

2026 Holy Week Schedule



Holy Week is filled with the most inspiring of all Liturgical services contained in the Holy Orthodox Church. The format is such that it begins with the Saturday of Lazarus (the day before Palm Sunday). In following the services with your Holy Week books, we note that evening services are actually morning services of the following day, since sundown marks the beginning of the new day.



SATURDAY OF LAZARUS - April 4

Orthros & Divine Liturgy 9:00 am

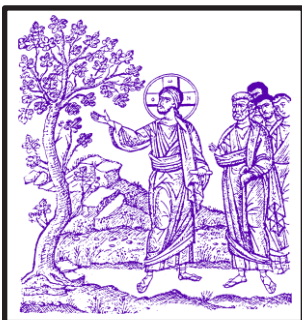
The **Saturday of Lazarus** sets before us the key to the Resurrection because it is a glimpse of the same. Jesus prefigures His own Resurrection by showing us the death and life again of Lazarus. This year, there will be a chrismation after Orthros and before Liturgy. After Liturgy, we will have a pancake breakfast, and then we will make Palm Crosses to be used the next day on Palm Sunday.



PALM SUNDAY - April 5

Orthros 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am

The word of Lazarus' resurrection spread quickly to Jerusalem and Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem. On **Palm Sunday** we commemorate the joyous entrance of Jesus into Jerusalem waving palms and singing: *"Blessed is He who comes in the name of our Lord."* In the morning, we distribute Palm Crosses as a symbol of the day and Cross to come. After Liturgy, we will have a fish luncheon (preorder only).



PALM SUNDAY EVENING - April 5

Bridegroom Service 6:00 pm

On **Palm Sunday Evening** we begin the traditional **Bridegroom Service** at which we chant: *"Behold the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching; unworthy is the servant whom He shall find heedless. Beware, O my soul, lest you be borne down with sleep, lest you be given up to death, and be shut out of the Kingdom..."* At this point in the service, the Bridegroom (Nymphios) Icon is brought out in procession.

Each day during Holy Week, reference is made to a special event. On **Palm Sunday Evening**, commemoration is made of the blessed and noble Joseph, and the synagogue of the Hebrews is described by Christ as a barren fig tree, void of spiritual fruits, and He therefore withers it: *"Let us, therefore, brethren, fearing a like sentence, bring forth fruits worthy of repentance to Christ."*



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HOLY MONDAY - April 6

Bridegroom Service 6:00 pm

On **Holy Monday Evening**, we make remembrance of the Parable of the Ten Virgins, some of whom were wise and were prepared for the coming of Christ and the others whom were not. *"Wherefore, O Christ, the Bridegroom, number us among the wise virgins and have mercy on us."*



HOLY TUESDAY - April 7

Bridegroom Service 6:00 pm

Commemoration is made on **Holy Tuesday Evening** of the anointing of the Lord with myrrh by the woman who was a sinner, for this occurred shortly before the Passion of our Savior. *"I have transgressed, O Good Master, more than the harlot, and I come to Thee without her flood of tears, but in silence I pray and bow down before Thee, with fervor I embrace Thy Sacred Feet, that Thou may grant forgiveness of sins to me when I cry out to Thee, O Savior."*



HOLY WEDNESDAY - April 8

Holy Unction Service 3:00 pm

The Sacrament of **Holy Unction** is administered on **Holy Wednesday**. It has been ordained by the Holy Fathers that on this day we be anointed with Holy Unction for the healing of body and soul. Since this is a Sacrament of the Holy Church, we are reminded that only Orthodox may be anointed. No matter where we may be, we should find an Orthodox Church on this day and partake of this Holy Mystery. We recall the great healing passages of the Scriptures, both in the Gospels and Epistles, Each brings to mind the great power given to us to rise above sinfulness and become transformed.

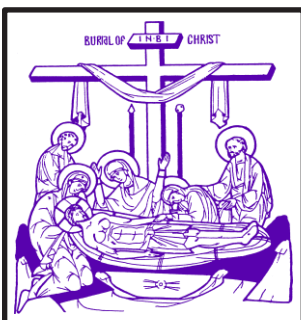


HOLY THURSDAY - April 9

Vespertal Liturgy 9:00 am **Passion Service of the Twelve Gospels 6:00 pm**

There will be a **Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil** on **Holy Thursday Morning**. On this day we remember the Last Supper, which was the institution of Holy Communion. By partaking and celebrating this Diving Liturgy, we share the Table with the Lord at His Last Supper. Make an attempt to share at the Table.

On **Holy Thursday Evening**, the **Passion Service** (also known as the **Twelve Gospels Service**), we hear the last Gospels of the Passion of our Lord. At the conclusion of the 5th Gospel, a procession with the Crucifix takes place. The choir chants: *"Today is hung upon the tree, He Who did suspend the land in the midst of the waters. A crown of thorns crowns Him Who is King of the angels..."*



GOOD FRIDAY - April 10

Royal Hours 9:00 am **Apokathelosis (Un-Nailing) 3:00 pm**

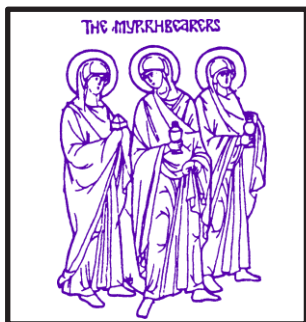
On **Good Friday**, the Royal Hours correspond to the hours during which Jesus hung upon the cross. Later, the **Apokathelosis (Un-Nailing or Removal from the Cross) Service** takes place and is one of the most beautiful services during Holy Week. The Body of Jesus is removed from the cross and is carried in procession around the Church to the Sepulcher where it is venerated. *"When Joseph of Arimathea took Thee, the Life of all, down from the cross, he buried Thee with myrrh and fine linen."*



