

HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH

THROUGH THE CROSS JOY HAS COME INTO ALL THE WORLD

Rev. Fr. Christopher Foley
frc@holycrossoca.org

645 Greensboro Rd., High Point, NC
336-688-9820

www.holycrossoca.org

APRIL, 2019

Volume 13, Number 8

THE SERVICES OF HOLY WEEK

We do not live in an Orthodox Christian culture, and with the pressures of work and family life in our secular society, not everyone is able to attend all of the precious services that culminate our Lenten journey as we follow our Lord through His voluntary Passion.

A brief "tour" through the services of Holy Week follows, in hope that it may be useful for those who are unable to attend some of them. The *Lenten Triodion* is a treasury of prayers from these services and can be read at home. An online version, though a different translation than the wonderful books, is still very valuable: <http://www.ocf.org/OrthodoxPage/prayers/triodion/triodion.html>

THE EVENING SERVICES ON PALM

SUNDAY THROUGH HOLY WEDNESDAY

† Palm Sunday, April 21: 6:30 PM

† Holy Monday, April 22: 6:30 PM

† Holy Tuesday, April 23: 6:30 PM

† Holy Wednesday, April 24: 6:30 PM

After the hope and joy of the raising of Lazarus from the dead, and Jesus' entry with palms and hosannas into Jerusalem, the Bridegroom Matins services now begin preparing us to face the darkness of Christ's betrayal, suffering and death. Themes of darkness and judgment, and rousing ourselves from sin's sleep into wakeful repentance and prayer we sing in melodies of haunting beauty:

Behold! The Bridegroom comes at midnight, and blessed is the servant whom He shall find watching; and again, unworthy is the servant whom He shall find sinless. Beware, therefore O my soul, do not be weighed down with sleep, lest you be given up to death and lest you be shut out of the Kingdom. But rouse yourself, crying: "Holy! Holy! Holy! Art Thou, O our God. Through the Theotokos, have mercy on us!"



VESPERAL LITURGY ON HOLY THURSDAY

† Holy Thursday, April
25: 3:00 PM

On Holy Thursday, we celebrate the very first Eucharist, the mystical Last Supper that replaced and fulfilled the Passover. Christ is our Passover, which he offers to us in remembrance of His divine love and sacrifice, and for the remission of our sins. Love is the theme: Christ's love for us, and His new commandment to us that we love each other as He has loved us.

EVENING OF HOLY THURSDAY: MATINS - THE PASSION GOSPELS

† Holy Friday, April 25: 6:30 PM

The Matins of Holy Friday, commonly celebrated on the evening of Holy Thursday and known more popularly as "The Passions" or "Twelve Gospels," is a climactic point of the entire task set before us during Holy Week. During this wonderful Service we accompany Christ, step by step, from the time of His last discourse with His disciples to His being laid in a new tomb by the noble Joseph of Arimathea and the pious Nicodemus. The beautiful hymns present the response of the Church, the community, of

our response to the events of the Gospels. We are dismayed, horrified, yet uplifted in hope.

Today, He who hung the earth upon the waters is hung upon a tree.

The King of angels is decked with a crown of thorns.

He who wraps the heavens in clouds is wrapped in the purple of mockery.

He who freed Adam in the Jordan is struck on the face.

The Bridegroom of the Church is affixed to the cross with nails.

The Son of the Virgin is pierced by a spear.

We worship Thy Passion, O Christ.

We worship Thy Passion, O Christ.

We worship Thy Passion, O Christ.

Show us also Thy glorious Resurrection.

