

# How to Prepare a Traditional Paschal Basket

While tastes vary by region and family, the Basket usually contains: special breads; butter and cheeses; dyed hard boiled eggs and special decorated pysanki eggs; roasted, baked, boiled or smoked meats & sausages; grated horseradish mixed with grated red beets; and salt. Many families include wine. A blessed decorated candle is placed in the Basket so it can be lit during the Blessing. A bow or ribbon and even flowers are tied around the handles of the Basket. Finally, a richly embroidered cloth basket cover rests atop the food. The Basket is brought to church to be blessed after

the Resurrection Service and Divine Liturgy. Not one morsel of this food is eaten until then. A sample of each food is tried by all while recalling it's meaning. Families are encouraged to include their own traditional favorites such as jars of honey and nut or poppy rolls. Chocolate eggs and bunnies along with jelly beans and marshmallow peeps are seen in the baskets prepared by the children. All foods are meant to be sliced and placed on a platter so that no cooking need to be done on the day of this great Feast or even throughout the entire week. Baskets have included other specialties including tamales, empanadas, ravioli, plantains, pineapples etc. along with other special breads and dishes reflecting the truly diverse ethnic character of those who share our Byzantine Catholic faith.



## FASTING "REGULATIONS"

### STRICT ABSTINENCE

The law of strict abstinence forbids the use of meat, eggs and dairy products or any of their byproducts. *All faithful adults, who receive Eucharist, are obliged to observe strict abstinence* on Great and Holy Friday as well as all day Holy Saturday, until midnight.

### SIMPLE ABSTINENCE

The law of simple abstinence forbids the use of meat or meat byproducts, permitting the use of eggs and dairy products. *Abstinence is to be observed on all Wednesdays and Fridays during the Great Fast.*

## Holy Friday Vigil - Guarding of the Grave

It is a tradition in Slavic churches for families/parishioners to keep watch over Christ's body as it lies in the tomb from after Vespers on Holy Friday until Saturday morning at Jerusalem Matins. See the sign up see in the Narthex or just come for an hour when ever possible.



## The Myrrh-Bearers Adventure Hunt

Sunday, April 19th

Following Divine Liturgy

See the sign-up  
sheet in the  
Narthex

Ages 12 and under



# 2026 Schedule for the Week of the Bridegroom

*(also called Holy Week or Great Week)*

## Great and Holy Monday — March 30

**Theme:** Story of Joseph (Genesis 37) as a pre-figurement of Christ's suffering.

**8:00am** Bridegroom Matins

**7:00pm** Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

## Great and Holy Tuesday — March 31

**Theme:** Parable of the Ten Virgins (Mt 24:36-26:2) and our readiness for Judgment Day.

**8:00am** Bridegroom Matins

**7:00pm** Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

## Great and Holy Wednesday — April 1

**Theme:** The repentant woman who anointed Christ's feet is contrasted with the agreement by Judas to betray Christ. The anointing at the evening service is for the healing of our soul and body in preparation for the commemoration of the Mystical Supper the next day.

**8:00am** Bridegroom Matins

**7:00pm** Pre-Sanctified Liturgy

## Great and Holy Thursday — April 2

**Theme:** Four events: Jesus washes the feet of His disciples; the Institution of the Holy Eucharist; Christ's agony in the garden and the betrayal of Christ by Judas.

**8:00am** Bridegroom Matins

**7:00pm** Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil

**Church remains open until 1:00am for the 7 churches visits - Tours of the church are provided by the teens**



## Great and Holy Friday — April 3

***This is a day of Strict Fast***

**Theme:** Christ's suffering and death on the Cross and His burial in a tomb.

**9:00am** Matins with reading of 12 passion Gospels

**1:00pm** Royal Hours

**7:00pm** Vespers with Procession of Burial Shroud

**Confession available after Vespers.**

**Church remains open throughout the night for prayer.**

## Great and Holy Saturday — April 4

**Theme:** At the Jerusalem Matins we commemorate Christ's descent into Hades anticipating the moment when Christ will conquer Satan's power of death and rise out of Hades taking fallen humanity with Him. There is a baptismal theme to this service because throughout Church history this evening was the primary time for people to be baptized into Christ.

**9:00am** Jerusalem Matins with Procession of Shroud

**7:00pm** Vespers with Liturgy of St. Basil

## Resurrection Sunday (Pascha!) — April 5

**Theme:** "Christ comes forth from the tomb like a bridegroom from the bridal chamber and fills the women with joy!" -*Resurrection Matins*

**9:00am** Resurrection Matins with Procession

**10:00am** Divine Liturgy