

## A SYNOPSIS OF HOLY WEEK

### Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday

These two days combine to make a great Feast introducing us to Holy Week and Christ's Journey to the Cross. When Christ raises Lazarus from the dead, He shows He came to conquer death and give us life!

On Palm Sunday we celebrate Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. He comes as the King prophesied by the Old Testament prophet Zechariah. We bear palm branches to show that we too receive Jesus as King and are willing to follow him to the Cross!



### The Bridegroom Service

On Palm Sunday evening, Holy Week actually begins with the Bridegroom Service, which is repeated Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings. The theme of the service is be "prepared" for the Christ, "the Bridegroom" who comes in the middle of the night. The beautiful icon of Christ The Bridegroom is brought into the middle of the church and left there until Holy Thursday. The Gospel of Palm Sunday evening is Matthew 21:18-43 which tells of the barren fig tree. We must hear God's Word and bear fruit! The parable of the ten virgins (Holy Monday) reminds us to remain vigilant for the imminent return of the Bridegroom. Holy Tuesday's theme of repentance and forgiveness is stressed in the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy in the morning. In the evening, we commemorate the sinful woman who washed Christ's feet with her tears. This is beautifully expressed in the Hymn of the Nun Cassiane sung during the service.



### Holy Wednesday

In the afternoon, we celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Unction in which oil is sanctified by the Holy Spirit and offered to us for healing of physical and spiritual illnesses. In the evening, the Orthros Service for Holy Thursday is celebrated, centering on the theme of the Last Supper. Holy Unction will also be offered at the conclusion of this service.

### Holy Thursday

Represented on this day are the events of the footwashing, the Last Supper, and the Garden of Gethsemane. The Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil is celebrated in the morning and the Reserved Sacrament for the sick and homebound is prepared for the year.

In the evening we first celebrate the "Foot Washing Service," in which we recall and enact Christ's washing of the feet of the Apostles. Then we sing, in anticipation, the Matins of Good Friday. The Twelve Gospels are read which relate Jesus' Holy Passion (betrayal, scourging, mocking, and Crucifixion). The highlight of the service is the procession with the Crucifix around the church after the Fifth Gospel which represents Christ's Crucifixion. The priest intones the beautiful and moving hymn: "Today is hung upon the wood."



### Holy Friday

On Holy Friday morning the Royal Hours are read which retell the Passion. In the afternoon the Vespers Service is celebrated where the body of Christ is removed from the Cross and wrapped in a white linen sheet.

At 7:00 PM the beautiful Matins Service of Holy Saturday is sung in



anticipation. The service is highlighted by the *Lamentations* which are sung around the *Kouvouklion* (Funeral Bier) which contains the *Epitaphion* (embroidered cloth icon of Christ being buried). Weather permitting, the *Kouvouklion* is taken in procession outside the church, followed by the faithful, with candles in hand.

### Holy Saturday

Although a day of strict fasting and silence, the Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil, in the morning, anticipates the Resurrection. The sprinkling of flower petals and the hymn, "Arise, O God, and Judge the Earth," the original resurrection hymn, are special features of the Liturgy. Later, at 11:00 PM, the Orthros of Pascha precedes the Resurrectional Service and Divine Liturgy.



### Great and Holy Pascha

At midnight, the church is darkened, the priest lights the Paschal Candle and proclaims, "Come, receive the Light from the unwaning Light!" The light spreads amongst the faithful and the church is illumined with the glow of everyone's candles. The Resurrectional Gospel is proclaimed accompanied by the glorious hymn:

*Christ is risen from the dead, by death,  
trampling down death; and to those in the  
tombs, bestowing Life!"*

We reassemble in the Church at 11:00 AM, on Sunday, to celebrate the beautiful "Agape Vespers." In the Resurrectional Light that has illumined our homes and our hearts, we embrace and forgive each other, sharing together the gift of new life which has been bestowed upon us by our Risen Savior.

The highlight of the service is the Gospel proclaimed in many different languages, assuring us that Christ's Resurrection is to be experienced by all nationalities and races.

## YOUTH AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES

*The following activities are wonderful ways to gather together as an Orthodox Christian family and deeply experience the passion and victory over death of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

<b>MARCH 31</b>	<b>SATURDAY OF LAZAROS</b>
9:00 AM	DIVINE LITURGY
11:00 AM	<b>Brunch (Lenten Potluck)</b>
12:00 PM	<b>Youth Retreat incl. Palm Crosses</b>
	<i>to</i>
3:00PM	<i>Clean &amp; Decorate Sanctuary</i>
5:00 PM	GREAT VESPERS
<b>APRIL 5</b>	<b>HOLY THURSDAY</b>
9:00AM	VESPERAL LITURGY
11:00AM	Dying of Easter Eggs
<b>APRIL 6</b>	<b>HOLY FRIDAY</b>
9:00 AM	ROYAL HOURS
11:00 AM	<b>Brunch (Lenten Potluck)</b>
12:00PM	<b>Youth Retreat; Adults-</b>
	<i>Clean &amp; Decorate Church</i>
3:00 PM	DESCENT FROM THE CROSS
	VESPERS
7:00 PM	LAMENTATIONS SERVICE

Participants are welcome to assist in the decoration of the Kouvouklion, preparing candles, and stripping bay leaves and rose petals. A Lenten lunch will be provided. Parents are encouraged to attend. **Pre-school children must be accompanied by a parent.**

<b>APRIL 7</b>	<b>HOLY SATURDAY</b>
9:00 AM	VESPERAL LITURGY
11:00 AM	<b>Decorate Church for Pascha</b>
11:00PM	ORTHROS/MATINS
12:00midnight	RESURRECTION SERVICE
2:30AM	Lamb Dinner
<b>APRIL 8</b>	<b>HOLY PASCHA/EASTER</b>
11:00 AM	AGAPE VESPERS
12:00 PM	<b>Easter Egg Hunt Outside</b>
	<i>(weather permitting) &amp;</i>
	<b>Social Hour in Fellowship Hall</b>

*Parents, we need your help. Look for sign-up sheet in social hall. Email [info@stgeorgegoc.org](mailto:info@stgeorgegoc.org) for more info or to volunteer.*

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

SATURDAY OF LAZAROS	March 31
9:00 AM—Divine Liturgy	
5:00 PM—Great Vespers	
PALM SUNDAY	April 1
9:30 AM— Hierarchical Divine Liturgy	
7:00 PM—Bridegroom Service	
HOLY MONDAY	April 2
7:00 PM—Bridegroom Service	
HOLY TUESDAY	April 3
9:00AM—Presanctified Liturgy	
7:00 PM—Bridegroom Service	
HOLY WEDNESDAY	April 4
3:00 PM—Holy Unction Service	
7:00 PM—Bridegroom Service w/Unction	
HOLY THURSDAY	April 5
9:00 AM—Vesperal Liturgy	
7:00 PM—Holy Passion w/ 12 Gospels	
HOLY FRIDAY	April 6
9:00 AM—Royal Hours Service	
3:00 PM—Descent from Cross Vespers	
7:00 PM—Lamentations Service	
HOLY SATURDAY	April 7
9:00 AM—Vesperal Liturgy	
11:00 PM—Orthros/Matins	
HOLY PASCHA	April 8
12:00 Midnight—Resurrection Service	
12:30 AM—Divine Liturgy & Lamb Dinner	
11:00 AM—Agape Vespers	



# Holy Week 2018 St. George Greek Orthodox Church

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