

Holy Week

Lazarus is alive! But the crowds have already lost interest.

Like a Snapchat video, the people of Jerusalem got bored with Jesus pretty quickly. Sure, **He raised a dead man from a grave**, but they wanted Him to kick the Romans centurions and occupiers out of their territories and lives.

Sometimes, what we want in our lives, and what God does for us, don't match.

Walking with Christ

During Holy Week, we are given an opportunity to journey with Christ through the liturgical services commemorating His **Mystical Supper**, praying in the garden, betrayal, crucifixion, death, and burial.

Why should we go to church? Because it's about **our salvation**.

Holy Week is about experiencing first hand, **God the Father's plan of redemption**: a message promised to the many people in the Old Testament, fulfilled in His Son, Jesus Christ.

☞ ***Lay aside all earthly cares***

We only have a few more days before Pascha. Turn off the TV. Put down your phone. Shut off the video games. At **this moment in our lives**, pause the activities, and focus on God. This is the most important thing we can be doing right now.

Yes, DO your homework, and then **come to church as often as you can**. Listen to the readings. Sing the hymns. Light a candle. Read the texts. Pray before the icon of Christ in the tomb. Sit quietly in church, pondering the mercy of Jesus Christ Who was betrayed, beaten, nailed to a cross, and died for you and me.

The meaning of Holy Week

We can only truly reach Pascha by going through Holy Week with Christ. He redeems us from our sins and failings through His death. And the **light of His Resurrection** from the dead is a victory giving us hope and meaning for the rest of our lives.

☞ **7 Ideas for Holy Week**

1. Turn off Electronics

Check-out from current events and social media for a few days. (*Encounter Christ in the timeless mystery of His Passion.*)

2. Go on Church

Most parishes have at least one service each day of Holy Week. (*Build up your spiritual strength through prayer.*)

3. Skip School

Ask your priest for an excused absence note for Holy Friday, so you can attend Vespers on this solemn day. (*Don't forget to ask for a note to attend liturgy on Bright Monday to celebrate the joy of Pascha!*)

4. Read the Bible

Start with the Psalms, the prayerbook of the church. (*Ever notice all of the psalms we read during the liturgical services?*)

5. Pray

Praying regularly to God helps keep our focus on the important things in life. (*FYI: The devil will do everything he can to distract or discourage us from praying, so stay strong!*)

6. Be Merciful

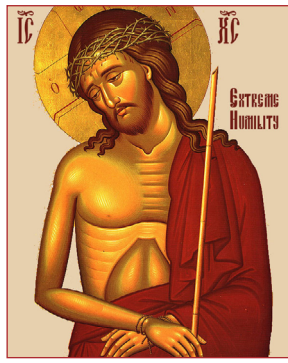
Holy Week can be stressful. Remember to be calm, patient, forgiving, and loving towards others. (*Especially your family.*)

7. Prep for Pascha

Help at home, making your Paschal celebration joyous for everyone. (*Practice singing the Paschal troparion together!*)

Icon #1: In the hymns of Holy Week and the Gospel of St. John (John 3:29), Jesus Christ is called the i o , a title reflecting the love He has us, as members of the .

In the icon, Jesus is wearing a of thorns, and his are bound, reminding us of the pain and voluntary death He accepted for us to be free from sin.



Icon #1

Gather as Community

Attend the services of Holy Week

Bridegroom Matins

(celebrated on Holy Monday and Tuesday)

Recounting the end of the world, and the commands of Christ by which we will be judged.

Presanctified Liturgy

(celebrated on Holy Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday)

Three opportunities to receive the Eucharist – nourishment to accompany Christ on his path to the Cross.

Vespers of Holy Thursday

(celebrated on Holy Thursday morning)

The institution of the Eucharist: the Bread and Wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for our salvation.

Matins of Holy Friday

(celebrated on Holy Thursday evening)

The narrative of Christ's crucifixion, death, and burial proclaimed in 12 Gospel Readings with festal hymns.

Royal Hours

(celebrated on Holy Friday morning)

Psalms and New Testament readings recount the mercy of God.

Vespers of Holy Friday

(celebrated on Holy Friday afternoon)

A large icon of the burial of Christ is placed in the center of the church for us to venerate.

Matins of Holy Saturday

(celebrated on Holy Friday evening)

We sing Psalm 119, praising Jesus as our Resurrection, praising His victory or death. We process outside with the burial icon of Christ, as a reminder that through Christ, death has no power over us.

