March 25, 2018
Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
Palm & Willow Sunday
Feast of the Annunciation

Liturgical Schedule

Mar 24 (Sat)	**Divine Liturgy**	**5:00pm**
	Blessing of Palms and Willows	
	Ronald & Janice Bishop—45th Wedding Anniversary	
Mar 25 (Sun)	**Solemn Entry Into Jerusalem—Palm Sunday**	
	Annunciation of the Theotokos	
	ECF Classes	**9:00am**
	Divine Liturgy	**10:30am**
	Blessing of Palms and Willows	

****** Please see Schedule of Services for Great and Holy Week ******

The Sanctuary Lamp continues to burn before the presence of Our Risen Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ in our church during the week of March 25 thru March 31 for +Nicholas Soltis reqd by wife Mary and family.

March 18, 2018
Our Tithe to our Parish—$1,580.00
Ham Bingo —-$2,177.00

Let us remember in our prayers all of our friends and parish family members who are sick at home or in a nursing facility and for all who are in need of our prayers.

James Abraham, Tillie Abraham, Diana Abraham, Ron Bishop, Rosella Busko, Marion Campbell, John Fekete, Carl Magdic, Clarence Rizzi, Helen Rizzi, Rose Marie Rupnik, Joseph Rusinko, Sue Sabol, Ed Suzina, Mary Soltis, Terry Soltis, Margaret Weber, John Voron Sr.

To all of our very kind and generous parishioners who worked so diligently in the Pirohy Project and in the Ham Bingo recently we owe a huge debt of gratitude. As you will notice, the profits from both of these parish endeavors were exceptional and will assist our parish in so many of the areas that we will need to address.

It has been wonderful to see the tremendous cooperation of so many people around our parish, both in these fund-raising projects as well as in other areas in which folks are quietly offering their help. This is yet another way in which our parish continues to grow as a Christian community.

THANK YOU

WE COULDN'T HAVE
DONE IT

WITHOUT YOU !

We greet each other during the next forty days with our Paschal greeting:

Christ is Risen!	(English)	Indeed He is Risen!
Christos Voskrese!	(Slavonic)	Voistinnu Voskrese!
Christos Anesti!	(Greek)	Alithos Anesti!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR GREAT AND HOLY WEEK

March 26 Great and Holy Monday

7:00pm ……..*Presanctified Liturgy*

March 28 Great and Holy Wednesday

7:00pm ……*Presanctified Liturgy & Anointing Service*

March 29 Great and Holy Thursday

7:00pm ……*Vespers with the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great*

March 30 Great and Holy Friday

10:00am ……*Great Friday Matins: Reading of the Twelve Gospels*

7:00pm ……*Great Vespers with the Burial Service of the Lord*

March 31 Great and Holy Saturday

8:00pm ……*Resurrection Matins, Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*

Blessing of Paschal Foods

April 1 Glorious Feast of PASCHA: The Resurrection of the Lord

10:30am ……. *Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom*

Blessing of Artos

April 2 Bright Monday

7:00pm …….Divine Liturgy

Festive Procession & Gospel Readings

PALM SUNDAY -- HOLY AND GREAT WEEK

We now enter the most solemn and holy week of the year. It begins with the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem ... then guides us through the events that took place in that holy city ... leading to the Passion of the Lord, his suffering and death on the cross, and then his burial ... and finally his glorious Resurrection from the dead.

So much is commemorated in such a short space of time. The major events of our faith are relived ... the whole range of feelings and emotions are touched during these days ... it would be wonderful if we could set aside everything else and just go to church ... to focus on our faith for this one week!

However, this is quite impossible for most people. But we do need to set some *priorities* for our lives this week. We need to select beforehand the times we want to set aside for our participation in the prayer services of our church ... and for our personal prayer and meditation. We need also to make some decisions about our home and family life ... so that this can be truly a week of entering into the life of the Lord.

Some highlights of this week ...

FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

The Annunciation of the Birth of Christ, celebrated exactly nine months before his Nativity, is never moved on the calendar. Thus, even if it falls during Holy Week it is still commemorated as a feastday. This year it falls on Palm Sunday and allows us to meditate on the mystery of the birth of Christ ... even as we are about to commemorate his death.

ANOINTING SERVICE

On Wednesday evening, there will be the Anointing Service with the Presanctified Liturgy. We all need to be healed … spiritually, physically, emotionally and mentally. After completing the Lenten Fast, being reconciled through Confession, we are anointed for the complete healing of our souls and bodies … so that we may worthily celebrate the Paschal events of the Lord. In this icon, we see Mary anointing the feet of Jesus, symbolically preparing him for his burial.

HOLY THURSDAY

The theme is the "Upper Room" where the Lord meets with his disciples for that holy meal. This is the day on which we too gather in our upper room to share in the solemn supper of the Lord ... the Communion of his Body and Blood ... It is a day of intimacy with the Lord and with his people ... And yet the hint of betrayal lurks in the background. Life is always a mystery!

GOOD FRIDAY

We now move to "Golgotha", the place of crucifixion and death. The Matins Service, with the Reading of the 12 Passion Gospels, guides us through the Scriptures ... and calls our attention to all the details of the Lord's Passion. So familiar ... yet ever striking.

In the evening, we have the Vesper Service with the Burial of our Lord. This most moving Service touches the depths of our souls and allows us to truly experience the death and burial of the Lord. It ends in a quiet meditation in front of the Burial Shroud, and lets us truly participate in mind and soul and body of the meaning of this day.

HOLY SATURDAY

This day is focused on the "Holy Sepulchre" and the resting of the Lord in the tomb. All the activity is stopped. People in Jerusalem are stunned. Voices are silent. Raging emotions lie dormant. Everyone now is faced with the mystery of the Giver of Life now lying silently in death. For us it is a time to reflect on all that has happened. We look at our own reactions to the crucifixion and burial. We see the stark reality of sin run wild. And we must now wait.

THE HOLY RESURRECTION

All of Holy Week leads us to the threshold of the Resurrection. Gathering in the darkened Church ... we process outside to the closed doors ... and there we await the joyful announcement of the Resurrection.

Some reminders …

FASTING: Good Friday is a day of strict fast (no meat or dairy products are permitted), and simple abstinence from meat is certainly encouraged on Holy Saturday. In fact, all of Holy Week should be a special time of fasting for all of us ... not only from food … but also from loud music, entertainment, etc.

VIGIL AT THE TOMB: Each family or individual is encouraged to spend some time in personal prayer before the Tomb of the Lord. The church will be open until Midnight on Friday evening.

BLESSING OF FOODS: The blessing of the Paschal Foods will take place after the Resurrection Matins and Liturgy on Saturday night, and also after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning.

PROCESSIONS: A note about Processions. In the Byzantine Tradition, processions always go in a counter-clockwise direction. Notice that during the Divine Liturgy, the processions with the Book of the Gospels and also with the Eucharistic Gifts both go around the inside of the church in a counter-clockwise direction. So also our Good Friday and Paschal processions outside will be made in this same counter-clockwise manner.