

Lazarus Saturday, April 23, 2016

9:00am ***Lazarus Liturgy*** & Children Confessions

As a prelude to the Great Feast of the Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday) we remember the Lord's raising of Lazarus from the dead. After Liturgy and a Lenten Pancake breakfast (and during the folding of plans later in the afternoon), the priest is available to hear the children's confessions

6:30pm ***Palm Sunday Vigil***

This is our evening service in preparation for the Great Feast of the Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem. During this Vigil service, the palms are blessed for the feast. (Service lasts 1 & 1/2 hours)

Palm Sunday, April 24, 2016

10am ***Festal Liturgy of the Entry of the Lord***

The Divine Liturgy commemorates the Great Feast of the Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem. This Feast of Palms, paired gloriously with Lazarus Saturday, offers us a triumphal foretaste of Christ's Passion and Resurrection; yet, also signals the sad truth that many who at first hail Jesus as Lord turn from His teaching and forsake Him. (Service lasts 2 hours)

(time TBA) **Bridegroom Matins for Holy Monday** (in Berea)

The service of Bridegroom Matins introduces us to Holy Week. Each night from Sunday to Wednesday evening, we are challenged to ponder the coming of the Lord and our lack of preparation to meet Him. (Service lasts 1 hour in abbreviation)

Holy Monday, April 25, 2016

9am **Hours w/ the Gospel of St. Mark** (Chapter 1-9:1)

As is the custom, our parish will read through an entire Gospel over the course of the Hours on Holy Monday and Tuesday. Those who cannot attend the Hours are encouraged to read the Gospel at home as part of their Holy Week preparations for Pascha. (Service of Hours lasts 2-3 hours each day, including Gospel lection)

6:30pm **Bridegroom Matins for Holy Tuesday** (1 & 1/2 hours)

Holy Tuesday, April 26, 2016

9am **Hours w/the Gospel of St. Mark** (Chapter 9:2-16)

6:30pm **Bridegroom Matins for Holy Wednesday** (1 & 1/2 hours)

Holy Wednesday, April 27, 2016

11:00am **Liturgy of the PreSanctified Gifts**

All who are working are encouraged to take their lunch break and come to service to partake of Holy Communion. The communing of the faithful should take place at about 12:45pm and the service will be completed around 1pm. We pray the Prayer of St. Ephemera for the last time this year at this service. (Service last 2 hours.)

6:30pm **Bridegroom Matins with Anointing**

On Holy Wednesday evening, the theme of Bridegroom Matins shifts dramatically to the person of Judas at the Last Supper, who is sharing the Lord's Table and, yet, is preparing to betray Him. Afterwards, the priest will anoint all present with blessed oil reserved from the Vigil of Palm Sunday. (Service lasts 1 & 1/2 hours.)

Holy Thursday, April 28, 2016

3:00pm **Vesperal Liturgy of Mystical Supper**

On Holy Thursday, we celebrate a Vesperal Liturgy that is sometimes call the Liturgy of the Mystical Supper. At this time, we commemorate the Last Supper and enter into the eternal mystery of it, which is the Eucharist. (Service lasts about 2 hours.) After the Liturgy, we will share a Lenten Meal. We will then move into the nave for the Matins with the 12 Passion Gospels.

6:30pm ***Matins with 12 Passion Gospels***

On the evening of Holy Thursday, we enter into Great and Holy Friday and encounter Christ Crucified. This is one of the most powerful services in all of Orthodox Holy week. (Service lasts 3 hours.)

Holy Friday, April 29, 2016

9:00am **Royal Hours for Great and Holy Friday**

On the morning of Great and Holy Friday, we revisit the Cross. We hear the hymns of the previous evening and find Jesus hanging on the Cross for our salvation. If you cannot be at the 12 Passion Gospels, know that this service of the Royal Hours covers much of the same content. Royal Hours offer a powerful meditation on the Cross and its meaning. (Royal Hours lasts about 1 & 1/2 hours.)

3:00pm ***Entombment Vespers*** (especially child friendly)

During this service, we remember the taking down of the Lord's body from the Cross and His entombment by the Nobel Joseph. (Service lasts about 1 hour.)

