

# PASCHA CELEBRATION

Everyone is invited to celebrate Christ's Resurrection and to break the fast immediately following the Midnight Liturgy on Holy Saturday night.

Please bring a covered dish to share with each other during this most joyous event.



**DIAKONIA**  
RETREAT CENTER  
Annual Pascha Picnic

Saturday, April 18th  
Vespers - 11 am / Lunch - 1 pm

Agape Vesper Service Followed by Panegyri  
His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos invites you all for a Day or Weekend of Family Worship, Food, Fun and Fellowship!

Call Marlene: 864-732-1537  
Email: drccamp2024@gmail.com

**St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church**  
P.O. Box 1107  
697 Asheville Highway  
Spartanburg, SC 29304

# ST. NICHOLAS NEWS April 2026



**Holy Pascha - April 12th**

# April 2026

**CHRIST  
IS RISEN!**



**ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ  
ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>5th Sunday of Lent</b> <b>“St. Mary of Egypt”</b> 9:45   Orthros 9:45   Sunday School 10:15   Divine Liturgy			1	2	3	4 <b>Saturday of Lazarus</b> 9:00   Orthros 9:30   Divine Liturgy 10:30   Sunday School Breakfast & Palm Making
April 1-11   Fasting for Great Lent						
5 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:45   Orthros 9:45   Sunday School 10:15   Divine Liturgy 11:30   Luncheon & Egg Hunt 6:00   Nymphios Service	6 <b>Holy Monday</b> <b>Nymphios Service</b> 6:00 pm	7 <b>Holy Tuesday</b> <b>Nymphios Service</b> 6:00 pm	8 <b>Holy Wednesday</b> <b>Holy Unction Service</b> 6:00 pm	9 <b>Holy Thursday</b> 7:15 am   Vesperal Divine Liturgy for the Last Supper 6:00 pm   Holy Passion Reading of the 12 Gospels	10 <b>Holy Friday</b> 3:00 pm   Apokathilosis 6:00 pm   Lamentations & Epitaphios	11 <b>Holy Saturday</b> 9:30 am   Vesperal Divine Liturgy 11:30 pm   Divine Liturgy for Pascha
Fish Allowed	April 1-11   Fasting for Great Lent					
12 <b>GREAT &amp; HOLY PASCHA</b> 11:00 am Agape Service	13	14	15	16	17	18 <b>Metropolis Agape Picnic</b> <b>(Diakonia Center)</b> 11:00 am
April 12-18   Bright Week   No Fasting						
19 <b>Sunday of Thomas</b> 9:45   Orthros 9:45   Sunday School 10:15   Divine Liturgy	20	21	22 Fast Day	23 <b>St George</b> 8:30 am   Orthros 9:00 am   Divine Liturgy	24 Fast Day	25
26 <b>Sunday of the Myrrh</b> <b>Bearing Women</b> 9:45   Orthros 9:45   Sunday School 10:15   Divine Liturgy	27	28	29 Fast Day	30		

## April 10 | Holy Friday

Apokathilosis Service 3:00 pm  
Lamentations 6:00 pm

**The Royal Hours** on Friday morning retells the story of Jesus' passion with the addition of prophecies, psalms and hymns. These services help us to keep vigil at the side of Christ as He remains suspended on the Cross of our Salvation.

**The Apokathilosis or un-nailing Service** on Friday afternoon helps us relive the death of our Lord and His removal from the Cross. During the Gospel Reading, the body of Christ is taken down and wrapped in a white linen sheet. The priest then takes it into the Sanctuary where it will remain until the feast of the Ascension. The Epitaphios, or cloth icon depicting the death of our Savior is carried in procession and then placed in the flower-covered bier that represents the Tomb of Christ.

**The Lamentations and the Procession of the Epitaphios** are celebrated on Friday evening. The Lamentation are sung as we lament His Death. With both sorrow and joy we sing the Lamentations to Him who is laid to rest in a Tomb, but will rise on the third day. During the service, the Bier, holding the Epitaphios is taken in solemn procession around the outside parameter of the Church. After the conclusion of the Service, the flowers from the Bier are given to the faithful, symbolic of the many gifts that the Lord has blessed His creation with, the greatest of which is eternal life.

