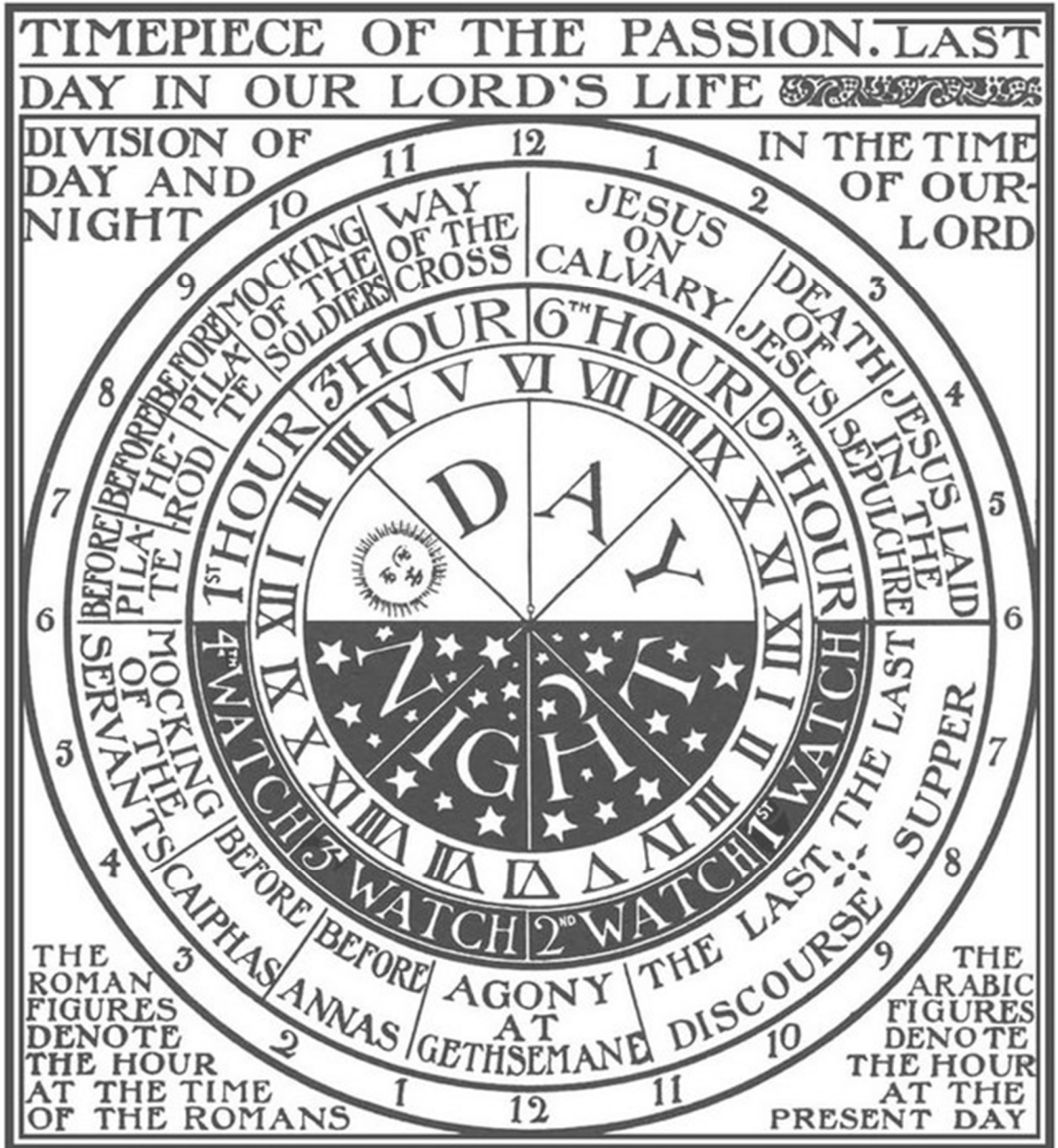


# Bulletin for April 13-19, 2025

—Palm Sunday & Holy Week Edition—



# SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK & PASCHA 2025

|              |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|
| <b>MON</b>   | <b>4/14/2025</b><br>5:50 PM<br>6:30 PM | <b>HOLY MONDAY</b><br>Confessions<br>Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts   |
| <b>TUES</b>  | <b>4/15/2025</b><br>5:50 PM<br>6:30 PM | <b>HOLY TUESDAY</b><br>Confessions ( <i>Last Chance Before Pascha!</i> )<br>Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  |
| <b>WED</b>   | <b>4/16/2025</b><br>6:00 PM            | <b>HOLY WEDNESDAY</b><br>Sacrament of Holy Unction (Anointing)<br>with Bishop Andrei of Cleveland and Local Orthodox Priests<br>at Holy Cross Orthodox Church ( <i>950 Maple Drive, Hermitage</i> )  |
| <b>THURS</b> | <b>4/17/2025</b><br>9:00 AM<br>6:30 PM | <b>HOLY THURSDAY – THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST</b><br>Vespertal Divine Liturgy in Commemoration of the Last Supper<br>Matins with the Reading of the Passion Gospels<br><i>Preparation of the Tomb after Services</i>   |
| <b>FRI</b>   | <b>4/18/2025</b><br>9:00 AM<br>6:30 PM | <b>HOLY FRIDAY – CRUCIFIXION, DEATH AND BURIAL OF CHRIST</b><br>Royal Hours (Morning Prayer Service)<br>Vespers of Holy Friday<br>Procession with the Holy Shroud ( <i>Outdoors, Weather Permitting</i> )  |
| <b>SAT</b>   | <b>4/19/2025</b><br>9:00 AM<br>8:00 PM | <b>HOLY SATURDAY – AWAITING THE RESURRECTION</b><br>Vespertal Divine Liturgy<br><i>Decorating of Church after Liturgy</i><br><i>Church Open All Day for Visits to the Holy Tomb</i><br>Resurrection Procession ( <i>Outdoors, Weather Permitting</i> )<br>Resurrection Matins Service<br>Blessing of Easter Food Baskets |
| <b>SUN</b>   | <b>4/20/2025</b><br>10:00 AM           | <b>PASCHA – THE GREAT DAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST</b><br>Divine Liturgy<br>Blessing of Easter Food Baskets<br><i>Children's Easter Egg Hunt (Weather Permitting)</i>   |



