

*Christ The Saviour Orthodox Church*  
*American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese*  
*Ecumenical Patriarchate*

10000 State Road  
North Royalton, OH 44133

Parish Website: [www.christsaviour.weebly.com](http://www.christsaviour.weebly.com)

Diocesan Website: [www.acrod.org](http://www.acrod.org)

Church Phone: (440) 237-9196

Church Email: [christsaviour@live.com](mailto:christsaviour@live.com)



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**Schedule of Services:**

Sunday April 1<sup>st</sup>: Palm Sunday Service at 10 am

Friday April 6<sup>th</sup>: Good Friday Service at 7 pm

Sunday April 8<sup>th</sup>: Pascha Service at 10 am

Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup>: Obednitsa Service at 10 am

For more dates of services check out the parish website's calendar.

**Candle Prices:**

-Large are \$3

-Small are \$1

Our Calendars are in the foyer!

Camp Nazareth will host the Diocese's first Seniors' Retreat from April 23rd-25th. The cost of the retreat is \$110 for those ages 65+. Please see Penney Royko if you would like to register by April 18th.

Prayer List:

Living		
Pani Donna (Smoley)	Thomas (Royko)	Kathryn (Royko)
Penney (Royko)	Sally (Hubiak)	Ethel (Rusyniak)
Eileen (Bunevich)	Jane	Emerson (Sirilla)
Theresa (Popovich)	Theodore (Bunevich)	Fr. Andrew (Harmon)
Tiana (Hosta)	Virginia (Shymske)	Bonnie (Harmon)
Pani Magdaline (Blaschak)	Logan (Gatchell)	Doris (Gatchell)
Dolores (Royko)	James (Strachan)	Rosalie (Strachan)
Marsha (Will)		

Departed		
Matushka Catherine (Jula)	Very Reverend Father Doctor Stephen (Jula)	Vicky (Zabala)
Joey (Jarvis)		

"Do not say then, 'I am hated, and that is why I do not love.' For this is when you ought to love most." +St. John Chrysostom

The Prayer list was restarted. If you wish to have someone on the list, please contact a member of the Royko family or send an email to:

- [christsaviour@live.com](mailto:christsaviour@live.com)

Additional Holy Week Services are being held by St. Matthew's Orthodox Church currently presiding at the United Methodist building at 13601 Ridge Rd. North Royalton Ohio.

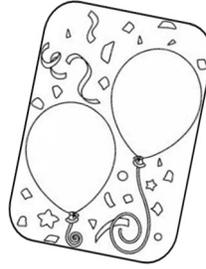
- Wednesday April 4<sup>th</sup>: Unction Healing Service at 6:30 pm
- Thursday April 5<sup>th</sup>: 12 Passion Gospel Readings at 6:30 pm

**Birthdays & Anniversaries:**

Emily Dunn- March 27<sup>th</sup>

Penney Royko- April 9<sup>th</sup>

James Strachan- April 10<sup>th</sup>



**Epistle Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians 4:4-9:**

BRETHREN, rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, do; and the God of peace will be with you.

**Gospel Reading: John 12:1-18:**

Six days before Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazaros was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. There they made him a supper; Martha served, and Lazaros was one of those at table with him. Mary took a pound of costly ointment of pure nard and anointed the feet of Jesus and

wiped his feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the ointment. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (he who was to betray him), said "Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" This he said, not that he cared for the poor but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box he used to take what was put into it. Jesus said, "Let her alone, let her keep it for the day of my burial. The poor you always have with you, but you do not always have me."

When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazaros, whom he had raised from the dead. So the chief priests planned to put Lazaros also to death, because on account of him many of the Jews were going away and believing in Jesus.

The next day a great crowd who had come to the feast heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!" And Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it; as it is written, "Fear not, daughter of Zion; behold, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" His disciples did not understand this at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that this had been written of him and had been done to him. The crowd that had been with him when he called Lazaros out of the tomb and raised him from the dead bore witness. The reason why the crowd went to meet him was that they heard he had done this sign.