GOOD FRIDAY – April 10

Lamentations Service 7:00 pm

In the evening, the **Lamentations Service** take place. The Lamentations are a poetic and prayerful response to the Lord who has been crucified and removed from the cross. Now placed in the Tomb, we approach with faith as well as fear. *“Joseph of Arimathea takes Thee down from the cross and lays Thee in a grave. The Myrrh-bearers, with forethought, prepared myrrh and came to Thee, O Christ. Today the grave holds Him Who holds creation in the hollow of His Hand.”* At the time of the Lamentations, while standing at the Tomb, the Priest sprinkles the Tomb with rose water. Shortly afterwards, a procession begins around the Church, stopping at the four sides and chanting petitions for the health as well as remembering the dead. Before entering the Church, the people pass beneath the Tomb of Christ, signifying their participation in the death and life to come.



HOLY SATURDAY – April 11

Vesperal Liturgy 9:00 am

On **Holy Saturday**, the focus is on the Tomb of Christ. This is no ordinary grave. It is not a place of corruption, decay or defeat. It is life-giving, a source of power, victory and liberation. Holy Saturday is the day between Jesus' death and His Resurrection. It is the day of watchful expectation in which mourning is transformed into joy. The chanting of Psalm 81 during the **Morning Divine Liturgy (The First Resurrection)** proclaims: *“Arise O God, and judge the earth...”* The Priest sprinkles bay leaves around the Church as a sign of victory over death. This year, there will be two chrismations during the service.



PASCHA – April 12

Paschal Vigil 11:15 pm

Resurrection Service 12:00 midnight

Agape Service 11:30 am

On **Holy Saturday Evening**, the **Matins (Preparation Service)** proceeds with the reading of the Canon and prepares us for the **Resurrection Liturgy** to follow. The Church is dimly lit except for the Unwaning Light on the Altar Table. At midnight, the Priest takes the Pascal Candle, lit from the Unwaning Light, and chants: *“Come and receive the light from the unwaning light, and glorify Christ, Who has risen from the dead.”* When all have received the light, a procession goes outside weather permitting (or to the back of the Church) where the Gospel is read. Immediately after the Gospel, Orthros begins. The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is celebrated. *“It is the day of Resurrection, O People, let us be glorious in splendor. Pascha, Pascha of the Lord! For Christ, our God, has passed from death unto life, and from earth to heaven.”*

From this time on and during the Paschal season, the Royal Gates and the two side doors of the Iconostasis are left open. The people also do not kneel until Pentecost. The Paschal light is taken home where a cross is made with the smoke of the candle over the entrance to the house. This is a sign of the ever-present Resurrection, which reminds us that, like the mark of the blood by the Passover Lamb, we too are marked with the Lamb (Christ) who died for our sakes.

The Agape Service (Paschal Vespers) takes place on the Sunday of Pascha. The Gospel is read in many different languages, proclaiming the faith in the Resurrection rather than the doubt of Thomas. From all corners of the Church, like the corners of the world, the glad tidings go out to all! The priest will bless any Pascha Baskets/Food after the Agape Vespers Service for those who observe that tradition.





2026 Holy Week Schedule

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS - APRIL 4

Parking Garage: 8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Orthros	9:00 AM
Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
Making Palm Crosses & Confessions	11:30 AM
Camp Informational Meeting for Parents	12:00 PM

PALM SUNDAY- APRIL 5

Parking Garage: 8:30 am to 2:30 pm

Orthros	9:00 AM
Divine Liturgy	10:00 AM
Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon	11:00 AM
Service of the Bridegroom	6:00 PM

HOLY MONDAY- APRIL 6

Service of the Bridegroom	6:00 PM
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HOLY TUESDAY- APRIL 7

Service of the Bridegroom	6:00 PM
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HOLY WEDNESDAY- APRIL 8

Parking Garage: 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Sacrament of Holy Unction	3:00 PM
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HOLY THURSDAY- APRIL 9

Parking Garage: 5:00 pm to 10:30 pm

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil	9:00 AM
Red Egg Dyeing after Vesperal Liturgy	
Service of the Twelve Gospels (Passion Service)	6:00 PM

HOLY FRIDAY- APRIL 10

Parking Garage: 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm

The Royal Hours	9:00 AM
Decorating the Tomb of Christ after the Royal Hours	
Vespers of the Un-Nailing (Apokathelosis)	3:00 PM
Service of the Lamentations	7:00 PM

HOLY SATURDAY- APRIL 11

Parking Garage: 8:30 am to 3:00 pm

Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil	9:00 AM
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GREAT & HOLY PASCHA- APRIL 12

Parking Garage: 10:30 pm Saturday
- 4:00 am Sunday

Pascha Vigil	11:15 PM
The Resurrection Service	12:00 Midnight
Divine Liturgy	12:30 AM

Agape Vespers	Parking Garage: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm 11:30 AM
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Blessing of Pascha Baskets/Food after Agape Vespers



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