**Easter Egg Hunt** for children under 12 years of age will take place after Divine Liturgy on Pascha Sunday, April 20th (weather permitting). **All children are welcome and encouraged to participate!**

## HOLY WEEK & PASCHA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fr. David read this once in a bulletin: **"THIS IS THE HOLIEST WEEK OF THE YEAR. RE-ADJUST YOUR SCHEDULE. CHANGE YOUR PRIORITIES. ATTEND SERVICES THIS WEEK."** *This is very true!*

**Holy Week** is the high point of the Christian year. We liturgically celebrate in a *chronological* manner the saving events of Our Lord's Suffering, Death and Resurrection. Our church becomes the Upper Room of the Last Supper, Calvary and the Tomb. We walk step-by-step with Christ. All those things done by Our Savior are *re-presented*—made present again. We receive this experience primarily from the services occurring in church.

- **Services**

There are many opportunities for prayer and worship during Holy Week. Come to as many services as possible! If you have to prioritize church attendance due to your situation in life, gravitate towards the services of the last three days of Holy Week: Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

- **Service Times**

Please pay close attention to the times of services listed in the bulletin. **NONE of the evening services at our church begin at our "usual" 6:00 PM time slot.**

**Holy Monday through Holy Friday**, our evening services will begin at 6:30 PM. We hope this extra half-hour will be of assistance to those who work and have commutes, students who have homework, etc. *(As noted on the schedule and later in this bulletin, the Holy Wednesday Unction Service will be at Holy Cross Orthodox Church on Maple Drive and will begin at 6:00 PM.)*

**Resurrection Matins** will begin on Holy Saturday at 8:00 PM. Since the early days of the Christian Church, the Paschal Night has been an important time. Resurrection Matins itself speaks of "this holy, radiant, and saving night."

In addition to our evening services, there will be services in the **morning** on Holy Thursday, Holy Friday and Holy Saturday at 9:00 AM. If you have never attended these services, consider adding them to your Holy Week experience!

- **Holy Week Fasting**

Holy Week, as the most solemn week on the Church's calendar, is observed as a week of fasting. Traditionally, we observe a "strict fast" from meat and dairy all week. At a *minimum*, fast from meat and meat products on Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, Holy Wednesday and Holy Thursday, and keep a *strict fast* from meat and dairy products on Good Friday and Holy Saturday.

