

7pm-11:30pm Continuous Reading of Acts of the Apostle

There will be an online signup for this reading.

11:30 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.*

The Holy Pascha

12am Procession and Paschal Matins

12:45am Paschal Divine Liturgy*

2:45am *The Blessing of Food and Paschal Meal (in the tent) 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 will bless the Artos and the Paschal baskets of food in the tent. All are invited to stay for this meal! Eating can be in the tent, parish hall, or outside areas.*

2pm Paschal Agape Vespers and Paschal Parish Picnic *Agape Vespers and the Paschal picnic immediately following will be held in the tent on the parish grounds. Eating can be in the tent, parish hall, or outside areas.*

Bright Week of Pascha—NO FASTING!!!!

May 3.....**Bright Monday**....10am **Bright Liturgy w/St. Athanasius Commemoration*** / 11:30am Festal Picnic

May 4.....**Bright Tuesday**....10am **Paschal Matins***

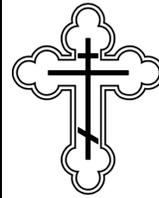
May 5.....**Bright Wednesday**....6:30pm **Paschal Vespers***

May 6.....**Bright Thursday**....5pm **Bright Vespers**

May 7.....**Bright Friday**....9am **Bright Liturgy (Life-Giving Spring)***

May 8.....**Bright Saturday**....6:30pm **Cathedral Vigil/St. Thomas Sunday***

May 9.....**St. Thomas Sunday (usual Sunday Schedule)**



Saint Athanasius

ORTHODOX CHURCH

100 Lime Lane / Nicholasville KY / 859-881-8144

www.athanasiusoca.org

Service Schedule for Lazarus Saturday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, Pascha, Bright Week

An Invitation to Journey with Christ in His Church "The 3-Day Pascha—Jesus' Death, Burial, and Resurrection"

It has often been said of the Orthodox Church that Orthodox believers reckon their lives "from Pascha to Pascha." The 3-day journey of Pascha constitutes the defining moment not just of our church year, but also of our very lives as the Lord's disciples. The invitation that goes out to each of us in these all-revered days of Holy Week and Pascha is not offered so that we would be *mere spectators*. No, the promise of Holy Week is given to us so that we might be *true participants* at the Lord's side, with the disciples, with the godly women at the Tomb.

May this guide help you and your family to maximize what you are able sanely to attend, so that you, too, might be witnesses of Him and His Glorious Resurrection when on May 2 we proclaim:

Christ is Risen!

Χριστός ἀνέστη!

Χριστός воскрес!

Hristos a inuiat!

Christus resurrexit!

Saturday, April 24 (w/o/c) Lazarus Saturday

As a prelude to the Great Feast of the Entry of our Lord into Jerusalem (Palm Sunday), we remember the 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.

9am Lazarus Liturgy

10:30am Pancake Breakfast; Children's Confessions; Palm Crosses

6:30pm Palm Sunday Vigil* (1&1/2 hours) *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.*

Week Beginning Sunday, April 25 (f/w/o) The Feast of Palms

10am Divine Liturgy* *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.*

12pm Coffee Hour / 12:30pm Bread Ministry

Monday, April 26.....Holy Monday

9am Hours w/Gospel of John...chapters 1-6 (2 hours) *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.*

6:30pm Bridegroom Matins (1&1/4 hours) *In this service we are challenged to ponder the coming of the Lord and our lack of preparation to meet Him.*

Tuesday, April 27.....Holy Tuesday

9am Hours w/Gospel of John...chapters 7-13:30. (2 hours)

6:30pm Bridegroom Matins (1&1/4 hours)

Wednesday, April 28.....Holy Wednesday

11am Presanctified Liturgy (2 hours) *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 w/Anointing (2 hours) *Tonight the them 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.*

Thursday, April 29.....Holy Thursday (w/o)

10am Vespertal Liturgy of the Mystical Supper (2 hours) *On Holy Thursday, we celebrate a Vespertal 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 w/12 Passion Gospels (3hours) *On the evening of Holy Thursday, we enter into Great&Holy Friday and encounter Christ Crucified. This is one of the most powerful services in all of Orthodox Holy Week.*

Friday, April 30...Holy Friday (strict fast)

9am Royal Hours (1&1/2 hours) *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.*

11am Decoration of Tomb

3pm Entombment Vespers (1 hour/especially child friendly) *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 Matins w/Lamentations & Procession (2&1/2 hours) *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!*

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.*

Saturday, May 1.....Holy Saturday (w/o)

10am Holy Saturday Vespertal Liturgy (2&1/2 hours) *The Vespertal 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.*