



ST. GEORGE'S DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Monday, March 26	<i>Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel</i> 9:00 A.M. First and Third Lenten Hours
Tuesday, March 27	<i>Martyr Matrona of Thessalonica</i> 9:00 A.M. The Office of Matins during the Great Fast
Wednesday, March 28	<i>Venerable Hilarion of Pelecete</i> 7:00 P.M. Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Thursday, March 29	<i>Hieromartyr Mark of Arethusa, Bishop</i> 7:00 P.M. Bethany Ministry Meeting (Parish Office)
Friday, March 30	<i>Venerable John Climacus</i> 7:00 P.M. Lenten Moleben
Saturday, March 31	<i>Saturday of Lazarus</i> 10:00 A.M. Paska Bread Baking 5:00 P.M. Great Vespers with Litiya
Sunday, April 1	Palm Sunday/Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem 9:30 A.M. Third Hour 9:45 A.M. Order of Confession 10:00 A.M. Divine Liturgy, Blessing of Palm & Willow Branches Festal Anointing-Mirovanya

The Epistle Reading will be Phil 4:4-9 and the Gospel will be Jn 12:1-18. Supplications will be offered for the soul of +Ivan Salo, given by Eva Salo & Family. Supplications will be offered for the soul of +Philip Perkun, given by Maria Perkun & Family.

What should I have in my Easter-Pascha Basket?

Paska- The Easter Bread. Symbolic of Christ Himself, who is our True Bread. Usually a round loaf of bread decorated on the top with a Cross.

Ham- This meat is popular as the main dish because of its richness and symbolic of the great joy and abundance of Pascha-Easter. Meat in the Pascha basket also symbolizes the calf sacrificed when the Prodigal Son returned home; the meat is a celebration of our return to Christ.

Sausage- A spicy, garlicky sausage of pork products, indicative of God's favor and generosity.

Cheese- Sweet cheese; mix farmer cheese with confectionary sugar, raisins, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg. Indicative of the moderation that Christians should have in all things.

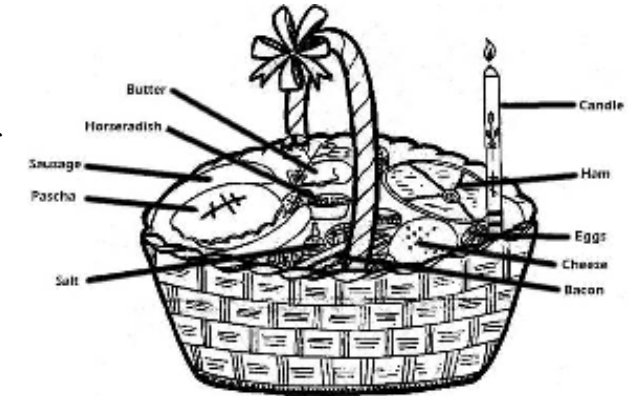
Eggs/Pysanky- Hard boiled eggs-decorated, indicative of new life and Resurrection.

Horseradish- A piece of the root or prepared horseradish with red beets. Symbolic of the Passion of Christ still in our minds but sweetened with some sugar because of the Resurrection. It is also included in the basket to remind us of the bitter drink given to Christ at his crucifixion, vinegar and gall.

Butter- Usually whipped (sometimes flavored with almond), is included in the basket to symbolize the Lamb of God, the Sacrifice made for the world. Some families use a lamb-shaped mold for their butter, which made the symbolism even stronger.

Salt- A condiment necessary for flavor; reminding the Christian of his duty towards others.

If your family has never taken a Pascha basket to be blessed, the above Easter-Pascha basket traditions may give you some ideas for starting your own. If you regularly prepare a basket for the celebration of the Resurrection, take some time to explain the deep meanings of the foods and their preparation to your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Everyone will enjoy being involved: baking, decorating, eating!





