

Reverend Fathers! Brothers & Sisters in Christ!

As you are all aware, we continue to be under strict, yet necessary protective measures from our provincial and federal health authorities.

Due to the projection that the expected peak of COVID-19 will be in May, 2020, Alberta Health Services is advising that the blessing of palm/willow branches, or Paschal Baskets shall not be held in public for this year.

As a temporary measure for this year, the household is encouraged gather around their dinner table with their Paschal meal.

This is the Paschal blessing to use in your home this year:

1. Sing **“Christ is Risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and those in the tombs, bestowing Life! !”** (3 times),

2. Say or sing:

“Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one”

3. Say:

O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, You blessed the food of Your disciples. Bless also this food, for we believe in You, we hope in You, we pray to You, and we glorify You, unto the ages of ages. Amen.

4. The head of the family greets all around the table with **“Christ is Risen!”**(3 times).

Though the blessing and sharing of the Paschal meal is an important and treasured tradition in our homes and in our Churches, this temporary measure will allow us to participate in, and keep our connection with, our faith as we celebrate the Radiant, Bright and Glorious Resurrection of our Lord, God and Saviour, Jesus Christ!