



METROPOLIS
OF DETROIT

NATIVITY OF THE VIRGIN MARY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Father Nicholas Marcus, Proistamenos

39851 Five Mile Road Plymouth, Michigan 48170

Phone 734.420.0131 office@nativitygochurch.org www.nativitygochurch.org

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.

2025 LENTEN SERVICES

Sunday, February 9 Fast Free Week	Publican and the Pharisee (TRIODION BEGINS) 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Sunday, February 16	Sunday of the Prodigal Son 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Saturday, February 22	FIRST SATURDAY OF SOULS 9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Sunday, February 23	Judgement Sunday (Meatfare Sunday) 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Saturday, March 1	SECOND SATURDAY OF SOULS 9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Sunday, March 2	Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare Sunday) 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm Forgiveness Service	
Monday, March 3	CLEAN MONDAY 6:00pm Great Compline	
Tuesday, March 4	11:00am	Bible Study and Tuesday Lunch
	6:00pm	Great Compline
Wednesday, March 5	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy, Meal & Lenten Talk
Thursday, March 6	6:00pm	Great Compline
Friday, March 7	7:00pm	Salutations to the Theotokos
Saturday, March 8	THIRD SATURDAY OF SOULS 9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy	
Sunday, March 9	SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY/CHILDREN'S SUNDAY 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm COCC Lenten Vespers at Annunciation Cathedral, Detroit	
Tuesday, March 11	11:00am	Bible Study and Senior Lunch
	7:00pm	Bible Study
Wednesday, March 12	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy, Meal & Lenten Talk
Thursday, March 13	6:30pm	Great Compline
Friday, March 14	7:00pm	Salutations to the Theotokos
Sunday, March 16	SUNDAY OF ST GREGORY PALAMAS 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm COCC Lenten Vespers at St. Mark Orthodox Church, Rochester Hills	
Tuesday, March 18	11:00am	Bible Study and Senior Lunch
	7:00pm	Bible Study
Wednesday, March 19	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy, Meal & Lenten Talk
Thursday, March 20	6:30pm	Great Compline
Friday, March 21	7:00pm	Salutations to the Theotokos

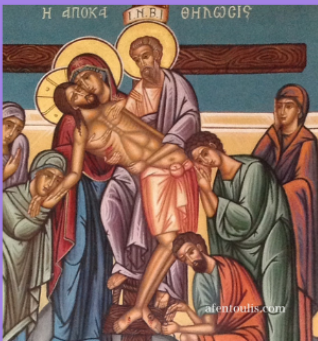
The Akathist Hymn or Salutations to the Theotokos

*"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.

Sunday, March 23	SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm COCC Lenten Vespers at Basilica of St. Mary, Livonia	
Monday, March 24	Forefeast of the Annunciation 6:00pm Great Vespers for the Annunciation at Annunciation Cathedral Detroit	
Tuesday, March 25	Annunciation of the Theotokos 9:00 am Orthros, 10 am Divine Liturgy 7:00pm Bible Study	
Wednesday, March 26	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy, Meal & Lenten Talk
Thursday, March 27	6:30pm	Great Compline
Friday, March 28	7:00pm	Salutations to the Theotokos
Sunday, March 30	SUNDAY OF ST JOHN CLIMACUS 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm COCC Lenten Vespers at Nativity of the Virgin Mary	
Tuesday, April 1	11:00am	Bible Study and Tuesday Lunch
	7:00pm	Bible Study
Wednesday, April 2	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy, Meal & Lenten Talk
Thursday, April 3	6:00pm	GREAT CANON OF ST. ANDREW & READING OF ST. MARY OF EGYPT
Friday, April 4	7:00pm	The Akathist Hymn
Sunday, April 6	SUNDAY OF ST MARY OF EGYPT 8:45am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy 6:00pm COCC Lenten Vespers at St. Mary Magdalene in Fenton	
Tuesday, April 8	11:00am	Bible Study and Senior Lunch
	7:00pm	Bible Study
Wednesday, April 9	6:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy, Meal & Lenten Talk
Thursday, April 10	6:30pm	Great Compline

HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA



Holy Week Schedule

Lazarus Saturday April 12	9:00am 10:00am 11:30am	Orthros Divine Liturgy Pancake Breakfast and Service Projects: Church and Grounds Clean-up, Palm Crosses, Food prep for Plaki Luncheon
Palm Sunday April 13	8:45am 10:00am 12:00pm 7:00pm	Orthros Divine Liturgy Plaki Luncheon Bridegroom Matins
Holy Monday April 14	10:00 am 7:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy Bridegroom Matins
Holy Tuesday April 15	10:00 am 7:00pm	Presanctified Liturgy Bridegroom Matins
Holy Wednesday April 16	3:00pm 7:00pm	Holy Unction Bridegroom Matins
Holy Thursday April 17	6:00am 6:00pm	Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil Twelve Gospels of the Crucifixion
Holy Friday April 18	9:00am 12:30pm 3:00pm 7:00pm	Holy Hours Holy Friday Retreat Vespers of Apokathelosis Lamentation Service
Holy Saturday April 19	8:30am 11:00pm	Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil Matins and Resurrection: Divine Liturgy of Holy Pascha
Pascha Sunday April 20	11:00am	Agape Service Easter Egg Hunt