

Great & Holy Lent—Schedule of Divine Services

Sunday, February 18th	Solemn Vespers of Forgiveness—6:00 p.m.
Monday, February 19th	Great Compline—6:00 p.m. * Koulouma Dinner
Tuesday, February 20th	Presanctified Liturgy—8:00 a.m. * Confession—10:30 a.m. * Bible Study—7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 21st	Bible Study—10:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy—6:00 p.m. * Dinner hosted by GOYA & Jr. GOYA
Friday, February 23rd	Presanctified Liturgy—8:00 a.m. * Confession—10:30 a.m. * Salutations—7:00 p.m.
Saturday, February 24th	Saturday of Souls, Orthros, Liturgy & Memorial—8:00 a.m. Great Vespers—6:00 p.m.
Sunday, February 25th	Sunday of Orthodoxy, Orthros, Liturgy of St. Basil, Procession of Icons—8:00 a.m. Pan-Orthodox Vespers at Sts. Constantine & Helen, Palos Hills—6:30 p.m.
Monday, February 26th	Bible Study in Greek—10:00 a.m. * Great Compline—6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 27th	Confession—10:00 a.m. * Bible Study—7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 28th	Bible Study—10:00 a.m. * Presanctified Liturgy—6:00 p.m. Dinner hosted by Handmaidens & Altar Boys
Friday, March 2nd	Presanctified Liturgy—8:00 a.m. * Confession—10:30 a.m. * Salutations—7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 3rd	Confession—4:00 p.m. * Great Vespers—6:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 4th	St. Gregory Palamas, Orthros, Liturgy of St. Basil—8:00 a.m. Solemn Vespers at Holy Apostles, Westchester—6:30 p.m.
Monday, March 5th	Bible Study in Greek—10:00 a.m. * Great Compline—6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 6th	Confession—10:00 a.m. * Bible Study—7:00 p.m.
Wednesday March 7th	Bible Study -10:00 a.m. * Presanctified Liturgy—6:00 p.m. Dinner hosted by Choir & Jr. Choir
Friday, March 9th	Presanctified Liturgy—8:00 a.m. * Confession—10:30 a.m. Salutations to the Theotokos—7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 10th	Family Synaxis—St. Demetrios, Chicago * Philoptochos Retreat Great Vespers at Holy Cross, Justice, IL—7:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 11th	Veneration of the Precious Cross, Orthros & Liturgy—8:00 a.m. Solemn Vespers—6:00 p.m.
Monday, March 12th	Bible Study in Greek—10:00 a.m. * Great Compline—6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 13th	Confession—10:00 a.m. * Bible Study—7:00 p.m.
Wednesday March 14th	Bible Study—10:00 a.m. * Presanctified Liturgy—6:00 p.m. Dinner hosted by Bible Study & Kentro Bookstore
Friday, March 16th	Confession—10:00 a.m. * Salutations to the Theotokos—7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 17th	St. Alexios, Man of God—Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m. Confession—4:00 p.m. * Great Vespers—6:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 18th	4th Sunday of Lent—St. John of the Ladder—Orthros & Liturgy—8:00 a.m. Solemn Vespers—6:00 p.m.
Monday, March 19th	Bible Study in Greek—10:00 a.m. * Great Compline 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 20th	Confession—10:00 a.m. * Bible Study—7:00 p.m.
Wednesday March 21st	Bible Study—10:00 a.m. * Presanctified Liturgy—6:00 p.m. * Dinner hosted by PTA
Thursday, March 22nd	Great Canon of St. Andrew—8:00 a.m.
Friday, March 23rd	Presanctified Liturgy—8:00 a.m. * Akathist Hymn to the Theotokos—7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 24th	Enthronement of Metropolitan Nathanael of Chicago at Annunciation Cathedral—11:00 a.m. * Great Vespers at the Cathedral—7:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 25th	Annunciation of the Theotokos, Orthros, Divine Liturgy & Doxology—8:00 a.m.
Monday, March 26th	Great Compline—6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 28th	Presanctified Liturgy—8:00 a.m. * Bible Study—10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Friday, March 30th	Presanctified Liturgy—6:00 p.m. (Tentative)

