

HOLY SPIRIT BYZANTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Cantor: Julia Revilak and Family

Altar Servers: Sdn . Raphael Ruggiero

Angelino and Emanuel Revilak

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FAST

SUNDAY ST. MARY OF EGYPT

SCHEDULE OF DIVINE SERVICES

Sunday, April 3, 2022 – 11:00am ~ Divine Liturgy for deceased Hedwig Bacasa by Mr. & Mrs. Bacasa

Sunday, April 3, 2022 - 3:30pm ~ Confessions followed by Vespers at 4pm, light dinner to follow, St. George in Upper St. Clair

Monday, April 4, 2022 – 8:30am ~ First and Third Hour

4:30-5:30pm ~ Confessions, with Vespers at 5:30pm

Wednesday, April 6, 2022, 11:30am ~ Tierce-Sext

4:30-5:30pm ~ Confessions, with Presanctified Liturgy at 5:30pm

Saturday, April 9, 2022, 9:00am ~ Divine Liturgy for Deceased George Carr by Ms. Catherine Warhola

Sunday, April 10, 2022, 11:00am ~ Divine Liturgy for the intentions of the Parish

SCRIPTURAL LESSONS FOR TODAY'S DIVINE LITURGY...

As we near the end of our Great Fast journey, Saint Mary of Egypt is our penitential ideal, showing us how to prepare for our Participation in Jesus' redemptive acts. Like the apostles, we also accompany the Lord on His pilgrimage up to Jerusalem where, as the Hebrew Christians are told, the High Priest (Jesus) will offer His sacrifice upon the sacred cross.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Monday: 9am, Holy Spirit, Bridegroom Matins

5:30-7:30pm, Holy Spirit, Confessions

Holy Tuesday: Fr. Michael's day off (due to Holy Thursday)

Holy Wednesday: 9am, Pius X, Bridegroom Matins, then Confessions until 12pm – LAST CHANCE AT PIUS UNTIL PASCHA

12pm, Pius X, Presanctified Liturgy with Anointing

4pm, Holy Spirit, Confessions – LAST CHANCE AT HOLY SPIRIT UNTIL PASCHA

6pm, Holy Spirit, Presanctified Liturgy with Anointing

Holy Thursday: 12pm, Pius X, Vespereal Divine Liturgy

6pm, Holy Spirit, Vespereal Divine Liturgy

Good Friday: 11am, Pius X, Strasti Matins, followed by Burial Vespers at 12pm

4:30pm, Holy Spirit, Office of Readings, followed by Burial Vespers at 6pm

Holy Saturday: 9am, Holy Spirit, Jerusalem Matins

12pm, Pius X, Vespereal Divine Liturgy, followed by basket blessings

6pm, Holy Spirit, Vespereal Divine Liturgy

The Sunday of Pascha: 8am, Pius X, Paschal Matins followed by Divine Liturgy at 9am

11am, Holy Spirit, Paschal Matins, followed by Divine Liturgy at 12pm, followed by basket blessings

Note: The law of the Church ordains that all the faithful go to Confession at least once during the Lenten season. Please be sure to take advantage of this blessed opportunity.

Hebrews 9: 11-14

Brethren: When Christ came as high priest of the good things which have come to be, he entered once for all into the sanctuary, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation. He entered, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, and achieved eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer's ashes can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal spirit offered himself up unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God!

~~~~~The early Jewish Christians are told that God's plan for our salvation came to fruition when His Son Jesus, as the representative of the human race, served as our "High Priest" effecting The perfect sacrifice: His life upon the redemptive cross in expiation for all our sins. Throughout the Great Fast, we have striven to be worthy of and prepared for our own Participation in the memorial of Christ's passion that we shall commemorate next week. We now ready ourselves spiritually to begin prayerfully and ascetically our complete participation in all of these salvific events.~~~~~

## **GOSPEL Mark 10: 32-45**

They were on the way, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus went ahead of them. They were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. Taking the Twelve aside again, he began to tell them what was going to happen to him. "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death and hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him, spit upon him, scourge him, and put him to death, but after three days he will rise."

Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to him and said to him, "Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you."

He replied, "What do you wish [me] to do for you?"

They answered him, "Grant that in your glory we may sit one at your right and the other at your left."

Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"

They said to him, "We can."

Jesus said to them, "The cup that I drink, you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right or at my left is not mine to give but is for those for whom it has been prepared." When the ten heard this, they became indignant at James and John. Jesus summoned them and said to them, "You know that those who are recognized as rulers over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones make their authority over them felt. But it shall not be so among you. Rather, whoever wishes to be great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the slave of all. For the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

~~~~~The Holy Evangelist Mark tells of Jesus' final journey taking Him "Up To" Jerusalem. Our Lord revealed to His apostles exactly what was to befall Him there, but they misheard Him, listening only to what they wanted to hear. In fact, the brothers James and John came to Jesus with an ill-timed request, asking for "key positions" in His "new kingdom." We now also follow our Lord up to Jerusalem in order to begin our own Participation in His slavific mysteries. As we participate in His redemptive acts, we thus become worthy of a "position" in His "heavenly kingdom."~~~~~

THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE GREAT FORTY DAYS FAST....