## April 11 | Holy Saturday

St. Basil's Vesporal Liturgy 9:30 am  
Pascha (Easter) Orthros Service 11:00 pm  
The Resurrection & Divine Liturgy 12:00 am

**The Vesporal Liturgy of St. Basil** on Saturday morning celebrates the Blessed Sabbath, a day of strict fasting, hope, and anticipation of an empty tomb. This service is sometimes referred to as the "First Resurrection" because it is at this time that Christ descended into Hades breaking the bonds of death and destruction that held the souls of mankind captive. Christ's victory over death is our victory over death. He was resurrected so that we too may rise to perfection as icons of the Father.

**Pascha** is the day we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. The service of the Resurrection begins in Complete darkness. As the faithful receive the Light from the priest, a procession is formed to the Narthex, or rear of the Church. The faithful hear the Good News of Christ's triumph over death from the Gospel. The hymn Christos Anesti is joyously proclaimed as we raise our Paschal Candles.

**The Paschal Liturgy** and sermon of St. John Chrysostom follows, inviting us all to take part in the Feast of all feasts, the Resurrection of Christ.

## April 12 | Agape Vespers 11:00 am

**Agape Vespers** are celebrated on Sunday as we gather together as a faith Community to ask forgiveness of one another and embrace fellow Christians. It is at this point that the reality of the Gift of new Life touches our lives as we proclaim the Gospel of Christ in many languages, symbolizing the universality of the message and the penetration of the Word throughout this blessed Earth. With joy we shout from the depths of our souls: Christ is Risen...Truly He is Risen. Death no longer has dominion over the human condition.



## St. Nicholas News Monthly Bulletin of

St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church  
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## April 2026

### SUNDAY

Orthros | 9:45 am  
Sunday School | 9:45 am  
Divine Liturgy | 10:15 am

### WEEKDAY

Orthros | 8:30 am  
Divine Liturgy | 9:00 am  
(unless noted below)

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## Weekday Services

**Saturday, April 4th | Saturday of Lazarus**  
Orthros | 9:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy | 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, April 5th through Sunday, April 12th**  
Please see Holy Week Schedule

**Thursday, April 23rd | St. George**  
Orthros | 8:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy | 9:00 a.m.

**SCHEDULE OF CHURCH SERVICES HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA**  
**ΙΕΡΑΙ ΑΚΟΛΟΥΘΙΑΙ ΤΗΣ ΜΕΓΑΛΗΣ ΕΒΔΟΜΑΔΟΣ**

**PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 5**

9:45 a.m. Orthros  
10:15 a.m. Divine Liturgy  
6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service

**HOLY MONDAY, APRIL 6**

6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service

**HOLY TUESDAY, APRIL 7**

6:00 p.m. Bridegroom Service  
Hymn Of Kassiani

**HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8**

6:00 p.m. Holy Unction Service

**HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 9**

7:15 a.m. Vespereal Divine Liturgy  
for Last Supper  
6:00 p.m. Holy Passion Service  
(Reading of the 12 Gospels)

**HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 10**

3:00 p.m. Great Vespers  
6:00 p.m. The Lamentations

**HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 11**

9:30 a.m. Vespereal Divine Liturgy  
11:00 p.m. Orthros  
**12:00 (Midnight) THE RESURRECTION  
and Divine Liturgy**

**PASCHA SUNDAY, APRIL 12**

11:00 a.m. Agape Vespers

**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΒΑΙΩΝ, 5 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ**

9.45 π.μ. Ορθρος  
10.15 π.μ. Θεία Λειτουργία  
6.00 μ.μ. Ακολουθία του Νυμφιου

**ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ, 6 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ**

6.00 μ.μ. Ακολουθία του Νυμφιου

**ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΡΙΤΗ, 7 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ**

6.00 μ.μ. Ακολουθία του Νυμφιου  
Το Τροπαριον της Κασσιανης

**ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ, 8 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ**

6.00 μ.μ. ΤΟ ΕΥΧΕΛΑΙΟΝ

**ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΕΜΠΤΗ, 9 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ**

7.15 π.μ. ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ  
6.00 μ.μ. 12 ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΑ

**ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ, 10 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ**

3.00 μ.μ. Η ΑΠΟΚΑΘΗΛΩΣΙΣ  
6.00 μ.μ. Ο ΕΠΙΤΑΦΙΟΣ ΘΡΗΝΟΣ

**ΜΕΓΑΛΟ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ, 11 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ**

9.30 π.μ. Πρωτη Αναστασις Θεία  
Λειτουργία του Αγίου Βασιλειου  
11.00 μ.μ. Ορθρος  
**12.00 Μεσανυχτα Η ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ &  
ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ**

**ΤΟ ΑΓΙΟΝ ΠΑΣΧΑ, 12 ΑΠΡΙΛΙΟΥ**

11.00 π.μ. Εσπερινος της Αγαπης

**April 6 | Holy Monday**

Nymphios Service 6:00 pm

**Holy Monday Evening** at the second Nymphios Service we commemorate two parables of our Lord. The first is the parable of the Ten Virgins (MT 25:1-3) and the parable of the Talents (MT 25:14-30). Both of these stories of our Lord speak of spiritual preparation and vigilance as we await the Second coming of Jesus Christ.

