

# УСПЕННЯ ПРЕСВЯТОЇ БОГОРОДИЦІ

## Dormition of the Mother of God

Sunday, March 22, 2026

“Fifth Sunday of Lent”

### Reflections for this Weekend

In Gospel of Mark 10:32–45, there is a quiet but piercing contrast unfolding beneath the surface of the journey. Jesus walks ahead, resolute and unwavering, moving toward suffering with a clarity that no one else seems to grasp. Behind Him, the disciples follow in a mixture of awe and confusion, sensing the weight of the moment but unable to comprehend its meaning. There is something deeply human in that distance between where Jesus stands and where His followers remain, a distance not measured in steps, but in understanding.

He speaks plainly about what awaits Him: betrayal, mockery, pain, and death. Yet almost immediately, this revelation is met with a request for glory. James and John ask to sit beside Him in His greatness, revealing how easily the human heart drifts toward recognition and status, even when standing in the shadow of sacrifice. It is not that their desire is entirely wrong, it is that it is incomplete. They long to be close to Him, but they do not yet understand what closeness truly requires.

There is a sobering tenderness in Jesus’ response. He does not shame them; instead, He invites them deeper. “Can you drink the cup I drink?” He asks, gently shifting their focus from reward to participation. The cup is not about honor, it is about surrender. To follow Him is not merely to admire His path, but to enter it, to accept that love, in its truest form, often leads through places of cost rather than comfort.

What unfolds next is a redefinition of greatness that overturns every instinct we carry about power and importance. Jesus gathers them and speaks of rulers who dominate and authorities who impose their will. Then He quietly dismantles that model: “Not so with you.” In His kingdom, greatness is not found in elevation above others, but in lowering oneself for their sake. To be first is to become last. To lead is to serve.

This is not simply a moral teaching; it is a revelation of the very nature of God. Jesus does not ask them to embrace something He Himself is unwilling to live. He is already embodying it, walking ahead toward the cross, choosing service at the highest possible cost. “The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.” In that single statement, He unveils a love that is not transactional, not self-protective, but entirely self-giving.

There is a profound invitation here to examine the subtle ways we measure our lives.

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We often seek validation, influence, or recognition, believing these will bring fulfillment or meaning.

Yet Jesus redirects our gaze toward something quieter but infinitely deeper: a life poured out for others. It is in serving, in unnoticed acts of love, in choosing humility over prominence, that we begin to align with the heartbeat of the divine.

This passage ultimately calls us to walk closer behind Him, not just in proximity, but in posture. To follow Jesus is to allow our definitions to be reshaped, our ambitions refined, and our understanding of greatness transformed. It is to trust that the path He walks, though marked by sacrifice, leads not to loss, but to a fullness of life that cannot be grasped through striving, only received through surrender.



**We are most appreciative for your generosity in donations to the church, and pray that the Lord bless you all with many blessings and good health.**

### **From the Pastor Desk!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

You are warmly and sincerely invited to make a special effort to join our parish community in the celebration of the upcoming religious services during this coming week and next week. These sacred days are a precious opportunity for us to come together in prayer, reflection, and unity as one family in Christ.

In a world that is increasingly marked by uncertainty, suffering, and division, our prayer is more important than ever. We especially lift up our hearts to God for peace in Ukraine, in the Middle East, and in all parts of the world where conflict, fear, and violence continue to wound humanity.

Your presence matters. When we gather as a community, our prayer becomes stronger, our hope is renewed, and our faith is deepened. Together, we stand before God not only for ourselves, but for all those who are suffering and in need of His mercy and peace.

Please come and pray with us. Bring your family, your intentions, and your hearts. Let us entrust everything to the Lord, who alone can heal, restore, and bring true peace to the world.

May God bless you abundantly, and may His peace dwell in your hearts.

## *“The courage to take up your cross”*

In the Gospel of Mark, when Christ speaks the words, “take up his cross,” He is not offering a poetic image but a deeply real invitation into the mystery of love. In His time, the cross was not a symbol of devotion; it was a sign of suffering, rejection, and sacrifice. To take up the cross meant to accept a path that the world would not understand, a path marked not by comfort, but by faithful endurance.

Yet in the light of Christ, the meaning of the cross is transformed. It is no longer only a sign of suffering, it becomes the place where love proves itself to be true, where faith becomes real, and where the soul is united most deeply with God.

Each person carries a cross, whether chosen or not. It may be hidden in the silence of the heart: a personal struggle, a wound that has not healed, a burden within the family, a fear about the future, or a loneliness that no one else sees. Sometimes the cross is physical, through illness or fatigue. Other times it is emotional or spiritual, appearing as doubt, dryness in prayer, or the quiet weight of responsibilities that seem overwhelming.