Vespers of Holy Saturday

(celebrated on Holy Saturday morning)

The transition from death to life begins as we hear 15 readings celebrating the miracles of God as we sing "Arise, O God!"

Nocturns

(celebrated before midnight on Holy Saturday evening)

We have reached the end of Holy Week. Standing in vigil, in the dark church, we await the lighting of the Paschal candle and hearing the priest proclaim to us: Come receive the light, for Christ is risen and not one dead remains in the grave!



Icon #2

Holy Monday

Icon #2: The Matins gospel account tells of how Jesus made a tree wither in an instant, because it wasn't bearing any . As Orthodox Christians, we are called to bear spiritual fruit in the form of:

- A) Being good members of society.
- B) Being merciful as our Heavenly Father is merciful.
- C) Singing in the choir or being altar servers.

Holy Tuesday

Icon #3: The parable of the and foolish virgins reminds us of Christ's command for us to be to others.

Circle the words below which describe that word.

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| Compassion | Harshness | Love | Justice |
| Cruelty | Forgiveness | Sympathy | Understanding |
| Fairness | Severity | Kindness | Grace |
| Forbearance | Pardon | Remission | Blessing |

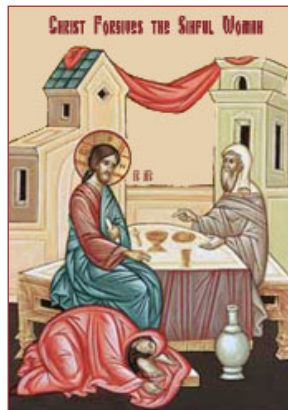


Icon #3

Holy Wednesday

Icon #4: While at dinner, a sinful washed Jesus' with very expensive oils. Her desire to repent is often contrasted with Eve who ran away from God in the of Eden. Christ receives her repentance with:

- A) Singing a hymn.
- B) Reluctance.
- C) Mercy.



Icon #4

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--------------|---------|-------------|------|-----------|---------|-----------|------|----------------------|------|------------------------|
| 19/20-3 | Tree | 17-1 | John | 17-1 | True | 10-2 | Eucharist | 6b-1 | kindness, blessing, | 1-1 | Bridegroom |
| 19/20-4 | Linens | 17-2 | Virgin Mary | 17-2 | Christ | 11-1 | Body | 6b-2 | forbearance, pardon, | 1-2 | Church |
| 19/20-5 | Spices | 17-3 | Centurion | 17-3 | A | 11-2 | Blood | 6b-3 | remission, grace | 1-3 | Crown |
| 19/20-6 | New Tomb | 17-4 | D | 17-4 | Beat | 12/13-1 | Valley | 7a-1 | Woman | 1-4 | Hands |
| 20-1 | Myrrh | 18-1 | Joseph | 18-1 | B | 12/13-2 | Garden | 7a-2 | Fern | 2-1 | Fig |
| 20-2 | Spices, oil, | 18-2 | Body | 18-2 | Pontius | 14-1 | Prayed | 7b-1 | Garden | 2-2 | Fruit |
| 22-1 | Hades | 18-3 | B | 14-2 | A | 7b-2 | Will | 7b-2 | (the) | 2-3 | B |
| 22-2 | 15 | 19-1 | Death | 15-1 | 2 | 7b-3 | C | 8-1 | Supper | 3-2 | Merciful |
| 22-3 | Old | 19-2 | Cross | 15-2 | 2 | 8-2 | Judas | 8-2 | Feet | 3-3 | Compassion, love, |
| 22-4 | God | 19-3 | Savior | 15-3 | Simon | 8-2 | A | 9-1 | Betrayal | 3-1 | Wise |
| 22-5 | Earth | 19-4 | B | 15-4 | True | 9-2 | B | 9-1 | Passover | 3-2 | Understanding, |
| 22-6 | Christ | 19/20-1 | Noble | 16-1 | B | 9-2 | B | 6a-2 | A | 6a-2 | forbearance, sympathy, |
| | | 19/20-2 | Taken | 16-2 | Crucified | 10-1 | High | | | | |



Icon #5



Icon #6



Icon #7



Icon #8



Icon #9

Holy Thursday & Holy Friday

Icon #5: Before _____, Jesus washed the _____ of his disciples. By doing this,

He showed them:

- A) How to stay clean.
- B) An example of humility and serving others.
- C) Judas was going to betray Him.

Icon #6a: Jesus and his disciples were celebrating the _____, which commemorated when Moses and the Israelites were spared from:

- A) The angel of death.
- B) Paying taxes to Pharaoh.
- C) Eating food offered to Egyptian idols.

