## PALM SUNDAY -- FLOWERY SUNDAY



Icon of the Entrance into Jerusalem

## Palm Sunday

The hymns and prayers celebrating Christ's glorious journey into the Holy City reflect both the joy and the concern about what shall in short time occur in this City.

The introductory Vespers' hymn expresses these sentiments in these words: "Today the grace of the Holy Spirit has gathered us together, and we all take up Your Cross and say; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!" The Palm Sunday exclamation, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord ...." is repeated over and over and we know that it was also taken into the Liturgy's solemn hymn, "Holy, holy, holy ..."

A Palm Sunday liturgical text beautifully expresses the full dimensions of this greeting when it says, "Blessed are You, You have come and are

coming again in the name of the Lord God our Savior!" The serene sunshine of the Palm Sunday could not last long. Evening is approaching of the first day of the Holy Week. Jesus' enemies were not idle; they gather and debate how to stop any similar demonstration. He should be arrested.

The Church reminds us of this change: "As we pass from one Divine Feast to another, O faithful, let us go with haste to the reverent and saving celebration of Christ's sufferings. Let us behold Him undergo voluntary suffering for our sake, and let us sing to Him with thankfulness a fitting hymn: O Fountain of tender mercy and Haven of salvation. Lord, glory be to You!" The Great, Holy Week of Christ's Passion began.

Father Vladimir Vancik

## Saints Peter & Paul Arainian Catholic Church

Hurst Street at Uhlba. Avenue Post office-Box 126

Bridgeport, Pennsylvania 19405

"Slava Isusu khristoo!"
"Glory to Jesus Christ!"

March 27-28, 2021 Willow Sunday

THIS HOLYDAY is known as Willow Sunday or Christ's Entrance into Jerusalem. To remind us of this entrance into the Capital City, Christians have used branches like Palm and willow, just like Jesus' followers did in the First Century. Today Father will bless willow branches and distribute them to all our faithful. This weekend we will livestream on YouTube the 9 am Liturgy on Sunday.

DURING THE UPCOMING HOLY WEEK we will celebrate Holy Thursday with the reading of the 12 Passion Gospels on Thursday at 6:30 pm. We will mark Holy and good Friday by celebrating the Burial Matins at 6:30 pm and procession. This Friday evening service will be livestreamed for the edification of all our distant and elderly folks via YouTube.

ON HOLY SATURDAY we will celebrate the Holy Liturgy at 8 am. Father Ronald will hear lenten confessions before and after all these Holy Week servuces. All you have to do is ask!

EASTER FOOD WILL BE BLESSED on Holy Saturday at 12 noon, 3 pm and 6 pm. This drive-up blessing will take place on Union Ave. along the curb and Father will stand in front of the Rectory. Simply open the window or trunk and Father will bless your basket.

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES will begin at 6 am with Resurrectional Matins followed by Easter Divine liturgy at 7 am. The Second Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at 10 am and will be livestreamed throughout the world!

WE SEND OUT our heartfelt thanks to all our faithful, Both in church and on YouTube, for their Easter gifts/donations to our beautiful parish here in Bridgeport. Father Ronald sends out his personal thanks to all the folks who remembered this Great Easter Holyday with all their cards and prayers, notes and gifts. May the Resurrected Christ bless all of you with good health and much love all year long.

The VENERATION OF THE HOLY SHROUD will take place after Good Friday's evening service. Please sign up to keep vigil with Jesus this Easter.

## DIVINE SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, 8 am Panachyda for all our beloved deceased
Saturday, 6 pm +Julia, Michael Wrobleski (Dotty Dolgash)
Sunday, 9 am +Motria Dejneka (Sophie and Irene)

Saturday, 8 am +Maruszczak, Fonnock Family (Bill, Bridget)
Easter Sunday, 7 am For all the Deceased in of the Parish
Easter Sunday, 10 am +Walt Grohoski (Elaine and Bob)
WILLOW SUNDAY TROPAR:

O Christ our God, we have been buried in You through Baptism. We have become partakers of Eternal Life through Your Resurrection. So today we sing out to You: Hosanna in the Highest, Blessed are You Who comes in the name of the LOrd.

WILLOW SUNDAY KONTAK:

GLORY TO THE FATHER AND THE SON AND...

O Christ our God, You are carried in Heaven upon a throne, but You were carried on earth

by a donkey. You received the praise of the Angels and the song of the children of Jerusalem. who cried out to You: Blessed are You, who comes to call back Adam and Eve from Hades.

WILLOW SUNDAY PROKIMEN:

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. The Lord is God, Who appeared to Us, amen.

COVE, FR. Sonald