

April 2026 Holy Theophany Schedule Palm Sunday to Sunday after Pascha

[You will notice what seems to be an oddity in the scheduling of services during Holy Week. Matins is normally celebrated in the morning of a given day (Matins for Monday is served in the morning on Monday). During Holy Week, however, the Matins service for a day is served the previous night. So, in the schedule below, the Bridegroom Matins for Holy Wednesday is served on Tuesday night. Why? Because on Palm Sunday, right after Vespers, the Bridegroom Matins for Holy Monday is served on Sunday night, which is the liturgical day of Monday! Remember, the liturgical days changes when we sing “O Gladsome Light” during Vespers. During Holy Week, the tradition has been to move the Matins service from morning (e.g., Monday) to the previous evening (Sunday) which is still part of the liturgical day of Monday since the liturgical day changed at Vespers on Sunday. This continues until Holy Saturday.

On Holy Saturday, the Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil is served in the morning! The liturgical day changes during Vespers when we sign “O Gladsome Light.” So on Holy Saturday, after we sing “O Gladsome Light,” the liturgical day changes to Sunday (Pascha). The Liturgical Day of Sunday (Pascha) remains until we do the Vespers of Pascha on Sunday AM (or mid-day). After that we revert back to the normal scheduling of service. You can find a very nice discussion of the very practical reasons for this practice in an article written by John Sandinopolos, 4/23/19 in *Orthodox Christianity Then and Now*: <https://www.johnsanidopoulos.com/2019/04/why-are-holy-week-morning-services.html>]

Sunday, April 5: Palm Sunday, 9:50 AM—The Blessing of Palms followed by the Divine Liturgy of John Chrysostom

Tuesday, April 7: Holy Week, 5:30 PM—Bridegroom Matins of Holy Wednesday

Thursday, April 9: Great and Holy Thursday, 5:30 PM—Holy Friday Matins and Passion Gospels

Friday, April 10, Great and Holy Friday, 3:00 PM—Vespers of Holy Friday, 6:00 PM—Matins of Holy Saturday with Praises

Saturday, April 11, Great and Holy Saturday, 10 AM — Vespereal Divine Liturgy of St. Basil. Dying of eggs after Liturgy.

Sunday, April 12, Pascha,

9:30 PM—on Saturday (but Sunday liturgically): Nocturnes, Paschal Procession, Matins, Paschal Divine Liturgy (Chrysostom);

11 AM—Vespers of Pascha with Gospel in many languages. Paschal Luncheon after Vespers

Wednesday, April 15, 5:30 PM—Vespereal Liturgy for St George the Martyr

Saturday, April 18, 5:30 PM—Reader’s Vespers

Sunday, April 19, Thomas Sunday, 10 AM, Divine Liturgy John Chrysostom