



# Holy Week & Pascha Notes



## Holy Week Booklets

A booklet reviewing all of the Holy Week worship opportunities has been distributed. Additional copies are available on the table in the Narthex or you can find this information on our website: [www.stnicholasgr.com/holy-week-pascha/](http://www.stnicholasgr.com/holy-week-pascha/).

## Holy Week & Pascha Offerings

Every family is invited to contribute toward the liturgical items needed for Holy Week and Pascha (Palms, Oil, Bay Leaves, Decorations and Flowers) — for “the health of loved ones” or “in memory of departed loved ones”. Each name will be remembered in the services of Lazarus Saturday through Pascha. Forms and envelopes are on the Parishioners’ table in the Narthex.

## Candles

Candles will be used for the Holy Thursday, Holy Friday, and Pascha Services. Please keep candles upright and the protective disc or cup close to the top of the candle to collect the dripping wax. Our desire is to keep the wax off of the pews and floor. Remember to use caution when holding a lit candle! Also, keep a watchful eye on your children while they are holding a lit candle.

## Excuse Form Available

We desire everyone to worship together for the Holy Thursday and Holy Friday services. Excuse forms are available on the table in the Narthex or from the Church office for you to submit to your child’s school and/or your employer. Please make these services a priority.

## Holy Wednesday

Our sister churches will be joining us for the Holy Unction service. There will be a dessert reception following the service. We are asking every family to bring a Lenten dessert, appetizer, or fruit tray.

## Holy Thursday

One of the most beautiful but neglected services of Holy Week is the *Liturgy of the Institution of Holy Communion* on Holy Thursday morning. This is the invitation to take OUR place at the Last Supper, to be present as Christ offers us His saving Body and Blood for the first time. Just as the Disciples had their feet washed by Our Lord during the Last Supper, so too Father Michael needs 12 people willing to have their feet washed during the Liturgy. This is a very moving experience. (A sign-up form is available in the Narthex or call Church Office if you desire to participate.)

## Holy Friday

**Fasting:** As much as possible we abstain from all food and drink, especially from noon through the afternoon Vespers Service. Of course, the Church recognizes that some people have unique health issues that will alter this fasting guideline.

**The Royal Hours Services:** The time between these services is a time to reflect upon the passion of Christ and to pray. The Church campus (Chapel, gardens/grounds, hallways, etc.) are available for you to reflect, pray, read or rest.

**All-night Vigil:** Having laid the body of Christ into the Tomb on Holy Friday, we stand vigil at His Tomb all night by taking turns reading from the Holy Scriptures. The experience of being in the near-empty, candlelit Church in the middle of the night and hearing and reading the words of our Lord is not soon forgotten. A Reader's Sign-up Schedule is available in the Narthex for those desiring to read. Even if you do not desire to read, come at any time to be a part of this experience. Our Lord asked His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, "*Can you not watch with me one hour?*" Let us answer "Yes" and take our place in the Holy Friday Vigil.

## Pascha Celebration

**Pascha Service:** It is perfectly acceptable to dress your children in their pajamas and bring them to the Pascha Service. If you look around, you'll see many sleeping children under the pews!

**Pascha Baskets:** Fr. Michael will bless Pascha baskets during the Paschal Liturgy. Place them on the left side of the Solea when you come for the Paschal Liturgy and then take it with you at the dismissal. For a helpful link on the types of items to place in your Pascha Basket, visit: <https://stnicholasgr.com/holy-week-pascha/>

**Celebration Meal:** The Parish Council is preparing lamb & rice. Each family is asked to bring a side dish and a dessert as we celebrate Our Risen Lord!

**Celebration Clean-up:** The Young Adults and Teen SOYO are facilitating the post-Pascha party clean-up, and they need everyone's help. Before leaving the celebration, pick-up any trash left on or around your table and push in your chairs. Please be certain to take home any dishes that you brought. Let's all do our part to make this a joyous feast!

## Pascha (Easter) Sunday

**Agape Vespers:** Do you speak a language other than English? If so, you are needed to read a portion of the Gospel during the Agape Vespers Service on Sunday, April 8. Contact Dn. Dave if you can assist.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Following Agape Vespers will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the Church School children.