



Holy Ghost Orthodox Church

714 Westmoreland Avenue

PO Box 3

Slickville, PA 15684-0003

[724] 468-5581

www.holyghostorthodoxchurch.org

Very Rev. Father Robert Popichak, Pastor

23 Station Street

Carnegie, PA 15106-3014

[412] 279-5640 home

[412] 956-6626 cell

PALM SUNDAY—HOLY WEEK

ON THE MEND: Please keep the following parishioners and others in your prayers for recovery from their illnesses and injuries: Metropolitan Theodosius [OCA], Archbishop Jovan, Bishop Robert, Father John Harvey, Father Jakiw Norton, Father Dragan Filipović, Father Paul Stoll, Father Igor Soroka, Father Joseph Kopchak, Father Elias Warnke, Father Nestor Kowal, Father George Yatsko, Father Paul Bigelow, Father Emilian Balan, Father John Nakonachny, Father Steve Repa, Protopresbyter William Diakiw, Protodeacon Joseph Hotrovich, Father Adam Yonitch, Pani-Dobrodijka Sonia Diakiw, Father Paisius McGrath, Joshua Agosto and his family, Eva Malesnick, Stella Peanoske, Nick Behun, Grace Holupka, Virginia Bryan, Joseph Sliwinsky, Linda Mechtly, Mary Mochnick, Evelyn Misko, Jeanne Boehing, Alex Drobot, Rachelle, Jane Golofski, Doug Diller, Harry Krewsun, Mary Alice Babcock, Dorie Kunkle, Andrea, & Melissa [Betty O'Masta's relatives], Mary Evelyn King, Sam Wadrose, Isabella Olivia Lindgren, Ethel Thomas, Donna, Erin, Michael Miller, Grace & Owen Ostrasky, Patti Sinecki, David Genshi, Sue Segeleon, Mike Gallagher, Liz Stumpf, Theodore Nixon, Michelle Corba Kapeluck, Linda Hippert & family, Margaret Vladimir, Luke Emmerling, John Sheliga, George Rocknage, Robert McKivitz, Liz Obradovich, Halyna Zelinska [Bishop Daniel's mother], Charlotte, Andrew Mark Olynyk, Deborah Finley, Claire Senita, Eleanor Kelly, Bryan, Nancy Barylak, Patrick Keenan, Khrystyna Chorniy, Anthony Cormier, Nathan Forbeck, Sarah Doyle, Samuel Peters, Jean Stutchell, Esther Holupka, Wanda Mefford, David Vallor, Henry Faraly, Betty O'Masta, Julie Eiler, Dorothy Lednovich, Bob C., Allie—young girl with leukemia, Heather Kramer, Jane Wartinbee, Matthew—21-year-old with cancer, Nicholas Orlando, Mary Ann Kuznik, Michael Woloschak, Michael Pryhodzenko, Sonia