**April 7 | Holy Tuesday**

Nymphios Service 6:00 pm

**Holy Tuesday Evening** at the third Nymphios service we commemorate the sinful woman who anointed Christ in anticipation of His passion and death. Her deep-rooted repentance and humility before God are the model for the Hymn of Kassiani, chanted on Tuesday night, and one of the most popular and anticipated hymns of the Church. The fallen disciple of Christ, Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him, is also commemorated on Tuesday evening. He is remembered for his compunction to serve himself before his Lord. The two figures commemorated are dichotomous from one another. While one chose to seek freedom in the kingdom of God, the other chose to be enslaved by his own sin. One found her salvation in Christ, while the other found his demise in 30 pieces of silver. It is the prayer of the Church that we not find a similar fate.

**April 8 | Holy Wednesday**

Sacrament of Holy Unction 6:00 pm

**The Sacrament of Holy Unction** is deeply connected to the Sacrament of Penance, for we must seek spiritual as well as physical healing from the Church. It is only when we confess our sins that we can be reconciled with the Lord. The hands and face of the faithful are anointed with holy oil with the hope that the Holy Father and Physician of our souls and bodies will have mercy, save and forgive His servants.

**April 9 | Holy Thursday**

Vesporeal Liturgy 7:15 am  
Holy Passion Service 6:00 pm

**The Vesporeal Liturgy** on Thursday is one of the most important Liturgies celebrated in the Orthodox Church. It is on this day that we remember the institution of the Eucharist at Christ's Last Supper, while consecrating the Reserved Sacrament (Amnos) that will be used to give Communion to the sick and aged throughout the entire year.

**The Holy Passion Service** on Thursday evening highlights twelve Gospel Readings that narrate the events of Christ's Holy Passion and His last instructions to His disciples. Following the fifth Gospel, the Crucifix is carried in procession. This is meant to symbolize Christ's agonizing journey to Golgotha to offer Himself as the Ultimate Sacrifice for mankind.

# ORTHODOX EASTER

## The Why of Different Dates Between East and West

Neither the Eastern nor the Western Church can celebrate Easter before the full moon of the spring equinox. The Eastern Church, however observes the stipulation of the 1st General Council by which Easter cannot be celebrated before or on the 14th of Nisan, the day of the Jewish Passover. This stipulation is not observed by the Western Church, hence the first reason for the different dates of celebration.

Then at the time of the 1st General Council (1st Ecumenical Synod) the 21st of March - Spring equinox - was actually April 3 in terms of the calendar now in use. This means that the Eastern Church cannot celebrate Easter before April 3 and still be in compliance with the decree of the 1st Ecumenical Synod. The range of possible dates for Easter in the Eastern Orthodox Church extends from April 3 to May 8, while in the Western Church (Roman Catholic and Protestant) the range covers the period between March 22 and April 25. The instances at which Easter Falls on the same date for both Eastern and Western Churches are due to the fact that on occasions the full moon of the spring equinox takes place on or after April 3.

Year	Orthodox Easter	Western Easter
2026	April 12	April 5
2027	May 2	March 28
2028	April 8	April 1

### ORTHODOX HOLY WEEK SERVICES

#### April 5 | Palm Sunday

Orthros	9:45 am
Divine Liturgy	10:15 am
Nymphios Service	6:00 pm

**Palm Sunday** symbolizes for us in a fantastic way the majestic reign of Christ, Jesus. His entrance into Jerusalem is one of the greatest of all messianic events. We are called to receive our King in all His glory, bowing down to Him with great humility. Christ preached that the Kingdom of God is at hand. This event crystallizes this reality for all Christians throughout the whole of creation.

**Palm Sunday Evening** at the first Nymphios Service we commemorate Joseph the Patriarch, who we read about in Genesis. He was thrust out by his own brothers, just as our Lord was rejected by His own children. And just as Christ rose to take His proper place as King; Joseph also became a mighty ruler despite the injustice displayed towards him. On this evening, we also commemorate Christ's cursing of the barren fig tree (MT 21:18-20).

