supper; and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those who sat at the table with Him. Then Mary took a pound of very costly oil of spikenard, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon’s son, who would betray Him, said, Why

was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this for the day of My burial. For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." Now a great many of the Jews knew that He was there; and they came, not for Jesus' sake only, but that they might also see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. The next day a great multitude that had come to the feast, when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' The King of Israel!" Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written: "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt." His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness. For this reason the people also met Him, because they heard that He had done this sign.



(Instead of "It is truly meet..." we sing the following)

Hymn to the Theotokos

All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace: the assembly of angels and the race of men. O sanctified temple and spiritual paradise, the glory of virgins, from whom God was incarnate and became a Child – our God before the ages. He made your body into a throne, and your womb He made more spacious than the heavens. All of creation rejoices in you, O Full of Grace. Glory to you

Communion Hymn

Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord. God is the Lord and has revealed Himself to us

EMORY ETERNAL

PLEASE PRAY FOR RESTING OF THE SOULS

Andrew Kurty, Mary Kurty, David , George Bundy, Jimmy Johnson, Mary Johnson, James O'Neill, Andrew Kurty, James Cuddy, Larry Brasko
Sandy Burlock, Robert Rudolph, Patricia Mogish, Helen Fusco, Maria Koval-Melnykovich, Peter Hucul, Mary Bobersky, Walter Duzzny, Dennis Currie, Julian, Vasyl Zomchak, Heather Rhodes, Joe Zemko, Jeff Ulrich, Judy Cebriak, William Zylka, Serhiy, Pat Mamajack, Arlene Hawryluk, Mary C. Moon, Lidiia Zabrodina, Metro Senedak. Victims of the war in Ukraine.



PRAYER LIST

PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING, COMFORT, AND SPIRITUAL PEACE



Metropolitan Anthony, Archbishop Daniel, O'Meara, Bill Starr, Gene, Rasa, Fr. Philip, Dominick Woloschak, Beth Zets, Shirley Duffy, Denny Lightner, Kevin Finnerty, Alice Dobransky, Jamie Maluk, Alexandr, Missouri, Jane, Sam, Lorenzo, Lori, Christine Kline, Larry, Soldier Ivan, Dolly Mehalco, Stephen Shonn, Thelma Zemko, Artur Bohuslav, Lori Hayda, Shirley Duffy, Michele (Senediak) Caulder, Dobrodiyka Lilya, Sandy, Marilyn O'Leary, Harold Owens, Marianne Carmack, Nicholas Yurchyk, Pauline Witkowsky, Eileen Maluk, Peter Anderson, Albert Auden, Boris & Kathleen Vuksanovich, Kathy Zebel. People suffering from any illnesses. Ukrainian people suffering from war.

Liturgical Schedule & Feast Days

SERVICE AND FEAST DAY SCHEDULE



* (HEARING CONFESSIONS ON SUNDAYS BEFORE LITURGY 8:30AM - 9:15AM)

- Sunday, April 5, 9:30 AM – **Divine Liturgy, 6th Sunday of Great Lent**
PALM SUNDAY. THE ENTRY OF THE LORD INTO JERUSALEM.

PASSION WEEK:

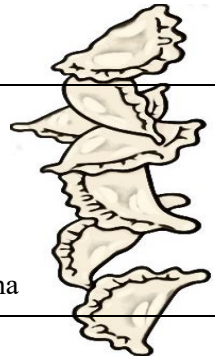
- Great Tuesday, April 7, 9:30 AM – **Divine Liturgy, THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**
- Great Wednesday, April 8, 6:30 PM – **Sacrament of Holy Unction**
- Great Thursday, April 9, 9:30 AM – **Divine Liturgy, the Mystical Supper**
- Great Thursday, April 9, 6:30 PM – **The Service of the 12 Passion Gospels**
- Great Friday, April 10, 6:30 PM – **Great Vespers. Procession with the Holy Shroud**
- Great Saturday, April 11, 6:30 PM – **Blessing of baskets at the Orthodox Center.**
5 pm to 7:30 pm - Veneration of Holy Shroud (Plaschanytsia)

PASCHA (Easter):

- **RESURRECTION SUNDAY, April 12, 8 AM – GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA:**
Paschal Procession, Resurrection Matins, & Festal Liturgy.

