

HOLY WEEK 2019

PASCHA IS THE PASSING OVER FROM
DEATH TO A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST.

CHRIST IS RISEN ! Χριστος Ανεστη!
TRULY HE IS RISEN! Αληθως Ανεστη!



PASCHA EASTER ΠΑΣΧΑ

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EXPLANATION OF HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA (EASTER)

This explanation has been prepared to give you an insight into the Services of Holy Week. Since Holy Week is a time of prayer, fasting and meditation, you would benefit greatly if you read the passages mentioned in this explanation before you come to Church.

PALM SUNDAY

This Feast Day commemorates the entry of our Blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ into the ancient and Holy City of Jerusalem for the last time before His trial, crucifixion and glorious Resurrection. The palms distributed to the faithful on this day symbolized victory in ancient times. Today they symbolize our participation in the acceptance of Christ as King of Kings and Savior of the world as well as His triumph over death.

THE FIRST THREE DAYS

The first three days of Holy Week are devoted to remembrances of Jesus' last communing with His people before His Passion. The first Service of Holy Week comes on the evening of Palm Sunday. The Church begins her day at sunset; thus the first service of Holy Monday falls on Palm Sunday evening and similarly the remaining services of the week. The service of Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings is commonly called the "Bridegroom Service" from the special hymn sung during the service: "Behold, the Bridegroom comes at midnight, and blessed is that servant whom He shall find watching; but unworthy is he whom He shall find neglectful. Beware then, my soul, lest thou be weighed down by sleep, lest thou be given over to death, and the door of the Kingdom be closed against thee; but be thou wakeful, crying out 'Holy, Holy, Holy, are Thou, O God; through the intercessions of the Theotokos, have mercy upon us.'"

Note: All morning (Orthros) services are conducted on the preceding evening of the actual holy day.

HOLY MONDAY (conducted Palm Sunday evening)

During this solemn evening service, the memory of Joseph of the Old Testament, the eleventh son of the Patriarch Jacob, is portrayed as the "prototype" of Christ. Joseph was sold by his jealous brothers into slavery for 30 pieces of silver (Jesus was betrayed also for 30 pieces of silver). As Joseph forgave his brothers, so too did our Blessed Lord forgive those who crucified Him. The Gospel of the day tells the parables of the barren fig tree and the evil husbandman, teaching that those who do not bear good fruit forfeit the kingdom of Heaven.

HOLY TUESDAY (conducted Monday evening)

We commemorate the parable of the wise and foolish virgins. The symbolism of the parable is that we too are to be prepared to receive Christ. If we are indifferent to God's commandments, we will not be accepted into the Kingdom of Heaven. We must be ready every day of our lives to receive Christ. The Gospel of the day condemns the wicked Scribes and Pharisees who pretended to be just and righteous, but were really evil and malicious.

HOLY WEDNESDAY (conducted on Tuesday evening)

We commemorate the memory of a remarkable woman who went to visit Jesus at the house of Simon (whom Jesus had cured of leprosy) where she anointed the feet of our Lord as a sign of respect and repentance. She was a sinful woman who was forgiven for her sins by Jesus. The beautiful hymn of Saint Kassiani which is sung this evening reveals the sincerity of this woman's conversion to Christianity.

HOLY UNCTION SERVICE

On Wednesday afternoon and evening, the Sacrament of Holy Unction is administered to all of the faithful for the forgiveness of sins and for their well being. This Sacrament was first instituted by Saint James, the first Bishop of Jerusalem.

HOLY UNCTION SERVICE, (CONTINUED)

During the course of this service, seven Epistles and Gospels are read and seven prayers of blessings are recited over the oil. The priest prays for the health and welfare of the people and finally anoints all Orthodox Christians with the Blessed Oil, that they may enjoy spiritual and bodily health.

HOLY THURSDAY

In the morning we commemorate Christ's washing the feet of His Disciples as an example of humility and love; His Last Supper with His Disciples when He instituted the Eucharist, the Holy Sacrament of His Body and Blood; His prayer and agony in the Garden of Gethsemane and His betrayal by Judas. In observance of the Institution of the Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist, it is customary for all who have prepared, to receive the Body and Blood of Christ on Holy Thursday morning during the Vespertal Liturgy of Saint Basil the Great. According to tradition, this is the day that Orthodox prepare the red eggs for the Resurrection Service.

In the evening, the Service of the Twelve Gospels is observed, telling the story of the Passion of Christ, beginning with His discourse to His Disciples at the Last Supper and ending with His entombment. Just before the sixth Gospel reading, which recounts the crucifixion of Christ, the Priest emerges from the sanctuary and processes around the Church with the Cross of Christ and chants the "crucifixion hymn". The Cross is placed in the center of the Church for veneration by the faithful.

