

## **LITURGICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPRING, 2017 FROM HIS EMINENCE, METROPOLITAN JOSEPH**

In order to ensure proper celebration of all the upcoming divine feasts and services, His Eminence, Metropolitan JOSEPH has issued the following instructions for spring, 2017. During this time, the Holy Orthodox Church leads us on a journey from the preparatory weeks before Great Lent, through Great Lent itself and the Annunciation, to our Lord's life-giving Passion and His glorious and all-holy Resurrection. All Liturgical Texts that pertain to these instructions will be available on [www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org) (click "Online Liturgical Guide" on the right side) and [www.antiochianladiocese.org](http://www.antiochianladiocese.org) (find the links at the bottom-right of the homepage).

### **PRE-GREAT LENT, 2017**

Saturday, February 18 is the first Saturday of Souls (Meat-Fare Saturday). Parishes are encouraged to offer this cycle of services (akolouthia) and ensure they have enough kollyva (boiled wheat) to offer for the memorial of all those who have gone before us. In addition, parishes may choose to offer the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom on subsequent Saturdays of Souls on March 11 and 18.

On Friday, February 24, the Orthodox Church commemorates the First and Second Discoveries of the Head of St. John the Baptist, which this year falls during Cheese Fare Week. On this day, we suppress the Triodion and allow for the regular cycle of services and the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

Forgiveness Sunday Vespers must be served on Cheese Fare Sunday, February 26, either immediately following the morning Divine Liturgy, or later that evening at the usual time for Vespers. On subsequent Sunday evenings, parishes may choose to offer Lenten Sunday Vespers.

### **GREAT LENT, 2017**

With God's help, we begin Great Lent on Monday, February 27. During Clean Week, parishes are expected to celebrate the following services: Great Compline on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings with the respective quarter of the Canon of St. Andrew of Crete; the Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Wednesday evening, and Little Compline with the Akathist Canon and first stasis of the Akathist Hymn on Friday evening.

If parishes have the strength, the following services are also traditional in Clean Week and may be celebrated: Great Compline on Wednesday evening (with the third quarter of the Great Canon of St. Andrew—this service follows the Presanctified Liturgy); and the Presanctified Liturgy on Friday either in the morning or late afternoon (this precedes Little Compline).

On Thursday, March 9, the Orthodox Church commemorates the Forty Holy Martyrs of Sebastia, which this year falls during the second week of Great Lent. The following guidelines are to be followed with regard to this feast and the rest of the week:

It is proper to offer the Presanctified Liturgy for the feast in place of Great Compline on that evening. However, parishes may offer the Presanctified Liturgy that morning and keep Great Compline in the evening, at pastoral discretion. Priests may replace the Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday evening, March 8 with Great Compline alone, again at pastoral discretion, or simply

keep the Presanctified Liturgy on Wednesday evening as usual. Regardless, priests must remember to consecrate enough lambs on the prior Sunday for the appropriate amount of Presanctified Liturgies that week.

Throughout the subsequent weeks of Great Lent, parishes must continue to serve the Presanctified Divine Liturgy on Wednesday nights and Little Compline with the Akathist Canon and subsequent stases of the Hymn on Friday nights, as well as Great Compline at least one night per week either on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday in accord with pastoral discretion.

If parishes have the strength, they may also celebrate the Presanctified Divine Liturgy on Fridays in the morning or late afternoon, as well as the Lenten Ninth Hour before any Presanctified Liturgy. However, these services do not replace Little Compline with the Akathist Hymn.

Parishes may also offer Orthros and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom on the First and Fifth Saturdays of Great Lent. On March 4, we commemorate the miracle of the kollyva (boiled wheat) wrought by St. Theodore the Soldier (“Recruit” or “Tyro”). On April 1, we celebrate the Saturday of the Akathist Hymn.

All of the preceding is done in addition to the usual order of Great Vespers on Saturday nights, and Orthros and the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great on Sunday mornings.

### **ANNUNCIATION, 2017**

The Great Feast of the Annunciation to the Most-Holy Theotokos, March 25, falls this year on the fourth Saturday of Great Lent. Parishes will offer services as follows:

- On the night of March 24, celebrate Great Vespers with the fourth stasis of the Akathist Hymn in between the Hymn of St. Simeon the God-receiver and the Trisagion Prayers. Litia/Artoklasia may be offered in its usual place before the Aposticha. Little Compline need not be offered this night.
- On the morning of March 25, celebrate Festal Orthros and Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

### **AN ALTERNATIVE**

Although His Eminence’s strong preference is that churches celebrate Festal Orthros and Festal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom on Saturday morning, pastors can use their discretion—after careful consideration and research as to when the most people can attend—and offer these services on Friday night, March 24. Parishes cannot offer a Vespereal Liturgy at all. With this alternative, they would sing the fourth stasis of the Akathist Hymn after “Blessed the Name of the Lord” in Liturgy.