The natural instinct is to resist the cross. We try to avoid it, to question it, or to escape it. We ask, “Why me?” or “Why now?” But Christ does not ask us to understand the cross before carrying it. He asks us to trust Him within it.

To take up the cross means to accept the reality of our lives with faith, and to carry it not with bitterness, but with love. It means choosing patience instead of resentment, forgiveness instead of anger, perseverance instead of giving up. It is not about seeking suffering, but about transforming suffering into an offering.

There is a quiet power in this. When a person carries their cross with faith, something within them begins to change. The heart becomes deeper, more compassionate, more aware of others. The cross, which once seemed like a burden, becomes a place of encounter with Christ Himself. For Catholics today, this call requires real courage. We live in a world that avoids suffering at all costs and often rejects anything that demands sacrifice. Comfort is praised, and endurance is rarely understood. Yet the Gospel calls us to stand in a different place.

Taking up the cross today means remaining faithful when it is easier to compromise. It means living according to the teachings of Christ even when they are unpopular or misunderstood. It means protecting the dignity of life, honoring truth, and choosing purity, kindness, and integrity in a culture that may dismiss these values.

This courage is not loud or aggressive. It is often quiet and hidden. It is the courage of a person who continues to pray even when they feel nothing. The courage of someone who forgives a deep hurt. The courage of a believer who remains faithful in a world that questions faith.

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Christ never asks us to carry the cross alone. He is always present, even when we do not feel Him. In every struggle, in every tear, in every silent act of endurance, He walks beside us. The cross we carry is, in a mysterious way, already shared with Him.

And this is the great hope: the cross is never the end. Just as Christ’s cross led to the Resurrection, so too the crosses we carry, when united with Him, lead to new life.

What seems like loss becomes transformation. What feels like darkness becomes a path toward light.

To take up the cross is to say, even in the midst of struggle, “Lord, I trust You. I will walk with You.” And in that faithful step, the soul discovers a strength it did not know it had, and a peace that the world cannot give.



### *My apologies!*

I would like to sincerely apologize for an error in the information previously shared in our bulletin regarding the parking lot project.

In my earlier communication, I mistakenly stated that the total cost to repair the parking lots would be around \$40,000.00. In reality, the correct total cost for the recommended work is \$32,790.50. The confusion occurred because the company provided two different options, and I unintentionally combined both in the information that was shared.

Please accept my sincere apology for this mistake and any confusion it may have caused. We have now signed the contract for the work, which will include removing the existing asphalt and installing a new 3-inch asphalt surface in the front parking lot (Maryland Ave), as well as filling cracks and applying a two-coat seal to the back parking lot (37th Ave).

Thank you for your understanding, patience, and continued support of our parish. Your generosity and care make these necessary improvements possible.

With gratitude and prayers, Fr Hugo

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You are warmly and joyfully invited to celebrate the beauty and hope of Easter  
with our parish family!

On April 5, following the Resurrection Divine Liturgy, we will gather together for a **Potluck Easter Community Breakfast**, a time to rejoice in the Risen Christ, to share in fellowship, and to experience the warmth of our community united in faith and love.

Easter is not only a celebration, but a reminder that light overcomes darkness, hope rises above despair, and life is renewed through Christ. What better way to continue this joy than by coming together as one family, sharing a meal, laughter, and the blessing of one another’s presence.

We invite you to bring your family, your friends, and a dish to share. Most of all, bring your joyful heart as we celebrate this beautiful feast of the Resurrection together.



# Easter

## PASKA SALE

**Please contact the Church at 602-347-9267 or the Rectory at 602-973-3667 to reserve your Paska. Paskas will be ready for pickup on 3/29 from 11:30am to 1pm and Sunday 4/5 after the Liturgy.**

