**St. George Greek Orthodox Church Schedule for Holy Week 2015**

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| Date | Time | Event |
| Saturday, April 4th | 9:00 AM  6:00 PM | Orthros, Divine Liturgy for Lazaros Saturday; Pancakes, Palms and Church cleaning  Great Vespers |
| Sunday, April 5th | 9:00 AM  6:00 PM | Orthros & Divine Liturgy for Palm Sunday; Palm Sunday Luncheon  Bridegroom Service |
| Monday, April 6th | 7:00 PM | Bridegroom Service |
| Tuesday, April 7th | 10:00 AM  7:00 PM | Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  Bridegroom Service |
| Wednesday, April 8th | 10:00 AM  7:00 PM | \*\*\*Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts at St John ( no liturgy here)  Sacrament of Holy Unction |
| Thursday, April 9th | 10:00 AM  6:30 PM | Vesperal Liturgy; Institution of the Eucharist; Washing of the Feet  Passion of Christ |
| Friday, April 10th | 9:30 AM  3:00 PM  7:00 PM | Royal Hours of Pascha; decorating of the Kouvouklion  Taking down from the Cross  Lamentations |
| Saturday, April 11th | 10:00 AM  11:00 PM | Vesperal Liturgy; reception of Catechumens  Paschal Vigil |
| Sunday, April 12th | Midnight  11:30 AM | Anastasis-Christ is Risen!  Orthros & Divine Liturgy for Pascha  AGAPE Vespers followed by Egg Hunt, and Pascha Picnic |
| \*Friday, April 17th | 9:00 AM | Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Life-giving Font |
| \*Thursday, April 23rd | 9:00 AM | Orthros & Divine Liturgy for our Patronal Feast Day; Luncheon to follow; Seniors Group for Holy Trinity Cathedral visiting |

**Explanation of Lenten Services**

**Great Compline**

The word “Compline” in Greek means “from or after dinner” and this service is typically offered after dinner. The “Great” version is offered during Great Lent and consists of the reading of Psalms and the chanting of hymns related to combating sin in the evening hours and during sleep. This service is a great way to start the week.

**Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts**

These liturgy are held on Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent and are called “Presanctified” because the consecration of the Holy Gifts takes place on the preceding Sunday. These liturgies are offered to us as opportunities for us to receive Holy Communion during the most holy period of the Church year. The liturgy does bring to bear the question of how to fast on these days since the liturgy usually takes place in the evening. The Church recommends that you eat a light Lenten meal in the morning on those days but do your best to keep at least a 6-hour fast before the liturgy (close to noon). These liturgies also offer the opportunity for people to help with the readings. Here is a great opportunity to participate more in the services.

**Akathist (Salutations)**

“Akathist” in Greek means “standing up” or, “without sitting down”. It is believed that this service was composed and offered to the Mother of God in the year 626, when Constantinople was saved from the siege of the Avars and Persians. This entire service is a poetic canon dedicated to the Theotokos. It also has a deep theological meaning. We hear hymns expounding belief in the Incarnation of the Lord and the salvation of believers in Him.