

# **JOURNEY THROUGH HOLY WEEK**

## **A HOLY WEEK RETREAT**

HOLY WEEK is one of the most solemn occasions in the Orthodox ecclesiastical year. In addition to its significance for worship, the Holy Week Retreat provides an opportunity for the parish and its Church School to gather young people together in order for them to participate more fully and meaningfully in the events of Holy Week. It also provides a rich instructional opportunity for children to learn more about their Orthodox Christian faith. This year our theme is “**Journey Through Great Lent!**” Our retreat will focus on the events during the 40 day Lenten Period that prepares us to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Children will learn to grow spiritually within themselves, to connect with God and to reach out to others.

We encourage all young people in grades JK to 8 to attend. Children 4 and under are welcome to attend with parent/guardian supervision. Students in grade 9 and above are also needed to act as group leaders and assist with other activities. Their involvement can contribute toward their community service hours required for graduation from high school.

There are a few differences with the Holy Week Retreat this year, compared to previous years. The retreat will be held on Lazarus Saturday instead of Holy Friday and the retreat will not be followed by a Lenten Potluck Lunch. We ask that you please ensure that your child(ren) has (have) eaten before arriving and has (have) any required snacks that they need with them. The day will include an opportunity for the students to learn how to make a Palm Cross, followed by the Holy Week Retreat and Paschal crafts. Please ensure that you have picked up your child(ren) by 4:00 p.m. from the Church hall. Children will **not** be supervised by the Sunday School staff past 4:00 p.m.

**WHEN:**      **Saturday, April 23, 2016 (Lazarus Saturday)**

**TIME:**        **Registration and Making a Palm Cross: 1:30 p.m.–2:00 pm**

**Retreat: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**PLACE:**      **Saints Peter and Paul Greek Orthodox Church**  
**527 Bridgeport Road East**

Please RSVP by returning the attached registration form to your Sunday School teacher by Sunday, April 17, 2016 (Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt). For additional registration forms, you may contact any of the Sunday School Staff, go to [www.stspeterandpaulgoc.ca/sunday-school/](http://www.stspeterandpaulgoc.ca/sunday-school/), email: [sundayschool@stspeterandpaulgoc.ca](mailto:sundayschool@stspeterandpaulgoc.ca). Moreover, extra forms can be found at the information table at the entrance of the Church.

Thank you and wishing you a Blessed Pascha.

Father Konstantine Chatzis  
and the Sunday School Staff