HOLY WEEK & PASCHA SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 31st	Saturday of Lazarus -Orthros & Liturgy—8:00 a.m. Saint Spyridon Lenten Retreat—11:00 a.m. Holy Confession—4:00 p.m. * Great Vespers—6:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 1st	Palm Sunday -Orthros & Divine Liturgy—8:00 a.m. * Palm Sunday Luncheon Service of the Nymphios—7:00 p.m.
Monday, April 2nd	Holy & Great Monday -Presanctified Liturgy—8:30 a.m. Holy Confession—11:00 a.m. * Service of the Nymphios—7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, April 3rd	Holy & Great Tuesday -Presanctified Liturgy—8:30 a.m. Holy Confession—11:00 a.m. * Service of the Nymphios—7:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 4th	Holy & Great Wednesday —Presanctified Liturgy—8:30 a.m. Holy Unction—11:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. Orthros of Holy Thursday—7:00 p.m. (<i>Holy Unction offered</i>)
Thursday, April 5th	Holy & Great Thursday —Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil—8:30 a.m. Dyeing of the Eggs * Service of the Passion of Christ - 6:30 p.m. All-night Vigil and Decoration of Epitaphios
Friday, April 6th	Holy & Great Friday —Great & Royal Hours—8:30 a.m. Apokathelosis—4:00 p.m. * Service of the Lamentations—7:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 7th	Holy & Great Saturday —Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil—6:00 a.m. & 8:30 a.m. Resurrection Service—11:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 8th	HOLY PASCHA Orthros & Divine Liturgy—12 midnight * Agape Vespers—12 noon

ΠΡΟΓΡΑΜΜΑ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΑΣ

Σάββατο, 31 Μαρτίου	Σάββατο τοῦ Λαζάρου - Ὁρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ. Ἱερά Ἐξομολόγησις -4 μ.μ. * Ἑσπερινός -6:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή, 1 ^η Ἀπριλίου	Κυριακή τῶν Βαΐων, Ὁρθρος & Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ. Ἀκολουθία τοῦ Νυμφίου - 7:00 μ.μ.
Δευτέρα, 2 ^η Ἀπριλίου	Μεγάλη Δευτέρα, Προηγιασμένη Θεία Λειτουργία -8:30 π.μ. Ἱερά Ἐξομολόγησις -11:00 π.μ. * Ἀκολουθία τοῦ Νυμφίου - 7:00 μ.μ.
Τρίτη, 3 ^η Ἀπριλίου	Μεγάλη Τρίτη, Προηγιασμένη Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ. Ἱερά Ἐξομολόγησις -11:00 π.μ. * Ἀκολουθία τοῦ Νυμφίου - 7:00 μ.μ.
Τετάρτη, 4 ^η Ἀπριλίου	Μεγάλη Τετάρτη, Προηγιασμένη Θεία Λειτουργία -8:00 π.μ. Εὐχέλαιο -11:00 π.μ. & 4:00 μ.μ. * Ὁρθρος τῆς Μ. Πέμπτης - 7:00 μ.μ.
Πέμπτη, 5 ^η Ἀπριλίου	Ἁγία καὶ Μεγάλη Πέμπτη Ἑσπερινός καὶ Θεία Λειτουργία τοῦ Μ. Βασιλείου -8:00 π.μ. * Ἀκολουθία τῶν Παθῶν -6:30 μ.μ. * Ἄγρυπνία
Παρασκευή 6 ^η Ἀπριλίου	Ἁγία καὶ Μεγάλη Παρασκευή Ἀκολουθία τῶν Βασιλικῶν Ὁρῶν -8:00 π.μ. Ἑσπερινός τῆς Ἀποκαθήλωσης -4:00 μ.μ. Ἀκολουθία τοῦ Ἐπιταφίου -7:30 μ.μ.
Σάββατο, 7 ^η Ἀπριλίου	Μεγάλο Σάββατο Ἑσπερινή Θεία Λειτουργία Μ. Βασιλείου - 6:00 π.μ. & 8:30 π.μ. Ἱερά Ἐξομολόγησις -11:00 π.μ. Μεσονυκτική Ἀκολουθία -11:00 μ.μ.
Κυριακή 8 ^η Ἀπριλίου	ΑΓΙΟΝ ΠΑΣΧΑ Ἑσπερινός τῆς Ἀγάπης—12 μ.μ.

