

Join us as we journey through Holy Week in preparation for Pascha, when we will celebrate the risen Lord together!

**Lazarus Saturday**

On the Saturday before Holy Week, the Orthodox Church commemorates a major feast of the year, the miracle of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when he raised Lazarus from the dead after he had lain in the grave four days.

8:00 AM  
9:00 AM

***Lazarus Saturday,  
Saturday, March 31***

Orthros - Morning Prayers  
Divine Liturgy

**Followed by community wide breakfast and making of the palms**



**Palm Sunday**

On the Sunday before the Feast of Great and Holy Pascha and at the beginning of Holy Week, the Orthodox Church celebrates one of its most joyous feasts of the year. Palm Sunday is the commemoration of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem following His glorious miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead. Having anticipated His arrival and having heard of the miracle, the people went out to meet the Lord and welcomed Him with displays of honor and shouts of praise. On this day, we receive and worship Christ in this same manner, acknowledging Him as our King and Lord.

***Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 1***

9:00 AM      Orthros - Morning Prayers  
10:00 AM      Divine Liturgy  
                    Followed by a Luncheon  
5:30 PM Nymphios Service -  
Bridegroom Service



**Nymphios Service - Bridegroom Service**

The first part of Holy Week presents us with an array of themes based chiefly on the last days of Jesus' earthly life. The observances of the first three days of Great Week are rooted in these incidents and sayings. The Orthros of each of these days is called the Service of the Bridegroom (Akolouthia tou Nimfiou). The name comes from the central figure in the well-known parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-13). The title Bridegroom suggests the intimacy of love. It is not without significance that the kingdom of God is compared to a bridal feast and a bridal chamber.

***Holy Monday – April 2***

6:30 PM Nymphios Service -  
Bridegroom Service

***Holy Tuesday – April 3***

6:30 PM Nymphios Service -  
Bridegroom Service

Hymn of Kassiani

The Christ of the Passion is the divine Bridegroom of the Church.



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### **The Sacrament of Holy Unction**

On the afternoon or evening of Great and Holy Wednesday, the Sacrament or Mystery of Holy Unction is conducted in Orthodox parishes. The Sacrament of Holy Unction is offered for the healing of soul and body and for forgiveness of sins. At the conclusion of the service of the Sacrament, the body is anointed with oil, and the grace of God, which heals infirmities of soul and body, is called down upon each person. The Sacrament is performed by a gathering of priests, ideally seven in number, however, it can be performed by a lesser number and even by a single priest.

9:00 AM  
3:30 PM  
6:30 PM

### ***Holy Wednesday – April 4***

Pre-Sanctified Liturgy  
Children's Holy - Unction Service  
Holy Unction Service



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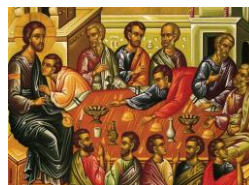
### **Holy Thursday**

On Thursday of Holy Week four events are commemorated: the washing of the disciples' feet, the institution of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, the agony in the garden of Gethsemane, and the betrayal of Christ by Judas.

9:00 AM  
6:30 PM

### ***Holy Thursday – April 5***

Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil (Last Supper)  
Passion of Our Lord (12 Gospels)



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### **Great and Holy Friday**

On Great and Holy Friday the Orthodox Church commemorates the death of Christ on the Cross. This is the culmination of the observance of His Passion by which our Lord suffered and died for our sins. This commemoration begins on Thursday evening with the Matins of Holy Friday and concludes with a Vespers on Friday afternoon that observes the unnauling of Christ from the Cross and the placement of His body in the tomb.

9:00 AM  
3:00 PM  
6:30 PM

### ***Holy Friday – April 6***

Royal Hours  
Burial of Our Lord (Apokathilosis)  
Lamentations at the Tomb



### **Holy Saturday**

On Great and Holy Saturday the Orthodox Church commemorates the burial of Christ and His descent into Hades. It is the day between the Crucifixion of our Lord and His glorious Resurrection. The Matins of Holy Saturday is conducted on Friday evening, and while many elements of the service represent mourning at the death and burial of Christ, the service itself is one of watchful expectation.

### ***Holy Saturday – April 7***

9:00 AM Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil  
11:00 PM Resurrection Service



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### **Great and Holy Pascha**

On the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha, Orthodox Christians celebrate the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This feast of feasts is the most significant day in the life of the Church. It is a celebration of the defeat of death, as neither death itself nor the power of the grave could hold our Savior captive. In this victory that came through the Cross, Christ broke the bondage of sin, and through faith offers us restoration, transformation, and eternal life.

### ***GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA – Sunday April 8***

**12:00 Noon Agape Service at The Ramallah Club**

**Followed by picnic  
The Ramallah Club  
3130 Parental Home Road, 32216**

Everyone is invited to attend our Pascha picnic and to share in the wonderful tradition of fellowship. Tables and chairs will be available for everyone. Bring your favorite food for your family and friends.

**If you are new to our Church, Fr. Nicholas would like to personally invite you to sit with him and the clergy.**  
*We look forward to sharing this special time with you.*

**St. John the Divine Greek  
Orthodox Church**  
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