

**Protocol and Procedures**  
**Holy Week and Pascha 2021**

**Glory to Jesus Christ!**

Dear brothers and sisters,

As we are in the full swing of Great Lent, many of our minds are on the coming resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Holy Pascha. How will we celebrate this year? What kind of restrictions are we facing?

**Palm Sunday – April 25, 2021**

- A maximum of 18 persons will be able to approach the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Communion. Ample opportunity has been given through various services throughout the Great Fast.

**Pussy Willows**

- The Service will be Live-streamed
- Pussy willows will be blessed and distributed at the conclusion of the festal Divine Liturgy of that day. They will be distributed in church in the usual manner (handed to each person).
- For those who are not able to attend the Divine Liturgy that morning, yet wish to receive blessed pussy willows will have an opportunity to drive by and pick up from 1:00p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Sunday to receive some (Between the Church and the Hall).

**Holy Week**

- All Services will be Live-Streamed.
- Capacity, unless changed by our civil authorities will be at 30% Capacity with social distancing. (30 persons).

**Holy Unction**

- This service will be offered this year, as it has been endeared by the faithful of our community.
- Anointing will be done with individual brushes for each person. People will approach in an orderly manner, keeping distancing in mind, and immediately returning to their seat.

## **Holy Saturday**

### **Blessing of Paschal Baskets**

- Holy Saturday Afternoon (May 1) faithful will have the opportunity to have their Pascha baskets blessed.
- Times: 1:00 p.m and 1:30 p.m. Additional times will be added only as the need arises.
- The church will be open for those who wish to come forth to venerate the Holy Shroud (Plashtanytsa), lite candles or spend a moment in private prayer.
- Current outside gatherings regulations allow up to 100 persons. If weather permits we will bless the paschal baskets outside in the church yard. Social distancing (2 meters) will be maintained from one household to the next. We ask that masks be worn (even outdoors). Blessing will begin promptly at each designated time.
- To secure a spot to have your Paschal Basket blessed, please call the church office at (905) 937-3636 or email Fr. Gregory at [gregorymielnik@gmail.com](mailto:gregorymielnik@gmail.com). Do not call a member of the executive or parish council members as these are not valid options.
- Reservations can be placed between Monday, April 19, 2021 and Sunday, April 25, 2021.
- When you call or email to reserve your spot, please indicate your full name, contact phone number and the number of family members who will be attending.
- Confirmation phone calls will be made between April 26-28.
- Upon arriving you will enter the church yard only through the Augusta Ave. gates. Someone will sign you in, and escort you to your spot.
- We ask you to promptly return to your vehicle following the blessing and to depart, allowing the next group to prepare. Please avoid the temptation to linger and chat.
- If for some unforeseen in climate weather appears, we will have an alternate plan to bless in the parish hall.

### **Pascha (Easter)**

- With current regulations we are restricted to 30% capacity with social distancing, this means for our temple a maximum of 30 persons.
- Due to current restrictions we will have to implement this year a reservation system to attend the Paschal Service.
- To reserve your place please call the parish office at (905) 937-3636 or email Fr. Gregory at [gregorymielnik@gmail.com](mailto:gregorymielnik@gmail.com). Do not call a member of the executive or parish council members as these are not valid options.
- Reservations can be placed between Monday, April 19, 2021 to Sunday, April 25, 2021.
- When you call or email to reserve your spot, please indicate your full name, contact phone number and the number of family members who will be attending.
- Expressing your desire to attend does not guarantee a seat for Pascha

- Confirmation phone calls will be made between April 26-28.
- If you do not receive a confirmation phone call, you do not have a seat at the Paschal Service.
- Walk-ins will not be allowed.
- For those who attend the Paschal service their Paschal Baskets will be blessed as usual at the conclusion of the service.
- We ask those who have a confirmed seat for the Pascha Service to be present at the beginning of the service (7:00 a.m.) and not to linger in at their pleasure.

### **Parish Paschal Meal**

- Our custom to have a common parish paschal meal on the Sunday following Pascha will not be held this year due to restrictions.

### **Graveside Services**

- Graveside services will be held as usual on the Sunday of the Mryhhbearing women – Sunday, May 16, 2021 beginning at 1:00 p.m. at Victoria Lawn Cemetery.
- All other cemeteries will be by appointment with Fr. Gregory
- Graveside Services will also be held on the Feast of Holy Pentecost at Victoria Lawn Cemetery- Sunday, June 20, 2021 beginning at 1:00 p.m.

During these Lenten and festal seasons, you are reminded that the COVID Protocols are still in place. If you are feeling ill, please stay home. Masking is mandatory, hand sanitation, signing in at each service, etc.

If any changes occur due to civil regulations we will promptly inform the faithful of St. George's.

If you have any questions or concerns you may contract Fr. Gregory directly at (905) 937-3636

Wishing all of you the best of health and spiritual fruits during this Lenten season.

Parish Executive

St. George Ukrainian Orthodox Church