Luciow, Theresa Ditto, Mary Ann Musial, Mary Pelino, Yvonne Christy, Myron & Barbara Spak, Pete Niederberger, Julia Duda, Lisa Pandle, Kris & Julie Hanczar, John Kennedy, Loretta, Nancy, Carol, & Michael Sheliga, Gaele Kelly, Irma McDivitt, Robin Young, Mckayla, Rachel, Carl & Margaret Reed, Lydia Wilson, Robert Pointon, Walter Cecelia, John Persico, Jeff Miller, Mary Kernick, Glenn Miller, Jean Marie, Donna & Walter McCrackin, Bonnie & Eugene Blair [Pani Gina's parents], Mel & Charlotte Malik, David Hoenshell, Barbara Macino, Shelley Hill, Mikaela Kapeluck, Linda Cawley, Gerald Cogley, Helen Bozo, Corey Guich, Robert Vangrin, Susan "Billie" Mason, Pauline Witkowsky, Sera White, Donald Griffey, Deborah Smith, Nancy & Eric Dunik, Julian Strozh [child with cerebral palsy], Dr. Kirsten Ream, Patricia Corey, Michelle, Katie Swarm, Richard Dunst, Michelle, Patrick, Linda Morris, Howard Simpson, Chris, Pastor Ed Bowen, David Hiles, Karen Johnson, Jennifer, Jerry Quinn, Cher Mount, Frank & Janet Horrell, Jim Wandling, Gail, Sirena Sharp, Ron Paulovich, Fred DeNorscia, Sandi Anderson, Donald Uebing, Sabrina, Shirley, Denny Mader, Ella Campbell, Tom Hyatt, Bill Janiro, Jean Symanko-Andy's sister, William Lemonakis, Barbara McDougall, Alma Wyke, Lindsay Romanczak & family, Virginia Catherine Pynch, Susan Lucas, Neil Carter & family, James Paluh, Mickie Weikel, Evelyn Krempasky, Tammy Strunk, Loida Esbry, Darlene Chicka Deskins, Drew, Alice & Keith Philipa, Kateryna Kocelko, Nancy Heinbaugh, Mira Filipovic, Lynn, Jacqueline, Irma Opacic, Sharon, Zan Cheng, Jeff Jones, Kristy, Elaine Ellenberger, Donna Cacioppo [Evelyn's niece], Brandon, Anna Tranchine, Demetra, Blase Urban, Catherine Hogel & children, Jennifer & Dylan, Ron Schwartz, Lydia Wilson, Flora Tomlin, Stella Rossi, Howell Swarm, Jane Bielewicz Allred, Manny "Lazarus" Lopez, Glenn & Lucas Burlack, Katie Elizabeth, Mileva, & Michael, Deirdré Straughan, Terri Paluh, Lori & Steve Lucier, Kyranna Cherpas, Pastor Bruce Nordeen, Millie Koss Good, Mary Haraczy, Heather Ried, Carla Perry, Linda Elliot, Dennis McDaniel, Mike Mangan, Luke Tinsley, Brent, Tricia, Katherine Gorman, Pamela Jaquette, Michael Pawlyshyn, Sherri Walewski, and Jackie Crimbchin. ARNOLD: Stefania Lucci, Steve Sakal, and Homer Paul Kline. We pray that God will grant them all a speedy recovery.

COFFEE HOUR TODAY sponsored by Mary Ann Kuznik in honor of Bill's birthday!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: All Christians and the others in the Middle East who are suffering during this time of great tragedy and unrest. May God watch over and keep them safe! Lord have mercy!

Please remember ALL American service men and women in your prayers. May God watch over them and all American service men and women—and bring them all home safely!

REMEMBER—PRAYERS ARE ALWAYS FREE!

Communion Fasting: nothing to eat or drink after midnight, EXCEPT in cases where your doctor tells you to eat or drink something for medical reasons: medication, diabetes, etc. If you have a question, please ask Father Bob.

AT ANY TIME—if there is an emergency, if you have questions, or if you just need to talk, please CALL FATHER BOB at [412] 279-5640.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

**SUNDAY, APRIL 24 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
PALM SUNDAY; ENTRY OF THE LORD INTO JERUSALEM; HIEROMARTYR
ANTIPAS-BISHOP OF PERMAGUS; MARTYRS PROCESSUS & MARTINIAN OF
ROME; VENERABLE PHARMUTIUS-ANCHORITE OF EGYPT; VENERABLE JOHN-
DISCIPLE OF SAINT GREGORY OF DECAPOLIS**

*******PAGE 170 BLACK LITURGY BOOKS*******

Phillipians 4:4-9

John 12:1-18

***Litany in Blessed Memory of Walter, Victor, Jacob, & Katerina Burlack--Evelyn,
and Nicholas & Catherine Behun--Behun Family***

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27 HOLY WEDNESDAY—HOLY UNCTION SERVICE 6:30 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 28 HOLY THURSDAY—12 PASSION GOSPELS 6:30 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 29 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY—PLASCHENYTSIA & BURIAL 7:00 PM

**SUNDAY, MAY 01 PASCHAL DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
PASCHA—RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST**

*******BLESSING OF PASCHAL BASKETS DOWNSTAIRS AFTER LITURGY*******

Acts: 1:1-8

John 1:1-17

**SUNDAY, MAY 08 DIVINE LITURGY OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM 10:30 AM
ANTIPASCHA; 2ND SUNDAY OF PASCHA; SAINT THOMAS SUNDAY; HOLY
APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST MARK**