Pyrohy Schedule

ORDER BY DATE:	WORK DAYS	PICK-UP DAY
April 20	April 21 & 23	April 24
May 4	May 5 & 7	May 8
May 18	May 19 & 20 (Wed)	May 22
June 8	June 9 & 11	June 12



To Place the Order Please call or text – 234-247-1534, Anna

Upcoming dates & events

- Saturday, April 25 – **Super Bingo to sponsor a prosthetic for a wounded Ukrainian Soldier.**
- Sunday, July 12 - Fellowship on the Parish Feast Day

St. Mary`s sisterhood Updates:

1. 2026 Sisterhood dues - (\$10) must be paid by May 1.
2. Sisterhood Semi-Annual Flower Fund. *The donation will count toward Stewardship*
3. Sunday, April 26 - Memorial Service for the departed St Mary Sisterhood members.
4. Sunday, April 26 – Oath of Office of the newly elected St Mary Sisterhood officers.
5. Fellowship on the Parish Feast Day - July 12 Organized by the Sisterhood

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETINGS:



• Monetary Donations for Baskets

We are collecting monetary donations for prize baskets that will be raffled at the Super Bingo on April 25th.

Please contact Crystal or Yvonne if you would like to contribute. Thank you!

* Thank You Notes:

A big thank you for all the prayers, thinking-of-you cards, Easter cards, texts, and phone calls from our caring family, church family, and the Sunday School children too!

- With gratitude, JoAnn and Bernie Gnat



I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for the get well card from the juniors and school children. It was very warming and truly lifted my spirits. Thank you for your kindness and prayers.

- With gratitude, Beth Zets



* Palm Sunday Procession

On Palm Sunday, April 5, our Parish Children will participate in the procession with the Holy Gospel, waving palms and pussy willows.

* SUPER BINGO

on Saturday, April 25 – at Sts Peter & Paul Church **BEST BINGO IN TOWN**
To Support a Ukrainian Wounded Soldier towards Prosthetic.

!!! REGISTER SOON !!!

Special BINGO - Special PRIZES: Double - \$200, Triple Bingo - \$500, Coverall - \$1000

And Many of the Most Popular Instant Tickets.

\$50 Ticket Includes: 18-on cards and 12-on Special Pack and a Dinner
Additional 18-on is \$10, Additional 12-on Special is \$5

Pasta Dinner at 2pm - Bingo Starts at 4pm

TO REGISTER please follow the link below:

<https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/10938916>

TOWARDS PROSTHETIC



Best Bingo in Town at Sts Peter & Paul Church
SATURDAY, APRIL 25

AT 2:00 PM

SCAN TO REGISTER



**TO SUPPORT A UKRAINIAN WOUNDED SOLIER
TOWARDS PROSTHETIC**

Special Bingo - Special Prizes

Double - \$200 | Triple Bingo - \$500
 Overall - \$1000 | And many of
 the Most Popular Instant Ticket

- \$50 TICKET Includes: -

18-on cards and 12-on,
 Special Pack and a Dinner

Additional 18-on is \$10
 Additional 12-on Special is \$5

Pasta Dinner at 2pm
 Bingo Starts at 4pm



Would you like to donate to our Church?

WAYS TO SEND YOUR DONATIONS

1. BY MAIL TO THE CHURCH OFFICE AT



**STS PETER & PAUL UOC
 1025 N BELLE VISTA AVE
 YOUNGSTOWN OH 44509**



2. DONATE ONLINE ON STS. PETER & PAUL WEBPAGE –



<http://www.stspeterpauluoc.org/>
 and **CLICK ON** the **DONATE** button.

