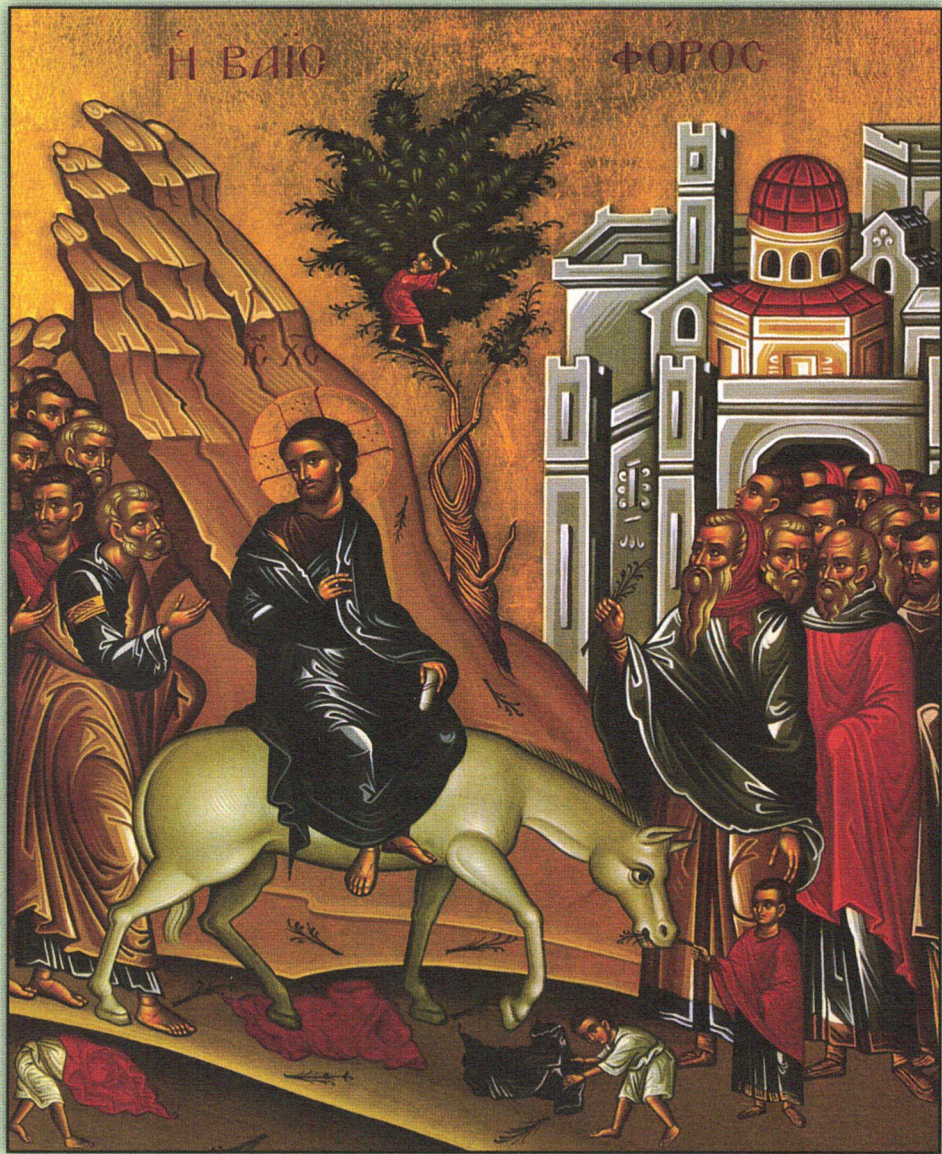


THE ENTRANCE INTO JERUSALEM
PALM SUNDAY



Icon of the Entrance into Jerusalem

Hailing the Way, the Truth, and the Life

All the deceased will arise at the sound of the trumpet and sing praise to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Resurrector of their bodies. O Father who created Adam from dust, O Son who by your cross delivered Adam's race from ruin, resurrect me and set me at your right hand, that I might glorify your name!

You do I worship, O Christ our Savior. You are the Resurrector and Savior of all the departed who were baptized in your name and confessed your cross and your death. Blessed is Christ who promised life and resurrection to Adam's children in the day of His coming. We too shall arise and exalt him along with the saints who have been pleasing to him. Praise to you! By your Resurrection didn't you grant all the mortal race the hope of life and resurrection? And

we offer you praise, for you are the Resurrector of all flesh.