Tone 1

1 Peter 5:6-14; Acts 5:12-20

Mark 6:7-13; John 20:19-31

*Litany in Blessed Memory of Metropolitan Constantine, Charles Cherepko,
Joseph Bologna, Daniel J. Pysh, Jr., Nick Homyrda, Anna Metrick, Bogdan Mural,
Esther Tylavsky, Evdokia Josephine Repa, Metro Warholak, Khouria Joanne
Abdalla, Katherine Tomson, Walter Golofski, Jr., Michael Yarmeak, Anna
Vangrin, Stella Cherepko, & Anthony Notaro—Fr. Bob*

BULLETIN INSERT FOR 24 APRIL 2016

**PALM SUNDAY; ENTRY OF THE LORD INTO JERUSALEM;
HIEROMARTYR ANTIPAS-BISHOP OF PERMAGUS; MARTYRS
PROCESSUS & MARTINIAN OF ROME; VENERABLE PHARMUTIUS-
ANCHORITE OF EGYPT; VENERABLE JOHN-DISCIPLE OF SAINT
GREGORY OF DECAPOLIS**

*******PAGE 170 BLACK LITURGY BOOKS*******

“What a mistake those who do not hope make! Judas made a huge blunder the day in which he sold Christ for 30 denarii, but he made an even bigger one when he thought that his sin was too great to be forgiven. No sin is too big: any wretchedness, however great, can always be enclosed in infinite mercy.” (Pope John Paul I)

The Story of the First Easter Egg

Before the egg became closely entwined with the Christian Easter, it was honored during many rite-of-Spring festivals. The Romans, Gauls, Chinese, Egyptians and Persians all cherished the egg as a symbol of the universe, of the earth's rebirth at springtime. With the advent of Christianity the symbolism of the egg changed to represent, not nature's rebirth, but the rebirth of man. Christians embraced the egg symbol and likened it to the tomb from which Christ rose. Saint Augustine first described Christ's Resurrection from the dead as a chick bursting from an egg. This symbolism

was enhanced in the Christian East's celebration of Easter. At the end of the Paschal Liturgy, the faithful exchange paschal greetings and the priest and the faithful present each other with red eggs. Wooden eggs are sometimes suspended from hanging lamps and chandeliers, and often the faithful decorate wooden eggs with icons and hang them from the vigil lights in their homes.

THE FIRST EASTER EGG

According to tradition, Saint Mary Magdalene, who had patrician rank, gained an audience in Rome with the emperor after the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Christ. She denounced Pilate for his handling of Jesus' trial and then began to talk with Caesar about Jesus' resurrection. She picked up a hen's egg from the dinner table to illustrate her point about resurrection. Caesar was unmoved and replied that there was as much chance of a human being returning to life as there was for the egg to turn red. Immediately, the egg miraculously turned red in her hand! It is because of this tradition that Orthodox Christians exchange red eggs at Easter. OTHER CHRISTIAN TRADITIONS Eastern Christian legends blended folklore and Christian beliefs and firmly attached the egg to the Easter celebration. A Polish legend tells of when Mary Magdalen went to the sepulchre to anoint the body of Jesus. She had with her a basket of eggs to serve as a repast. When she arrived at the sepulchre and uncovered the eggs, lo, the pure white shells had miraculously taken on a rainbow of colors. One legend concerns the Virgin Mary. It tells of the time the Blessed Virgin gave eggs to the soldiers at the cross. She entreated them to be less cruel and she wept. Her tears fell upon the eggs, spotting them with dots of brilliant color. Decorating and coloring eggs for Easter was the custom in England during the Middle Ages. The household accounts of Edward I, for the year 1290, recorded an expenditure of eighteen pence for four hundred and fifty eggs to be gold-leafed and colored for Easter gifts.

PYSANKY - THE UKRAINIAN EASTER EGG

The sets of colorful wooden eggs offered by Monastery Icons were handpainted and engraved in the Ukraine and feature traditional folk and religious symbols and designs.