3. IN-PERSON AT SUNDAY DIVINE LITURGY



EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30AM



Oct. 18, 1956–April 10, 2021

In Blessed Repose
Richard Joseph Sernulka
who fell asleep in the Lord



Lovingly remembered by brothers,
John, Leonard, Michael & sister, Linda Pupa & Families

Memory Eternal
Vichnaya Pamyat



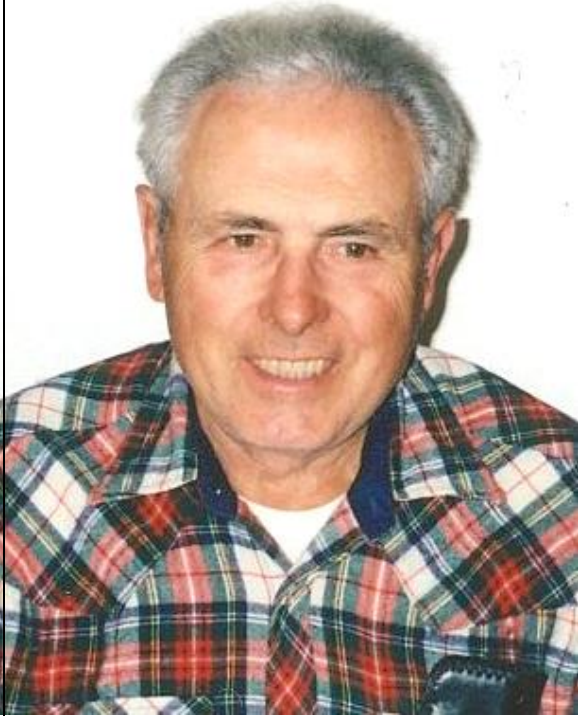
Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. John 11:25

IN MEMORY OF

**MYKOLA
PRYCHODCZENKO**

ON THE 2ND ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS PASSING AWAY

+ APRIL 6, 2024



**“HIS MEMORY BE FROM
GENERATION TO GENERATION”**



SADLY MISSED BY
THE ANDERSON FAMILY:
ANNA, DAVID, PETER,
KATHERINE, PETER,
NICHOLAS, LINDSAY,
SOPHIA, CHARLOTTE
AND WAYNE TIEDEMAN.

THIS MONTH OUR PARISH CELEBRATES



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2 Mary Lou Senediak	22 Mark Ames
3 Linda Pupa	23 Michael Crown
5 Mary M. Lane	24 Michael Zemko
8 Karen Semchee	25 Anthony Zomchak
9 Ben Mischev	26 Michael C Demetrius
9 Steven Novicky	27 Peter Anderson
10 Emily Whalen	27 Eileen Maluk
11 Jason Zets	28 Michael Ace Maluk
14 Sam Rusnov	28 Richard Yuschak
18 Joe Buzzelli	28 Samantha Moon
19 Anna Blair	30 Wayne Tiedeman

Dear Parishioners and Friends, WE NEED HELP!

Please offer your time to help at the Bingo kitchen on available dates (?)

BINGO KITCHEN WORK SCHEDULE 2026 (Updated Mar 19)

Date	Register	Server	Server
Mon., Apr. 6	Crystal Walkowiec	Hope Moran	Barb Ross
Mon., Apr. 13	Karen Semchee	Jeanna Savastano	?
Mon., Apr. 20	Crystal Walkowiec	Carla Rogenski	Christina Buccino
Mon., Apr. 27	Karen Semchee	?	?
Mon., May 4	Crystal Walkowiec	?	?
Mon., May 11	Karen Semchee	?	?
Mon., May 18	Crystal Walkowiec	?	?