You mortals, exalt and praise Him who by His death emptied the dominion of death and promised all the mortal race life and resurrection. May the soul that has sought refuge in your cross and inherited eternal incorruptible treasure praise and exalt you together with the spirits that number her among your ranks.

Fitting it is to worship the Father who sent us His Only-Begotten Son, who saved our race from death and Satan, and sits at the right hand of His Father entreating His compassion on behalf of all of us.

St. Ephrem the Syrian

**For more information on Eastern spirituality, visit
www.ecpubs.com**



PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD

BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH - BALTIMORE

1260 Stevens Avenue, Arbutus, MD 21227-2644

www.patronagechurch.com / Facebook: Patronagechurch
patronage.church@gmail.com

Office: (410) 247-4936

Pastor: Reverend Serhii Deiak
 frserhiipatronagechurch@gmail.com
 Cell: (240) 644-2661
 Assistant: Sharon Kotula
 d.kotula@comcast.net

Deacon: Anthony Kotlar
 Cantor: Michael Kulka
 Cantor: Joseph Kotlar, Sr.
 Cantor: AnnMarie Kotlar

Patronage Church at Hagerstown:

St. Ann Catholic Church: 1525 Oak Hill Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21742

Contact: Adam and Lauren Myers: (301) 791-0930 / axxearp@yahoo.com

Next Liturgy: Saturday, April 15th, at 10am

DIVINE LITURGY - PATRONAGE CHURCH

Date	Time	Service	Intention
Palm Sunday 4.2.2023	8:45am 9:00am	Matins Divine Liturgy	Living and Deceased Members of our Parish
Great and Holy Thursday 4.6.2023	6:30pm	Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great	Living and Deceased Members of our Parish
Great and Holy Friday 4.7.2023	3:00pm	Vespers with Procession of the Burial Shroud	Living and Deceased Members of our Parish
Pascha Sunday 4.9.2023	8:00am 9:00am	Resurrection Matins Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of Paschal Food	Living and Deceased Members of our Parish

This is **Palm (Flowery) Sunday**.

Propers: handout is on the shelf in the Narthex.

CONFESSION: Fr. Serhii is available 20 minutes before or immediately after Divine Liturgy. **1**

2023 EPARCHIAL ALTAR SERVER CONGRESS: Registration for this year's Altar Server Congress, is now open! It will take place at the Carpathian Village, 802 Snow Hill Road, Cresco, PA, from Sunday, **July 16th - Thursday, July 20th**. Please visit eparchyofpassaic.com, click on "Youth and Young Adult Ministries," then "Altar Server Congress," for camper registration forms and further information. You can also contact Fr. Michael Salnicki at 570-595-3265, if you have any further questions. Please let Fr. Serhii know as soon as possible, if you are interested in attending. If you are enrolled in ECF, our church will cover the registration fee.

2023 BYZANTEEN EPARCHIAL YOUTH RALLY: This year's rally will take place on **June 22nd - 25th**. We are waiting on more details, but the ByzanTeen Rally 2023 participants must be age 13 by November 1, 2023, and not have reached the age of 18 by June 27, 2023. You can find both the rally's Teen and Chaperone Registration forms on the Eparchy's website at eparchyofpassaic.com, click on "Youth and Young Adult Ministries," then "Byzanteens Youth Ministry." If you are interested in attending this rally, please let Fr. Serhii know so he can make sure you receive any updates that he receives. If you are enrolled in ECF, our church will cover the registration fee.

YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY: Theosis in Action & the Eparchy of Passaic Present: "Poustinia," an evening of encounter and hospitality in the light of the Byzantine East. The next event will take place on **April 29th from 7-10pm** at St. Mary's Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsborough, NJ. This event is open to all young adults ages 18-35. For more information, contact: FatherTomByz@gmail.com or on facebook.com/theosisinaction.

GOD WITH US +ONLINE+: The next free virtual program entitled, "**Dedicated to Fellowship, Serving Christ in One Another**," presented by Rev. Michael O'Loughlin & Mother Natalia, will take place Wednesday, April 19th, from 8-9pm. For more information and to register for this program, visit godwithusonline.org. You can also visit this website and click on "Ruthenian," for weekly catechetical resources, including the Gospel summary and discussion questions that you can use in your catechesis at home.

METROPOLITAN ASSEMBLY: Most Rev. William Skurla, Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh, has invited all clergy and faithful to the Assembly of the Byzantine (Ruthenian) Metropolitan Church at St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Hillsboro, NJ, **November 2-5, 2023**. The theme of this Assembly is "**Living Our Faith, Moving Forward, Appreciating Our Past**." More details forthcoming. You can sign up for email updates at www.eparchyofpassaic.com.

