**Schedule for Great Lent & Holy Week 2023**

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| Date | Time | Event |
| Sunday, February 5th |  | Triodion begins |
| Sunday, February 19th |  | Meatfare Sunday |
| Sunday, February 26th | 6:00 PM | Forgiveness Vespers |
| Monday, February 27th  Monday, March 6th,  March 13th, 20th, 27th,  April 3rd | 6:00 PM  5:30 PM  6:00 PM  5:30 PM | Great Lent begins  Great Compline & Canon I  Great Compline  Great Compline  Great Compline |
| Wednesday, March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th, April 5th | 6:00 PM | Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts |
| Friday, March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 31st | 7:00 PM  7:00 PM | Salutations  Akathist Hymn |
| Saturday, March 4th | 9:00 AM | Orthros & Liturgy; Memorial Prayers, Saturday of Souls |
| Friday, March 24th | 6:00 PM | Great Vespers for Annunciation |
| Saturday, March 25th | 9:00 AM | Orthros, Liturgy-Feast of the Annunciation |
| Thursday, March 30th | 6:00 PM | Great Canon of St Andrew |
| Saturday, April 8th  Lazarus Saturday | 9:00 AM | Orthros & Divine Liturgy  Pancakes, Palms & Polish |
| Sunday, April 9th  Palm Sunday | 9:00 AM  6:00 PM | Orthros & Divine Liturgy  Bridegroom Service I |
| Holy Tuesday, April 11th | 7:00 PM | Bridegroom Service |
| Holy Wednesday, April 12th | 10:00 AM  7:00 PM | Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts  Holy Unction |
| Holy Thursday, April 13th | 10:00 AM  6:30 PM | Vesperal Liturgy, Washing of the Feet  Passion of Christ |
| Holy Friday, April 14th | 9:30 AM  3:00 PM  7:00 PM | Royal Hours and decorate Tomb  Taking down from the Cross  Lamentations Service |
| Holy Saturday, April 15th | 9:00 AM  11:00 PM | Vesperal Liturgy  Paschal Vigil |
| Holy Pascha, April 16th | Midnight  2:30 AM  12 noon | Anastasis & Paschal Orthros & Divine Liturgy; then break the Fast!  AGAPE Vespers, Egg Hunt, Pascha Picnic |
| Bright Friday, April 21st | 9:00 AM | Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Theotokos of the Life-giving Spring |

**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 liturgies 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.