- No Presanctified Divine Liturgy is to be offered on Friday, March 24 in anticipation of the Great Feast the next day.

### **FIFTH WEEK OF GREAT LENT, 2017**

Parishes must celebrate Little Compline with the complete Canon of St. Andrew of Crete and the life of St. Mary of Egypt on Wednesday night, March 29. (If the parish has the strength, it may offer the usual Presanctified Divine Liturgy in the morning or late afternoon, but this is not

mandatory.) The Presanctified Divine Liturgy is to be celebrated on Thursday night, March 30, as a “consolation for the labor of the Great Canon.”

### **LAZARUS SATURDAY, PALM SUNDAY, HOLY WEEK & PASCHA, 2017**

PARISHES MUST ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE FOR THESE SERVICES.

THEY ARE ALL MANDATORY UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

#### Friday, April 7

Morning or Late Afternoon: Presanctified Divine Liturgy (strongly encouraged)

Evening: Little Compline with the Canon of the Raising of Lazarus

#### Saturday, April 8

Morning: Orthros and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for Lazarus Saturday

Evening: Great Vespers (with Litia/Artoklasia if desired) for Palm Sunday

#### Sunday, April 9

Morning: Orthros and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom for Palm Sunday

Evening: Bridegroom Orthros for Holy Monday<sup>1</sup>

#### Monday, April 10

Morning or Late Afternoon: Presanctified Divine Liturgy (strongly encouraged)

Evening: Bridegroom Orthros for Holy Tuesday

#### Tuesday, April 11

Morning or Late Afternoon: Presanctified Divine Liturgy (strongly encouraged)

Evening: Bridegroom Orthros for Holy Wednesday

#### Wednesday, April 12

Morning or Late Afternoon: Presanctified Divine Liturgy (strongly encouraged)

Evening: Holy Unction Service

#### Thursday, April 13

Morning: Orthros for Holy Thursday (strongly encouraged)<sup>2</sup>, followed immediately by...

Morning: Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great for the Anniversary of the Mystical Supper of Christ; following this service, also encouraged is the “Rite of the Washing of the Feet”

Evening: Orthros with the Twelve Passion Gospels for Holy Friday

#### Friday, April 14

Morning: The Royal (Great) Hours and Typika on Holy Friday<sup>3</sup>

Late Afternoon: Great Vespers for Holy Saturday, the Taking-down of Christ from the Cross

Evening: Orthros with the Lamentations for Holy Saturday

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<sup>1</sup> From Monday Bridegroom Orthros onward, use the book *The Services of Great and Holy Week and Pascha*, Second or Third Edition, published by the Antiochian Archdiocese.

<sup>2</sup> Holy Thursday Orthros can also be offered on Wednesday night before or after the Holy Unction Service. It is available at the Online Liturgical Guide.

<sup>3</sup> These can be served as one service or individually at their respective hours (6am, 9am, noon, 3pm). However, the 9<sup>th</sup> Great Hour and Typika must be said before the Great Vespers of the Taking-down of Christ from the Cross.

### Saturday, April 15

Morning: Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, the First Liturgy (Baptismal Liturgy) of Pascha. The Archdiocese will provide online the Service Text for the VDL with the order of Baptism and Chrismation for parishes which are receiving new faithful into the Holy Orthodox Church on this day.

### Sunday, April 16: Great and All-Holy Pascha

The Vigil of Pascha—consisting of Midnight Office, the Resurrection (Rush) Service, Paschal Orthros and Paschal Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom—is offered uninterrupted in succession. Traditionally, the Vigil begins around 11:30 p.m., but must commence no earlier than 10:00 P.M. on Saturday, April 15. The Agape Vespers is to be served on Sunday afternoon.

### Renewal (Bright) Week Following Pascha

The Archdiocese has provided the Service Text for the Paschal Office which can be offered right before Agape Vespers, as well as in place of Morning and Evening Prayers, Compline, Midnight Office, the Hours and Post-Communion Prayers throughout Bright (Renewal) Week. Pastors should publish the Paschal Office in the parish bulletin for the faithful to use in their homes.

### **FINAL DETAILS**

If there is a dire need to deviate from any part of this directive, then pastors **must** obtain permission from their local hierarchs.

Again, all services not found in printed books will be posted in early to mid-March at [www.antiochian.org](http://www.antiochian.org) at the “Online Liturgical Guide” and [www.antiochianladiocese.org](http://www.antiochianladiocese.org) (find the links at the lower right of the homepages).

If you have any questions about this directive, please write to Very Rev. Thomas Zain, Archdiocesan Vicar General, at [abounathomas@me.com](mailto:abounathomas@me.com). For all other questions, please email Subdeacon Peter Samore at [service\\_texts@antiochianladiocese.org](mailto:service_texts@antiochianladiocese.org). May your worship and prayers be offered for the glory of God and the edification of the faithful.