*Slava Isusu Christu! Slava na viki!
 Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!*

Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Passaic Fasting Regulations for the Great Fast 2023

Abstinence:

- The law of Abstinence forbids the use of meat, permitting the use of eggs and dairy products.
- All the faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to abstain.
- Abstinence is to be observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays during the Holy Season of the

Great Fast.

Strict Abstinence:

- The law of Strict Abstinence (Fast) forbids the use of meat, eggs, and dairy products.
- All the adult faithful of the Eparchy who receive Holy Communion are obliged to observe

Strict Abstinence.

- Strict Abstinence is to be observed on the First Day of the Great Fast, Pure Monday, February 20 and on Great and Holy Friday, April 7.

Reflections on the Passion of Christ

The passion and death of Christ is the highest act of love. The Son of God, out of love for us, sacrificed himself for us in order to redeem us from eternal death and to find God's grace and the lost paradise for us. The Lord of the world deprived Himself of everything, "taking the form of a servant, becoming like a man."

But the most surprising and incomprehensible thing is that the Lord could save us without death and pain, but he chose for himself a life full of suffering and contempt, a cruel and shameful death -- the death of the cross, on the gallows, which is intended for criminals. "He humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, and the death on the cross." God chose death on the cross to testify to us of His infinite love.

St. Francis de Sales also explains this passage from the letters of the Apostle Paul: "Do we realize that Jesus, the true God, loved us so much that he accepted death for us, and that death on the cross? Doesn't this give rise to the feeling in our heart that love is being extracted from our hearts under a strange pressure -- a love that is stronger, the more worthy of love it is?"

Jesus Christ's love for people was so great that He longed for the hour of His death so that He could show His love to people. "I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how I am constrained until it is accomplished" (Lk 12:50). That is why the Apostle John describes the night during which the Passion of Jesus began, "Now before the feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart out of this world to the Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end" (John 13:1).

If only people, looking at the Crucified One, wanted to think about the love that He cherished for each of us! St. Francis de Sales said, "What kind of love would we ignite if we saw its flame in the Redeemer's heart? What a joy it is to be connected with God by a chain of love!" St. Bonaventure said of Christ's wounds that they wound the hardest hearts and inflame the most indifferent souls. How many merciful arrows come out of those wounds that aim at the hardest hearts! What a flame comes from the burning Heart of Jesus Christ, kindling the coldest! How many chains are obtained from the pierced side that bind unbreakable and rebellious souls!

"Oh, my Jesus, Savior of hearts, the power of your love broke even the hardest hearts! You set the whole world on fire with your love. O Lord, full of wisdom, fill my heart with Your peace, burn with Your fire, wound with the arrows of Your love! Your cross is like an arrow that wounds my heart. Let the whole world know that I too have a wounded heart! Lord, when I look at the cross, everything prompts me to love: the wood and the wounds of Your Body, and above all - Your love: it prompts me to love and desire to never forget You."

SLAVIC FOOD FESTIVAL: Thank you to everyone who supported yesterday's festival including those who donated baking supplies and money to offset our expenses, those who made baked goods to sell at our bake table, and the parishioners who volunteered their time and efforts to make this, again, a huge success. We want to especially thank Mary Demyan for being the coordinator of our festival. **We do have some leftovers packaged up from the festival, if anyone is interested in purchasing any. Also, we have several rings of kolbasi and frozen potato & cheese pirohi, as well. Please see Mary after Liturgy.**

BLESSED PALMS AND PUSSYWILLOWS: The palms and pussywillows that are blessed today should be kept in your home, usually displayed at the icon corner or crucifix, as a witness to the Lord's presence in your life. Last year's palms and pussy willows are blessed sacramentals and should be destroyed by burning or burying them. **Many thanks to Dan & Nancy Bobby for their generous donation of beautiful pussywillows this year.**

VENERATION OF THE HOLY SHROUD (PLASCHANICJA): One of the most impressive rituals of Holy Week, in our Byzantine Rite Church, involves the procession of the Holy Shroud (Plaschanicja) and the placement in the tomb during the Vespers Service on Good Friday. Visit www.archpitt.org, click on **Menu, Resources/About, Our Faith**, then **The Veneration of the Holy Shroud...** to read this informative article that gives insight to our Good Friday service.

