

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE (2024)

FRIDAY, APRIL 26: THE LAST DAY OF THE GREAT FAST

10–11a Confession

6:30p Vespers for Lazarus Saturday (*followed by first confessions of children*)

SATURDAY, APRIL 27: LAZARUS SATURDAY

9:30a Divine Liturgy

4p Confession

5:30p Great Vespers with Lity

SUNDAY, APRIL 28: THE ENTRANCE OF THE LORD INTO JERUSALEM

8:45a Festal Matins (*with the Blessing of Palms & Procession*)

9a Church School

ca. 10a Divine Liturgy of St John Chrysostom (*Liturgy will commence right after Matins*)

5:30p Matins of Holy & Great Monday (“Bridegroom Matins”)

MONDAY, APRIL 29: HOLY & GREAT MONDAY

9a Third & Sixth Hours with the Reading of the Holy Gospel (*this year: Mark 1–8*)

5p Confession (*until 6p*)

6:30p Matins of Holy & Great Tuesday (“Bridegroom Matins”)

TUESDAY, APRIL 30: HOLY & GREAT TUESDAY

9a Third & Sixth Hours with the Reading of the Holy Gospel (*this year: Mark 9–16*)

5p Confession (*until 6p*)

6:30p Matins of Holy & Great Wednesday (“Bridegroom Matins”)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1: HOLY & GREAT WEDNESDAY

9:30a Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts (*with final recitation of the Prayer of St Ephraim*)

5p Confession (*until 6p*)

6:30p Matins of Holy & Great Thursday

THURSDAY, MAY 2: HOLY & GREAT THURSDAY

9:30a Vespers & the Divine Liturgy of St Basil (“Liturgy of the Mystical Supper”)

6:30p Matins of Holy & Great Friday (“Passion Gospels”)

FRIDAY, MAY 3: HOLY & GREAT FRIDAY

4p Vespers of Holy & Great Friday (“Entombment Vespers,” “Burial Service”)

6:30p Matins of Holy & Great Saturday (“The Lamentations”)

Throughout the night: The Reading of Psalms before the Lord’s Tomb

SATURDAY, MAY 4: HOLY & GREAT SATURDAY

9:30a Vespers with Readings & the Divine Liturgy of St Basil (*the first liturgy of Pascha*)

Throughout the day: The Reading of Acts before the Lord’s Tomb

11:30p Midnight Office (Nocturns)

BRIGHT WEEK SCHEDULE (2024)

SUNDAY, MAY 5: THE HOLY & GREAT SUNDAY OF PASCHA

Midnight Paschal Matins, Divine Liturgy of St John, Blessing of *Artos* & Paschal Foods
Noon Vespers for Bright Monday (“Agape Vespers”)

MONDAY, MAY 6: BRIGHT MONDAY & ST GEORGE (*transferred from April 23*)

9:30a Divine Liturgy

TUESDAY, MAY 7: BRIGHT TUESDAY & ST ALEXIS

8:40a Paschal Hours and Divine Liturgy (at St Innocent Church in Olmsted Falls)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8: BRIGHT WEDNESDAY & ST JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN

THURSDAY, MAY 9: BRIGHT THURSDAY, ST MARK (*transferred from April 25*), & ‘SUMMER ST NICHOLAS’

9:30a Divine Liturgy

FRIDAY, MAY 10: BRIGHT FRIDAY & THE LIFE-GIVING SPRING OF THE THEOTOKOS

9:30a Paschal Matins (*tentative*)

SATURDAY, MAY 11: BRIGHT SATURDAY & STS CYRIL AND METHODIUS

5:30p Great Vespers (*for Thomas Sunday*)

SUNDAY, MAY 12: ANTIPASCHA (ST THOMAS SUNDAY)

9a Church School

10a Divine Liturgy of St John, Breaking of the *Artos*

1p Blessing of Graves at the Cemetery

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A Few Notes on Fasting and Feasting during Holy Week & Bright Week

On Lazarus Saturday, the fast is relaxed for oil and wine. On Palm Sunday, the fast is relaxed for oil, wine, and fish.

In commemoration of the Lord’s passion, Holy Week is the severest fasting period of the year. According to the strict practice, on the first three days of Holy Week, there is only one meal each day (and some eat only uncooked food). On Holy Thursday, one meal is taken after Liturgy, with wine and oil. On Holy Friday, a total fast is kept. If this is not possible, bread and tea (or juice) may be consumed after Vespers. On Holy Saturday, in the strict practice, the total fast from Holy Friday continues. But if a meal is taken, it should be taken after Divine Liturgy, and may include wine (but no oil). *These are the norms as found in the Tradition. But as in all things, discretion is needed. So, we must be serious about this week. But we must also be prudential in taking account of what we have strength to do. One principle to consider: We should always do as much as we can. And then, we should push ourselves a bit more.*

During Bright Week, all fasting is suspended. We may eat all foods, even on Wednesday and Friday. In order to receive the Eucharist, however, the fast remains the same as usual: We must abstain from food and drink starting at midnight. But instead of the normal pre-communion rule as found in our prayer-books, we may pray the Paschal Hour instead.