

2026

Lenten and Paschal Schedule



SAINT NICHOLAS
RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

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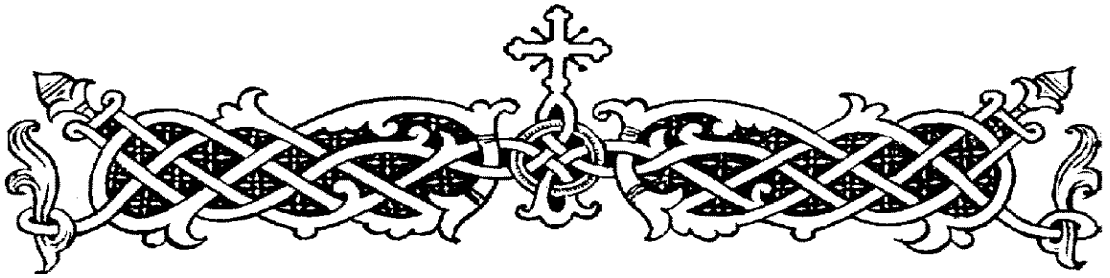
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Note to our Guests and Friends Visiting St. Nicholas:

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!

As Great Lent approaches, the Church once again calls us to sincere repentance and to the life-giving struggle of asceticism. Lent is not merely a change in schedule or diet, but a season of return—a return to our true humanity, and a return to our Father’s house.

In St. Luke’s Gospel, we hear the cry of the Prodigal Son: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before thee; I am no longer worthy to be called thy son.” Though we have received the Spirit of sonship, we too have often squandered this gift, choosing lesser loves and disordered desires. Great Lent gives us the opportunity to rise, to come to ourselves, and to approach our Heavenly Father again as prodigal children, trusting in His mercy and love.

True repentance is not merely regret—it is change. It is a transformation of all the aspects of our being. The Church gives us simple yet powerful tools to help bring about this change: prayer, fasting, confession, and almsgiving. Their simplicity makes them effective, but it also makes them easy to neglect or reduce to empty routine.

During Lent, our life of prayer intensifies both at home and in the Church. We add prayers such as the Prayer of St. Ephraim and gather more frequently for services like the Presanctified Liturgy and Memorial Saturdays. With these increased opportunities comes a responsibility: to

prepare ourselves with care, so that receiving the Holy Eucharist never becomes routine, but remains what it truly is—the reception of God’s grace, making us “partakers of the divine nature.”

Fasting, likewise, is not a diet, but an act of obedience, healing, and self-mastery. By restraining our appetites, we learn to place the body in obedience to the will, and the will in obedience to God. As St. John Chrysostom teaches, true fasting involves the whole person—our eyes, ears, hands, feet, and heart—turning away from sin and toward love.

Confession is the great gift by which Christ lifts the burden of our sins. It must never be a mere recitation of failures, but an honest encounter with God, accompanied by the resolve to struggle against our passions and to be healed.

Finally, fasting and almsgiving belong together. Lent calls us to simplicity—not costly substitutes or indulgent “fasting” foods—but a humble way of life that frees resources to care for those in need. When we feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and care for the suffering, we fulfill Christ’s commandment to love as He has loved us.

Great Lent is not about rule-keeping or self-improvement alone. It is about learning to love, for “whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.” As we cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light, may our Lenten journey lead us not to a temporary change, but to a lasting transfiguration—so that, having struggled well through the Fast, we may joyfully reach the Resurrection of our Lord.

May God grant each of us a fruitful and blessed Lenten season.

In Christ,
Archpriest Nikolai Breckenridge - Rector

2026 Lenten and Paschal Schedule

Saturday, February 14

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the 3rd Hour

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, February 15

Sunday of Last Judgement / Meatfare Sunday

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, February 21

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, February 22

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, February 23

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

Tuesday, February 24

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

Wed., February 25

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

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

Thursday, February 26

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

Friday, February 27

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Saturday, February 28

St. Theodore the Recruit

8:50 am - Reading of the 3rd Hour

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy St. Theodore the Recruit

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 1

The Sunday of Orthodoxy

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March 4

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 6

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Akathist - St. Nicholas

Saturday, March 7

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the 3rd Hour

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

4:30 am - General Panikhida

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 8

St. Gregory Palamas

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March 11

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 13

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Akathist - to our Lord's Passion

Saturday, March 14

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the 3rd Hour

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 15

Sunday of the Cross

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, March 18

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, March 20

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

4:00 - 6:00 pm - Fish Dinner

Saturday, March 21

Memorial Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the 3rd Hour

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 22

St. John Climacus

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, March 24

Eve of Annunciation

6:00 pm - Vespers for Annunciation

Wednesday, March 25

Annunciation

8:50 am - Reading of the 9th Hour

9:00 am - Festal Vespers and Divine Liturgy

6:00 pm - Compline with Great Canon of St.

Andrew of Crete and the Life of St. Mary of Egypt

Friday, March 27

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Akathist - Theotokos

Saturday, March 28

Akathist Saturday

8:50 am - Reading of the 3rd Hour

9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, March 29

St. Mary of Egypt

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, April 1

6:00 pm - Presanctified Liturgy

Friday, April 3

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

4:00 - 6:00 pm - Fish Dinner

6:00 pm - Lazarus Saturday Compline

Saturday, April 4

Lazarus Saturday

8:00 am - Baptisms/Chrismations

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:30 pm - General Panikhida

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, April 5

Palm Sunday

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours

9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

4:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

Monday, April 6

Holy Monday

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

Tuesday, April 7

Holy Tuesday

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Bridegroom Matins

Wednesday, April 8

Holy Wednesday

9:00 am - Presanctified Liturgy

7:00 pm - Holy Unction

Thursday, April 9

Holy Thursday

8:50 am - Reading of the Hours

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

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

Friday, April 10

Holy Friday

9:00 am - Royal Hours

4:00 pm - Burial Vespers

7:00 pm - Matins with Lamentations



All Night Watch - Sign up, when sheet is available.

Saturday, April 11

Holy Saturday

9:00 am - Vespertal 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

Sunday, April 12

11:00 am - Agape Vespers
Followed by the blessing of baskets

Monday, April 13

Bright Monday

8:50 am - Paschal Hours
9:00 am - Divine Liturgy

Saturday, April 18

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

Sunday, April 19

St. Thomas Sunday

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy
2:00 pm - Blessing of the Graves - Union Cemetery

Saturday, April 25

5:00 pm - Great Vespers

To Be Determined

Blessing of Graves - Catasauqua

Sunday, April 26

Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women

9:10 am - Reading of the Hours
9:30 am - Divine Liturgy