FABERGE EGGS

The most famous decorated Easter eggs were those made by the well-known goldsmith, Peter Carl Faberge. In 1883 the Russian Czar, Alexander,

commissioned Faberge to make a special Easter gift for his wife, the Empress Marie. This special Faberge egg so delighted the Czarina that the Czar promptly ordered the Faberge firm to design further eggs to be delivered every Easter. In later years Nicholas II, Alexander's son, continued the custom. Fifty-seven eggs were made in all.

People who are rich must serve those who are poor; not parasites, of course, who do not want to work and want to eat their bread for free; for if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat (2 Thes 3:10) says the Apostle, but those poor people who would have wanted to work, but can't, or those who work is not going well, or who perform, exhausting, ungrateful labor or those who simply cannot find work anywhere. We are all members of one another in Christ and according to our faith, and it is our duty and conviction of heart and mind that we must serve one another, each person however he can. (Season of Repentance, St. John of Kronstadt)

THE GREAT LENT

Dark somber vestments... soft gentle singing...
Glowing reflection of red vigil lights...
O God Almighty! Grant me endurance:
Heaven and hell battle deep in my heart...

Whisper of prayers... Sternness of faces...
Sonorous censers and pale blue smoke...
O God Almighty! Grant me Thy mercy:
Lightly as incense I rise unto Thee!

Out of the church yet again I shall forfeit
Those solemn promises given to Thee –
Fortify me in this combat eternal,
Purify, Holy, my sin-laden soul!

Give me resolve to speak bravely and boldly
When I am caught in life's prickly embrace.
Dark somber vestments... Evening twilight...
Yellow wax candles' sorrowing flame...

Behold the Works of God

Ecclesiastes 11:5- As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

The full work of God is beyond human comprehension. Humans can think about how God creates. Humans cannot know the full intricacies beyond which God wants them known.

Humans do well to be grateful for all of God's creation. Humans do well to appreciate life given by God. Choices made by humans reflect if God is honored in daily decision-making.

The way of the spirit is beyond human comprehension. As believers rejoice on the Feast of Pentecost each year, the sealing with the gift of the Holy Spirit at Chrismation is cause for rejoicing.

With the celebration of each Divine Liturgy, appeal is made to the Holy Spirit. Each time a person signs him or herself with the cross, belief in the Holy Spirit is proclaimed and affirmed.

Daily life for believers is inseparable from the Holy Spirit. The gift of life involves the work of the Holy Spirit. Believers do well throughout each day to contemplate the work of the Holy Spirit.

Believers benefit when contemplating human life coming into existence.

Individuals find the meaning of human life in God's Holy Church. Individuals live to the fullest when the Church is an integral part of daily life.

From before conception and after departure from this life, God is the basis for life. God is the direction, foundation and refuge for life. God opens the pathways and doors to eternal life.

When the newborn infant enters the present world, the child is welcomed into the Church in Holy Baptism. It is fitting for infants to be united with Christ.

It is fitting for believers to seek constant unity with Christ.

Being conscious of God everyday of life requires interest in and love of God. When God is the primary interest, all else is viewed in proper perspective.

When a believer goes astray, returning to God is possible and advisable.

Danger to the soul exists when God is not appreciated and life is lived at variance with God. The condition of the soul is at risk when individuals claim personal attributes which really are gifts from God.

When pride blinds individuals to the goodness and love of God, quality of life is lessened. Peril to the soul manifests when individuals stray from the Godly path. Discipline and love of God are necessary to remain joyfully united with God.

St. George Serbian Orthodox Church, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. April 1/April 14, 2016. St. Mary of Egypt. Father Rodney Torbic

The Fifth Sunday of Great Lent is identified with St. Mary of Egypt every year in the Orthodox Church. St. Mary of Egypt is considered a model of repentance. Believers are reminded every year of the importance of repentance.

The lesson of repentance is to be relearned each year as believers continue to battle temptations to sin. Christian growth is an expectation. The Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt follows the Sunday devoted to St. John of the Ladder.

St. John Climacus sets forth the steps of Christian growth in his book, The Ladder of Divine Ascent. Repentance is a necessity if Christian growth is to occur. Believers must be willing to love Christ more than sin.

