

SCHEDULE AND BRIEF EXPLANATION OF THE SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA 2019

LAZARUS SATURDAY

April 19: Friday Evening
Vespers: 6:00 pm

April 20: Sat. Morning
Liturgy: 9:30 am
Church/Grounds Cleaning

PALM SUNDAY

April 20: Sat. Evening
Vigil and the
Blessing of Palms: 5:00 pm

April 21: Sun. Morning
Liturgy w/Procession: 10:00 am

GREAT & HOLY WEEK

April 21: Sun. Evening
Bridegroom Matins: 6:00 pm

April 22: Monday Evening
Bridegroom Matins: 6:00 pm

April 23: Tuesday Evening
Bridegroom Matins: 6:00 pm

The somber tone of Holy Week is preceded by a two-day feast commemorating the resurrection of Lazarus who had been dead for 4 days, and the triumphant entry of our Lord into Jerusalem. It is significant that Holy Week begins with Christ resurrecting Lazarus from the dead. This event confirms the power of Christ over the living and the dead and foreshadows our Lord's Second Coming when He will raise all the dead by His command. We begin these events of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ with "death beginning to tremble."

On **Palm Sunday**, Jesus is acknowledged and proclaimed as the Messiah, the King, and the Redeemer of Israel. With palm branches in our hands we identify ourselves with the people of Jerusalem. Together with them, we greet Christ and confess Him to be our King: "Hosanna in the Highest!"

The first part of Holy Week presents us with an array of themes based mostly on the last days of Christ's earthly ministry. The name "Bridegroom Matins" comes from the central figure in the well known parable of the 10 virgins (Matt. 25: 1-13). The Troparion of the night with its haunting melody, "Behold the Bridegroom comes at midnight..." sung at each service, reminds us of our firm belief as Christian people: We are watching and waiting for the Lord to return and judge the living and the dead.

COMMEMORATIONS:

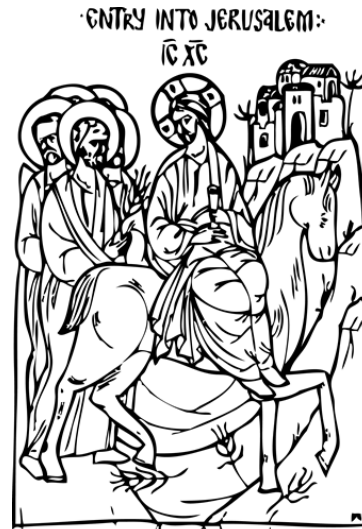
- Joseph the Patriarch, the beloved son of Jacob a prototype of Christ. (Gen. 37-50)
- The cursing of the fig tree (Matt. 21: 18-20)

COMMEMORATIONS:

- The Parable of the 10 Virgins (Matt. 25: 1-13)
- The Parable of the Talents (Matt. 25: 14-30)

COMMEMORATIONS:

- The sinful woman who anointed the head of Jesus shortly before His Passion (Matt. 26: 6-13)
- Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Christ.



Come celebrate Holy Week with us at:

HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

1725 Holy Cross LN.

Williamsport, PA 17701

www.holycrosswilliamsport.org



THE MYSTERY OF HOLY UNCTION

April 24: Wednesday

Mystery of Holy Unction: 6:00 pm

The Mystery of Holy Unction has been established by the word and actions of our Lord and His Apostles. It embodies, extends, and constitutes His healing ministry. It is the sign of His transforming presence in a bruised and hurting world. It is not simply done for those who are dying, but is given to the faithful for the healing of soul and body.

This service consists of 7 Epistles, 7 Gospels and an anointing with specially prepared Holy oil (mixed with wine). It serves to prepare us to enter into the Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.

For the faithful to participate in this service, they should have prepared beforehand with their Lenten Confession.



GREAT AND HOLY THURSDAY

April 25: Thursday

Vesperal Divine Liturgy 10am
Matins w. 12 Passion Gospels: 6:00 pm

In the evening, 12 selected Gospels are read which tell the entire story of our Lord's fearful suffering and death. After the 5th Gospel the icon of Christ is affixed to the Cross: *"Today He who hung the earth upon the waters is suspended upon the tree."*



GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY

April 26: Holy Friday

Vespers (*Burial of Christ*): 3:00 pm
Friday Evening
Matins w. Lamentations: **6:00 pm**

We commemorate the Death of God as our Lord stretches His arms on the Cross and dies for the life of this world and for its salvation.

At Vespers the icon of the crucified Christ is removed from the Cross and we remember the acts of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus.

At Matins we sing the burial service for the Lord: *"In a grave they laid Thee, O my Life and my Christ!"*



GREAT AND HOLY SATURDAY

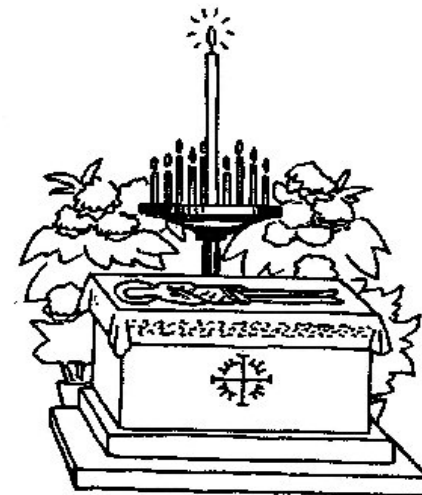
April 27: Sat. Morning

Vesperal Liturgy: 10:00 am

Saturday Evening

Reading from Acts: 10:00 pm
Nocturns: 11:15 pm

On Holy Saturday, the Church contemplates the mystery of our Lord's descent into Hades. Our ultimate enemy death, is utterly destroyed - from within! We read 15 Old Testament readings preparing us for the Lord's impending Resurrection. At the "Alleluia", the dark Church is ablaze with light and all dark covers are removed and replaced with bright ones. *"He gave Himself as a ransom to death in which we were held captive, sold under sin. Descending through the Cross into Hades, He loosed the bonds of death."*



HOLY PASCHA THE FEAST OF FEASTS

April 28: Sunday Midnight

- Procession, Paschal Matins, Hours, Festal Divine Liturgy, Basket Blessing & Agape Meal: 12:00 am

Sunday Afternoon:

- Agape Vespers: 4:00 pm

We celebrate the death of death, and the overthrow of Hell. We celebrate the 8th Eternal Day in the Kingdom of God. Pascha is not just the celebration of the Lord's Resurrection, but more than that, it celebrates the ushering in of the world which is to come - Pascha incorruptible!

**CHRIST IS RISEN!
INDEED HE IS RISEN!**

