

Paschal Sunday, April 16

- 12am Procession and Paschal Matins
- 12:45am Paschal Divine Liturgy
- 2:45am The Blessing of Food and 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 Liturgy, the priest blesses the Artos and the Paschal baskets of food in the parish hall. All are invited to stay for this meal.

• 2pm Paschal Agape Vespers, Parish Picnic & Easter Egg Hunt

Agape Vespers and the Paschal picnic immediately following are scheduled to be held at the Highbridge Park Pavillion in Wilmore, unless inclement weather.

Bright Week: April 17-22 Enjoy a Fast Free Week!

Bright Monday, April 17

- 9am Bright Liturgy

Bright Tuesday, April 18

- 9am Paschal Matins

Bright Wednesday, April 19

- 6:30pm Paschal Vespers
- 7:20pm Fellowship in Parish Hall

Bright Thursday, April 20

- 9:30am Paschal Liturgy

Bright Friday, April 21

- 9am Paschal Matins (Life-Giving Spring)
- 7pm Men's Night at Carl's

Bright Saturday, April 22

- Youth Group and Family Hike in Berea with Vespers served at the Pinnacles (weather permitting)
- Reader's Vespers at 6:30 at the parish

Holy Week, Pascha, & Bright Week Services

Holy Week: Monday, April 10 - Saturday, April 15

Sunday, April 9

- 5pm 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 & 1/2 hours).

Holy Monday, April 10

- 9am Hours with Gospel of John (Chapters 1-6)

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 a part of their Holy Week preparations for Pascha (service lasts 2-3 hours each day).

- 6:30pm Bridegroom Matins for Holy Tuesday

Holy Tuesday, April 11

- 9am Hours with Gospel of John (Chapters 7-13:32)
- 6:30pm Bridegroom Matins for Holy Wednesday

Holy Wednesday, April 12

- 11:30am Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts

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

- 6:30pm Bridegroom Matins with Anointing

Tonight 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 last 1 & 1/2 hours).

Holy Thursday, April 13

•3pm Vesperal Liturgy of Mystical Supper

On Holy Thursday, we celebrate a Vesperal Liturgy that is sometimes called 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 2 hours). After the Liturgy, we will share a Lenten soup and salad meal.

•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 (lasts 3 hours).

Holy Friday, April 14

•9am 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 salvation. If you cannot be at the Thursday evening service, know that this service of the Royal Hours covers much of the same content. Royal Hours offers a powerful meditation on the Cross and its meaning (lasts 1 and 1/2 hours).

•3pm 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 (lasts 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! (lasts 2 and 1/2 hours).

•9pm All-night Reading of the Psalter

The all-night reading begins right after the Funeral Matins and continues until the Saturday morning Liturgy. There will be an online signup for this round-the-clock vigil.

Holy Saturday, April 15

•9am Holy Saturday Vesperral Liturgy

The Vesperral Liturgy 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 and 1/2 hours) After the Liturgy, we will bless loaves of bread and wine (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 beautify the church for the feast.

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

There will be an online signup for this reading.

•11:30pm Paschal Nocturnes

On Holy Saturday we fast and make preparations all day after the morning Liturgy (including the 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 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.