- **Confession During Holy Week**

Confession is available on Holy Monday and Holy Tuesday from 5:50 PM until 6:20 PM. These are the last opportunities for Confession before Pascha. Confessions will not be heard on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, or on Pascha morning itself. *If the sacristy door is open and the light is on, please walk right in to receive this wonderful Sacrament!*

- **Vigil at the Tomb on Holy Saturday**

Our church will be open all day on Holy Saturday for prayer and for visits to the Holy Tomb. This is an old tradition, and it is wonderful that we are able to keep it going. Take a moment out of your busy schedule and come quietly to pray in preparation for Pascha.

- **Decorating**

We will be decorating the Tomb for Good Friday after services on Holy Thursday evening. We will decorate the church for Pascha after services on Holy Saturday morning.

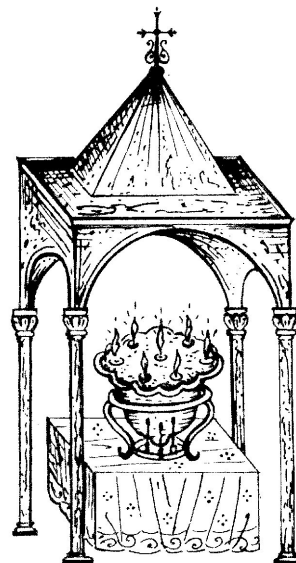
- **Perpetual Commemorations**

In order to focus completely on Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection, all Perpetual Commemorations have been scheduled before or after Holy Week and Bright Week. Please see the Monthly Calendar.

## Special Pan-Orthodox Unction on Holy Wednesday, April 16

His Grace, BISHOP ANDREI OF CLEVELAND will celebrate the Sacrament of Unction with local Orthodox clergy at Holy Cross Orthodox Church (950 Maple Drive, Hermitage) on Holy Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM. All of our parishioners are invited to attend this special celebration of this sacrament of healing!

*(There is no service on Holy Wednesday at Saint John's.)*



## SPRING 2025 PIROHI WRAP-UP

|               |                | GROSS      | NET               |
|---------------|----------------|------------|-------------------|
| March 7, 2025 | 228 Dozen      | \$ 2079.00 | \$ 2079.00        |
| April 4, 2025 | 282-1/2 Dozen  | \$ 2576.00 | \$ 2456.20        |
| TOTAL         | 510- 1/2 Dozen | \$ 4655.00 | \$ 4535.20 PROFIT |

We want to express our sincerest **GRATITUDE** to all St. John's Members who gave of their time and talents to participate in our Spring Pirohi Sales. We had awesome turnouts for both sales and were FINISHED by 10:45 am!! We also THANK the "Pinchers" who kept all those fingers nimble for those **6126 Pirohi** !! We want to give a HUGE SHOUT-OUT to Tommy Ristvey of **VEY'S Pub and Grill** who generously donated the 25# of cheese and the 300# of potato used in the sales. We also want to thank Jerry Chupak and Steve Saluga who provided the delicious morning donuts, to Melinda Kroko for organizing the luncheon after, and to ALL the ladies who provide the foods. Our next sale will be in October 2025. COME, LAUGH and have FUN with us!! There is NO SALE in July.

*We thank Lorraine Amos for chairing this fundraiser!*

## KOLBASI SALE REPORT

*By Jerry Chupak*

"Thank You" to all who helped in the preparation and purchasing at the recent Kolbasi Sale. A profit of **\$875** was donated to the Church!

*We thank Jerry for chairing this new parish fundraiser!*

# Step by Step through the Holy Week and Paschal Services

by Fr. David

**Holy Monday, Holy Tuesday, and Holy Wednesday** cover a number of motifs. The Gospel readings are often taken from the final teachings of Jesus Christ. Holy Monday includes the theme of Joseph from the Old Testament, as well as the fig tree that was cursed and withered by Jesus. Holy Tuesday centers on the parable of the Ten Virgins. Holy Wednesday points to the anointing of Christ by the sinful woman in the house of Simon the leper.

On Holy Wednesday, it has become customary in many places to offer the **Sacrament of Holy Unction** (Holy Anointing) for the entire parish community. As this sacrament is offered for the healing of soul and body and the forgiveness of sins, it is received by Orthodox Christians who have confessed during Lent as a spiritual preparation to enter into the final days of Holy Week and Pascha.