Believers are expected to battle sin in the heart and the mind. Believers' actions are to correspond to the teachings and example set forth by Christ. Believers benefit and draw hope from the lives of the saints devoted to Christ.

The heart and mind are continuous battlegrounds where the war against sin needs to be fought at every moment of life. For Christ to triumph, believers must be forceful and constantly vigilant.

Christ needs to dominate the heart and mind. Believers need to love and cherish the teachings and life of Christ. The heart and mind need to desire and joyfully welcome Christ's teachings and example.

Believers' eyes and ears need to be attuned to Christ's presence and work in daily life. Temptations and distractions perilous to the soul must be repelled with great vigor.

Giving thanks to Christ for forgiveness and the opportunity to begin anew deserve daily prominence. When a believer falls into sin, rather than remaining depressed, turning to Christ for a new beginning is always possible and desirable.

As Holy Week draws near and Pascha is on the horizon, becoming a better Christian is the preferred goal. Holy Confession and Holy Communion offer new beginnings in Christ.

The life of St. Mary of Egypt shows that sin can be put behind and devotion to Christ is possible. Orthodox Christians view the Mother of God as the primary example of purity and intercessor before the Lord.

Orthodox Christians turn to St. Mary of Egypt as an intercessor in fervent prayer. St. Mary of Egypt is a symbol of hope in the daily battle against sin. St. Mary of Egypt's life is visible proof that sin can be cast behind.

Durable and lasting peace in Christ is possible. Clinging to hope in Christ and with strong faith, sin can be overcome. Christ is forgiving and loving. Christ grants peace to believers turning to Him and desiring to begin anew in faith.

St George Serbian Orthodox Church, Carmichaels, Pennsylvania. Fifth Sunday of Great Lent. April 4/17, 2016. St. Mary of Egypt, Venerable Joseph the Hymnographer. Father Rodney Torbic

From Coffee with Sister Vassa (Monday, April 18)

"Jesus said, 'Truly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands, for my sake and for the gospel, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the age to come eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.' And they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; and they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. And taking the twelve again, he began to tell them what was to happen to him, saying, 'Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death, and deliver him to the Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit upon him, and scourge him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise.'" (Mk 10: 29-34)

This is not the first time Jesus talks about the Cross, but it is as if the disciples do not hear Him. They are blocking out the word of the Cross, because they're afraid of it, as it says here, "and those who followed were afraid." But note that they do continue to follow, despite their fear. Our Lord Jesus Christ is that compelling, and that beloved, by the disciples, that they continue to follow Him, even when they can not, or will not, hear His words. Their love is stronger than their faith.

Today let me open up to Christ's compelling presence in my life, and follow Him even when I don't understand where we're going or why. In these final days before Great Week, let me walk with Him "up to Jerusalem," detaching myself gradually from other attachments, concerns, and issues. "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem," He says to me today, "and the Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn Him to death..."

Copyright © 2016 Coffee with Sister Vassa, All rights reserved.

From Coffee with Sister Vassa (Tuesday, April 19)

"Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the Lord has comforted his people, and will have compassion on his afflicted. But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me.' Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have graven you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me. Your builders outstrip your destroyers, and those who laid you waste go forth from you. Lift up your eyes round about and see; they all gather, they come to you." (Is 49: 13-18)

This week we will remember the tears and grief of the sisters of Lazarus, not unlike what Zion says here, "The Lord has forsaken me, my Lord has forgotten me"; and not entirely unlike what I have felt at times, during these final days of Lent. Meanwhile God's loving voice is practically bursting from these verses of His prophet Isaiah, saying to all of us, "Lift up your eyes round about and see"; Take a look, and see the abundance of My mercies, My help, My "builders," who "outstrip your destroyers." God has been "building" us all the time, even when we've felt weakened or

destroyed by despondency, sloth, or simply distractions. Because God does not "forget" to do His work, even when we do.