Please call or text Annie Woloschak if you would like to help – 330-766-0182

OUR OFFERINGS TO THE LORD	On March 22	On March 29
General:	\$ 729.00	\$ 917.00
Renovation:	\$ 00.00	\$ 290.00
Online Donations on Tithe.ly	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00

Bulletin Dedication

(in memory of a loved one, or in honor for an anniversary)

<u>Sun Mar 1</u> 1. Dedicated 2. Dedicated	<u>Sun Mar 8</u> 1. Dedicated 2. Dedicated	<u>Sun Mar 15</u> 1. Available 2. Available	<u>Sun Mar 22</u> Not Available	<u>Sun Mar 29</u> 1. Dedicated 2. Available
<u>Sun Apr 5</u> 1. Dedicated 2. Dedicated	<u>Sun Apr 12</u> 1. Available 2. Available	<u>Sun Apr 19</u> 1. Available 2. Available	<u>Sun Apr 26</u> Not Available	

Reflections:



Humility is the quiet strength of a soul that knows its place before God. It is not thinking less of oneself, but seeing oneself truthfully — as a servant, as a receiver of grace, as one who depends entirely on God. A humble person does not need to elevate themselves, because they trust that their worth is already known by the One who created them.

In a world that encourages self-assertion, recognition, and the constant need to be right, humility becomes a path of freedom. It allows the soul to let go of the exhausting need to prove itself. It teaches us to listen rather than to dominate, to serve rather than to be served, and to accept correction without resentment.

Humility guards the heart from pride — that subtle voice that seeks to place the self at the center of everything. It gently redirects the soul toward God, where true life is found. And in doing so, it brings peace, because the soul no longer carries the weight of its own importance.

True humility is not weakness. It is the strength to remain steady when overlooked, the courage to admit fault, and the grace to place others before oneself. It is the same humility we see in Christ, who lowered Himself not out of necessity, but out of love.

Compassion is the movement of the heart that refuses to remain indifferent. It is the ability to see another's suffering and to be drawn toward it with love. It is not pity from a distance, but presence — a willingness to enter into the pain of another and to carry it, even in a small way.

A compassionate person does not ask, "Do they deserve this?" but rather, "How can I respond with love?" Compassion sees beyond faults, beyond differences, beyond judgments, and recognizes in every person the image of God.

In a world that often grows cold, hurried, and self-focused, compassion becomes a living witness to the Gospel. It slows us down. It teaches us to notice, to listen, and to care. It invites us to step out of ourselves and into the life of another.

Compassion is not always dramatic. Often, it is found in quiet acts — a listening ear, a gentle word, a patient presence. These small offerings, given with sincerity, become channels of God's grace in the world.



Palm Sunday

The Humble King and the Way of the Cross

On this Sunday, standing at the threshold of Holy Week, the Church sets before us the triumphant entry of Christ into Jerusalem. Crowds gather, garments are spread on the road, and branches are lifted in celebration. The people cry out, *"Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"* It is a moment filled with joy — yet beneath that joy lies a deeper mystery.

If the Sundays of Great Lent have guided us through repentance, purification, and illumination, Palm Sunday reveals the kind of King we are preparing to follow.

Christ enters Jerusalem not in power, but in humility. He rides on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy, showing that His kingdom is not of this world. He does not come to take a throne by force, but to ascend the Cross in love. The One whom the crowds welcome as King is the same One who will soon be rejected, condemned, and crucified.

This is the paradox placed before us. The same voices that cry *"Hosanna!"* will soon cry *"Crucify Him!"* The same city that welcomes Him will turn against Him. Palm Sunday reveals how easily human hearts can shift — how quickly enthusiasm can fade when Christ does not meet our expectations.

Yet Christ does not turn away. He enters Jerusalem knowingly. He accepts the praise of the people, but He does not cling to it. He continues forward, toward suffering, toward sacrifice, toward the Cross. His kingship is revealed not in earthly glory, but in self-emptying love.

Palm Sunday, then, is not only a celebration — it is an invitation. It calls us to examine the nature of our own faith. Do we follow Christ only when He brings comfort, peace, and blessing? Or are we willing to follow Him when the path leads to the Cross?

Like the crowd, we hold branches in our hands. But the Church asks for something greater than outward signs — it asks for a steadfast heart. A heart that does not waver when trials come. A heart that remains faithful not only in moments of joy, but also in moments of sacrifice.

