



NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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WELCOME TO GREAT LENT



*Your guide to opportunities
offered at Nativity to help you
prepare for the Passion and
Resurrection of Our Lord*

About Great Lent, Holy Week, and Pascha

There is a 19 Sunday (18 week) period of time each year in the Orthodox Christian Church that surrounds the Feast of Pascha (Easter). The first three weeks, including four Sundays, are called the Triodion, or pre-Lenten period. The next forty days, which includes nearly six weeks and five Sundays, is called Great Lent. In the Orthodox Church, Great Lent begins on a Monday called Clean Monday, rather than Ash Wednesday, as it does in other churches. Great Lent ends on a Friday.

Holy Week follows, along with the Great and Holy Week.

The Feast of the Resurrection is called Pascha and it begins a forty-day period of celebration. After forty days, the church celebrates the Feast of the Ascension. Ten days later (fifty days after the Resurrection), the church celebrates the Feast of Pentecost. The Sunday after Pentecost is the Feast of All Saints. This ends this cycle of "movable feasts" (called this because their date moves every year), which surround the feast of Pascha.

2024 LENTEN SERVICES

Sunday, February 25 Fast Free Week	Publican and the Pharisee (TRIODION BEGINS) 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Sunday, March 3	Sunday of the Prodigal Son 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Saturday, March 9	FIRST SATURDAY OF SOULS 9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Sunday, March 10	Judgement Sunday (Meatfare Sunday) 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Saturday, March 16	SECOND SATURDAY OF SOULS 9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Sunday, March 17	Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday) 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Forgiveness Service	
Monday, March 18	CLEAN MONDAY 6:00pm Great Compline	
Tuesday, March 19	11:00am Bible Study and Senior Lunch 6:00pm Great Compline	
Wednesday, March 20	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy, Meal & Lenten Talk
Thursday, March 21	6:00pm	Great Compline
Friday, March 22	7:00pm	Salutations to the Theotokos
Saturday, March 23	THIRD SATURDAY OF SOULS 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Sunday, March 24	SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm Vespers of the Annunciation (at Annunciation Cathedral—Detroit)	
Monday, March 25	ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Tuesday, March 26	11:00am Bible Study and Tuesday Lunch 7:00pm Great Compline	
Wednesday, March 27	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy, Meal & Lenten Talk
Friday, March 29	7:00pm	Salutations to the Theotokos
Sunday, March 31	SUNDAY OF ST GREGORY PALAMAS 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	

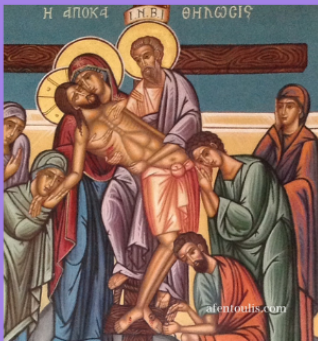
The Akathist Hymn or Salutations to the Theotokos

*"Rejoice, unfading rose.
Rejoice, the only one who budded forth the unfading apple.
Rejoice, birth-giver of the aromatic balm of the King of all.
Rejoice, O Bride unwedded, the world's salvation."*

- The Akathist Hymn is a profound, devotional poem, which sings the praises of the Holy Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary.
- The word "akathistos" means "not sitting," i.e., standing;
- The hymn is comprised of 24 stanzas, alternating between long and short. Each short stanza is written in prose and ends with the singing of "Alleluia." Each longer stanza ends with the refrain: "Rejoice, O Bride Unwedded."
- The Hymn is sung in part on first four Fridays of Great Lent, and in full on the fifth Friday.

Tuesday, April 2	11:00am	Bible Study and Tuesday Lunch
	7:00pm	Great Compline
Wednesday, April 3	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy, Meal & Lenten Talk
Friday, April 5	7:00pm	Salutations to the Theotokos
Sunday, April 6	SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS	
	8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Tuesday, April 9	11:00am	Bible Study and Senior Lunch
	7:00pm	Great Compline
Wednesday, April 10	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy, Meal & Lenten Talk
Friday, April 12	7:00pm	Salutations to the Theotokos
Sunday, April 14	SUNDAY OF ST JOHN CLIMACUS	
	8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Tuesday, April 16	11:00am	Bible Study and Tuesday Lunch
	7:00pm	Great Compline
Wednesday, April 17	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy, Meal & Lenten Talk
Thursday, April 18	6:00pm	GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW & READING OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT
Friday, April 19	7:00pm	The Akathist Hymn
Sunday, April 21	SUNDAY OF ST MARY OF EGYPT	
	8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Tuesday, April 23	11:00am	Bible Study and Tuesday Lunch
	7:00pm	Great Compline
Wednesday, April 24	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy, Meal & Lenten Talk

HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA



Tentative Holy Week Schedule

Lazarus Saturday April 27	8:45am 10:00am 12:00pm	Orthros Divine Liturgy Service Projects: Church and Grounds Clean-up, Palm Crosses, Food prep for Plaki Luncheon
Palm Sunday April 28	8:45am 10:00am 12:00pm 7:00pm	Orthros Divine Liturgy Plaki Luncheon Bridegroom Matins
Holy Monday April 29	10:00am 7:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy Bridegroom Matins
Holy Tuesday April 30	10:00am 7:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy Bridegroom Matins
Holy Wednesday May 1	10:00am 7:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy Holy Unction
Holy Thursday May 2	6:00am 6:00pm	Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil Twelve Gospels of the Crucifixion
Holy Friday May 3	9:00am 12:30pm 3:00pm 7:00pm	Holy Hours Holy Friday Retreat Vespers of Apokathelosis Lamentation Services
Holy Saturday May 4	8:30am 11:00pm	Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil Matins and Resurrection: Divine Liturgy of Holy Pascha
Pascha Sunday May 5	11:00am	Agape Service Easter Egg Hunt and activities to be determined