This is the fifth and final Sunday of the Holy Great Fast. All of the penitential efforts of this Great Fast season were performed in order to lead us to the cross, and then to the resurrection. The theme emphasized today, therefore, seeks to ready ourselves for our complete participation in the mysteries of our redemption that are about to be reenacted. We also commemorate today Saint Mary the Egyptian, a fifth century actress from Alexandria, Egypt, who lived a wicked and immoral life. When finally converted to Christianity, she became a sterling exemplar of repentance. She spent her entire life in prayer, fasting, and showing perpetual contrition for past sins. In observing her memorial, the Church emphasizes that anyone can become a saint – a holy person of God – despite anything that may have occurred in one's past. Thus Saint Mary of Egypt is presented as a model of a great penitent who had undergone a metanoia – a conversion experience – with a complete change of heart by which she rejected her former evil ways. During these last five days of the Great Fast, we too must strive to express our heartfelt contrition, great sorrow, and genuine repentance.

THE WEEK OF THE BRANCHES AND LAZARUS SATURDAY...

This sixth and final week of the Great Fast is called Palm Week, and our liturgical services take us with Jesus to Bethany where His friend Lazarus had just died. With Palm Friday, March 26th, the Church commemorates Jesus' raising of Lazarus from the dead and emphasizes that this miraculous event is a prefiguration of His own resurrection and victory over death that will take place next weekend. As the Lord called forth His friend Lazarus from the tomb, so also shall He someday do the very same thing for each of us – his friends. Then on Blossom Sunday, March 28th, we shall celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. This weekend is thus a festive interlude that celebrates this unprecedented miracle on Saturday and then the proclamation of the kingship of Christ on Sunday. It is a transition leading from the end of the Great Fast into Passion Week, the most solemn week of the year.

OPEN PARISH MEETING: Please join us after the 11am Liturgy on Sunday, 4/3 for our quarterly parish meeting.

PRAYER REQUEST LINE – Please send prayer requests to HolySpiritPrays@gmail.com

PEROGI SALE – Perogi are available in the hall after Liturgy until 2pm.

WHAT PENITENTIAL PRACTICES ARE YOU DOING???

In practical terms, what does the Church require us to do during this sacred penitential great fast season? 1) to fast, not only on the required days, but also self-imposed, personal fasts; 2) Engage in charitable practices – good works of mercy for others; 3) Increase prayer, both public and private: attend church at least once during the week (Monday-Friday), and participate in the Presanctified Divine Liturgy; 4) Frequent confession: approach the Holy Mystery of Reconciliation; 5) Receive Holy Communion often; 6) Perform acts of self-denial: monetary and ascetical; 7) Practice almsgiving by donating daily a sum of money not spent on yourself; 8) Read the Holy Bible, a small portion of the Old and New Testament each day; 9) Make a daily meditation, reading from the Great Fast booklet of reflections for each of the forty days; 10) Keep a period of silence – the "desert experience": quiet time with the Lord, not talking or listening to anyone or anything for a specific time, just offering our thoughts to God. Make this a spiritually meaningful great fast season! Put forth the effort now, and the Lord will bless your endeavors!

PRAYER FOR SEMINARIANS

Saints Cyril and Methodius, Venerable Apostles of the Slavs and Patrons of our Byzantine Catholic Seminary, we place our Seminarians in your loving care. Help them to grow in humility, meekness and prudence. Enkindle in them a burning zeal for souls. May their hearts be filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and may they learn to know and love the church so that they may always and everywhere think, speak and act with Her, the Glorious Spouse of Christ. May they become exemplars of generosity and detachment from the things of this world. But above all, O Venerable Patrons, help them to truly know, love and serve the Eternal High Priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ, Whose priests they aspire to be. Amen.
St. Michael the Archangel, Defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, By the power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl throughout the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

MOUNT SAINT MACRINA HOUSE OF PRAYER

510 West Main Street, P.O. Box 878, Uniontown, PA 15401 - Phone 724 - 438- 7149 email: hpmsm@verizon.net

Prayer requests or donations can be sent to the above address.

April 5 – 6:30-8:30 on Zoom – Lenten Tuesday Evening on Zoom. Theme: “Today” with Dcn. Stephen Russo, Registration due March 29. Offering: \$30

April 9, 26, may 3, 10, 17, 24 – 6:30-8:30pm – Tuesday Evening Compassion Series In-House Program.. “Developing Boundless Compassion.” With Sr. Barbara Jean OSBM and Dr. Jo Ann Jankoski, D.Ed, LCMSW, MS, CCTP. This series invites those who serve the hearts of others into a circle of up to 10 persons to further develop in Gospel-Centered compassion, using *Boundless Compassion: Creating a Way of Life*, by Sr. Joyce Rupp – Book, journal, and prayer resource. Requires commitment to 6 interactive lessons with these resources in hand. Registration due 4/12. Offering \$100. Scholarships available. Proof of full vaccination and masks required.

54th Annual Ukrainian Easter Egg Sale

Sunday, April 10, 2022 – 11am to 4pm - Sts. Peter & Paul Ukrainian Orthodox Church 220 Mansfield Blvd. Carnegie PA 15106 Over 1200 Pysanky (Easter eggs) and over 300 specialty eggs (goose, ostrich, wood, and more). Ukrainian folk arts and crafts, basket raffles, door prizes. Homemade Ukrainian foods for takeout or dine in/outside. Church tours and talk at 12pm, 1pm, and 2pm with Fr. Charest For info call (412) 527-5359 or (412) 279-2111 - www.orthodoxcarnegie.org or facebook.com/OrthodoxCarnegie/

15th Egg Egg-stravaganza

Sunday, April 3 12pm-4pm. St. John the Baptist Byzantine Catholic Church, 201 East Main St. Uniontown PA Eggs, supplies, and hands-on opportunities. Easter basket supplies and food. Bake sale. Many raffles will be available. A Lenten lunch menu will be served. Handicapped accessibility.

Fun for the whole family! Free admission! For more information please call 724-438-6027 9am-3pm and leave a message.