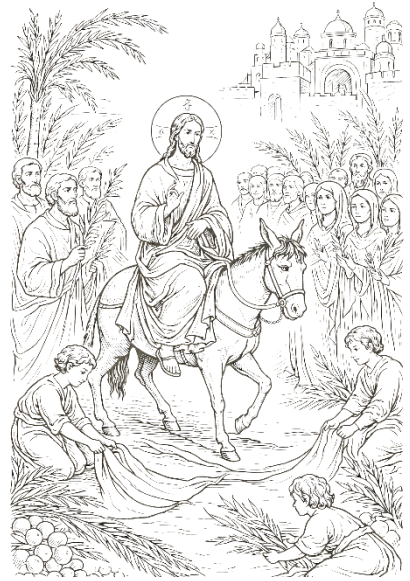
In this way, Palm Sunday prepares us for what lies ahead.

It teaches us that true glory is found in humility. That true victory is revealed through the Cross. And that the King we welcome today will reign not from an earthly throne, but from Golgotha.

As we enter Holy Week, let us walk with Christ not only in celebration, but in faithfulness. Let us follow Him from the waving of branches to the silence of the tomb, trusting that beyond the Cross lies the joy of the Resurrection.

For the One who enters Jerusalem in humility is the same One who will rise in glory.

May we receive Him not only with our lips, but with our lives.

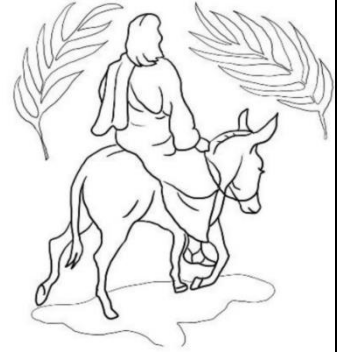


The Holy Week

Let us walk through the Holy Week together?

Palm Sunday – The Triumphal Entry

Reflection: Jesus enters Jerusalem not on a war horse, but on a humble donkey. The people lay down palm branches, cheering “Hosanna!” They hoped for a political savior, but Jesus came to save their souls. This day reminds us how quickly human hearts can shift—from praise to rejection. Are we welcoming Jesus for who He truly is, or for who we want Him to be?



Call to Action: Welcome Jesus into your life with sincerity. Take time today to ask: Do I truly accept Christ as Lord of my life, or only when it’s convenient? Spend a few minutes in prayer, intentionally surrendering your expectations and inviting Jesus to rule in your heart.

Holy Monday – Cleansing of the Temple



Reflection: Jesus enters the temple and drives out the merchants, declaring, “My house shall be called a house of prayer.” This act of righteous anger shows that God is not indifferent to corruption, especially when it hides under religious appearances. Our own hearts are temples—what needs to be cleansed? What have we allowed in that keeps us from true communion with God?

Call to Action: Purge the spiritual clutter. Reflect honestly: What habits, attitudes, or distractions are keeping me from intimacy with God? Write them down and ask Christ to help you let go. Make room for prayer, worship, and silence this week.

Holy Tuesday – Teaching and Warnings

Reflection: Jesus teaches powerfully in the temple, confronting the Pharisees and encouraging watchfulness. He praises the poor widow who gives all she has, not for show, but from love. On this day, Jesus challenges us to examine the sincerity of our hearts, and whether we live for God’s approval or for others’ praise.

Call to Action: Practice hidden faithfulness. Do something good today without telling anyone. Give anonymously, encourage someone privately, or pray for someone without them knowing. Let it be a gift of love to God, not a display for others.



Holy Wednesday – Betrayal Looms

Reflection: On this somber day, Judas agrees to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. Betrayal can come not only through great acts, but through small compromises of the heart. We are invited to examine how we may have wounded Christ through selfishness, pride, or indifference. And yet, Jesus doesn't run—He embraces the path ahead, even knowing the pain it will bring.

Call to Action: Search your heart for hidden betrayals. Where have you turned away from God this Lent—perhaps through resentment, judgment, or spiritual laziness? Confess it honestly. If possible, participate in the sacrament of confession or say a heartfelt prayer of repentance tonight.