## **Saints and Feasts:**

Palm Sunday; Mary of Egypt; Gerontios & Vasilides the Martyrs;  
Euthemios of Suzdal

### Sermon for Palm Sunday

Throughout the entire history of the known world, men have conquered other men. Rulers have conquered cities. Emperors have conquered entire nations. At times, Kings have strived to conquer the entire world. But there remains one uncharted territory that has eluded men of power all throughout history. This unconquered territory is the human heart, and its sole conqueror is Christ the king.

Today we celebrate together one of the great feasts of the Church calendar — the feast of Palm Sunday. Today we gather together to celebrate Christ's entry into the city of Jerusalem. Today we celebrate Christ as the king who enters our own personal Jerusalem — our hearts. Today's feast day is a momentary feast of joy and celebration, because tonight we begin the final leg of our journey towards Pascha. Our mood changes from one of joy this morning to one of solemnity, almost of sorrow this evening as we lead up to the great sacrifice that Christ performed for us on the cross.

The feast of Palm Sunday has been celebrated in our Church since the earliest days of Christianity, but the use of Palms in connection with religious celebrations goes all the way back to Old Testament times. Oddly enough Palm trees did not grow around the city of Jerusalem, and people would often buy imported Palms for religious celebrations, in particular The Feast of Tabernacles celebrated at the temple in Jerusalem. The Palm branch was used as a visual tool proclaiming the sovereignty of God as the true king of the Israelites.

With the expectation of the Messiah, and the events of Christ's ministry on earth, word travelled quickly around Judea that Jesus was the one whom the prophets had spoken about and whom everyone was expecting. Yesterday Christ performed a miracle by raising Lazarus from the dead, the miracle that foreshadowed his glorious resurrection next Sunday. Now everyone is convinced that this is the Messiah-king who will save the Israelites. And Christ fulfils the prophecy of Zachariah, entering Jerusalem on a donkey. All of Israel is preparing to go to Jerusalem for the feast of the Passover, and Christ enters also as the salvific king who will save Israel not from the tyranny of the Roman Empire, but from the curse of death through His own death and resurrection

For Orthodox Christians around the world, we celebrate these events as they happened not only in the past, but as they also happen today. We celebrate Christ as the king who enters our hearts, our own personal Jerusalem. But is Christ able to enter? Is there room in our hearts for Christ to rule as king? Often the doors of our hearts are locked. Often Christ is unable to enter because there is already another king of the heart – ourselves. And how do we solve this problem of trying to let Christ in? How do we instil within ourselves the one thing that is missing- God?

The answer is to surrender. Surrender to the will of God. Surrender your life to the one who gave you life. We are constantly bound and held captive by the temporal things of this life. We are prisoners of our own selves, of this world, of our careers, of money, of the politicians who rule over us, we are even slaves to our own passions. The only way to find peace, to find true happiness, to experience true love is to surrender yourself to God, to make Him your king, to live in total communion with Him. And the way in which we turn our hearts from the kingdom of the self into the kingdom of God is through constant daily prayer, reflection, and meditation, frequent Holy Communion, frequent Confession, reading and understanding the Scriptures. So many people complain that they can't find time to come to Church, they can't find time to pray and read the Scriptures, they can't find time to fast, or go to Confession and Holy Communion. The reason they don't have time is that they are slaves to their own selves, to their own will. If we don't have time for God, then why on earth should God have any time for us? But God always has time for us. He is constantly knocking at the door to our hearts, to our lives and asking to come in. Some of the Church Fathers go so far as to liken God to a crazed lover who constantly seeks to be with the one that He loves – us, and who would do absolutely anything to be with the people that He loves.

Today, as we receive our Palm branches at the end of the Divine Liturgy, let us take them to our homes and place them somewhere where we can always see them. Let the Palms remind us that Christ is the king of our families, that Christ is the king of our hearts, that Christ is the only true answer to happiness and meaning in our lives. And if we do proclaim Christ as our king, let us try and make time for Him in our daily life, let us be reminded that He is the one with whom we will be spending eternity. Let us be reminded that our careers, our education, our finances, our homes, all of the basic material needs in our lives are only temporary. Let us prioritise and place Christ the king as the primary concern in our lives. It is only when we have done this that we will find true peace and happiness in such a confused and complex world. Amen.

Greek Orthodox Church of Saint George, Brisbane QLD