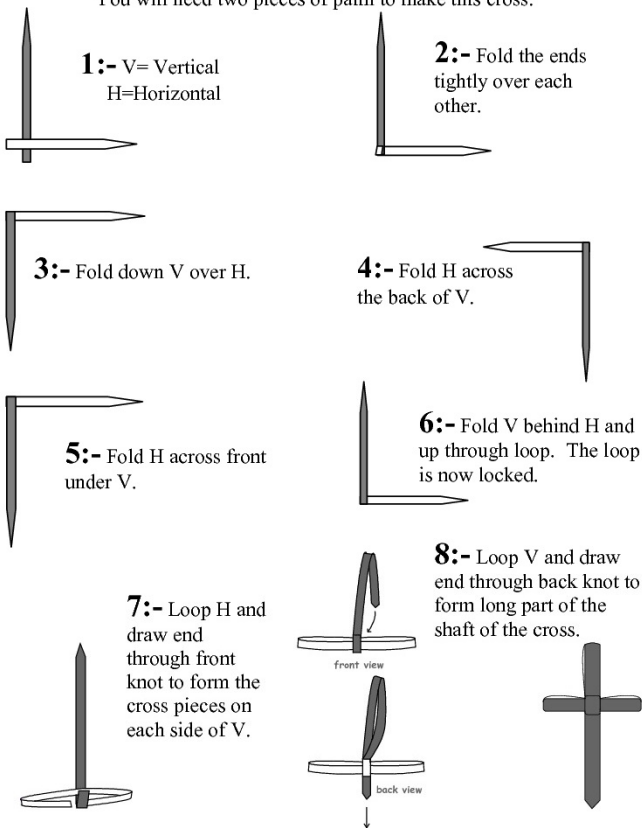
Today I open up, once again, to God's consistent promise: He "will have compassion on His afflicted." And I thank Him this week, as we prepare to accompany His Son to Bethany, to raise us from a seemingly-hopeless death. "Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget," the Lord says to us today, "yet I will not forget you."

Copyright © 2016 Coffee with Sister Vassa, All rights reserved.

"It is not the self-critical who reveals his humility (for does not everyone have some how to put up with himself?). Rather, it is the man who continues to love the person who has criticized him." Saint John Climacus

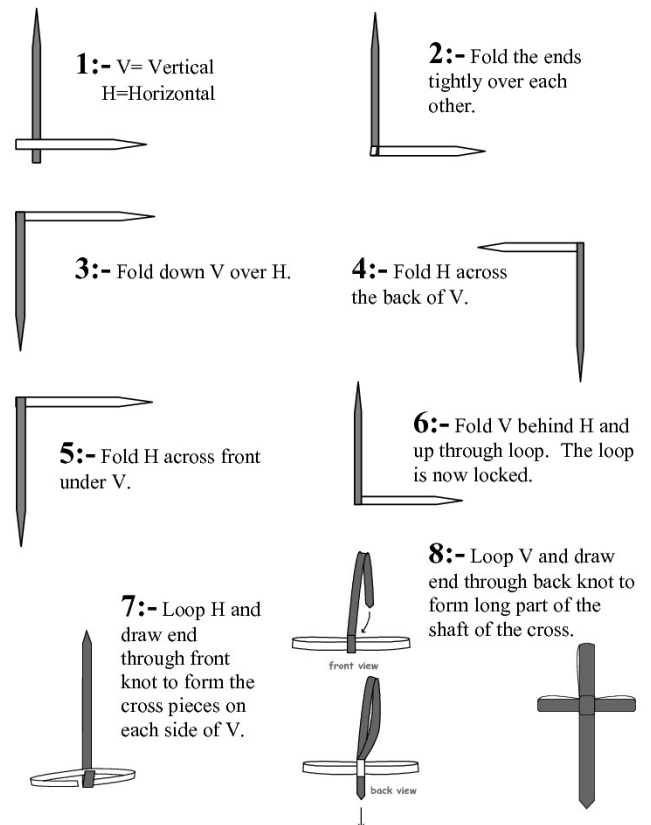
HOW TO MAKE A PALM CROSS

You will need two pieces of palm to make this cross.



HOW TO MAKE A PALM CROSS

You will need two pieces of palm to make this cross.



HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27

HOLY WEDNESDAY—HOLY UNCTION SERVICE 6:30 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 28

HOLY THURSDAY—12 PASSION GOSPELS 6:30 PM

FRIDAY, APRIL 29

GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY—PLASCHENYTSIA & BURIAL 7:00 PM