

HOLYWEEK

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Holy Week services

Lazarus Saturday, April 12

Orthros _____	8:30am
Divine Liturgy _____	9:30am
Followed by a pancake breakfast & palm folding	
Baptisms _____	3:00pm
Vespers _____	5:30pm

Palm Sunday, April 13

Orthros _____	8:30am
Divine Liturgy _____	9:30am
Bridegroom Service _____	5:00pm

Holy Monday, April 14

Bridegroom Service _____	6:00pm
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Holy Tuesday, April 15

Bridegroom Service _____	6:00pm
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Holy Wednesday, April 16

Service of Holy Unction _____	4:00pm
Orthros for Holy Thursday (w/anointing) _____	6:00pm

Holy Thursday, April 17

Liturgy of the Mystical Supper _____	9:30am
12 Passion Gospels _____	6:00pm

Holy Friday, April 18

Royal Hours _____	9:30am
Followed by the, 'Decorating of the Kouvouklion'	
Vespers of Taking Down from the Cross _____	3:00pm
Lamentations _____	6:00pm

Holy Saturday, April 19

Liturgy of the Descent into Hades _____	9:30am
Vigil of Great & Holy Pascha _____	11:30pm
Great & Holy Pascha Orthros & Divine Liturgy _____	12:00am
Followed by the, 'Breaking of the Fast'	

Pascha Sunday, April 20

Agape Vespers _____	1:00pm
Followed by the, 'Pascha Picnic'	



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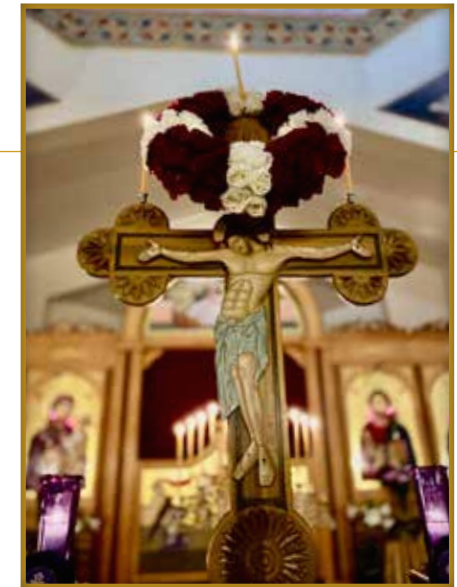


2025

Holy Week 2025

"The services of Holy Week transform us into eyewitnesses and direct participants in the awesome events of the Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In readings taken from both Old and New Testaments, in hymns, processions, and liturgical commemoration, we see the fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies, and the mighty acts by which God Himself, in the person of Jesus Christ, grants us forgiveness for our sins, and rescues us from the pain of eternal death."

– Rev. Fr. Andrew Demotsets



*Having completed the soul-profitting forty days,
we pray that we might also behold the holy week of Thy Passion, O Friend of man,
that therein we may glorify Thy mighty deeds and Thine ineffable dispensation for us,
who chant with one accord: O Lord, glory be to Thee.*

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Greek Orthodox Church

Lazarus Saturday

Orthros - 8:30am
Divine Liturgy - 9:30am

The momentum of Holy Week begins here, with a foretaste of the Lord's Resurrection. Christ raises Lazarus from the dead, and we celebrate this remarkable event with a Liturgy and joyful hymns. Following Liturgy we have our traditional pancake breakfast, then clean and decorate the church in preparation for Palm Sunday and Holy Week.

Young Families:

This is a beautiful day that we pour into our children as we offer them a special breakfast, teach them the tradition of folding palms, and how to prepare the Church for Palm Sunday. Fr. Gabriel has also set aside time during these activities when he will offer youth confessions.



Palm Sunday

Orthros - 8:30am
Divine Liturgy - 9:30am

On Palm Sunday, Christ enters Jerusalem, and the people proclaim Him as king - but in an earthly sense, because the people of His time were seeking a political Messiah. Our Lord is King, of course, but much mightier than any earthly ruler.

