



*Welcome to St. Athanasius the Great
Byzantine Catholic Church*

***“Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory to Him forever!”
Slava Isusu Christu! Slava naviky Bohu sviatomu!***

We welcome all to the Divine Services at our parish. Our restrooms are in the Dormition Hall behind the Rectory next door. On Sundays, after Divine Liturgy, all of you are welcome for luncheon.

Having first praised you with their palms, the ungrateful people then crucified you, but we honor you with our unchanging faith as our Benefactor, O Lord, and we unceasingly cry out to you: Blessed is he who comes to draw Adam forth from the tomb.

(Hypakoe from Matins of Palm Sunday)

Need to request an appointment with Father?

Father is available for confession or spiritual direction by appointment, and he welcomes you to contact him whenever you need him.

Prayers for the sick or other intentions:

If you have a special intention for the sick, birthdays, or deceased, need to request a Liturgy or other service to be offered for someone please give a note, text, or call Father at 216-532-6364.

Opportunities to help with fundraising....we are called into service

Currently, our parish is unable to exist without fundraising initiatives. Our most successful venture over the years has proved to be the traditional pierogi and European baked goods made in our commercial kitchen and sold at the various local Farmers' Market venues. **Volunteers are always needed to help with the baking and selling.** Cleaning the work areas and equipment is also a welcome opportunity to serve (can be an evening after work). **You are always needed, even if it is for a couple of hours.**

The Winter Carmel Market started October 19 and continues every Saturday until March 29, 2025. Bakery activities continue Tuesday through Friday. Please contact Father Mykhaylo, to schedule a workable day and time (Tuesday through Saturday) for you and/or your family.

Opportunities For Service At St. Athanasius

- This year's Winter Market (Oct 19 – March 29) has begun and requires at least one able-bodied volunteer every Saturday morning at 6:40 AM at the church hall to load the van with products, drive the van to the market, unload the van, reload the van with unsold products at market close (noon), drive the van back to the hall, unload the van, take product inventory and store products appropriately in the hall. Additional volunteers, at least 2, are needed to sell products (9:00-noon) at the market. Someone is needed to manage this.
- Pierogi pinchers and bakers are always needed (Tuesday through Friday with pierogi making typically on Wednesday).
- Our worship space needs to be kept maintained; plants watered, candles filled, carpet vacuumed.
- Our social space needs to be kept clean and organized, including bathrooms. Please clean up chairs as well as tables in the hall.
- Items for the food pantry are always needed; (food [cans with pop tops are appreciated], toiletries, cereal, carton milk, crackers, peanut butter)
- Bags for the food pantry need to be assembled every week.
- In the garden: soil preparation (laying down cardboard & cover with leaves)
- Plastic grocery bags are needed for the food pantry and market sales.

PALM SUNDAY

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 heads and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, what inner 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.

John 12: 1-18

Six days before Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the village of Lazarus whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave him a banquet, at which Martha served. Lazarus was one of those at table with Jesus. Mary brought a pound of costly perfume made from genuine aromatic nard, with which she anointed the feet of Jesus. Then she dried his feet with her hair, and the house was filled with the ointment's fragrance. Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one about to hand him over), protested: "Why was not this perfume sold?

It could have brought three hundred silver pieces, and the money have been given to the poor." (He did not say this out of concern for the poor, but because he was a thief. He held the purse, and used to help himself to what was deposited there.) To this Jesus replied: "Leave her alone. Let her keep it against the day they prepare me for burial. The poor you always have with you, but me you will not always have." The great crowd of Jews discovered Jesus was there and came out, not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. The fact was, the chief priests planned to kill Lazarus too, because many Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him on account of Lazarus.

The next day the great crowd that had come for the feast heard that Jesus was to enter Jerusalem, so they got palm branches and came out to meet him. They kept shouting: "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the king of Israel" "Jesus found a donkey and mounted it, in accord with Scripture: "Fear not, O daughter of Zion! Your king approaches you on a donkey's colt." (At first, the disciples did not understand all this, but after Jesus was glorified they recalled that the people had done to him precisely what had been written about him.) The crowd that was present when Jesus called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead kept testifying to it. The crowd came out to meet him because they heard he had performed this sign.

"Christ goes to Jerusalem to become the life and resurrection of his people who accept him, believe in him, to grant such a victory that no secular ruler can win. Christ goes to grant that eternal anointing that the Son of God received in the bosom of the Father, and each time he comes anew to pour it out on each of us and make us partakers of that resurrection that he himself is."

We call the week before Easter **"Holy and Great"** because in these days the Lord accomplished a great work, the work of salvation, the redemption of humanity from the slavery of sin and death. We call this week **Holy and Great week** because we remember **Christ's Passion, torture, beatings, crowning with thorns, and death on the cross.**

"Every spring we eagerly await the Easter holidays. But it is worth asking ourselves: how much do we understand meaning and significance for our spiritual life and salvation? There is a danger that we can experience Holy and Great week and Easter the way the Jews experienced Christ's entry into Jerusalem, that is, loudly and joyfully, but without understanding any of it. We can go through this time, paying attention only to external rites, the beauty of singing, and admiring church ceremonies. We can go to church only because others do so, because it is a tradition, because it happens that way. And when the holidays are over, apart from the noise in our heads, maybe we will have nothing left."

Therefore, I invite us to reflect on how we should experience this holy and majestic time. "First of all, we must experience it with faith. If someone does not believe in the Resurrection of Christ, he will not be able to spiritually experience the Lord's Easter. The festive time must also be experienced in the spirit of prayer. In our district, churches are not theaters. They are houses of prayer. The history and mystery of our salvation must be experienced in inner union with God. All divine services must be for us a way and a time of prayer. Without prayer, we will not understand anything about what happened on the cross and in God's tomb. In order to deeply experience the mystery of our redemption, we must also know about the history of human salvation. Therefore, it is not possible to do without teaching children the catechism, without reading the Holy Scriptures, without listening attentively to sermons, without reading spiritual literature. In order to usefully experience the coming days, we must also slow down a little in life and in our duties. Perhaps we need to prepare a little less food for the table.

Soon, like the Jews in Jerusalem, we will follow Christ. I wish everyone that we know whom we are following and that we do it consciously. I also wish that our **"Hosanna"** never turns into **"Crucify Him"** in our lives. I wish everyone a deep spiritual experience of Holy Week!

Glory to your passion, Lord! Glory to your long-suffering, O Lord!



Weekend Divine Services

Saturday: 5 PM Vespers

Sunday: 8:15 AM Matins
10 AM Divine Liturgy

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