The **Vespers on Holy Thursday** commemorates the Last Supper, the Institution of the Holy Eucharist, the Institution of the Priesthood, and Christ's humble act of washing the feet of His disciples. Today's Gospel reading is actually the longest of any Divine Liturgy.

The **Matins of Holy Friday** (typically anticipated on Holy Thursday evening) includes twelve readings from the Gospels. These readings relate Jesus' final discourse to the disciples; Jesus' agony in the garden; His betrayal and arrest; His trial, mocking and scourging; His journey to Golgotha; His crucifixion; and His burial. This service helps us to begin our observance of Holy Friday having heard all that the Scriptures tell us about Our Lord's Passion and Death.

The **Royal Hours** service is actually an aggregate of five shorter services: 1st Hour, 3rd Hour, 6th Hour, 9th Hour, and Typika. These include Psalms, hymns, Old Testament readings, Epistle readings, and Gospel readings related to the Passion and Death of Christ.

The **Vespers on Holy Friday** again shares the narrative of the Passion and Death of Christ. At the conclusion of this service, the Shroud (*epitaphios*; *plashchanitsa*) depicting either the dead Christ or the entire scene of Christ's burial is solemnly carried in procession and "buried" in the Tomb in the middle of the church where it remains until Resurrection Matins.

The **Vespers on Holy Saturday** directs our attention to the Resurrection. In the early church, it was at this time that new members of the church were baptized, thus being joined to the Death and Resurrection of Jesus in a personal way. This Liturgy includes two

readings from the Old Testament, one with the Hymn of Moses from the book of Exodus, and the other with the Hymn of the Three Youths from the book of Daniel. Instead of the singing of “Alleluia” before the Gospel, a Psalm verse “Arise, O God, and judge the earth, for all nations belong to You” is sung. During this time, the black vestments and altar covers are removed, and all vestments and covers in the church are changed to white. The Gospel reading from Matthew proclaims the Resurrection for the first time, as well as Jesus’ instruction to baptize all nations. The festal blessing of bread, wheat, wine, and oil takes place at the end of the Liturgy, a hold-over from the days when this Liturgy was celebrated in the evening and people needed a “blessed snack” to tide them over until after the Pascha Liturgy.

**Resurrection Matins** begins with the removal of the Shroud. The Shroud is placed on the altar until the Ascension. After the candles of the congregation are lit (often by the priest sharing the Paschal Light), all go outside the church in procession for the beginning of the service. Before the closed doors of the church, the Paschal Tropar “Christ is risen from the dead...” is sung for the first time. The doors of the church are blessed with the sign of the cross before all proceed back inside. The main body of the service consists of a Canon written by St. John of Damascus, the refrain being “Christ is risen from the dead!” During the special Paschal Stichera, all come forward to venerate the Cross, Gospel, and Icon of the Resurrection. A homily by St. John Chrysostom is read at the conclusion of the service.

The **Divine Liturgy of Pascha** is the culmination of the Paschal services. The tropar “Christ is risen...” is sung many times, even in place of other regular hymns. It is customary to read the Gospel from John (1:1-17) in twelve sections in several languages, symbolic of the apostles going to preach to the whole world. At the end of the Liturgy, the “artos” (a leavened bread) is blessed; in parish practice, it is distributed on Thomas Sunday.

**Paschal Foods** are blessed at some point, according to parish custom. These meat- and dairy-rich foods are a sampling of the type of foods from which we abstained during Lent. They are the first foods that are eaten after Liturgy on Pascha, symbolizing the richness of the heavenly banquet in God’s Kingdom (a recurring theme in the Bible). Every Divine Liturgy is a foretaste of the eternal feast in God’s Kingdom. Thus, after the Eucharistic Banquet on Pascha, we are called to extend the joy and feasting into our homes with this special blessing.

The full celebration of Pascha extends for an entire week, known as “**Bright Week.**” The doors of the ikonostas remain open, a sign that the kingdom of God has been opened to us through Christ’s resurrection. We do not kneel for prayer during Bright Week or the rest of the Paschal season, as kneeling is a sign of penance. On Bright Monday, after Liturgy, a procession around the church includes four Gospel readings—one from each evangelist—and share the story of the Resurrection.





