

Paschal Guide 2025

Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church
Tacoma, Washington
www.OrthodoxTacoma.com

Addresses: Services and activities are held at Holy Resurrection Church 8710, 28th Avenue East, Tacoma, 98445, unless otherwise noted. Wilkeson Services: Holy Trinity Temple, 431 Long Street, Wilkeson 98396.

Confessions: Go to confession before Holy Wednesday. *Don't wait until the last minute!*

Potlucks: Here's a list of the potlucks that are scheduled during the time of this guide:

- ✓Lazarus Saturday, April 12: A lenten potluck follows Divine Liturgy.
- ✓Palm Sunday, April 13: Feast day dinner. Fish will be provided; we'll set out a basket for donations. Please bring sides, salads, sweets & drinks. Wine & oil allowed.
- ✓Pascha morning, April 20th: Following the Midnight Service: Please bring easy to serve "finger foods." No fast.
- ✓Pascha afternoon, April 20th: Following Agape Vespers: Your finest for your brothers & sisters! A feast! We'll have roasted pork, and a donation basket! Please bring extra meats, side dishes, desserts, drinks, and ice chests. Use disposable containers, and take home leftovers - this helps our kitchen crew tremendously. Stoves will *not* be available for cooking. Bring musical instruments, yard games, frisbees, blankets for the grass, folding chairs and friends, and hope for the sun! Help with cleanup at 4:30 p.m.

Please help set up & clean up for potlucks- there is no scheduled crew to do this - if we all chip in it will make the meal a joy for all! This is especially true for the dinner on Pascha day, April 20th. If you can arrive before the 1:30 p.m. Agape vespers to help set up tables & chairs, it would be appreciated.

Paschal Flowers: We count on your generosity to beautify the church. A collection box will be placed in the back of the church.

Attire: Reflect the liturgical observance: bright clothing on Palm Sunday & Pascha, dark for Holy Week!

Choir Rehearsal: Saturday, April 12, 12:30 p.m. We ask all choir members to be on hand for special Palm Sunday and Pascha rehearsals.

Palm Sunday: is celebrated with Vespers on Saturday, April 13 at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday April 14 beginning with Matins at 9:00 a.m. Come to the beautiful Matins service, where palms and branches of pussy willow are blessed and distributed. A Cross Procession around the church will be served at the conclusion of Liturgy. A potluck (see above) with fish, wine and oil allowed will be enjoyed after services.

Help us Read: Orthodox Christians are asked to help read the 15 Old Testament lessons at the Vespereal Liturgy on Holy Saturday, April 19th, at noon - contact Miri Ruthford or Rdr. Theodore. The Acts of the Apostles is read on Holy Saturday evening by Orthodox Christians beginning at 9:00 p.m. - contact Fr. Joseph. The Gospel (John 20:19-25) is read in many languages at the Paschal Agape Vespers on April 20th at 1:30 p.m. - contact Dn. Stephen.

Pascha Baskets: Pascha Baskets are blessed after the midnight Paschal service on April 20th. Tables will be placed in the St. Joseph Hall. Fill your basket with your favorite holiday foods, cover it with a white or special cloth.

Dyed Eggs: Color a dozen or two eggs to be distributed at Pascha! Be sure to refrigerate after cooking. Bring them by the evening service on April 18th. Please check the sign-up on the Parish House bulletin board.

The Greek red dye we use will be available in the Bookstore; also the recipe for traditional onion skin dye is pinned to the Parish House bulletin board. Start saving yellow onion skins. (Tip: cook room temp brown eggs that are a couple of days old in the dye, they crack less and are easier to peel.)

Candles: Traditional times to hold candles:

- Holy Thursday evening we hold lit candles when the twelve passion Gospels are read; extinguish them in between.
- Holy Friday evening, especially for the processions with the shroud.
- The entire Paschal service!

Specially decorated paschal candles will be made available in the back of the church for you, or use a bobèche (drip catcher) for a regular candle. Battery operated “candles” will be available for children under seven years old. Please return them to the container in the back of the church!