So on this Sunday, we carry palms like the people long ago in a procession around the church, singing:

*In confirming
the common Resurrection,
O Christ God,
Thou didst raise up Lazarus
from the dead before Thy Passion.
Wherefore, we also, like the children,
bearing the symbols of victory,
cry to Thee, the Vanquisher of death:
Hosanna in the highest;
blessed is He that cometh
in the Name of the Lord.*

In this, we show that we too accept Jesus as the true King, Who we are willing to follow - even to the cross. The palm leaves we carry in procession are blessed, and many families fold them into a cross, and take them home to keep in their prayer corner.

Following the Palm Sunday liturgy our Philoptochos hosts a fish fundraiser feast.

Young Families:

Children now see the importance of their hard work from the previous day preparing the Palm Crosses! They will join in the procession bearing their palms!



Services of the Bridegroom

Bridegroom Matins, Sunday - 5:00pm

Monday and Tuesday - 6:00pm

Beginning on the evening of Palm Sunday and continuing through the evening of Holy Tuesday, the Orthodox Church observes a special service known as the Service of the Bridegroom. Each evening service is the Matins or Orthros service of the following day (e.g. the service held on Sunday evening is the Orthros service for Holy Monday). The name of the service is from the figure of the Bridegroom in the parable of the Ten Virgins found in Matthew 25:1-13. Christ is the Bridegroom who unconditionally loves His bride, each and every one of us. This unconditional love causes Him to voluntarily lay down His life for us so that we may all live with Him eternally in His Resurrection. These beautiful and unique services set the somber and hopeful feeling of Holy Week.



Great and Holy Wednesday

Holy Unction - 4:00pm

On the afternoon of Great and Holy Wednesday the Sacrament of Holy Unction is conducted in our parish. At the conclusion of the service, each person is anointed with oil, and the grace of God, which heals infirmities of soul and body, is called down upon each person. While Orthodox Christians may receive this sacrament at any time they are sick, during Holy Week, all the faithful receive it for healing in preparation for the Lord's death. We also remember that shortly before His Crucifixion, our Lord was anointed by a certain woman in preparation for His coming burial. The holy oil from this service is saved and used to anoint the sick throughout the year. We should prepare for this service in a prayerful way as we do for Holy Communion, including participating in the sacrament of confession.

**Orthros of
Great and Holy Thursday - 6:00pm**

At this service we begin our commemoration of Holy Thursday when the Lord celebrates the Mystical Supper with His disciples and is then arrested. Towards the end of the service, the anointing of unction is offered for those who did not receive it earlier in the evening.

Young Families:

The early 4pm Holy Unction service is scheduled with young families in mind. Please bring your children so that they may also receive the Sacrament of Holy Unction.



Great and Holy Thursday

Liturgy of the Mystical Supper - 9:30am

On Thursday of Holy Week four events are commemorated: the washing of the disciples' feet, the institution of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, the agony in the garden of Gethsemane, and the betrayal of Christ by Judas. In the morning, we serve the Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil commemorating the Last Supper, that is the first Mystical Supper when Jesus washed His disciples' feet and instituted the Eucharist (or Holy Communion). We sing ...

*Receive me today, Son of God,
as a partaker of Your mystical Supper.
I will not reveal Your mystery
to Your adversaries.
Nor will I give You a kiss as did Judas.
But as the thief I confess to You: Lord,
remember me in Your Kingdom.*

12 Passion Gospels - 6:00pm

The service of the Twelve Passion Gospels remembers the solemn time of our Lord's Crucifixion. As we read each of the 12 gospels we light a candle at the front of the church.

After the reading of the fifth Gospel, the holy cross is carried around the church in procession, and Christ's body is nailed to the cross in the center of the church. The faithful are invited to come venerate the cross.

The 12 Gospel readings make this service a little long. However, it helps to know that they are arranged from longest to shortest, so the last six go faster than the first six.



Great and Holy Friday

Royal Hours - 9:30am

On Holy Friday morning, we again contemplate the crucifixion, reading the accounts of the four evangelists.

Following the service, our community gathers for the decorating of the Kouvouklion (Christ's tomb) and the preparation of the Church for the days ahead. This includes preparing candles and bay leaves to be used and decorating the entire Church with flowers.

Vespers of the Taking Down from the Cross - 3:00pm

We know from the Holy Gospels that our Lord hung on the cross from 12pm to 3pm. Thus, in the afternoon, we take down the icon of Christ's body from the cross and wrap it in a new, white linen sheet. This act commemorates the removal of Christ's body from the cross by Joseph of Arimathea. Later in the service, the Epitaphios, with the icon of Christ's body, is carried in procession and placed in the Kouvouklion.

