



Parish Tidings

Our Lord's Ascension Parish

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What is the Significance of Palms?



The Sunday before Easter, Palm Sunday, is a reminder of Jesus Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. As He rode a donkey into the city, crowds scattered palm branches along Jesus' path.

Many people think that palm branches were used because there were so many palm trees in that part of the world, but there were other reasons for choosing them. The palm branch was the emblem of Judea and appeared on the coins of the land, symbolizing one of the country's riches. When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the trees were in bloom, so in covering the way with palm branches, the people were offering a symbol of great value and luxury.

But palms were a symbol of necessity, too. Palm branches represented a gift from God because of their many uses in the people's lives. The palm was so important that when countries in the area went to war, they cut away the enemy's palm branches, causing their enemy to suffer from the loss of food and other necessities.

This important tree had many different varieties, ranging in height from less than 9 feet to more than 100 feet. The date palm supplied dates, of course. The coconut palm supplied both coconut and coconut milk. The sap of the sugar palm was dried, beaten, and ground into very fine sugar. Its leaves could also be boiled and used as a vegetable. The trunk of the sago palm was ground into flour and made into unleavened bread.

Palm trees had almost no waste parts. Their coarse fiber was used to

make brooms, mats, and baskets; their fine fiber was used to make sewing thread; and their heaviest fiber was used to make strong ropes. Palm oils have been made into both butter and soap.

Fine bowls, cooking utensils, even tools were made from coconut shells. Some palm wood does not easily rot and was especially good for making boats.

The seeds of palms were boiled into a medicinal drink or were dried and eaten like nuts. If they were allowed to dry a long time, they became hard and transparent and made durable beads and trinkets.

The palm's yellowish-white flowers were made into perfume. Women wore the lovely, waxy flowers as decorative headdresses.

Strewing palm branches at Jesus' feet, then, was a symbol of the giving up of worldly goods, both necessities and luxuries. The people loved and honored Jesus, and they showed their love and honor by lining His path with something very important to them.

How is Easter Sunday Determined?

Easter Sunday Celebrates the Christian belief of Jesus Christ's resurrection. The Easter date is set around the time of the March Equinox. According to the Bible, Jesus' death and resurrection occurred around the time of the Jewish Passover which was celebrated on the first full moon following the spring equinox. Easter falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. If the first full moon occurs on the equinox, Easter is the following Sunday. Thus, Easter can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25.



Clothing drive sponsored by the youth.

Preparation Schedule for Spring Bazaar

- March 10 & 11 at 9 AM – White Elephant setup**
- March 13 – Meeting for Bazaar
- March 14 at 9 AM – Table & white elephant setup**
- March 15 at 9 AM – Setup
- March 17 at 9 AM – Kiffle baking & setup**
- March 18 at 9 AM – Halupki making & final preparations
- March 19 – Spring Bazaar – doors open for workers at 8 AM**

Holy Week Services

- Holy Thursday – Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper at 6:30 PM
- Good Friday – The Passion of the Lord at 6:30 PM**
- Holy Saturday – Blessing of Easter food at 11 AM
- Easter Vigil at 6 PM**
- Easter Sunday – Holy Mass at 9 AM

March at a Glance

- Sunday Mass at 9 AM**
- SOCL after Mass
- Coffee Social after Mass**
- Bingo every Wednesday at 7 PM
- March 4 & 5 Pierogi Making**
- March 6 – ANS meeting
- March 13 – Daylight Savings time**
- March 13 – Anniversary Celebration
- March 13 – Meeting for Spring Bazaar**
- March 19 - Spring Bazaar
- March 20 – Palm Sunday**
- March 27 – Easter Sunday

Pastor's Corner

Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13)



My Dear Friends,

We have already started the month of March which will finish with the Easter holidays. When I was starting to write this reflection, I was thinking about how I see the mystery of our Salvation - the Passover. Well, I would like to ask you also: What do you envision when you think about Easter? What image or images come to your mind, to your imagination? I am sure, we have many similarities between our imaginations, but also some differences. For sure, the bunny comes first, maybe someone is seeing some colorful eggs (pisanki) or Easter basket filled with variety of "tasty" goodies. Every image is good because associates our life experience with this very important event.