Holy Thursday – The Last Supper



Reflection: On this holy evening, Jesus kneels to wash His disciples' feet, then shares bread and wine, offering His Body and Blood. In these moments, He gives us the Eucharist and the commandment to love as He has loved us. It's not a love of words, but of sacrifice and humility. Even as betrayal and death approach, Jesus responds with service.

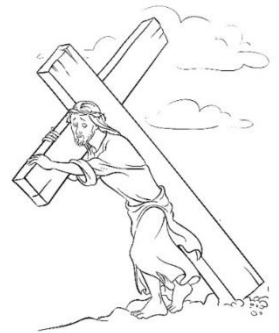
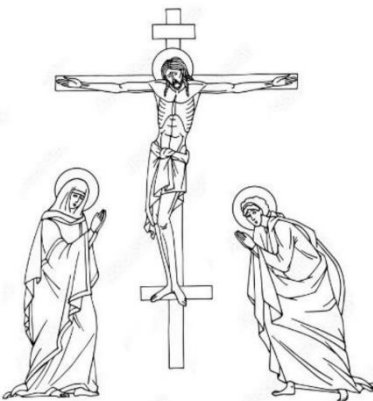
Call to Action: Love through humble service. Think of someone who may feel forgotten or burdened, and reach out with a small act of love—make a call, write a note, do a chore for someone, or simply listen deeply. Let your actions be Christlike—quiet, loving, and without condition.

Holy Friday – The Crucifixion

Reflection: Today the world falls silent as the Son of God hangs on the Cross. He is mocked, abandoned, and pierced—yet He utters, "Father, forgive them."

The Cross reveals the depth of divine love: not sentimental, but sacrificial. We are saved not by strength, but by surrender. Good Friday calls us to stand in awe of the price paid for our redemption.

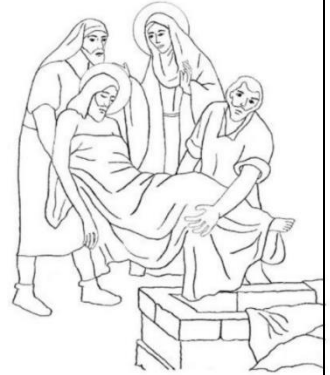
Call to Action: Honor the Cross with reverence. Set aside time today to meditate on the Passion. Read the Gospel account slowly. Attend or watch a Good Friday service if possible. If you can, fast or abstain from distractions. Let this day be sacred—entered with humility and deep gratitude.



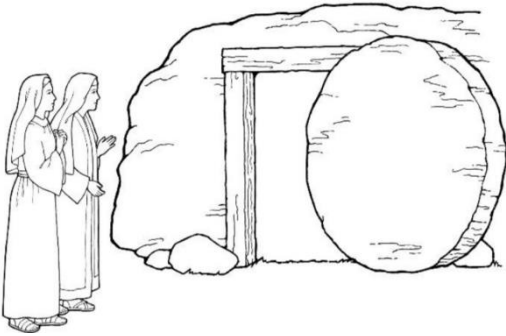
Holy Saturday – The Silence of the Tomb

Reflection: All is quiet. Jesus is in the tomb. The disciples are scattered, confused, afraid. Yet in this silence, God is not absent—He is working in mystery. Holy Saturday invites us to sit in the in-between, the not-yet, the uncertain. We are reminded that waiting is not wasted when it is filled with trust.

Call to Action: Enter the silence. Resist the urge to fill today with busyness or noise. Unplug for a while. Light a candle. Sit in stillness with God, especially if your life feels uncertain. Trust that even when you can't see it, resurrection is already on the way.



Pascha (Easter Sunday) – Christ is Risen!



Reflection: The tomb is empty! Death has been conquered, sin defeated, and hope restored. Christ is risen—not just in the past, but into our lives here and now. Easter is not only a celebration of joy, but a call to live as people of the Resurrection—with courage, compassion, and faith that nothing is beyond God's redeeming power.

Call to Action: Live like resurrection is real. Let the joy of Easter overflow. Forgive someone. Reconnect with someone. Speak life into someone's day. Celebrate—not just with words or feasting, but by becoming a source of light and hope to those around you. Christ is risen—let that truth shape your life.