HOLY FRIDAY: THE ROYAL HOURS

† Holy Friday, April 26:10:00 AM

The Royal Hours is filled with the ancient prophecies of Christ's passion, and their fulfillment in the new testament. The Cross, burial, and Resurrection of our Lord should not be thought of in isolation. Our mourning is tempered with theological certainty; our sorrow with joy; our horror with hope. Nor is our experience of Great Friday to take place in a spiritual vacuum; it should move us to repentance and to the imitation of Christ's divine love. (*Adapted from Papavassiliou, V. Meditations for Holy Week: Dying and Rising with Christ.*)

HOLY FRIDAY VESPERS: THE RITE OF ENTOMBMENT

† Holy Friday, April 26: 3:30 PM

We gather together to sing of the mystery of the suffering and death for us of God, and to carry Christ's body to the

tomb with Noble Joseph:

A dread and marvellous mystery we see come to pass this day. He whom none may touch is seized; He who looses Adam from the curse is bound. He who tries the hearts and inner thoughts of man is unjustly brought to trial. He who closed the abyss is shut in prison. He before whom the powers of heaven stand with trembling, stands before Pilate; the Creator is struck by the hand of His creature. He who comes to judge the living and the dead is condemned to the Cross; the Destroyer of hell is enclosed in a tomb. O Thou who dost endure all these things in Thy tender love, who hast saved all men from the curse, O longsuffering Lord, glory to Thee.

Then, in one of the most deeply moving moments of Holy Week, we carry the body of Jesus, who died on the Cross for us, to the tomb, singing the beautiful hymn, "Noble Joseph..."

Noble Joseph, taking down Thy most pure body from the Tree, wrapped it in clean linen with sweet spices, and he laid it in a new tomb.

A dread and marvellous mystery we see come to pass this day. He whom none may touch is seized; He who looses Adam from the curse is bound. He who tries the hearts and inner thoughts of man is unjustly brought to trial. He who closed the abyss is shut in prison. He before whom the powers of heaven stand with trembling, stands before Pilate; the Creator is struck by the hand of His creature. He who comes to judge the living and the dead is condemned to the Cross; the Destroyer of hell is enclosed in a tomb. O Thou who dost endure all these things in Thy tender love, who hast saved all men from the curse, O longsuffering Lord, glory to Thee.

Triodion: Holy Friday

HOLY FRIDAY EVENING: MATINS FOR HOLY SATURDAY - THE LAMENTATIONS

† Holy Friday, April 26: 6:30 PM

This wonderful service manifests the transition between the sorrow of Holy Friday and the joy of the coming victory of Christ over death. The "Praises," often called "Lamentations," include both sorrow, weeping, lamentation, and celebrating the love, humility and obedience of Christ.

Blessed art those that are blameless in the way, who walk in the law of the Lord.

Thou who art the Life wast laid in a tomb, O Christ; and the hosts of angels were amazed and glorified Thy self-abasement.

Blessed are they that search out His testimonies, and seek Him with their whole heart.

O Life, how canst Thou die? How canst Thou dwell in a tomb? Yet Thou dost destroy death's kingdom and raise the dead from hell.

HOLY SATURDAY MORNING: VESPERAL LITURGY

+ Holy Saturday, April 27: 9:00 AM

Holy Saturday is not a day of mere sad waiting for something to come on Sunday. It is a day of action and transformation: Christ descends to Hades. Life enters the kingdom of death, and we experience a foretaste of the Paschal victory as the vestments of the clergy and in the church change from purple or black to the shining white of Pascha.

Today a tomb holds Him who holds the creation in the hollow of His hand; a stone covers Him who covered the heavens with glory. Life sleeps and hell trembles, and Adam is set free from his bonds. Glory to Thy dispensation, whereby Thou hast accomplished all things, granting us an eternal Sabbath, Thy most holy Resurrection from the dead.

HOLY SATURDAY NIGHT: NOCTURNS -- MIDNIGHT OFFICE

† Holy Saturday, April 27: 11:30 PM

On Holy Saturday evening, the awed faithful gather together in the darkened church awaiting the coming of the Light of Christ's Resurrection. Christ still lies in the tomb in the icon of the *epitaphion/plashchanitsa* in the darkness. The Midnight Office, also called Nocturns, begins at 11:30PM. In the Irmos of the 9th Ode of the Canon,

Christ speaks to His Mother:

Weep not for Me, O Mother, ... For I shall arise and shall be glorified...