6:30pm ***Funeral Matins for Holy Saturday*** (especially child friendly)

Sometimes called the "Service of Lamentation," this Matins for Holy Saturday shows us that our lamentation of Christ's death will soon blossom forth into tremendous rejoicing! During the service, our lamentations around the tomb of Christ begin to morph into praises to Him who is about to rise from the dead! (Service lasts 2 & 1/2 hours.) The all-night reading of the Psalter follows until the morning Liturgy. There will be a sign-up sheet for this round-the-clock vigil.

Holy Saturday, April 30, 2016

9am ***Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy***

The Vesperal Liturgy on Holy Saturday ushers in the first strains of the joyous feast! This service is the Vespers of Pascha itself and announces what is to come. The vestments and paraments are dramatically changed from black to white, and we hear "Let God arise and His enemies be scattered." (Service lasts 2 & 1/2 hours.)

After the Liturgy, we will bless loaves of bread and wine (and juice for the children) and will partake of these things to sustain us through the day. The servers will be responsible for preparing the holy things for Pascha and then many of our faithful will prepare flowers and will beautify the church for the feast.

7pm-11:30pm **Continuous Reading of Acts of the Apostles.**

The Holy Pascha

Saturday, April 30, 2016

11:30pm ***Paschal Nocturnes***

On Holy Saturday, we fast and make preparations all day after the morning Liturgy (including preparation of sumptuous paschal foods.) "Behold the Bridegroom comes at midnight," we sang at Bridegroom Matins earlier in the week. Now we gather again before midnight to be ready to meet the Risen Lord. But before we make our triumphal Paschal procession, we first gather in the church for Nocturnes at 11:30pm. Quietly, the Lord's body is taken from the "Tomb" and placed in victory on the Holy Table in the altar. All the lights in the church are put out and we wait patiently for the first strains of the Paschal song: "Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior..." The paschal light is lit, the priest begins quietly to chant the hymn, the servers join in, and finally, the choir and all the people add their voices to the priest's and servers' voices. The light is passed from person to person and we exit the church and make our Paschal procession.

Paschal Sunday, May 1, 2016

~12am ***Procession & Paschal Matins***

~12:45am ***Paschal Divine Liturgy***

~2:45am **The Blessing of Foods & Paschal Meal**

We have now entered completely into the joy of Pascha. Christ bursts the gates of death and the gates of Paradise are opened. Coming back into the church, we celebrate the Paschal Matins, hear the Paschal Sermon of St. John Chrysostom, and then go right into the Paschal Liturgy. After the Liturgy, the priest immediately blesses the Artos and the Paschal baskets in the parish hall. All are invited to stay for the parish meal.

2pm ***Paschal Agape Vespers*** followed by Paschal Parish Picnic

**Agape Vespers and the Paschal Picnic immediately following are both scheduled for Highbridge Park in Wilmore (unless weather is inclement).*

Bright Monday, May 2 9am **Paschal Liturgy & Patronal Celebration**

10:30am Festal Breakfast

6:30pm **Bright Vespers** (at UK)

Bright Tuesday, May 3 11am **Paschal Matins**

Bright Wednesday, May 4 6:30pm **Bright Vespers** followed by Food & Fellowship in the Parish Hall

Bright Thursday, May 5 6:30pm **Paschal Vespers**

Bright Friday, May 6 7am **Bright Liturgy for Life-giving Spring**

Bright Saturday, May 7 5pm **Vespers** (in Berea)

6:30pm **Reader's Vespers** (at St. Athanasius)



Saint Athanasius

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*Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday,
Holy Week Service Schedule leading to
Pascha, the Feast of Feasts,
The Resurrection of our
Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!*

Christ is Risen!

Χριστος ωσκρισε!

Χριστος ανεστη!

Hristos a inuiat!

Christus resurrexit!

An Invitation to Journey with Christ in His Church

It has often been said of the Orthodox Church that Orthodox believers reckon their lives "from Pascha to Pascha." The 3-Day Pascha--Jesus' Death, Burial, and Resurrection--constitute the defining moment not just of our church year, but also of our very lives as the Lord's disciples. The invitation that goes out to us all in these all-revered days of Holy Week and Pascha is not offered so that we would be *mere spectators*. No, the promise of Holy Week is given to us so that we might be *true participants*--at the Lord's side, with the disciples, with the godly women at the Tomb. "Today" Christ is fixed to the Cross. "Today" he is buried. "Today" he arises. May this guide help you and your family "maximize" what you are able sanely to attend, so that you, too, might be witnesses of Him and His glorious Resurrection! *fr. justin*