**Large Paska - \$15**

**Medium Paska - \$10**

**Small Paska (For Kids) - \$5**

**Dormition of the Mother of God  
3720 W Maryland Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85019**

**Sunday, March 29**

**“Palm Sunday”**

**Epistle:** Philippians 4:4-9. **Gospel:** John 12:1-18.

**8:50 a.m.** The Third Hour and

Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine

**9:30 a.m.** Gods blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends

**Monday, March 30**

**“Holy Monday”**

**Reading:** Exodus 1:1-20; **Reading:** Job 1:1-12 **Gospel:** Matthew 24:3-35

**6:00 p.m.** Presanctified Liturgy

**Tuesday, March 31**

**“Holy Tuesday”**

**Reading:** Exodus 2:5-10; **Reading:** Job 1:13-22 **Gospel:** Matthew 24:36-26:2

**6:00 p.m.** Presanctified Liturgy

**Wednesday, April 1**

**“Holy Wednesday”**

**Reading:** Exodus 2:5-10; **Reading:** Job 1:13-22 **Gospel:** Matthew 26:6-16

**6:00 p.m.** Presanctified Liturgy

**Thursday, April 2**

**“Holy Thursday”**

**Reading:** Isaiah 50:4-11; 1 **Epistle:** Corinthians 11:23-32 **Gospel:** Matthew 26:2-20; John 13:3-17; Matthew 26:31-39 Luke 22:43-45; Matthew 26:40-27:2

**6:00 p.m.** Divine Liturgy of St. Basil with Vespers

**Friday, April 3**

**“Good Friday”**

**Reading:** Isaiah 52:13—54:1; **Epistle:** 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:2 **Gospel:** Matthew 27:1-38; Luke 23:39-44; Matthew 27:39-54 John 19:31-37; Matthew 27:55-61

**9:00 a.m.** Service of the Twelve Passion Gospels

**5:00 p.m.** Solemn Vespers & Placing of Holy Shroud (Plashchanytsia)

**Saturday, April 4**

**“Holy Saturday”**

**Epistle:** Romans 6:3-11 **Gospel:** Matthew 28:1-20

**5:00 p.m.** Divine Liturgy of St. Basil with Vespers

**Sunday, April 5**

**“Resurrection of our Lord ” “Easter Sunday ”**

**Epistle:** Acts 1:1-8 **Gospel:** John 1:1-17

**7:00 a.m.** Prayers in front of the Holy Shroud.

Procession around the church — Resurrection Matins

**Note:** Today the priest blesses Paschal foods following the Liturgy

**And following by the Potluck Easter Community Breakfast**

**All of you are invite**

Ukrainian Catholic Parish  
Pastor  
Very Rev. Hugo Soutus  
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DMofGod@cox.net

Website:  
[www.Ukrainianchurch.org](http://www.Ukrainianchurch.org)

**Sunday Divine Liturgy:**  
8:50 a.m. The Third Hour  
And  
Prayer Service for Peace in  
Ukraine.  
9:30a.m. Divine Liturgy

**Religious Education**  
September - May

**Sacraments Penance:**  
Sunday before Liturgies  
or by appointment

**Baptism - Matrimony**  
In most instances  
six-month membership  
required

**Funerals**  
Membership of an  
immediate family member  
required

**Communion to the  
Homebound**  
If you or your family  
members are confined to a  
health center or are  
homebound, please contact  
Fr. Hugo directly so that  
arrangements can be made  
for his visitation.

### **Sunday, March 22**

#### **"5th Sunday of Lent" "Venerable Mother, Mary of Egypt"**

Epistle: Hebrew 9:11-14. Gospel: Mark 10:32:45.

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour and

Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine

9:30 a.m. Gods blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends  
Gods blessings and good health Lorelei Dunn from Rick and Ulana Martindale

### **Monday, March 23**

#### **"The Holy Venerable Martyr Nikon and His Disciples"**

Reading: Genesis: 27:1-41; Reading: Proverbs 19:16-25

### **Tuesday, March 24**

#### **"Our Venerable Father Zachary, Our Holy Father Artemon"**

Reading: Genesis: 31:3-16 Reading: Proverbs 21:3-21

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

### **Wednesday, March 25**

#### **"Annunciation of the Theotokos"**

Epistle: Hebrew 2:11-18. Gospel: Luke 1:24-38.

6:00 p.m. Vespers- Liturgy

### **Thursday, March 26**

#### **"Synaxis of the Holy Archangel Gabriel"**

Reading: Genesis: 46:1-7 Reading: Proverbs 23:1524:5

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

### **Friday, March 27**

#### **"Our Holy Mother Matrona of Thessalonica"**

Reading: Genesis: 49:33-50:26; Reading: Proverbs 31:8-31.

6:00 p.m. Presanctified Liturgy (Ukrainian)

### **Saturday, March 28**

#### **"Lazarus Saturday"**

Epistle: Hebrew 12:28-13:8. Gospel: John 11:1-45.

9:00 a.m. In loving memory of +Anna Dworskij from the parish.

6:30 p.m. Evening prayers via Zoom

### **Sunday, March 29**

#### **"Palm Sunday"**

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9. Gospel: John 12:1-18.

8:50 a.m. The Third Hour and

Prayer Service for Peace in Ukraine

9:30 a.m. Gods blessings and good health for all our parishioners and friends