

The Holy Pascha

Holy Saturday, April 7

• 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.

Paschal Sunday, April 8

• 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 and Paschal Parish Picnic

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

Bright Week — No Fasting!

Monday **Bright Liturgy** at 9am

Tuesday **Bright Matins** at 9am

Wednesday **Bright Vespers** at 7:30pm (no class); Women's Fellowship

Thursday **Bright Liturgy** at 8am

Friday **Bright Matins** at 9am; 6pm Parish Dance

Bright Saturday Youth Group Hike in Berea (time tba)

St. Athanasius Orthodox Church

www.athanasiusoca.org

2018 Service Schedule w/Descriptions for

The End-of-Lent, Feast of Palms, Holy Week, Pascha, Bright Week

Friday March 30

• 7pm **End of Lent Compline & Final Adult Confessions**

At this service we say goodbye to Lent and prepare to celebrate the dual Feasts of Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday. If you plan on partaking of the Eucharist during Holy Week and Bright Week, you need to have made your Lenten confession prior to Lazarus Saturday.

Saturday March 31

• 9am **Lazarus Saturday Liturgy** and Children's Confessions

As a prelude to the Great Feast of the Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), we remember to Lord's raising of Lazarus from the dead. After Liturgy and a Lenten pancake breakfast, the priest is available to hear the children's confessions, while others are preparing palm crosses.

• 6:30pm **Vigil for Palm Sunday** (1 & 1/2 hour service)

This is our evening service in preparation for the Great Feast of the Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem palms are blessed for the feast.

Sunday April 1

• 9am Reception of Converts thru Baptism/Chrismation to the Orthodox Faith

• 10am **Festal Liturgy of the Entry of the Lord** (2 hour service)

The Divine Liturgy commemorates the Great Feast of the Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem. The 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.

• 6:30pm **Bridegroom Matins for Holy Monday** (1 hour service)

(this service only is held in Berea)

The service of Bridegroom Matins introduces us to Holy Week. Each night from Sunday to Wednesday, we are challenged to ponder the coming of the Lord and our lack of preparation to meet Him.

Holy Monday April 2

- 9am **Hours with Gospel of John, 1-6** (2-3 hour service)

As is the custom, our parish will read through an entire Gospel over the course of the Hours on Monday and Tuesday. Those who cannot attend the Hours are encouraged to read the Gospel at home as a part of their Holy Week preparation for Pascha.

- 6:30m **Bridegroom Matins for Holy Tuesday** (1 hour service)

Holy Tuesday April 3

- 9am **Hours with Gospel of John, 7-13:30** (2-3 hour service)
- 6:30pm **Bridegroom Matins for Holy Wednesday** (1 hour service)

Holy Wednesday, April 4

- 11am **Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts** (2 hour service)

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 ~12:15pm and be completed ~12:30pm. We pray the Prayer of St. Ephrem for the last time this year at this service.

- 6:30pm **Bridegroom Matins with Anointing** (2 hour service)

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.

Holy Thursday, April 5

- 3pm **Vesperal Liturgy of Mystical Supper** (2 hour service)

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. After the Liturgy, we will share a Lenten Meal.

- 6:30pm **Matins with 12 Passion Gospels** (3 hour service)

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.

Holy Friday, April 6

- 9am **Royal Hours for Great and Holy Friday** (1&1/2 hour service)

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.

- 3pm **Entombment Vespers** (especially child friendly, 1 hour service)

During this service we remember the taking down of the Lord's body from the Cross and His entombment by the Noble Joseph.

- 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! (2&1/2 hour service).

- 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 7

- 9am **Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy** (2&1/2 hour service)

The Vesperal 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."

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.