Icon #6b: At the Mystical Supper, Jesus instituted the _____, which we can receive at the divine liturgy as:

bread, which is His _____

wine, which is His _____

Icon #7a: After the meal, Jesus and his disciples walked across the Kidron _____, to the _____ of Gethsemane, where Jesus liked

to:

- A) Swim.
- B) Discuss theological topics with his friends.
- C) Pray to His Father.

Icon #7b: While Jesus _____ “Thy _____ be done,” His disciples:

- A) Were scared.
- B) Walked through the garden.
- C) Slept.
- D) Watched for the crowds.

Icon #8: _____, a disciple, brought a crowd to:

- A) Arrest Jesus.
- B) Find out if Jesus was the Messiah.
- C) Fulfill the Scriptures.

Icon #9: Jesus’ _____ sold Him to the crowd because he:

- A) Knew Jesus was the priceless pearl.
- B) Valued money more than the Savior.
- C) Received 20 pieces of silver.

Icon #10: Jesus stood before the Annas, the _____ Priest, and knew what was going to happen to Him:

TRUE

FALSE

Icon #11: Outside, Peter was trying to hear what was happening. Why did

He deny knowing _____?

- A) He was scared of the crowds.
- B) He wasn’t filled with the Holy Spirit.
- C) Jesus would forgive him.

Icons #12 and 13: Jesus was silent when the crowds mocked and _____ Him. This is an example of:

- A) The cruelty of mobs.
- B) Extreme humility, patience, and long-suffering.
- C) Letting people take advantage of Him.



Icon #10



Icon #11



Icon #12



Icon #13



Icon #14



Icon #15



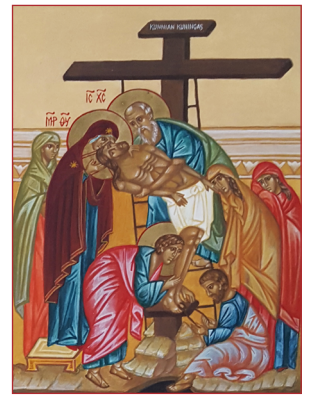
Icon #16



Icon #17



Icon #18



Icon #19

Icon #14: The Governor, _____ Pilate thought about releasing Jesus because:

- A) He didn't think Jesus was bad.
- B) His wife told him to set Him free.
- C) He had a grudge against the Synagogue leaders.

Icon #15: Once condemned to _____, Jesus was brought to the Cross with _____ thieves. A man from Cyrene, _____, was compelled to carry the cross for Jesus. We remember him as a disciple of Christ for this compassionate act:

TRUE FALSE

Icon #16: Jesus was _____ at the 3rd Hour (_____ o'clock in the morning).

- A) 6
- B) 9
- C) 11:30

Icon #17: The disciple _____, the _____, and the _____ stood by Jesus when He was on the cross. By dying, Jesus freed us from _____, providing us with a path to:

- A) Paradise
- B) Salvation
- C) Life in Heaven
- D) All of the above.

Icon #18: St. _____ of Arimathea, came to Pilate for the _____ of Jesus, because:

- A) It was the end of Passover.
- B) He recognized Jesus was the Messiah.
- C) The Governor was being cruel.

Icon #19: God's plan of Salvation was accomplished through the _____ of Jesus. As Orthodox Christians, we wear a _____, remembering His saving act has changed all of creation. Christ is our _____, and He transformed an instrument of torture into a weapon of:

- A) Mythology.
- B) Peace.
- C) A nice symbol.

Icons #19 and 20: (The theme song for Holy Saturday.)

The _____ Joseph, when he had _____ down Thy most pure Body from the _____, wrapped It in fine _____ and anointed It with _____, and placed It in a _____.

Icon #21: The Virgin Mary and the _____-bearing women brought these to anoint the body of Jesus: _____.

Holy Saturday

Icon #22: This is the most blessed Sabbath, the day when Christ descended to _____, freeing those trapped in the devil's chains of death.

Today in church, we hear _____ readings from the _____ Testament, recounting the wonders of _____'s plan for you, me, and all of humanity. We joyously sing: "Arise, O _____, and judge the _____, for to Thee belong all the nations," (Psalm 82), reminding us of _____'s triumph over sin, the devil, and death.



Icon #20



Icon #21



Icon #22

...and tomorrow, Pascha!

Clues can be found in:
• The Bible
• In the hymns
• In the icons
• At church services
Or by asking your priest or your parents.