

Sunday Vesper Services

Each Great Fast, the Greater Akron Orthodox Clergy Association sponsors a series of Sunday evening Vespers Services, to provide a means of gathering Orthodox Faithful from the various Orthodox communities, to allow them to speak with and support one another through the Fasting season, and to offer a series of spiritual talks to help us on our own personal journeys through the Fast.

The schedule for these services, the speakers scheduled, and the parishes in which the services are being held, will be announced from the pulpit on a weekly basis.

Date	Location
01 Mar	Sunday of Orthodoxy St. Thomas/Fairlawn—5PM
08 Mar	St. Gregory Palamas Presentation/Fairlawn—5PM
15 Mar	Sunday of the Cross St. Elia/Akron—5PM
22 Mar	St. John Climacus St. George/Fairlawn—5PM
29 Mar	St. Mary of Egypt St. Nicholas/Mogadore—5PM

THE TRUE NATURE OF FASTING

By Mother Mary and Archbishop Kallistos

We waited, and at last our expectations were fulfilled', writes the Serbian Bishop Nikolai of Ochrid, describing the Easter service at Jerusalem. 'When the Patriarch sang "Christ is risen", a heavy burden fell from our souls. We felt as if we also had been raised from the dead. All at once, from all around, the same cry resounded like the noise of many waters. "Christ is risen" sang the Greeks, the Russians, the Arabs, the Serbs, the Copts, the Armenians, the Ethiopians one after another, each in his own tongue, in his own melody. . . . Coming out from the service at dawn, we began to regard everything in the light of the glory of Christ's Resurrection, and all appeared different from what it had yesterday; everything seemed better, more expressive, more glorious. Only in the light of the Resurrection does life receive meaning.'

This sense of resurrection joy, so vividly described by Bishop Nikolai, forms the foundation of all the worship of the Orthodox Church; it is the one and only basis for our Christian life and hope. Yet, in order for us to experience the full power of this Paschal rejoicing, each of us needs to pass through a time of preparation. 'We waited,' says Bishop Nikolai, 'and at last our expectations were fulfilled.' Without this waiting, without this expectant preparation, the deeper meaning of the Easter celebration will be lost.

Do not neglect the Forty Days; it constitutes an imitation of Christ's way of life.

Saint Ignatius the Godbearer

The primary aim of fasting is to make us *conscious of our dependence upon God*. If practiced seriously, the Lenten abstinence from food - particularly in the opening days - involves a considerable measure of real hunger, and also a feeling of tiredness and physical exhaustion. The purpose of this is to lead us in turn to a sense of inward brokenness and contrition; to bring us, that is, to the point where we appreciate the full force of Christ's statement, 'Without Me you can do nothing' (John 15: 5). If we always take our fill of food and drink, we easily grow over-confident in our own abilities, acquiring a false sense of autonomy and self-sufficiency. The observance of a physical fast undermines this sinful complacency.



The GREAT FAST—2026

Doors of Repentance

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Open to me the doors of repentance, O Life-giver,

For my spirit rises early to pray t'wards Your Holy Temple

Bearing the temple of my body, all defiled;

But in Your compassion,

Purify me by the loving-kindness of Your mercy.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lead me on the paths of salvation, O Mother of God,

For I have profaned my soul with shameful sins

And have wasted my life in laziness;

But by your intercessions, deliver me from all impurity.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy

And according to the multitude of Your compassions,

Blot out my transgressions.

When I think of the many evil things I have done,

Wretch that I am,


I tremble at the fearful day of Judgment.

But trusting in Your loving kindness,

Like David I cry to You:

Have mercy on me, O God (3X)


According to Your great mercy!



**St. Herman of Alaska
Eastern Orthodox Church**

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HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 05

Divine Liturgy 1000AM
Bridegroom Matins 600PM

GREAT & HOLY MONDAY, APRIL 06

Presanctified Liturgy 430PM
Bridegroom Matins 600PM

GREAT & HOLY TUESDAY, APRIL 07

Presanctified Liturgy 430PM
Bridegroom Matins 600PM

GREAT & HOLY WEDNESDAY, APRIL 08

Presanctified Liturgy 430PM
Holy Unction 600PM

GREAT & HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 09

St. Basil's Liturgy 1000AM
Matins/12 Passion Gospels 600PM

GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Royal Hours 1000AM
Vespers of Entombment 300PM
Matins/Lamentations 600PM

GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 11

St. Basil's Liturgy 1000AM
Nocturnes 1130PM

PASCHA!!!, APRIL 12

Matins, Divine Liturgy Midnight
Agape Vespers 1130AM



The GREAT FAST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Cheesefare 22 ForgivenessSui T4 Divine Liturgy 10AM Rom 13:11-14:4 Mat 6:14-21	Lent Begins 23 CanonStAndrev 6PM Isa 1:1-20, Gen 1:1-13 Prov 1:1-20	24 CanonStAndrev 6PM Isa 1:19-2:4, Gen 1:124-23; Prov 1:20-33	25 PresanctifiedLit 6PM Isa 2:3-11, Gen 1:24-2:3, Prov 2:1-22	26 CanonStAndrev 6PM Isa 2:11-21; Gen 2:4-19; Prov 3:1-18	27 PresanctifiedLit 6PM Isa 3:1-15; Gen 2:20-3:20; Prov 3:19-34	28 Vespers/Conf 6PM Heb 1:1-12 Mark 2:23-3:5
OrthodoxySunda 1 Divine Liturgy 10AM St Thomas 5P T5 Heb 11:24-26,32-12:2 John 1:43-51	2	3	4 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 5:16-35;Gn 4:16-26;Prov 5:15-6:3	5 Isa 6:1-12;Gn 5:1-24 Prov 6:3-20	6 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 7:1-15;Gn 5:32-6:8;Prov 6:20-7:1	Soul Saturday 7 DivineLiturgy 10AM Vespers/Conf 6PM Heb 3:12-16 Mark 1:35-44
St Gregory 8 Divine Liturgy 10AM Presentation 5P T6 Heb 1:10-2:3 Mark 2:1-12	9	10	11 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 10:12-20;Gen7:6-9 Prov 9:12-18	12 Isa 11:10-12:2;Gn7:11-8:3;Prov 10:1-22	13 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 13:2-13;Gn8:4-22;Prov10:31-11:12	Soul Saturday 14 DivineLiturgy 10AM Vespers/Conf 6PM Heb 10:32-38 Mark 2:14-17
Cross Veneratio 15 Divine Liturgy 10AM St. Elia 5P T7 Heb 4:14-5:6 Mark 8:34-9:1	16	17	18 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 26:21-27:9;Gn 9:19-10:1;Prov12:23-13:11	19 Isa 28:14-22;Gn 10:32-11:9; Prov 13:19-14:6	20 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 29:13-23;Gn12:1-7;Prov 14:15-26	Soul Saturday 21 DivineLiturgy 10AM Vespers/Conf 6PM Heb 6:9-12 Mark 7:31-37
St. JohnClimacu 22 Divine Liturgy 10AM St. George 5P T8 Heb 6:13-20 Mark 9:17-31	23	24 Forefeast Annunciation Vesperal Liturgy 6PM Isa 40:18-31;Gen 15:1-15;Prov 15:7-19	25 Feast of Annunciation PresanctLiturgy 6PM Heb 2:11-18 Luke 1:24-38	26	27 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 45:11-17;Gn22:1-18;Prov 17:17-18:5	28 Vespers/Conf 6PM Heb 9:24-28 Mark 8:27-31
St. Mary of Egyp 29 Divine Liturgy 10AM St.NicholasUnct 5P 10AM Heb 9:11-14 Mark 10:32-45	30	31	APRIL 1 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 58:1-11;Gn43:26-31;Prov 21:23-22:4	2 Isa 65:8-16;Gn46:1-7 Prov 23:15-24:5	3 PresanctLiturgy 6PM Isa 66:10-24;Gn49:33-50:26;Prov31:8-31	Lazarus Satrdy 4 DivineLiturgy 10AM Vespers/Conf 6PM Heb 12:28-13:8 John 11:1-45
Entry of Lord 5 Divine Liturgy 10AM BridegrmMatins 6PM Phil 4:4-9 John 12:1-18	Grt&HolyMon 6 Presanctified Lit 430P Bridegroom Mat 6PM Ex 1:1-20, Job 1:1-12 Matt 24:3-35	Grt&HolyTue 7 Presanctified Lit 430P Bridegroom Mat 6PM Ex 2:5-10, Job 1:13-22 Matt 24:36-26:2	Grt&HolyWed 8 Presanctified Lit 430P Holy Unction 6PM Ex 2:11-22;Job 2:1-10 Mat 26:6-16	Grt&HolyThur 9 StBasil'sLiturgy 10AM 12 Passion Gspls 6PM 1Cor 11:23-32 Mat 26:2-27:2	Grt&HolyFriday 10 Royal Hours 10AM VespersEntmb 3PM Lamentations 6PM	Grt&HolySatrdy 11 StBasil'sLiturgy 10AM Midnight Office 1130 Rom 6:3-11 Mat 29:1-20