GOOD FRIDAY

The kouvouklion (tomb), symbolic of the tomb of Christ, is decorated on this day. At the afternoon service the "Body" of our Lord (the icon of Christ crucified is taken off the Cross) and is placed in the tomb. The Lamentation service is sung in the evening with all the faithful in participation with the choir. The burial cloth in the tomb is called the "Epitaphios." Following the service, everyone is given a flower from the Epitaphios, which is a reminder that very soon the glorious Resurrection of Christ will be celebrated.

HOLY SATURDAY MORNING

Holy Saturday commemorates the entombment of our Blessed Lord and His descent into Hades. The Epitaphios is placed on the Altar for 40 days after which time it is removed on Ascension Thursday (when Jesus ascended into Heaven after addressing His Apostles for the last time). The Vespertal Liturgy of Saint Basil is celebrated. The Gospel of the day foretells the Resurrection to take place on the coming new day.

PASCHA: THE EASTER RESURRECTION SERVICE AT MIDNIGHT

This is the greatest Feast Day in the Christian Church. It commemorates that glorious day when our Blessed Lord resurrected from the dead. The priest begins the Resurrection Service by chanting the following hymn as he stands in the darkened Church with a lighted candle in his right hand: "Come ye and receive light from the unwaning light, and glorify Christ, Who arose from the dead." The beautiful hymn of the Resurrection is sung by all: "Christ has risen from the dead, by death trampling upon death, giving life to those in the tombs." The Divine Liturgy follows. The priest reads the beautiful Easter Sermon of Saint John Chrysostom and greets the people with the ancient Easter greeting, "Christ is Risen!" The people respond with the words, "Truly He is Risen!" The red Easter eggs, signifying new life granted to all Christians through the redeeming blood shed for them by the Savior, are distributed by the priest to all the faithful as this most impressive service concludes.

PASCHA: EASTER SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Agape Vespers are celebrated and the Gospel of the day is read in many languages signifying the universal character of Christ's victory over evil. Again we proclaim Christ's Resurrection with "Christ is Risen!"

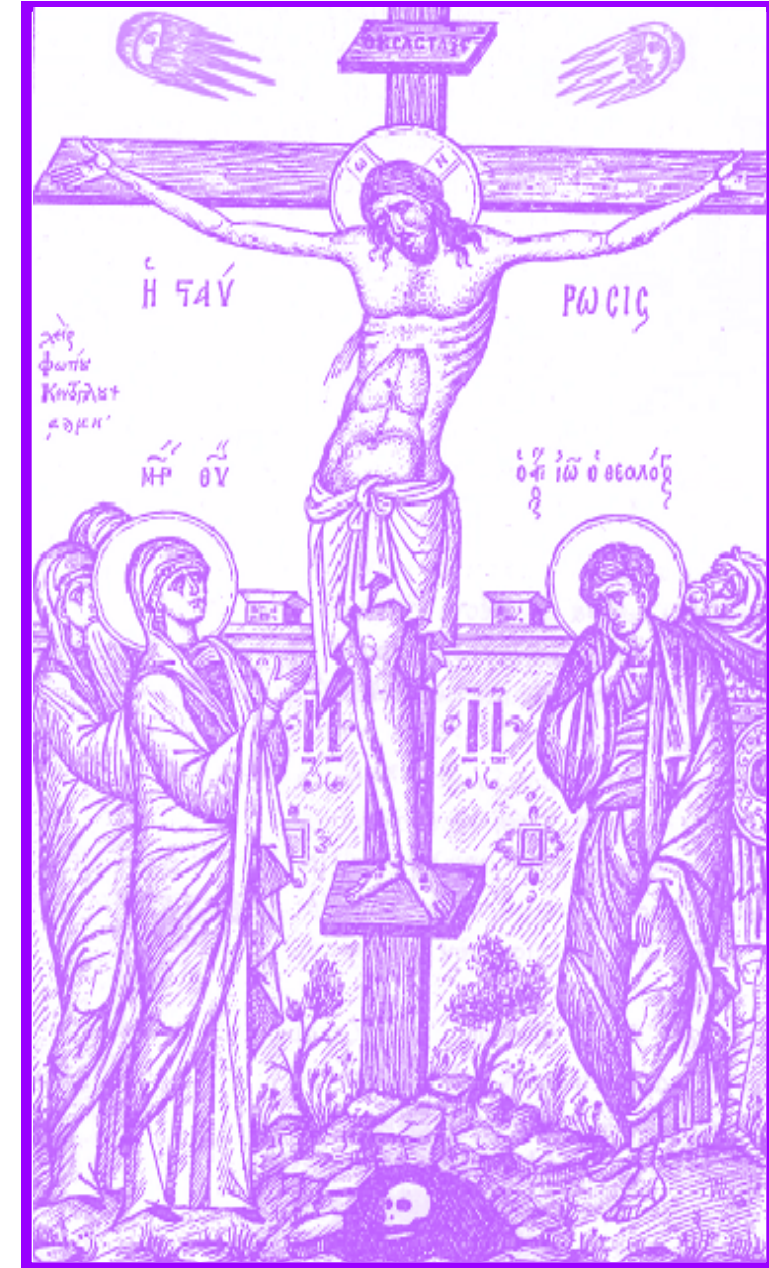
Η ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΑ

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Please observe the scheduled hours, all Services will begin as stated. Read this program carefully and save it for reference during Holy Week. Note: On Holy Thursday and Holy Saturday mornings Liturgy will precede Holy Communion.
2. A special tray will be passed during Lent for the flowers of Holy Week. In addition, specific donations may be selected from the enclosed handout *Special Offerings for Great Lent and Holy Week 2019*.
3. *A Young Person's Guide to the Lenten and Holy Week Services* is enclosed.
4. You are welcome to join us in decorating the KOUVOUKLION (Tomb) on GOOD FRIDAY. We will begin at 9:00AM. (Royal Hours Service will begin at 10:00A.M)
5. Our Community will host an Easter Egg Hunt for all our youngsters on Pascha (Easter Sunday) after the AGAPE Service.
6. A SPECIAL PASCHA OFFERING ENVELOPE is enclosed for your EASTER GIFT to our Church. Your generosity during this blessed and Holy Season will greatly benefit SAINT NICHOLAS.



He is risen, He is not here.



THE GREAT
& HOLY WEEK

Η ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΑ ΚΑΙ ΤΟ ΑΓΙΟΝ ΠΑΣΧΑ

20 Απριλίου	ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ ΤΟΥ ΛΑΖΑΡΟΥ Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία * Πρωίνο των μαθητών του Κατηχητικού Σχολείου	9:00π.μ.
21 Απριλίου	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΒΑΙΩΝ Ορθρος και Θεία Λειτουργία* Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου	9:00 π.μ. 7:00 μ.μ.
22 Απριλίου	ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ Λειτουργία των Προηγιασμένων Δωρών * Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου	9:00 π.μ. 7:00 μ.μ.
23 Απριλίου	ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΡΙΤΗ Λειτουργία των Προηγιασμένων Δωρών * Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου Το Τροπαριον της Αγίας Κασσιανης	9:00 π.μ. 7:00 μ.μ.
24 Απριλίου	ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ Λειτουργία των Προηγιασμένων Δωρών * Το Μυστηριον του Αγίου Ευχελαιου Απογευματινή Ακολουθία (για τα παιδιά) Βραδύνη Ακολουθία	9:00 π.μ. 3:30 μ.μ. 7:30 μ.μ.
25 Απριλίου	ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΕΜΠΤΗ Θεία Λειτουργία Αγίου Βασιλείου* Ακολουθία των Αγίων Παθών (Δωδεκα Ευαγγελια)	8:00 π.μ. 7:00 μ.μ.
26 Απριλίου	ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ Αι Βασιλικαίς Ωραι Ο Εσπερινός της Αποκαθηλώσεως Ο Επιταφίος Θρήνος	10:00 π.μ. 3:30 μ.μ. 7:00 μ.μ.
27 Απριλίου	ΜΕΓΑΛΟ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟΝ Εσπερινή Λειτουργία Αγίου Βασιλείου* Ο Μεγας Κανων Η ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ Θεία Λειτουργία Αγίου Ιωάννου Χρυσόστομου *	9:00 π.μ. 11:00 μ.μ. 12:00π.μ. 1:15 π.μ.
28 Απριλίου	ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΣΧΑ Ο Εσπερινός της Αγάπης	11:30 π.μ.

*Προσφέρεται η Θεία Κοινωνία

HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA (EASTER)

April	20	SATURDAY OF LAZARUS Orthros & Divine Liturgy * Religious Educators' Communion Breakfast	9:00AM
April	21	PALM SUNDAY Orthros & Divine Liturgy * Bridegroom Service	9:00AM 7:00PM
April	22	HOLY MONDAY Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts * Bridegroom Service	9:00AM 7:00PM
April	23	HOLY TUESDAY Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts * Bridegroom Service (Hymn of Saint Kassiani)	9:00AM 7:00PM
April	24	HOLY WEDNESDAY Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts * Sacrament of Holy Unction Afternoon Service (for children) Evening Service	9:00AM 3:30PM 7:30PM
April	25	HOLY THURSDAY Vesperal Liturgy of Saint Basil * Holy Passion of Christ (the 12 Gospels)	8:00AM 7:00PM
April	26	GOOD FRIDAY Reading of the Royal Hours Un-nailing from the Cross & Burial of Christ Lamentation Service	10:00AM 3:30PM 7:00PM
April	27	HOLY SATURDAY Vesperal Liturgy of Saint Basil * The Great Canon THE RESURRECTION SERVICE AT MIDNIGHT Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom *	9:00AM 11:00PM MIDNIGHT 1:15AM
April	28	PASCHA SUNDAY The Vespers of Love Reading of the Gospel in many languages	11:30AM

CONFESSIONS WILL BE HEARD BY APPOINTMENT

* Holy Communion will be offered