**HOLY WEEK  
SCRIPTURE  
READINGS**

**Holy Monday**  
*Matins*

Matthew 21:18-43

*Vespers (Presanctified)*

Exodus 1:1-20

Job 1:1-12

Matthew 24:3-35

**Holy Tuesday**  
*Matins*

Matthew 22:15-23:39

*Vespers (Presanctified)*

Exodus 2:5-10

Job 1:13-22

Matthew 24:36-26:2

**Holy Wednesday**  
*Matins*

John 12:17-50

*Vespers (Presanctified)*

Exodus 2:11-22

Job 2:1-10

Matt. 26:6-16

**Holy Thursday**

*Matins*

Luke 22:1-39

*Vespers Liturgy*

Exodus 19:10-19

Job 38:1-21, 42:1-5

Isaiah 50:4-11

1 Corinthians 11:23-32

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 26:2-20

John 13:3-17

Matthew 26:21-39

Luke 22:43-44

Matthew 26:40-27:2

**Holy Friday**

*Matins-12 Passion Gospels*

1. John 13:31-18:1

2. John 18:1-28

3. Matthew 26:57-75

4. John 18:28-19:16

5. Matthew 27:3-32

6. Mark 15:16-32

7. Matthew 27:33-54

8. Luke 23:32-49

9. John 19:25-37

10. Mark 15:43-47

11. John 19:38-42

12. Matthew 27:62-66

*First Royal Hour*

Zachariah 11:10-13

Galatians 6:14-18

Matthew 27:1-56

*Third Royal Hour*

Isaiah 50:4-11

Romans 5:6-10

Mark 15:16-41

*Sixth Royal Hour*

Isaiah 52:13-54:1

Hebrews 2:11-18

Luke 23:32-49

*Ninth Royal Hour*

Jeremiah 11:18-12:15

Hebrews 10:19-31

John 19:23-37

*Vespers*

Exodus 33:11-23

Job 42:12-17

Isaiah 52:13-54:1

1 Corinthians 1:18-2:2

Gospel Reading:

Matthew 27:1-38

Luke 23:39-43

Matthew 27:39-54

John 19:31-37

Matthew 27:55-61

**Holy Saturday**

*Matins*

Ezekiel 37:1-14

1 Corinthians 5:6-8 &

Galatians 3:13-14

Matthew 27:62-66

*Vespers-Liturgy*

Genesis 1:1-13

Exodus 13:20-15:19

Daniel 3:1-23; Song of the

Three Young Men: 1-66

Romans 6:3-11

Matthew 28:1-20

**PASCHA**

*Matins*

Mark 16:1-8

*Divine Liturgy*

Acts 1:1-8

John 1:1-17

*Vespers*

John 20:19-25

## — Reading the Bible During Holy Week —

**What makes the services of Holy Week special?** While there are many liturgical practices and customs that have developed over the centuries, the most important distinctive to the Holy Week services is that we read EVERYTHING in the Gospels about Our Lord's Passion and Death throughout the course of the services. A special **Guide to the Holy Week Scripture Readings** is included on the previous page. Those present in church will hear these readings proclaimed. Those unable to attend a particular service are heartily encouraged to read the **Bible Readings for the day (especially the Gospel)** at home. This way, you will stay in sync with what is happening in church.

### THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

*By Dan Hromyak*

"...He went about doing good and healing all those oppressed by the devil, for God was with him." - Acts 10:38

We can't give what we don't have. Open your heart to receive God's love, mercy and forgiveness. Then, show the same to others. As God's adopted sons and daughters, we are made in His image and likeness. As said, "we are made for greatness." Let our lives reflect His light to others. Pray to live a grateful and generous life. Strive for greatness! We are made for more! We are made for God!

### UPCOMING DIOCESAN EVENTS AT CAMP NAZARETH

*An informational sheet is included with this bulletin, but here are some highlights:*

**Sts. Joachim and Anna Senior Retreat: May 2-4**  
*Registration closes Friday, April 25, 2025*

**Camp Nazareth Family Camp 2025**  
**Friday, May 30 – Sunday, June 1**  
*Space is limited, so be sure to register soon!*  
*Online Registration is NOW OPEN!*

### 2nd Annual Camp Nazareth Alumni Online Event

When: Tuesday May 6th, 2025  
Time: 7:00pm EST

Parents, don't forget to register your kids for SUMMER CAMP if you have not done so already. Our parish pays 100% of tuition costs for our kids to enjoy one week at Camp Nazareth. Talk to Fr. David to get the registration code.

