



Schedule of Holy and Bright Week Services in St George Serbian Orthodox Church, Joliet

Holy Week or Passion Week is the week before Pascha during which we commemorate the capture, suffering, crucifixion, death and burial of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please attend all the services, fast, intensify your prayers and read the Gospel about the last days of our Lord before His death on the cross. Receiving holy communion during Holy Week on Holy Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday and especially on Pascha is necessary. Pascha is the culmination of Holy Week and the celebration of the Feast of feasts and victory over sin with the death of our Savior and our resurrection with Him.

Friday, April 15 – Eve of Lazarus Saturday / Navečerje Lazareve Subote
Vespers / confession at 6 pm

On Lazarus Saturday, the Orthodox Church commemorates the miracle of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ when he raised Lazarus from the dead after he had lain in the grave four days. In triumph and joy the Church bears witness to the power of Christ over death and exalts Him as King before entering the most solemn week of the year, one that leads the faithful in remembrance of His suffering and death and concludes with the great and glorious Feast of Pascha.

Saturday, April 16 – Resurrection of Lazarus / Lazareva Subota / Holy Week
Confession at 8:30 am, Divine Liturgy at 9 am
Vigil / Confession at 5 pm

Sunday, April 17 – Entry into Jerusalem of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ / Palm Sunday
Hierarchal Liturgy at 10 am. Procession around the church. His Grace, Bishop Longin will be with us.
Deanery Lenten vespers at 6 pm. Homilist Fr Nikolaj Kostur, diner after the service in Social Center

Palm Sunday is the commemoration of the Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem following His glorious miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead.

Monday, April 18
Bridegroom Matins at 6 pm

Tuesday, April 19
Bridegroom Matins at 6 pm

Wednesday, April 20
Lenten Hours at 8 am, confession at 8:30 am, Presanctified Liturgy at 9 am

Thursday, April 21
Confession at 8:30 am, Vespersal Liturgy of St Basil the Great at 9 am
Matins and reading of 12 gospel lessons

On Thursday of Holy Week four events are commemorated: the washing of the disciples' feet, the institution of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper, the agony in the garden of Gethsemane, and the betrayal of Christ by Judas.

On Great and Holy Friday, the Orthodox Church commemorates the death of Christ on the Cross. This is the culmination of the observance of His Passion by which our Lord suffered and died for our sins. This commemoration begins on Thursday evening with the Matins of Holy Friday and concludes with a Vespers on Friday afternoon that observes the unnauling of Christ from the Cross and the placement of His body in the tomb.

Friday, April 22 – Good Friday / Veliki Petak

Royal Hours at 9 am

Vespers, unnauling of Christ Body from the Cross and the placement of His Body in the Tomb at 4 pm

Matins, Lamentation and Burial of Christ at 6 pm

On Great and Holy Saturday, the Orthodox Church commemorates the burial of Christ and His descent into Hades. It is the day between the Crucifixion of our Lord and His glorious Resurrection. The Matins of Holy Saturday is conducted on Friday evening, and while many elements of the service represent mourning at the death and burial of Christ, the service itself is one of watchful expectation

Saturday, April 23 – Holy and blessed Sabbath

Confession at 8:30 am, Vespers Liturgy of St Basil the Great at 9 am

Resurrection Matins – Vaskrsno Jutrenje at 11 pm

Hristos Voskrese Christ is Risen Hristos Anesti

Sunday, April 24 – Holy Pascha / Vaskrsenje Hristovo / Bright Week

Divine Liturgy at 10 am

Monday, April 25

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Tuesday, April 26

Divine Liturgy at 9 am

Church Slava Celebration this year will be on Thomas Sunday, May 1. Slava rite and traditional dinner in Social Center. Please mark your calendar!

Feast of St George the Great Martyr is on May 6. Vigil/ confession will be served on May 5 at 6 pm. Divine Liturgy on St George's day at 9 am