Young Families:

This is a special time when children participate in preparations for the services of our Lord's crucifixion and learn firsthand the meaning of our traditions. Their involvement in flower and candle preparations are especially important as they get to participate in the use of them later in the evening! Young girls are invited to dress in a white dress to be one of the myrrh-bearers who toss rose petals around the Kouvouklion during the Lamentations service.

Lamentations - 6:00pm

In the evening we celebrate the Lamentations service, or the funeral of our Lord. We gather around the Epitaphios which depicts Christ's body surrounded by those that loved Him who are lamenting his death, and we join them in singing funeral hymns for our Lord who willingly was sacrificed for us.

Towards the end of the service, we carry the Epitaphios around the church in a funeral procession, just as He was carried to His tomb. The people re-enter the church by going under the bier, an act reminiscent of our baptism and our union with Christ as He goes down into Hades.



Great and Holy Saturday

Liturgy of the Descent into Hades - 9:30am

On Great and Holy Saturday the Orthodox Church commemorates Christ's descent into Hades while His body appears to be resting in the tomb. Orthodox Christians understand this rest as the fulfillment of God's rest in Genesis 2:2. This great day is the day on which God rested — in the tomb, which Orthodox Christians understand as the fulfillment of God's rest in Genesis 2:2. During the service the priest joyfully strews laurel leaves and rose petals throughout the church during the service, because in the ancient world laurel leaves were a sign of victory. As the leaves are strewn, the choir chants "Arise O God and Judge the earth, for to Thee belong all the nations." He is vanquishing Hades, death, and the devil. The resurrection is near!



Vigil of Great and Holy Pascha - 11:30pm

Late in the evening we gather like the myrrhbearing women to visit the Lord's tomb, and we begin the Paschal vigil and witness His Resurrection which occurred in the middle of the night.

At midnight all lights in the church are turned off and all the candles put out. This is the darkness and silence of the tomb. Finally the priest comes out of the altar with a candle while singing, "Come receive the light from the light that is never overtaken by the night, come and glorify Christ risen from the dead." Everyone comes forward and lights a candle from this light. Carrying the candles, we make an outdoor procession to the front door of the church. There we hear the greeting "Christ is Risen!" for the first time and reply, "Truly He is Risen!" We go into the well-lit church and sing the joyous Paschal Orthros and break the Lenten fast with the Divine Liturgy, and receive the Body and Blood of the Risen Lord.

After this service, the priest blesses our Pascha baskets, and we go to the parish hall to find the tables sagging with every kind of good food, celebrating together until quite late.

Young Families:

The midnight service is such an exciting time for children as they attend "middle of the night Church"! The excitement of receiving the light, triumphantly singing our Resurrection hymn, and proclaiming "Christ is Risen" for the first time is always a memorable experience!

Great and Holy Pascha

Agape Vespers - 12:00pm

There is no morning service because the midnight service was the Sunday Liturgy. However, we gather for the joyous Paschal Agape Vespers in the afternoon. During this service we read the Resurrection Gospel in many languages to celebrate how the Gospel was spread throughout the world. Members are invited to read the Gospel in any language they speak so that we represent as many languages as possible! After the service, we continue feasting with our Pascha picnic.

Followed by the, 'Pascha Picnic'

Young Families:

All children are invited to join our annual Easter Egg Hunt following the service.



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Paschal Greetings from Around the World

Albanian:	Krishti U Ngjall! Vertet U Ngjall!
Arabic:	El Messieh kahm! Hakken kahm!
English:	Christ is risen! Indeed He is risen!
Eritrean:	Christos tensiou! Bahake tensiou!
French:	Le Christ est ressuscite! En verite il est ressuscite!
Georgian:	Kriste ahzdkhah! Chezdmari det!
German:	Christus ist erstanden! Wahrlich ist er erstanden!
Greek:	Christos anesti! Alithos anesti!
Italian:	Cristo e' risorto! Veramente e' risorto!
Latin:	Christus resurrexit! Vere resurrexit!
Romanian:	Hristos a inviat! Adeverat a inviat!
Slavonic:	Khristos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!
Spanish:	Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad ha resucitado!
Swahili:	Kristo amefufukka! Kweli amefufukka!

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