Pascha Afternoon Easter Treat Hunt: Contributions needed for the Easter Treat hunt - candy and toys. Plus, we have a section for grown-ups, so contributions for that are appreciated as well. If you let us know the ages of your children on the special sign-up on the main bulletin board, we'll have a better idea about how to portion off the lawns. Place your contributions in the collection box near the Parish House bulletin board.

Parish Altar Feast Day: Saturday Paschal Altar Feast Liturgy, April 26th at 10:00 a.m. This will be followed by a luncheon provided by the Holy Myrrhbearers Sisterhood.

Bookstore: Our Holy Trinity Bookstore has service books and other materials for your holiday needs, check it out! It is located in the Parish House, downstairs and to the right. Credit and debit cards accepted!

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Note on fasting: We keep a fast, no meat, dairy, fish, wine (alcoholic beverages) or olive oil allowed until after the Paschal service. Exceptions are noted in this guide: f: fish, w: wine, o: oil allowed.

*April 9, Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. **Sacrament of Holy Unction.***

The Service of Holy Unction is the Mystery (sacrament) of the healing of our souls and bodies by Christ. While everyone is welcome to the service, only Orthodox Christian who have prepared themselves by confession may be anointed with the healing oil.

*April 12, Saturday: **Lazarus Saturday.***

By raising His friend Lazarus, who was four days dead, Christ confronts death: the enemy He came to conquer. The service is resurrectional in a way usually reserved for Sundays. Rejoice, rejoice O Bethany!

8:30 a.m., Baptisms; 10:00 a.m. Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom.

-Lenten potluck brunch (wo, caviar).

-Help prepare branches for Palm Sunday, last minute clean and prep for Pascha.

-Choir Rehearsal: Important Palm Sunday and Pascha rehearsal

6:30 p.m. Great Vespers of Palm Sunday with Litya. Confessions.

*April 13, **Palm Sunday: The Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem.** (fwo)*

Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Come early to Matins, raise branches of palms and willows, singing, *Hosanna*, and accepting Jesus Christ as King and God in your life. Take your blessed branches home and place them with your icons; be sure to burn

last year's, or you can bring them to church and we'll burn them.

9:00 a.m. Festal Matins. Everyone should come!

Festal Divine Liturgy and Procession.

-Potluck dinner: Fish, wine & oil. We'll have the fish - please bring the rest!

6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Matins. Confessions.

Christ the Bridegroom: We begin Holy Week on Sunday evening with the Bridegroom Matins service. We should always be prepared for the End, when Christ appears in His second coming. The Bridegroom services on the first four evenings of Holy Week call us to remember this!

April 14: Holy Monday

10:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy.

6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Matins. Confessions.

April 15: Holy Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy.

6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Matins. Confessions.

April 16: Holy Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Presanctified Liturgy.

This is the last Presanctified Liturgy of the Lenten season. At its conclusion we say the Prayer of St. Ephraim for the last time, and bid farewell to the "Lenten melodies" chanted at the litanies and other parts of the weekday services.

6:30 p.m. Bridegroom Matins. Confessions.

April 17: Holy Thursday

2:00 p.m. The Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil. (wo)

This beautiful Liturgy, the Mystical Supper, celebrates the institution of the Eucharist (Holy Communion) at the Last Supper.

-Soup Supper follows Liturgy.

6:30 p.m. Matins with the Twelve Passion Gospels.

This is the Matins of Holy Friday - the Passion and Death of our Savior. The Lord suffered on the Cross for three hours and died in order to offer you everlasting life. Please come and stand at the foot of the Cross with His most holy Mother, Mary the Theotokos, and His faithful disciple, the holy Apostle John. Be renewed in God's Word in the telling of this sacred story.

April 18: Holy Friday

10:00 a.m. The Royal Hours.

strict fast We serve 1st, 3rd, 6th & 9th Hours with Typica. Each "Hour" (about 15 minutes actually) consists of Psalms, hymns, and Scripture readings reflecting the Lord's Passion.

Immediately following the Royal Hours we set up "the tomb" in the center of the church in preparation for the next service. Pressing cloths, arranging flowers etc. takes a little time, and everyone is most welcome to come and help.

2:00 p.m. Vespers: the taking down from the Cross and entombment of Christ.