The Feast of the Annunciation of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary

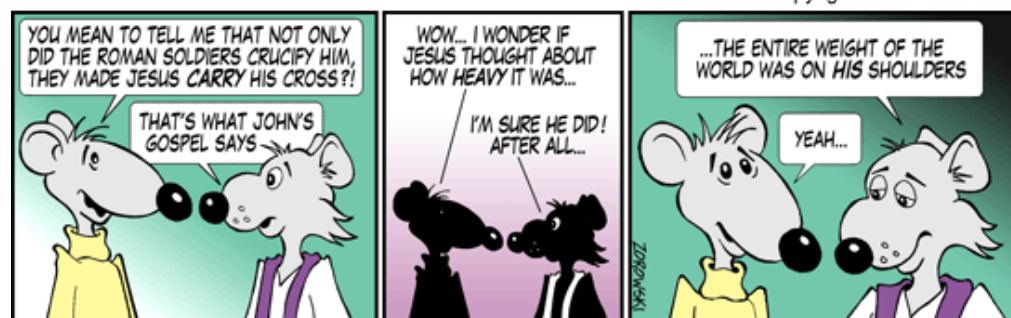
The Feast of the Annunciation is one of the earliest Christian feasts, and was already being celebrated in the fourth century. The Greek and Slavonic names for the Feast may be translated as “good tidings.” This, of course, refers to the Incarnation of the Son of God and the salvation He brings. The background of the Annunciation is found in the Gospel of St. Luke (1:26-38).

There are two main components to the Annunciation: the message itself, and the response of the Virgin. The message fulfills God’s promise to send a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15): “I will put enmity between you and the woman, between your seed and her seed; he shall crush your head, and you shall lie in wait for his heel.” The Fathers of the Church understand “her seed” to refer to Christ. The prophets hinted at His coming, but the Archangel Gabriel proclaimed that the promise is about to be fulfilled.

The icon of the Feast shows the Archangel with a staff in his left hand, indicating his role as a messenger. Sometimes one wing is upraised, as if to show his swift descent from heaven. His right hand is stretched toward the holy Virgin as he delivers his message. The Virgin is depicted either standing or sitting, usually holding yarn in her left hand. Sometimes she is shown holding a scroll. Her right hand may be raised to indicate her surprise at the message she is hearing. Her head is bowed, showing her consent and obedience. The descent of the Holy Spirit upon her is depicted by a ray of light issuing from a small sphere at the top of the icon, which symbolizes heaven.

Church Mice

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Announcements

Today: Annunciation of the Theotokos

This year the Feast of the Annunciation which is celebrated every year on March 25th, falls on this Fifth Sunday of the Great Fast. According to our Liturgical prescriptions the commemoration of St. Mary of Egypt is omitted and we celebrate this Feast of “good tidings”, that teaches us of our own personal annunciation, that we must accept the preludes of our salvation, which is the greatest notification in our life. It is on this Feast Day, that we commemorate both the divine initiative of God, whereby He took on flesh from the Virgin for our salvation, and the human response, whereby Mary freely accepted the vocation offered to her.

Today: Traditional Pascha-Easter Sale

Following the Divine Liturgy make sure to stop by in our Church hall where Oles and Lyubov Cheren (Cataract Press) are visiting our parish with a large selection of religious items for Easter-Pascha. You will have the opportunity to purchase beautiful Easter eggs-Pysanky, Pysanky puzzles and designs, dyes, beeswax, wooden eggs, egg stands, embroidered Easter basket covers, books on how to celebrate a traditional Holy Pascha-Easter, different religious books, DVD’s, CD’s, Greetings cards, scarfs and embroidery. A percentage of the proceeds will be donated to our parish.

Lector’s Meeting

Following the Divine Liturgy today we will have a gathering of our Lectors in preparation for the upcoming Holy Week Divine Services. I ask all our Lectors to please be present for this gathering. Thank you.

Sincere Thanks!

Last week our Parish Lenten Mission was a great success. Sincere thanks to all who came for these days of spiritual refreshment and invigoration. In a special way I wish to thank our parishioners who helped prepare this event: members of our Chant Group, preparation and serving the food, set-up of the Church hall, and welcoming the faithful in the Church vestibule and our Acolytes. Thank you.