## Christ is Risen

By: REV. ANDREW DEMOTSES

The ceremonies of Holy Week are the commemoration of the greatest events of human history; they direct our attention to Christ's Cross and death, and finally to his empty tomb and resurrection. The joyful and hope-filled end of Holy Week is remembered in one of the gospel readings taken from the 28th chapter of Matthew.

There, we see the myrrh bearing women approach the tomb and hear an angel who spoke not only to them, but to us as well. The first words spoken by the angel are, "You must not be afraid." With these words we are all reminded that the resurrection destroys our fear of death and replaces it with hope and with God's promise of eternal life. We no longer have reason to fear; Christ, by his own death, has broken the chains by which death and the grave held us as prisoners.

Second he said, "Come here and see the place where He was lying." We are all invited to examine the empty tomb and see for ourselves the triumph of Christ over our enemy. How do we know that Christ lives? We know because He continues to change lives, and to dwell as a living presence in the hearts of those who accept Him.

Finally, the angel said, "Go quickly now and tell the disciples." The command is to go and tell others what the resurrection means. It means that we who have experienced its joy and who trust in the promise of Christ must share that joy and trust and hope with those who have not yet experienced it. If we want to make Easter truly meaningful, therefore, we cannot merely enjoy it; we must experience it for ourselves, and share it with others as well.

**CHRIST  
IS RISEN!**



**ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ  
ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!**

# Announcements

**GOYA Fundraiser** | GOYA will begin selling luminaries on March 29 during coffee hour. The luminaries will be placed out on Holy Friday. You may dedicate a luminary in memory or in honor of a loved one. The cost is **\$5 per bag** (up to two names per bag). If you have any questions, please contact Litsa at (864) 316-4257. Thank you for your support!

**Philoptochos Red Eggs** | As Pascha approaches, Philoptochos will again offer the convenience of dyed **red eggs for \$10**. Please contact Eva Strickland (864) 205-1991 to place an order. Payment may be given to Eva Strickland. Eggs will be ready for pickup on Thursday before Pascha. To make other arrangements please contact Eva Strickland.

**Easter Items Needed** | A **sign-up sheet** for Easter items will be posted on the bulletin board in the hall. (The list will also be posted on the website.) If you are able, please consider signing up to donate money toward purchasing the items needed. If you plan to write a check, please make it out to Philoptochos. Payment may be given to Kiki Couchell.

**Annual Sunday School Palm Making** | On **Saturday, April 4th**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, we will be making the Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday. Sunday School will be providing breakfast.

**Palm Sunday Luncheon** | On **Sunday, April 5th**, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, we will be having our annual Palm Sunday Luncheon. Everyone is encouraged to begin Holy Week by attending Church on Palm Sunday and remaining for the delicious meal that will follow. Afterwards we will have the annual Easter egg hunt.

**Pascha Offering** | Let us remember our Parish at this time of year, and lets do a little extra. Please contribute as generously as possible, and He will bless your generosity. Remember only through our contributions can St. Nicholas remain open. Lets give generously and sacrificially.

**Copses Memorial Service** | The one year memorial service in memory of Peter and Voula Copses will be held Saturday, April 25th at Greenlawn Cemetery, 1300 Fernwood-Glendale Rd at 11:30 am. Their family welcomes any interested friends/parishoners from St. Nicholas to attend. This will be a graveside service only.

## **Coffee Hour**

April 5	Palm Sunday Luncheon
April 11 (Sat pm)	Bring a Covered Dish
April 12	TBA
April 19	TBA
April 26	TBA

## **April Prosporo List**

April 5	TBA
April 12	TBA
April 19	TBA
April 26	TBA

## **Week Day**

April 9	Presbyteria Ellada Nayfa
April 11	TBA
April 23	Presbyteria Ellada Nayfa

## **April Pangari Schedule**

April 4 (Sat am)	Mike Lydakis
April 5	Ramzi Ayyad, Conrad Allen
April 12	TBA
April 19	Logan Griffin, David Jung
April 26	Kiki Couchell, Conrad Allen

## **HOLY WEEK**

April 5 pm	Mike Lydakis
April 6	Kiki Couchell
April 7	Kiki Couchell
April 8	Kiki Couchell
April 9 am	Mike Lydakis
April 9 pm	Kiki Couchell
April 10 am	Mike Lydakis
April 10 (afternoon)	Mike Lydakis
April 10 pm	Kiki Couchell
April 11 am	David Jung
April 11 pm	Mike Lydakis, Kiki Couchell, Constatine Ghionis