6:30 p.m. Matins of Holy Saturday: Lamentations before the Tomb of Christ, the procession with the Holy Shroud around the church.

Truly for many people, the most beautiful service of Holy Week. We gather before the

Life-giving Tomb. We chant a burial office: The entire Psalm 119, the Psalm of a Righteous Man, and between each verse we chant the *Lamentations*. Slowly, almost imperceptibly, there is movement from death towards Life, we sing the Hymns of Resurrection normally associated with Sunday Matins, we listen to a magnificent “canon” hymning the death and entombment of Christ, and waiting for His promise “I shall arise!” Then, to mark the passage of Christ through the dark netherworld of Hades, the tomb is lifted up and carried into the darkness outside, followed by the faithful bearing candles, it is carried around the church and held in the doorway as we all bow down and enter the tomb, walking beneath it, signifying that we too are buried with Christ.

April 19: Holy Sabbath

12:00 Noon. Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil. (w)

Vespers is joined with the Liturgy of St. Basil. We read 15 Old Testament lessons containing images referring to Salvation History, especially those relating to Baptism, as this is the ancient service of Christian initiation. After the Epistle lesson we will transition to the Liturgy of St. Basil. Instead of Alleluia, we sing “Arise, O God, and judge the earth...” Vestments and church colors are changed from dark to bright, bay laurel leaves, symbolizing Christ’s victory over death, are scattered; the Gospel announces the Resurrection of Christ, “He is not here; for He is risen as He said!” Dried fruit, bread and wine are blessed and distributed at the end of the service, strengthening us for the fast’s final hours.

9:00 p.m. the Reading of the *Acts of the Apostles*. All Orthodox members of the parish are invited to come read a chapter or two.

11:30 p.m. Nocturnes. We enter the darkened church, waiting, as the last minutes of our mystical journey breaks into paschal joy.

April 20: PASCHA The Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior, Jesus Christ. (No fast all week)

Holy Pascha, the Feast of feasts.

12:00 a.m. Paschal Procession and Matins, and Paschal Divine Liturgy.

The brightest, most joyful experience in the life of Orthodox Christians. At the conclusion of this service Pascha baskets will be blessed.

Following Liturgy: Break-fast in the Parish House. Please, bring something simple that doesn’t require fuss & cooking, but do bring something!

1:30 p.m. Agape Vespers

The Gospel is read in many languages. Orthodox faithful may contact Dn. Stephen Hille if you would like to read. The passage is: John 20:19-25.

Easter Treat Hunt! Areas for all ages, including grown-ups! Donations of candy, little treats & treasures are appreciated!

Paschal Feast in the backyard! Your finest for your brothers & sisters! A feast! A party! No fast! We’ll have roast pork (and a donation basket!) Please bring extra meats, side dishes, desserts, drinks, and ice chests. Use disposable containers, and take home every little bit left over. Food left behind will be tossed! The stoves will *not* be available for cooking. Bring your musical instruments, yard games, frisbees, blankets for the grass, folding chairs and friends, and hope for the sun!
Help with clean-up at 4:30 p.m.

April 21: Bright Monday

10:00 a.m. Paschal Liturgy in Wilkeson, Lunch in Sumner.

We'll serve Liturgy at our 124 year old chapel in Wilkeson, 10:00 a.m. ***Directions to Wilkeson:*** take SR 410 to Buckley, watch for turn off on the right, SR 165, go 4 miles to Wilkeson, turn left after passing under the Wilkeson arch. 431 Long St. Wilkeson, 98396.

After Liturgy we'll meet in Sumner for brunch at the Buttered Biscuit restaurant:
1014 North Street, Sumner. Phone: (253) 826-6099.

April 23: **Bright Wednesday**

9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy, *Holy Greatmartyr George*

Potluck

6:30 p.m. Paschal Vespers.

April 26: **Bright Saturday**

10:00 a.m. Paschal Divine Liturgy, Parish Altar Feast Day.

After Liturgy, the Myrrhbearers Sisterhood will provide a luncheon for all our guests.

6:30 p.m. Great Vespers.

April 27: **Thomas Sunday. Antipascha**

9:15 a.m. Hours

9:30 a.m. Divine Liturgy.