Preparation for Holy Confession

The gift of God's forgiveness is received through private prayer, corporate worship, the disciplines of prayer and fasting, penitential services and above all through the sacrament of Holy Confession. The value of Holy Confession is twofold. First, through this sacramental act of the ordained priest and the Christian believer we have the assurance of divine forgiveness, according to the words of Christ (Jn 20:23). Secondly, Holy Confession provides the opportunity to talk about one's deep concerns, to receive counsel and to be encouraged toward spiritual growth, all of which are universally recognized as extremely beneficial to personal life.

Holy Confession is appropriate at least twice a year and more often if an Orthodox Christian feels the need for it. It is also a part of our total spiritual preparation during the fast periods leading up to the great feasts of Pascha, Christmas, the Falling Asleep of the Theotokos and the Feast of Twelve Apostles. However, Holy Confession is especially necessary: when a serious sin has been committed; when a habitual sin has overwhelmed a Christian, or when a Christian has stopped growing spiritually and needs a reexamination of priorities. We confess our sins to God and the power of forgiveness is God's. However, the gift of God's forgiveness, although assured, is not magical. It does not automatically spare us from spiritual struggle - the continual vigilance against evil and the unceasing warfare against sin. Holy Confession will bear fruits in the Spirit only when the believer hates evil, utterly rejects sin and patiently cultivates positive habits of the life in Christ. How can one prepare for Holy Confession? Preparation for Holy Confession is a prayerful examination of thoughts, words, acts, attitudes, habits, values, priorities, goals, direction and way of life. This prayerful self-examination includes not only the personal religious life, but also family relationships, social activities, job conduct, business dealings, political commitments and even recreational pursuits, because our entire existence should be lived in under the light of the Holy Spirit is not to condemn ourselves, but to affirm our true selves in Christ who has given us access to God's mercy and forgiveness and who has taught us to live for God's glory.

Please remember that Holy Confession is not a counseling session. If you wish to speak about general concerns and challenges please schedule an appoint-

ment to see the priest at his office outside of the times for confession. Holy Confession is a sacrament in which we are ready and prepared to express our sins. We should prayerfully prepare to receive the sacrament by thinking of what we will say before we come. It is often helpful to write down our confession so that we do not forget our list at the time of Confession. Finally, Holy Confession involves **our** sins. There is no need to speak of the sins of others or to contextualize our sins within the sins and imperfections of others. God is aware of our circumstances. There is no need to justify or lighten our sins in the sight of God. He already knows and He will forgive us according to the measure that we have forgiven others. Our Confession is the seal of His forgiveness which is promised to those who repent through the commission given to the Church by Christ Himself.

"So Jesus said to them again,

"Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." (John 20:21-23)

Prayer, Fasting & Charity

During Great Lent, our Orthodox Church calls us to renew our discipline of prayer, fasting, and charity. Private prayer must accompany all the church services. The fasting rules during Lent are as follows: On weekdays and Holy Saturday, meat, fish, dairy products, wine and oil are not allowed, with the exception of March 25th when fish, wine, and oil are allowed. On Saturday and Sunday, oil and wine are allowed, with the exception of Palm Sunday when fish is also allowed. Finally, in order for prayer and fasting to be meaningful and spiritually beneficial, they need to be accompanied by vigilance, abstinence, forgiveness, charity, and acts of compassion.

For more information on Great & Holy Lent please visit <http://lent.goarch.org/>

AGAPE READERS

On the day of Pascha, we celebrate the Agape Vespers in which the gospel is read in a variety of languages. Anyone who can read the gospel in languages other than Greek, English, and Spanish, is asked to come forward and read the gospel readings during the Agape service. Please contact Fr. Tilemahos for more information and to volunteer.