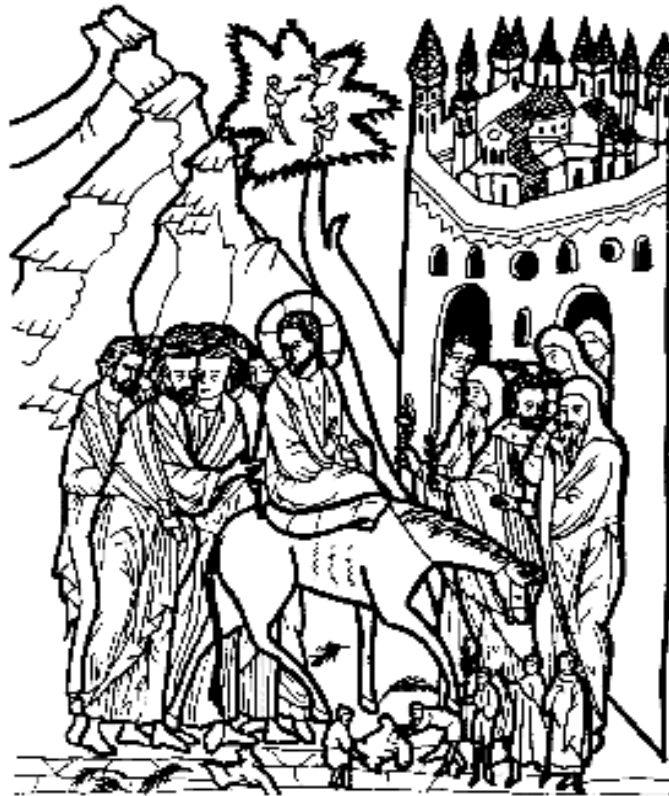
ST. THOMAS SUNDAY LUNCHEON/EASTER EGG HUNT: Please join us on Sunday, April 16th, for our St. Thomas Sunday pot-luck luncheon (we ask each family to provide a dish for your family plus 5 more) followed by an Easter egg hunt. **The GCU is sponsoring the Easter egg hunt for all children of our parish, and we thank them for their generosity.** Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, or send an email to the church, and let us know if you will be attending (how many adults/children), so we can plan accordingly.

GCU BYZANTINE FAMILY DAY AT KNOEBELS 2023: Mark your calendar! Join the GCU on June 11, 2023, from 11am – 9pm, for a family day at Knoebels Amusement Park in Elysburg, PA. The schedule of events for the day and discounted ticket books can be purchased at www.GCUUSA.com. You can call the GCU with questions regarding this event at 724-495-3400, ext. 3810.

***"If we don't teach our children who God is,
someone will teach them everything He is not."***

- Author Unknown

CHILDREN'S CORNER



Palm Sunday is the commemoration of the Entrance of our Lord into _____, following His glorious miracle of raising _____ from the dead. Having anticipated His arrival and having heard of the miracle, the people went out to meet the Lord. As Jesus rode into the Holy City on the back of a _____, He was escorted by a cheering crowd, and welcomed Him with displays of honor, and shouts of praise, while holding _____ in their hands as symbols of Christ's victory and as signs of a virtuous Christian life. On this day, _____, we receive and worship Christ in this same manner, acknowledging Him as our King and Lord. It is customary for believers to hold _____ in their hands during the course of the Divine _____.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER: The people of Ukraine, that peace may be soon be restored to their land, our parishioners, the founders of our parish, our benefactors, those who are sick, and those who cannot make it to church. Also, Fr. Serhii, and his family, Marge Dulina, Mike Skovran, James DeWolfe, Clara Valeika, Caroline Belensky, Nancy Erdek, Kay Dinko, Doris Ruszin, Anne Gupman, Anna Martin, Joseph and Marie Repasi, Mary Jo Kelly Wilhelm, Georgianna Kostak, Sandra Suseck, Howard Guba, Lisa Guba, our first responders, and all military service men and women throughout the world.