At the words, "I shall arise..." the Priest lifts high Christ's image in the *epitaphion* and carries it into the altar, representing His disappearance from the Tomb.

As the Midnight Office closes, the last lights of the choir are extinguished, and in utter darkness the faithful wait in awe and joyful anticipation for the coming of the Light of Christ!

Weep not for Me, O Mother, beholding in the sepulchre the Son whom thou hast conceived without seed in thy womb. For I shall rise and shall be glorified, and as God I shall exalt in everlasting glory those who magnify thee with faith and love.

'Let the creation rejoice exceedingly, let all those born on earth be glad: for hell, the enemy, has been despoiled. Ye women, come to meet Me with sweet spices: for I am delivering Adam and Eve with all their offspring, and on the third day I shall rise again.'

Triodion: Holy Saturday, 9th Ode

HOLY PASCHA

SUNDAY, APRIL 28

† Paschal Matins and Divine Liturgy - Midnight

In silence and utter darkness, behind the iconostas in the altar representing heaven, suddenly light appears, representing the Light of Christ. The Priest, then the clergy, then the people sing in awed joy,

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the angels in heaven sing. Enable us on earth to glorify Thee in purity of heart.

The Holy Doors open, and the Light of Christ comes out into our world and is shared among all of the people, as we process with it out into the whole world, circling the church three times, as the celebration of Christ's Holy Pascha begins.

† Paschal Feast - 2:30am

† Agape Vespers followed by Egg Hunt and Pascha picnic - 1:00pm



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Adult Church School: Christ in the Old Testament, Genesis and Exodus. During the weeks of Lent and following Pascha, we will be continuing our adult education class focusing on Christ in the Old Testament. Beginning in Genesis, and following the weekly readings throughout the great fast, with classes and discussions based on the previous week's readings. After Pascha, we will continue through the books of Moses with the Exodus! If you're new to Scripture study, looking to delve deeper into the daily lectionary, or looking to understand how the Church reads and interprets the Old Testament, then this will be a wonderful overview of seeing Christ on every page--just as Our Lord did with the two on the road to Emmaus, we'll begin with Moses and see the preparation for and work of the Messiah on every page!

Moleben on our property: We will continue serving a weekly short prayer service on our property in Kernersville. This is a service of supplication (Molieben) that Archbishop Dimitri of blessed memory blessed for the use of parishes in the diocese. Fr. Christopher will be serving it on Friday mornings at 10 AM except where noted in the calendar. Our property is located at 1320 Masten Drive in Kernersville.

Sisterhood of the Holy Myrrhbearers: The Sisterhood will meet at 6:30PM on Tuesday, April 16.

Order Gift Cards Through Holy Cross! Scrip cards are available from hundreds of retailers and don't cost any more than the face value of the gift card. It's a "free" fundraiser to benefit the Holy Cross building fund! Contact Karen Brudnak-Slate.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

March	Actual	Budgeted
Income	\$11,071	\$12,963
Expense	\$11,888	\$13,497



O Death, where is your sting?
 O Hell, where is your victory?
 Christ is risen and you are overthrown!
 Christ is risen and the demons are fallen!
 Christ is risen and the angels rejoice!
 Christ is risen and life reigns!
 Christ is risen and not one dead remains in the grave!
 For Christ, having risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

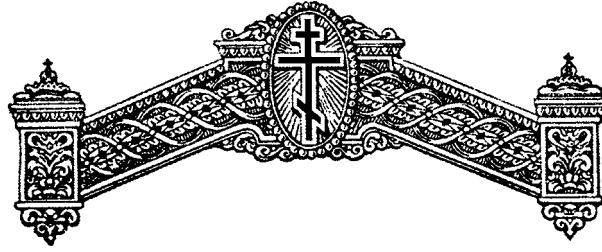
From: The Catechetical Sermon of St. John Chrysostom