Visit [campnazareth.org](http://campnazareth.org) to register or to get more information about any of these events!

# SAINT JOHN'S ORTHODOX CHURCH

3180 Morefield Road  
Hermitage, PA 16148

*Church Office: 724-981-0571*  
*To Reach Fr. David: 724-813-3172*  
*E-mail: father.david@stjohnacroc.org*  
*Website: www.stjohnacroc.org*

*Rev. Father David Mastroberte, Pastor*

*A Parish of the American Carpatho-Russian Orthodox Diocese – Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople*

## Sacramental and Membership Information

**Sick Calls** can be made at any time. Please phone the rectory (724-346-4457) when a family member is admitted to the hospital, or to request a home visit to receive Confession and Communion. Hospitals do *not* call to alert the parish when someone is admitted.

**Marriages** are solemnized on Saturdays or Sundays. Circumstances may require a dispensation from the diocesan bishop. Consult the pastor at least six months in advance and before any plans have been made for the wedding reception. Marriages cannot be celebrated during the fasting seasons of the church, or on Fridays.

**Baptisms** are usually scheduled on Saturdays or Sundays, but other days are possible as well. Consult the pastor. Two godparents (godfather and godmother) are required, at least one of whom must be a practicing Orthodox Christian in good standing at an Orthodox parish, and the other (at least) a practicing, baptized Christian.

**Church Funerals** are, under ordinary circumstances, provided for practicing Orthodox Christians who are current in their spiritual and material obligations to the parish; otherwise, the funeral service is conducted at the funeral home. **The Church does not permit cremation.**

**Parishioners in "good standing"** are those Orthodox Christians who, as members of Saint John's Orthodox Church, strive to live according to the teachings of the Orthodox Church; participate in the life of the parish through regular church attendance, regular reception of Holy Communion and periodic Holy Confession (and receive these sacraments no less than once a year); if married, having been married in the Orthodox Church; and financially support the parish (especially through an annual "pledge").

**Prospective members and returning members** are asked to fill out an application form, copies of which are available in the church office.

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**Our Church's Website:** [stjohnacroc.org](http://stjohnacroc.org)

**Our YouTube Live Stream:** [youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon](https://youtube.com/user/saintjohnsharon)

**Our Facebook Page:** [facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA](https://facebook.com/SaintJohnHermitagePA)

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

**For Online Giving Options, please visit our website: [stjohnacroc.org](http://stjohnacroc.org)**

## ***Happy Birthday!***

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Archon Steven Lukac | April 17 |
| Roxanne Marks       | April 17 |
| Matthew Fabian      | April 19 |
| Judith Ference      | April 19 |
| Christine Frejik    | April 19 |
| Scott Riddle        | April 19 |

*"God Grant You Many,  
Blessed Years!"*

## ■ **Our Sponsors** ■

***Eternal Lamp: Week of April 13, 2025***  
*In Memory of Mother, Catherine Pavlick*  
*On the 21st Anniversary of Her Repose*  
*By Debbie & Greg Cross*

### ***Hymns of Holy Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday***

*Behold the Bridegroom comes at midnight, and blessed is the servant whom he shall find watching; and again, unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless. Beware, therefore, O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep, lest you be given over to death, and lest you be shut out of the Kingdom. But rouse yourself, crying: "Holy! Holy! Holy! are You, our God. Through the Mother of God, have mercy on us!"*

*Your bridal chamber I see adorned, O my Savior, but I have no wedding garment that I may enter. O Giver of Light, enlighten the vesture of my soul, and save me.*

### ***Schedule of Men to Hold Candles During the Gospel***

#### **April 13, 2025**

Kevin Yasnowsky  
Gary Yonchak  
Bob Amos  
Jason Baker  
Dave Beight

#### **April 20, 2025**

Dennis Burprich  
Jerry Chupak  
Ed Fabian  
Matt Fabian  
Chad Fette

#### **April 27, 2025**

Jim Hynes  
Steven Lukac  
Steve Lukac  
John Lenhart  
Ken Maceyko