Thursday: Bethany Ministry

On Thursday, March 29th, the meeting of the members of the Bethany Ministry will take place at the parish office at 7:00 p.m. I ask all members to please be present for this meeting during which we will plan visits to the shut-inns of our parish family during Holy Week and Pascha. Thank you.

Next Sunday: Order of Confession

As part of our preparation for the Feast of the Resurrection – Pascha, we will welcome next Sunday Fr. John Getsy, OFM Cap, who will be here to administer the Sacrament of Confession. If you have not availed yourself of this life-giving Sacrament, please be sure to do so next Sunday as we will celebrate the Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem. Let us remember that as frequent communicants we should make a confession during this and all penitential periods, and whenever the conscience is burdened.

Willow Branches

As we will celebrate next Sunday the Entrance of Our Lord into Jerusalem - Palm Sunday, we are still in need of willow branches for the blessing of palms and willow branches. If you are able to obtain willow branches, please let Fr. Valerian know after the Divine Liturgy.

Lenten Project: Light of Life Rescue Mission

During this Lenten season we have been reaching out to a Christ-centered ministry here in Pittsburgh: Light of Life Rescue Mission. Next Sunday will be our final day to donate towards this mission that provides food, shelter and life-saving programs for the poor, homeless and addicted. Following our Palm Sunday celebration all the donations will be delivered to Light of Life Rescue Mission on North Avenue.

Parish Assembly on St. Thomas Sunday

Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, April 15th, we will have a Parish Assembly Meeting during which we will discuss our parish budget, the importance of stewardship, vision and future planning/strategy of St. George's. This will be a very important meeting of our parish community, so please-please plan to be here and participate in this parish assembly.

Our Svyachene - Easter Dinner

Mark your calendars for our Svyachene-Easter Dinner which is planned for Sunday, April 22nd, starting at 11:30 a.m. As part of this celebration the children of our Church school will present at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy a Resurrection Play. Following that the children will have their annual Easter Egg Hunt on the parish grounds. We will also have a raffle of different gift baskets and prizes. Tickets for this Easter Dinner are \$10.00 per adult; children are \$5.00 (12 and younger). You can obtain tickets for this event before and after the Divine Liturgy in our Church vestibule from our ticket sellers, Ms. Eva Hlovchic, Mrs. Orysia Barshowski. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this happy event.

Pyrohy

Our total income from last week's sale was \$1031.00. Sincere thanks to all our dedicated pyrohy workers for their hard work during this Lenten Season. Thank you!

Collection- May God bless you...

The total for Sunday, March 18, 2012 was \$1682.00. Radio: Mary Sherbek (\$200).

Flowers for the Cross: Myron & Patty Rodzay (\$25) in memory of +John & +Anna Rodzay, +Paul & Vicky Glinski and +Sophia Glinski. *Sincere thanks to all for your kindness and generosity to our Holy Church!*

Next Saturday: Making Easter Bread-Paska

Next **Saturday, March 31st**, we will be preparing our delicious Easter Bread-Paska. I ask you to please come down Saturday morning to offer your time in order to continue this wonderful tradition of making Paska Bread.

The price per a loaf this year is \$8.00. In the Church vestibule we have a sign-up sheet for placing your orders. I ask you to write down your name and amount of Paska Bread (plain or raisin) you wish to order. You may pick-up your order on Palm Sunday, April 1st, following the Divine Liturgy.

Daily Observance of the faithful during Holy Week

Lazarus Saturday (this year on March 31st) concludes the Great Fast-Lent. This celebration remembers Christ's raising of Lazarus from the dead and the promise of universal resurrection for all. Lazarus Saturday provides a bridge to Holy Week during which the Church services remember Christ's last week before His crucifixion and resurrection.

In the Eastern Church the last week of Christ's life is officially called Passion 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". (Mark 10:32)



