

2022

Lenten and Paschal Schedule



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Note to our Guests and Friends Visiting St. Nicholas:

We offer a most sincere and heart-felt welcome to St. Nicholas Church! Please be advised that according to the ancient traditions of the Orthodox Church, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is to be administered only to Orthodox Christians who have prepared themselves to receive the Holy Sacrament.

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Parish Faithful,

Glory be to Jesus Christ! Glory forever!

Great Lent is now soon approaching. It's a time where we are called to a more sincere repentance. It urges us to enter the struggle of asceticism. A struggle that prepares us to more effectively and fully partake in the Lord's Great and Holy Pascha.

Lent is a time for change, as this is what true repentance is. A change from our former ways of animal behavior, into the true human beings we are called by God to be. True human beings imitating Christ to our fullest ability.

Some of the tools the Church prescribes for us to actualize that change during this season are simple. **Prayer, fasting, confession, and almsgiving.** It is perhaps the simplicity of these tools that make them useful, but also an easy place to be tempted.

Prayer

The Church gives increased times for prayer both at home with the addition of some prayers to our daily prayer rules (such as the prayer of St. Ephraim), but also in our corporate prayer. We will have additional times every week to partake of the precious Body and Blood of Christ in Presanctified Liturgies and on Memorial Saturdays, where we offer our incredibly important prayers for our loved ones who have gone to their rest. But it would be easy to let our eucharistic discipline slip because the opportunities are more frequent. We must still make the effort to be obedient to proper preparation and not treat partaking of the Eucharist as simply "going through the motions". We must recognize it as the means by which we receive God's Grace. The Grace that makes us "partakers of the Divine nature."

Fasting

The life of a Christian involves a great deal of obedience, and one of the foremost examples is fasting. To limit the type and quantity of food that we eat periodically helps us to gain control over our passions by putting our body in obedience to our will, rather than having our body's desires control our actions. However, this can only happen if our fasting is done to this purpose. As St. John Chrysostom says:

"In order for fasting to be true, it cannot involve only fasting with the mouth; you must also fast with your eyes, ears, feet, hands and your

whole body; your entire interior and exterior. You fast with your hands when you keep them pure through selfless service to others. You fast with your feet when you are swift to love and serve. You fast with your eyes when you do not look at impure things, or when you do not scrutinize others in order to criticize them. Fast from all that puts your soul and your holiness at risk. It would be useless to deprive your body of food, but to feed your heart with sordid things, with impurity, with egoism, with rivalries or with comforts.”

Fasting is not merely a diet, it's a means of change, and self-correction. Don't neglect it!

Confession

The gift to be able to relieve ourselves of the burdens of our sin is one of the greater gifts Christ has given to the Church. But we must make the effort not to simply recite a list of our sinful behavior with no resolve to change. With God's Grace, we CAN overcome our passions.

Almsgiving

For most of the history of the Church, fasting and almsgiving went hand in hand. Fasting food has always been modest, and cheap. It was traditional to take the money saved in not buying feasting foods and give it to those who had no food to eat. This is perhaps one of the easiest temptations for us to fall into. With the ready availability of expensive seafood, and imitation meat, lent can become an even more expensive time of the year grocery wise. But this misses the mark. Take a cue from our Orthodox ancestors. Eat simply, eat cheaply, and give thanks to God for all the nourishment we have by giving alms to those in need, both in our local communities and abroad. There is no shortage of organizations where your money will do wonders.

Neither the fulfillment of rules nor the moral improvement of the person is the basis and goal of Great Lent. This lent may our ascetical efforts result not in a temporary change in behavior, but rather, let us contribute to an ongoing transfiguration of mind and heart, soul and body.

May God grant each of us a fruitful Lenten season!

In Christ,
Priest Nikolai Breckenridge - Rector

2022 Lenten and Paschal Schedule

****Live Stream will also be available for all services.****

Saturday, February 26

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, February 27

Sunday of Last Judgement / Meatfare Sunday

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, March 5

4:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 6

Forgiveness Sunday / Cheesefare Sunday

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

12:00 pm - Forgiveness Vespers

First Week of Lent - Clean Week

Monday, March 7

7:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Tuesday, March 8

7:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Wednesday, March 9

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, March 10

7:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Friday, March 11

7:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete

Saturday, March 12

St. Theodore the Recruit

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy St. Theodore the Recruit and Blessing of Koliva

4:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 13

The Sunday of Orthodoxy

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Clergy Brotherhood Vespers - St. Mary's Ukrainian

Wednesday, March 16

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 18

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Akathist - St. Nicholas

Saturday, March 19

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 20

St. Gregory Palamas

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Clergy Brotherhood Vespers - at St. Paul, Emmaus

Wednesday, March 23

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Thursday, March 24

Eve of Annunciation

7:00 pm - Vespers

Friday, March 25

Annunciation

9:00 am - Vespersal Liturgy

Saturday, March 26

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 27

Sunday of the Cross

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Clergy Brotherhood Vespers - at St. Nicholas ROC

- Wednesday, March 30** 6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy
- Friday, April 1** 9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy
7:00 pm - Akathist - to our Lord's Passion
- Saturday, April 2** **Memorial Saturday**
8:50 am - Reading of the Hours
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
5:00 pm - Great Vespers
- Sunday, April 3** **St. John Climacus**
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
4:00 pm - Clergy Brotherhood Vespers - at St. Nicholas GOA
- Wednesday, April 6** 6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy
- Thursday, April 7** 7:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete and the Life of St. Mary of Egypt
- Friday, April 8** 9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy
7:00 pm - Akathist - Theotokos
- Saturday, April 9** **Akathist Saturday**
8:50 am - Reading of the Hours
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy
5:00 pm - Great Vespers
- Sunday, April 10** **St. Mary of Egypt**
9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
4:00 pm - Clergy Brotherhood Vespers - at Assumption UOC, Northampton
- Wednesday, April 13** 6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy
- Friday, April 15** 9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy
7:00 pm - Compline (Lazarus)

Saturday, April 16

Lazarus Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, April 17

Palm Sunday

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

Great and Holy Week

Monday, April 18

Holy Monday

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 19

Holy Tuesday

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 20

Holy Wednesday

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Holy Unction

Thursday, April 21

Holy Thursday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

7:00 pm - Matins of Holy Friday with the 12 Passion Gospels

Friday, April 22

Holy Friday

9:00 am - Royal Hours

4:00 pm - Burial Vespers

7:00 pm - Matins Lamentations

All Night Watch

Saturday, April 23

Holy Saturday

9:00 am - Vespers Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday



GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

11:30 pm - Paschal Vigil and Paschal Divine Liturgy

Followed by the blessing of baskets and Agape meal

Christ is risen!

Χριστός воскрес! **Χριστός ἀνέστη!**

Sunday, April 24

11:00 am - Agape Vespers

Monday, April 25

Bright Monday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, April 30

6:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, May 1

St. Thomas Sunday

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

2:00 pm - Blessing of the Graves