HOLY CROSS ORTHODOX CHURCH



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 6:30PM Small Com- pline and Catechism Class	3 6:10PM 9th Hour & Typika 6:30PM Presancti- fied Liturgy 8PM Lenten Potluck	4	5 10 AM Prayers at the Property	6 6 PM Great Vespers
7 St. John Climacus 9:00AM Church School 9:40AM Hours 10AM Divine Liturgy 5:30 PM OCAT home meeting	8	9 6:30PM Small Com- pline and Catechism Class	10 6:10PM 9th Hour & Typika 6:30PM Presancti- fied Liturgy 8PM Lenten Potluck	11 6PM Parish Council	12 10AM Prayers at the Property	13 9AM Church Cleaning 6 PM Great Vespers
14 St. Mary of Egypt 9:00AM Adult Class 9:00AM Church School 9:40AM Hours 10AM Divine Liturgy	15	16 6:30PM Sisterhood	17 6:10PM 9th Hour & Typika 6:30PM Presancti- fied Liturgy 8PM Lenten Potluck	18	19 10AM Prayers at the Property	20 Lazarus Saturday 9AM Divine Liturgy 3PM OCAT Palm Crosses & Confessions 6 PM Great Vespers
21 Palm Sunday 9:40AM Hours 10AM Divine Liturgy 6:30PM Bridegroom Matins	22 Holy Monday 6:30PM Bridegroom Matins	23 Holy Tuesday 6:30PM Bridegroom Matins	24 Holy Wednes- day 6:30PM Matins of Holy Thursday	25 Holy Thurs- day 3PM Divine Liturgy 5PM Lenten Potluck 6:30PM Matins (Passion Gospels)	26 Holy Fri- day 10AM Royal Hours 3:30PM Vespers (Entombment) 6:30PM Matins (Lamentations)	27 Holy Sat- urday 9AM Vesperal Liturgy 11:30PM Noc- turns
28 HOLY PASCHA Midnight: Paschal Matins 1AM: Paschal Divine Liturgy 2:30AM Paschal Feast 2PM Agape Vespers	29 Bright Monday	30 Bright Tuesday	1 May - Bright Wednesday	2 Bright Thurs- day	3 Bright Friday 10AM Prayers at the Property	4 Bright Saturday





SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA 2019



Saturday, April 20 - Lazarus Saturday

- Lazarus Liturgy - 9:00am
- OCAT Palm Crosses & Confession - 3pm
- Vespers with Blessing of Palms - 6:00pm

Sunday, April 21 - Palm Sunday

- Divine Liturgy - 10:00am
- Bridegroom Matins - 6:30pm

Monday, April 22 - Holy Monday

- Bridegroom Matins - 6:30pm

Tuesday, April 23 - Holy Tuesday

- Bridegroom Matins - 6:30pm

Wednesday, April 24 - Holy Wednesday

- Matins for Holy Thursday - 6:30pm

Thursday, April 25 - Holy Thursday

- Holy Thursday Vesperal Liturgy - 3:00pm
- Lenten Potluck - 5:00pm
- Matins for Holy Friday - Passion Gospels - 6:30pm

Friday, April 26 - Holy Friday

- Royal Hours - 10:00am
- Vespers for Holy Friday - Rite of Entombment - 3:30pm
- Matins for Holy Saturday - Lamentations - 6:30pm

Saturday, April 27 - Holy Saturday

- Vesperal Liturgy - 9:00am
- Nocturns - 11:30pm

Sunday, April 28

HOLY PASCHA

- Paschal Matins and Divine Liturgy - Midnight
- Paschal Feast - 2:30am
- Agape Vespers followed by Egg Hunt and Pascha picnic - 2:00pm