Writing this reflection during the Lenten time I have to tell you about Easter. I noticed that I see Easter through the Cross. Not because we still have three weeks to go, but it is really true that Easter comes through the cross. I believe that there is not Easter without the Passion of Christ. We will still come during the last weeks of Lent to kneel before the Stations of the Cross which are finished with the 15th station - the Resurrection.

We can't absentmindedly pass the joyful images of Easter like bunnies, chicks, eggs, candies or Easter basket (paska) for sure. We have to keep in our hearts the main image of Easter, the Cross which testifies about what St. John the Apostle wrote: "Greater love has no one than this that one lay down his life for his friends."

Happy Easter!

Father Bogdan

Parish Yearly Meeting

On Sunday, February 21, 2016 our parish held its annual meeting. Father Bogdan opened the meeting with a prayer. A copy of the Annual Report and the minutes from last year's meeting were given to each member along with the financial reports of each society. Father gave an overview of all the responsibilities and activities he was involved with during the year. A member of each society gave a report of the society's activities. The following items were discussed:

- Various improvements during the past year included replacement of all the outside church doors, repairs to the cement pad at the lower level entrance, painting of the railing at the church entrance, painting of the kitchen and tree trimming at both the church and the rectory.
- Projects for this year include painting of the remaining railings, additional lighting for the parking lot, and additional heaters for the social hall. In the next few years the church roof will need to be replaced. Suggestions for raising funds for this costly repair are requested.
- The cemetery fund is low on assets.
- Although our church owes the Central Diocese for back dues from 2009 to 2014, dues have been paid for 2015.
- A discussion was held about updating the church's Facebook page.
- The ladies helping in the kitchen during bingo is a great help, but more volunteers are need to lend a hand at bingo.
- The committee members remain the same for the upcoming year.

Around the Parish

- To celebrate the 119th anniversary of the establishment of the Polish National Catholic Church, a cake will be served after mass on Sunday, March 13, 2016.
- During the month of May the ANS will sponsor a breakfast commemorating the 40th anniversary of occupancy of our current location.
- A familiar face at mass, Joan Torkos has joined our church. Welcome to our church family.

Condolences

With deepest sorrow we announce the passing of long time member Joseph Koczan.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his brother Thomas and nephew Walter Poposki, his wife Nancy and their families.

Members of Our Lord's Ascension Parish wish to offer our sympathies to Jo Ann Schaffer on the passing of her husband, Robert (Bob) Schaffer.

Our thoughts and prayer are with Jo Ann at this difficult time.

Story of the Miracle Easter Bunny



Jimmy came home on the last day of the Easter term, and to his horror he found his German Shepherd, Rex, with next door neighbors bunny rabbit in its mouth. The rabbit was obviously dead.

Greatly upset, Jimmy panicked thinking, "f my neighbors find out that Rex killed their bunny, they'll hate me forever." Jimmy quickly took the rather large bunny, and, placing it in a paper bag deposited in the local incinerator. On his way home, Jimmy looked into Pets 'R Us and bought a rabbit which he gauged was just like the deceased. Back home, Jimmy took the 'new' rabbit and placed it in the open hutch in his neighbor's garden.

Later that evening, Jimmy heard a knock on his front door and opening it he found his next door neighbors bearing the 'new' rabbit in their arms.

"Look," squeaked his neighbor, "Yesterday Billy was dead and we buried him 4 feet down in the garden. Today we come home and find that not only is he alive and well but he has grown several more teeth but also he has shrunk. It's a miracle."

Russian Pierogi Casserole

- 10 to 12 potatoes, boiled and mashed
- ¾ lb. cheddar cheese, grated
- 2 ½ sticks butter or margarine
- 2 onions, finely diced
- 1 lb. lasagna noodles, cooked



Cook lasagna noodles according to package directions. Mash potatoes. Add cheese to potatoes; beat well. Sauté onions in butter until soft. Add ½ onions and butter to potato mixture and salt to taste.

Generously butter a 13x9x2 inch baking pan. Place a layer of lasagna noodles in pan, then a layer of potato mixture. Repeat, ending with noodles. Pour butter and onions over all. Cover with foil; bake 350 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes.

When you run out of the church's homemade pierogies here is a simple and delicious way to satisfy you desire for pierogies.