

Palm Sunday Traditions

Palm Sunday, for Ukrainians, Pussy Willow Sunday or Verbna Nedila. Palm trees do not grow in Ukraine so in the Ukrainian Christian tradition, it was replaced by a willow, a plant, which blooms in early spring and symbolizes the beginning of a new life. It is likely that origins of this custom are ancient, and probably precede the acceptance of Christianity in Ukraine. On this day pussy-willow branches are blessed in church. After Palm Sunday services, it was customary for Ukrainians to tap each other with the blessed pussy willow branches. In pagan times, it is said that this tapping transferred living energy from the willow plant (which was a goddess totem) to the person being tapped. Children, particularly, would be tapped, so they would grow big, strong and healthy. Tapping of friends with the pussy willow branches was actually a wish for good health, wealth and happiness. The people tap one another with these branches repeating the wish below. The blessed willow branches were then taken home. Some of the blessed pussy willow branches were placed above the holy pictures in the home, to protect the household from evil spirits. These branches would replace the branches that had been placed the previous year. The branches which were taken down were carefully burned; a few would be used to light the stove to bake this year's paska. Some of the branches were planted by the father or oldest son. If they took root, it meant a marriage for the daughter of son of the family. Often they would be planted near the family's well, to keep evils spirits away from it, and to make the water healthy and good tasting. Blessed branches were used to drive the cattle to pasture for the first time on St. George's Day, and then the father or eldest son would lightly tap the cattle with them to ensure good health and fecundity. Branches would be used to ward off storms, and thrown into fires to help put them out. A branch or two would be placed in the coffin with the deceased, to protect them from demons.

Greet each other by tapping each shoulder with a willow and say:
 It is not I tapping. It is the willow. Easter is in a week!
 Be as tall as the willow, as healthy as the water and as rich as the Earth.



Rev. Fr Andriy Kelt, Pastor
 Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Balistreri
 Fr. Deacon Christopher Bellock
 Fr. Deacon Anthony Dragani, PhD.
 814.948.9193

Anyone wishing to be a member of the parish, contact Fr. Andriy

Immaculate Conception - St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church 3711 Campbell Avenue Northern Cambria, PA 15714	Holy Protection of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church 560 Cambria Avenue PO Box 194 Revloc, PA 15948-0194	Immaculate Conception - St. Mary's Ukrainian Catholic Church 2024 20th Street Altoona, PA 16601
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Our Weekly Bulletin

100th Anniversary Celebration

Mark your calendars




October 4, 2026

Bishop Bohdan has confirmed the date that he will be with us to celebrate the 100 years of the founding of our parish.

540 days or 77weeks

Glory to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!
 Christ is among us! He is and always will be!

Divine Liturgies and Services for the Week

Sunday, Apr 13	Sunday of the Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem	✠ Jan Winograski
Apr 14	No Liturgy	
Apr 15	No Liturgy	
Apr 16	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts - Northern Cambria	5:00PM 
Apr 17	Vespers and Liturgy for the Institution of the Eucharist	6:00PM
Apr 18	Vespers and Laying of the Holy Shroud	4:00PM 
Apr 19	No Liturgy	
Sunday, Apr 20	Sunday of the Resurrection Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy	8:00AM

If you are looking for a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and are looking for a home, you are welcome to be part of our kid friendly family in Christ. You have found your way home.

Passion Week Schedule

Holy Wednesday

5:00PM Presanctified Liturgy - NC

Holy Thursday

6:00PM Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the Institution of the Holy Eucharist

Great Friday

Vespers and the Laying of the Holy Shroud

2:00PM Northern Cambria

4:00PM Revloc

6:00PM Altoona

Holy Saturday

3:00PM Blessing of Paschal Foods - NC

4:00PM Vespers and Divine Liturgy - NC

6:00PM Divine Liturgy for the Resurrection - A

Pascha

8:00AM Resurrection Matins and Divine Liturgy - R

Blessing of Paschal Foods following the Liturgy

10:30AM Divine Liturgy - NC



Weekly Collection - April 6, 2025 - \$385.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday - \$315.00 Candles - \$5.00 Dues - \$5.00 Misc. \$40.00

PARISH NEWS

Saturdays with Jesus - May 17, 2025

Adult Catechism 10 to 12

Children's Catechism 1 to 2:30PM

March Events

Pyrohi - Pyrohi are available for purchase.

Holy Thursday Dinner - Please sign up for the dinner if you will be attending.

Paska Sale - There are a few paskas available for sale see Edna or Kathy.

Prayer List

Millie & Steve Deskevich, Connie Butkus, Kathy Ott, Sarah Kelt, Gary Maurer, Jeremiah Hunt, Margaret Reighard, Mary Catherine Hoover, The Fernandez family, Jennifer Maurer, Breanna Borlie, Tom and Kris, Joe Gomes, Thomas, Richard Shonk, Ryder McDermitt, Steve Helsel, Patricia Dragani, Eugene, Sonya Kohan Kevin Rogers, Darla Tishok, the Williams family, Patty Hunt, Pat Bodenski, Wendy Haggerty, the Clouse Family Angel and Walt Wooden.

To add or remove a name, place your request in the collection basket.



April 7 - Lawson Powell

April 27 - Kathy Ott

April 30 - Diakonissa Vanessa



Joke of the Day

My sister didn't do as well on her driver's-ed test as she'd hoped. It might have had something to do with how she completed this sentence: "When the _____ is dead, the car won't start." She wrote: "Driver."

Hanging up with my 90-year-old mother, I sighed, then said to my 96-year-old uncle, "She's so stubborn." He shook his head sympathetically and warned, "You're going to have trouble with her when she gets old."