We cannot rise with Christ on Pascha unless we first walk with Him through the pain of Holy Week. The Cross comes before the Resurrection.

PASSION WEEK:

- Great Tuesday, April 7, 9:30 AM – **Divine Liturgy, THE ANNUNCIATION**
- Great Wednesday, April 8, 6:30 PM – **Sacrament of Holy Unction**
- Great Thursday, April 9, 9:30 AM – **Divine Liturgy, the Mystical Supper**
- Great Thursday, April 9, 6:30 PM – **The Service of the 12 Passion Gospels**
- Great Friday, April 10, 6:30 PM – **Great Vespers. Procession with the Holy Shroud**
- Great Saturday, April 11, 6:30 PM – **Blessing of baskets at the Orthodox Center.**
5 pm to 7:30 pm - Veneration of Holy Shroud (Plaschanytsia)

PASCHA (Easter):

- **RESURRECTION SUNDAY, April 12, 8 AM – GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA: Paschal Procession, Resurrection Matins, & Festal Liturgy.**

Orthodox Christianity 101

Holy Week

In the Orthodox Church the last week of Christ's life is officially called Passion Week. In popular terminology it is called Holy Week. Each day is designated in the service books as "great and holy." There are special services every day of the week which are fulfilled in all churches. Earthly life ceases for the faithful as they "go up with the Lord to Jerusalem" (Matins of Great and Holy Monday).

Each day of Holy Week has its own particular theme. The theme of Monday is that of the sterile fig tree which yields no fruit and is condemned. Tuesday the accent is on the vigilance of the wise virgins who, unlike their foolish sisters, were ready when the Lord came to them. Wednesday the focus is on the fallen woman who repents. Great emphasis is made in the liturgical services to compare the woman, a sinful harlot who is saved, to Judas, a chosen apostle who is lost. The one gives her wealth to Christ and kisses his feet; the other betrays Christ for money with a kiss.

On each of these three days the Gospel is read at the Hours, as well as at the Vespers when the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts is served. The Old Testament readings are from Exodus, Job, and the Prophets. The Gospel is also read at the Matins services which are traditionally called the "Bridegroom" services because the general theme of each of these days is the end of the world and the judgment of Christ. It is the common practice to serve the Bridegroom services at night.

Behold, the bridegroom comes in the middle of the night and blessed is the servant whom he shall find watching, and unworthy the servant whom he shall find heedless. Take care then, O my soul, and be not weighed down by sleep that you will not be given over unto death and be excluded from the Kingdom. But rise up and call out: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou O God, by the Theotokos have mercy on us (Troparion of the First Three Days).

During the first three days of Holy Week, the Church prescribes that the entire Four Gospels be read at the Hours up to the point in each where the passion of Christ begins. Although this is not usually possible in parish churches, an attempt is sometimes made to read at least one complete Gospel, privately or in common, before Holy Thursday.

As the week progresses toward its climax, the services deepen in intensity and solemnity, leading the faithful step by step into the mystery of Christ's suffering, death, and burial. Holy Thursday commemorates the Mystical Supper, the institution of the Eucharist, and the betrayal by Judas, while Holy Friday is devoted entirely to the Passion and Crucifixion of the Lord. The Church's hymns and readings on these days are especially profound, calling the faithful to contemplate both the depth of human sin and the immeasurable love of God revealed on the Cross. The liturgical life of the Church becomes a living participation in these sacred events, rather than a mere remembrance of them.

Finally, Holy Saturday stands as a day of quiet expectation and awe, commemorating Christ's descent into Hades and His victory over death. It is a day marked by both mourning and hope, as the Church reflects on the mystery of life hidden within the tomb. The faithful are invited to remain spiritually vigilant, awaiting the radiant joy of the Resurrection. Thus, Holy Week as a whole becomes a journey—from watchfulness and repentance, through suffering and sacrifice, to the triumph of life over death—calling every believer to enter more deeply into the saving work of Christ.

