

# St. Nicholas Orthodox Church

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Rev. Fr. Paul Fuller, Pastor



Christ is Risen! Truly, He is Risen!

المسيح قام! حقا قام!

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη! Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!

Христос воскрес! Воистину воскрес!

## Our Journey through Great Lent & Holy Week—2024

*May you and your family be encouraged to increase your participation in the Life of the Church by attending as many services during Great Lent and Holy Week as possible. This is an opportunity that the Church provides us: to demonstrate our desire for God who desires to offer salvation to us, His beloved faithful!*



# *Schedule and Explanation of Liturgical Services*

## *First Week of Great Lent*

Sunday, March 17 — **Forgiveness Vespers** at 1:00p

Monday, March 18 — **Great Compline with Canon of Repentance** at 6:00p

Tuesday, March 19 — **Great Compline with Canon of Repentance** at 6:00p

Wednesday, March 20 — **Presanctified Liturgy and Potluck Meal** at 6:00p

Thursday, March 21 — **Great Compline with Canon of Repentance** at 6:00p

Friday, March 22 — **Akathist (Madayeh) Service to the Theotokos** at 6:00p

*In the afternoon we celebrate Vespers (taking down of Christ's body from the Cross). In the evening, the Lamentations Orthros is sung. This service begins in a solemn manner as we lay to rest our Lord's body in the Tomb.*

*Holy Saturday is a day of hope and waiting. In the morning, as we celebrate Christ's victory over death, while singing: "Arise O God and Judge the earth, for to Thee belong all the nations." The Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Holy Saturday concludes the services of Holy Week, and brings us to the eve of Great and Holy Pascha.*

*Great and Holy Pascha is the celebration of the life-giving Resurrection of Jesus Christ. At this point the Resurrection is announced with the Gospel reading about the empty tomb (Mark 16: 1-8) which refers to the Angel's statement: "He is risen; He is not here."*

*On Sunday afternoon, the **Agape Vespers** is celebrated as the Gospel according to St. John, proclaiming the Good News of the Resurrection, is read in various languages demonstrating the universal character of our Lord's Resurrection.*

*Join us on Friday evenings after the Akathist Service during Great Lent for a Lecture Series on the "Story of Orthodox Christians in North America"*

*Raising of Lazarus and Palm Sunday* begin Holy Week. The Raising of Lazarus confirmed the universal resurrection from the dead that all of us will experience at our Lord's Second Coming. Our Lord enters Jerusalem and is proclaimed king; we use palms on this day to show that we too accept Jesus as the true King and Messiah.

*Bridegroom Orthros* and most of the other services of Holy Week are served "in anticipation." Each of these services has a particular theme: On Holy Monday, Blessed Joseph of Egypt, is commemorated. The Parable of the Ten Virgins is read on Holy Tuesday. The theme of Holy Wednesday is repentance and forgiveness as we remember the sinful woman who anointed our Lord before His death.

On *Holy Thursday* we turn to the events of our Lord's Passion. Thursday morning begins with commemorating the Mystical Supper. At this Liturgy a second Host is consecrated, which is distributed to the shut-ins and the sick throughout the year. In the evening, we celebrate Matins with Reading of the 12 Passion Gospel accounts.

*Holy Friday* is a day of strict fast. In the morning we celebrate the Royal Hours. These solemn hours are observed as we read the various accounts and hymns concerning the Crucifixion.

## Remaining Lenten Schedule

Mondays (April 1, April 8, April 15, April 22)  
— **Great Compline** at 6:00p

Wednesdays (April 3 & April 17)  
— **Pre-Sanctified Liturgy & \*\*Potluck Meal\*\*** at 6:00p  
(Hosted at our Parish)

Wednesdays (March 27, April 10, & April 24)  
— **Pre-Sanctified Liturgy & \*\*Potluck Meal\*\*** at 6:00p  
(Hosted at St. John Church—1740 9th St. in Rogers)

**\*\*Potluck Meals provided by the Host Parish ONLY  
after Pre-Sanctified Liturgies on Wednesdays\*\***

Fridays (March 29, April 5, April 12, & April 19)  
— **Akathist (Madayeh) Service to the Theotokos** at 6:00p

## Additional Services during Great Lent

\*Sunday, March 24 — **Great Vespers for Feast of Annunciation** at 1:00p

\*Monday, March 25 — **Vesperal Liturgy for Feast of Annunciation** at 6:00p & Dinner Outing

\*Thursday, April 18 — **Compline with Canon of Repentance and Reading of the Life of St. Mary of Egypt** at 6:00p

## *Holy Week Schedule and Explanation of Services*

*Great Compline* is a penitential evening prayer service that may include Canons, such as the *Canon of Repentance by St. Andrew of Crete*, which is sung during the first week of Great Lent. Most apparent feature is its penitential themes, demonstrating many examples of sin and repentance from the Old and New Testaments.

*Pre-Sanctified Liturgy* is an evening service of Lenten Vespers with the distribution of Holy Communion. Holy Communion is given from the Eucharistic gifts sanctified on the previous Sunday at the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, in the hopes of sustaining our Lenten ascetical efforts and discipline.

**We will be rotating hosting Pre-Sanctified Liturgy and Potluck Meal between our parish community and St. John of Chicago Orthodox Church in Rogers. Please bring food and drinks to share ONLY when we host.**

*The Akathist (Madayeh) Service* is a profound, devotional poem singing praises to the Holy Mother and Ever-Virgin, Mary. As the hymn is chanted all of the events related to our Lord's Incarnation are brought to attention for our contemplation.

Friday, April 26	6:00p	Compline with the Canon of the Raising of Lazarus
Saturday, April 27	10:00a	Festal Liturgy
<b>(Raising of Lazarus)</b>	5:00p	Great Vespers
Sunday, April 28	9:00a	Festal Orthros
<b>(Palm Sunday)</b>	10:00a	Festal Liturgy
	1:00p	Bridegroom Orthros
Monday, April 29	6:00p	Bridegroom Orthros
Tuesday, April 30	6:00p	Bridegroom Orthros
Wednesday, May 1	6:00p	Sacrament of Holy Unction
Thursday, May 2	10:00a	Vesperal Liturgy
	6:00p	12 Passion Gospels
Friday, May 3	10:00a	Royal Hours
<b>(Holy Friday)</b>	6:00p	Un-nailing Vespers
	7:00p	Lamentations
Saturday, May 4	10:00a	Vesperal Liturgy
<b>(Holy Saturday)</b>	10:00p	Paschal Orthros & Liturgy followed by Fellowship
Sunday, May 5	1:00p	Agape Vespers followed by Fellowship
<b>(PASCHA)</b>		