

# St. George Orthodox Church

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## 2018 Great Lent & Holy Week

*May you and your family be encouraged to increase your participation in the Life of the Church by attending as many Lenten and Holy Week services as possible. This is an opportunity that the Church provides us: to demonstrate our desire for God who desires to offer salvation to His beloved faithful!*



Christ is Risen! Indeed, He is Risen!

المسيح قام! حقا قام!

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!

Христос воскрес! Воистину воскрес!



# *Great Lent Schedule and Explanation of Services*

## *First Week of Great Lent:*

Sunday, February 18 — Forgiveness Vespers at 6:00p

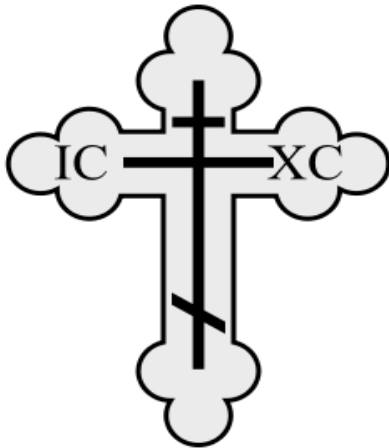
Monday, February 19 — Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew of Crete at 6:00p

Tuesday, February 20 — Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew of Crete at 6:00p

Wednesday, February 21 — Presanctified Liturgy and Potluck Meal at 6:00p

Thursday, February 22 — Great Compline with Canon of St. Andrew of Crete at 6:00p

Friday, February 23 — Akathist (Madayeh) at 6:00p



*In the afternoon we celebrate Vespers (taking down of Christ's body from the Cross). In the evening, the Lamentations Matins is sung. This service begins in a solemn manner as we lay to rest our Lord's body in the Tomb, but by the end of the service we are already anticipating the Resurrection of our Lord.*

***Holy Saturday** is a day of hope and waiting. In the morning, as we celebrate Christ's victory over death, while singing: "Arise O God and Judge the earth, for to Thee belong all the nations." The Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday concludes the services of Holy Week, and brings us to the eve of Great and Holy Pascha.*

***Great and Holy Pascha** is the celebration of the life-giving Resurrection of Jesus Christ. At this point the Resurrection is announced with the Gospel reading about the empty tomb (Mark 16: 1-8) which refers to the Angel's statement: "He is risen; He is not here." On Sunday afternoon, the **Agape Vespers** is celebrated as the Gospel according to St. John, proclaiming the Good News of the Resurrection. is read in many different languages to demonstrate the universal character of our Lord's Resurrection.*

*Raising of Lazarus and Palm Sunday* begin Holy Week. The Raising of Lazarus confirmed the universal resurrection from the dead that all of us will experience at our Lord's Second Coming. Our Lord enters Jerusalem and is proclaimed king; we use palms on this day to show that we too accept Jesus as the true King and Messiah.

*Bridegroom Matins* and most of the other services of Holy Week are "sung" in anticipation. Each of these services has a particular theme: On Holy Monday, Blessed Joseph of Egypt, is commemorated. The Parable of the Ten Virgins is read on Holy Tuesday. The theme of Holy Wednesday is repentance and forgiveness as we remember the sinful woman who anointed our Lord in anticipation of His death.

On *Holy Thursday* we turn to the last events of our Lord's Passion. Thursday morning begins with commemorating the Mystical Supper. At this Liturgy a second Host is consecrated, which is distributed to the shut-ins and the sick. In the evening, we celebrate Matins with Reading of the Twelve Passion Gospels.

*Holy Friday* is a day of strict fast. In the morning we celebrate the Royal Hours. These solemn hours are observed as we read the various accounts and hymns concerning the Crucifixion.

### *Remaining Lenten Schedule:*

Mondays (February 26, March 5, March 12, March 19, March 26) — Great Compline at 6:00p

Wednesdays (February 28, March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28) — Presanctified Liturgy & Potluck Meal at 6:00p

Fridays (March 2, March 9, March 16, March 23, March 30) — Akathist (Madayeh) at 6:00p

Thursday, March 22 — Little Compline with the Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt at 6:00p



*Great Compline* is a penitential evening prayer service that may include Canons, such as the *Canon of St. Andrew of Crete*, which is sung during the first week of Great Lent. Its most apparent features are its penitential themes, demonstrating many examples of sin and repentance from the Old and New Testaments.

*Presanctified Liturgy* is an evening service. It is the solemn Lenten Vespers with the administration of Holy Communion added to it. There is no consecration of the Eucharistic gifts at the Presanctified Liturgy. Holy Communion is given from the Eucharistic gifts sanctified on the previous Sunday at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, in the hopes of sustaining our Lenten ascetical efforts and discipline.

The *Akathist (Madayeh)* is a profound, devotional poem singing praises to the Holy Mother and Ever-Virgin, Mary. It is one of the most beloved services in the Orthodox Church. As the hymn is chanted all of the events related to our Lord's Incarnation pass before us for our contemplation.

## *Holy Week Schedule and Explanation of Services*

Saturday, March 31 <b>(Raising of Lazarus)</b>	10:00a 6:00p	Festal Liturgy Great Vespers
Sunday, April 1 <b>(Palm Sunday)</b>	9:00a 10:00a 6:00p	Matins Festal Liturgy Bridegroom Matins
Monday, April 2	6:00p	Bridegroom Matins
Tuesday, April 3	6:00p	Bridegroom Matins
Wednesday, April 4	6:00p	Holy Unction
Thursday, April 5	10:00a 6:00p	Festal Liturgy 12 Passion Gospels
Friday, April 6	10:00a 3:00p 7:00p	Royal Hours Un-nailing Vespers Lamentations
Saturday, April 7	10:00a 9:00p	Festal Liturgy Paschal Matins and Liturgy
Sunday, April 8 <b>(PASCHA)</b>	11:00a	Agape Vespers