*May our Lord Jesus Christ, the Physician and Healer of souls and bodies,
grant them peace and good health for many blessed years!*

STEWARDSHIP: (Donate at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=2346733> – the link is also on our website)

Patronage Church

March 19, 2023
Offertory: \$1,070.00
Tithe.ly: \$175.00
Easter: \$25.00
Easter Flowers: \$156.00

March 26, 2023
Offertory: \$1,021.00
Tithe.ly: \$175.00
Easter: \$125.00
Easter Flowers: \$24.00

Hagerstown Mission

March 18, 2023
Offertory: \$310.00
Tithe.ly: \$19.00
Easter: \$25.00

March 26, 2023
Offertory: \$19.00

MEN'S CLUB EASTER FLOWER SALE: Today, **April 2nd**, is the deadline for ordering flowers for Pascha. The Men's Club is sponsoring this sale, and the flowers will be used to decorate the church and altar for Divine Liturgy on Pascha. Each donated flower will be published in a special insert of the Easter bulletin. Plants may be taken by the giver after Resurrection Liturgy. **All plants not taken by the giver will be replanted around the church property.** Forms can be found either as an insert in the bulletin, or on our website. Plants are \$12/each, and you have a choice of ordering, Easter Lilies, Tulips, or Hyacinths. **Please return your order form and payment in the offering basket. Checks should be made payable to: Patronage Men's Club. Thank you for supporting this flower sale!**

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH: We welcome all new visitors, to our parish family, and are happy you are joining us to share in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy and hope you will become an active part of our parish community. If you would like to be added to our parish email list, send us an email at patronage.church@gmail.com. *"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples" (Isaiah 56:7).*

Palm (Flowery) Sunday Sermon

"...Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord...!" (John 12:13)

Dear Brothers and Sisters!

During Great Lent, you and I are spiritually preparing for Easter, the Resurrection of the Lord. But from today, Palm Sunday, more intense preparations for the Easter days begin. At the beginning of Great Lent, you and I made certain decisions, we tried to limit ourselves in some ways in order to improve spiritually. Today, we can see in what we succeeded and in what we didn't. And today in our churches we hear that it is not too late to start our recovery, it is not too late to discover God's love for ourselves.

In today's Gospel reading, we heard about the miracle that Jesus performed with the dead Lazarus, who had been in the grave for four days. It was the resurrection of the righteous Lazarus that preceded the event of the Lord's entry into Jerusalem. The resurrection of the dead from today, from this day, brings our thoughts closer to the Resurrection of Christ, the resurrection of the Lord from the dead and His victory over death and hell. We will live all this during the next week.

Today, our Savior entered Jerusalem, He was greeted as a King. But no one expected and could not even imagine that the Kingdom of this King would begin with the Cross, with the Crucifixion, that is, with the renunciation of oneself, one's will, one's self. It is incredibly difficult to renounce oneself voluntarily, to the end, to the point of complete exhaustion. Having life, having complete freedom, to give it up, only because such is the will of God and such is His wonderful providence for us, because "...God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

Metropolitan Anthony, of Sourozh, in one of his sermons said the following words, "...remembering the Lord's entry into Jerusalem, how terrible it is to see that a whole nation met the Living God, who came only with the message of love, love to the last --- and turned away from Him, because they were not looking for love, because it was scary to love as Christ commanded --- to the readiness to live for love and die for love. They preferred the perishable, *they wanted the earthly. What remained was a desert, emptiness, nothingness..., but only God can fill with Himself those human depths in which there is emptiness and which cannot be filled with anything else. Only God can create harmony in human society; only God can turn a terrible desert into a blooming garden."

We meet in church on Palm Sunday with branches and palms in our hands. These willow branches and palms remind us not only of the joyful meeting of Jesus with the inhabitants of Jerusalem, but also of the fact that winter has ended. Spring has come, everything is turning green again and blooming, and will bear fruit. Winter is replaced by spring. We know that there is no human soul that could not warm up, revive and bear fruit. We look forward to the spring sun for our soul, when we can bring not only a green twig to meet the Lord, but also a warmed, revived soul. Our sun is the Lord, the flowers of our reviving soul are love for the Lord, for people, and for the world.

Dear believers! Today, you will carry home these consecrated willow branches and palms. You should bring not only these willow branches and palms, but also the mood of joy, peace, and gratitude. Those people, or your loved ones, who have not come to the temple, who do not know the joy of knowing God and the resurrection, can feel, at least a little, what the Lord's power is! What is the peace that Christ brings! What is the life that He gave us and still gives us today.

**PATRONAGE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD
BYZANTINE-CATHOLIC CHURCH**

The schedule of Easter Services: 2023

April 6, Great and Holy Thursday
6:30 pm, Vespers and Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the
Great

April 7, Great and Holy Friday
3:00 pm, Vespers with Procession of the Burial
Shroud

Sunday, April 9

**THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND
GOD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

8:00 am Resurrection Matins followed by Divine Liturgy
and the Blessing of Paschal Food

April 10, Bright Monday

11:30 am Divine Liturgy followed by the Reading of
the Four Gospels and Mirovanije