

Holy Week and Pascha 2021

Last year we celebrated Palm Sunday and Pascha in our homes due to the Covid pandemic. This year we are happy to announce that we will be open to all during Holy Week through Pascha. We will still be implementing capacity restrictions and social distancing but are making some accommodations to enable the entire body to participate. Details are below.

- Palm Sunday will be **Group 3** indoors, all others outside
- Mid-week (non-Sunday) services are open to all who wish to attend.
- Pascha will be **Group 1** indoors, all others outside

If you are in either Group 3 or Group 1 and *will not be attending*, please contact Carol Vallandingham to let her know so we can fill the seat(s) with another family.

We will open the side and rear doors during services and have chairs available outside for those not in the regularly scheduled group. This will enable more to participate in the services while still maintaining safe practices as directed for capacity and distancing. Everyone outside will be able to receive Communion by processing in through the Narthex and leaving through the side door. We ask that you don't congregate inside the Narthex and cause a bottleneck.

Following Divine Liturgy on Holy Pascha, Father will bless the baskets and we will have an Egg Hunt. We will then gather together for a Resurrection social meal in the house and outside. Seating inside is limited so tables will be set up outside in order to maintain social distancing.

The meal will be potluck and families are welcome to bring food to share. If you prefer, you can bring food for just your family but still gather together. If participating in the potluck, we ask that everyone follow these guidelines:

- Masks are required when in the house except while sitting to eat
- Sanitize hands when entering the line in the house
- Enter the house through the door nearest the parking lot and exit through the dining room
- Maintain a one-way travel through the house as much as possible
- Seating inside is available but limited
- More seating will be available outside
- Pray for great weather!

We need volunteers to help with setting up tables and chairs following Divine Liturgy on Saturday (May 1). We also need people to help decorate the church after Resurrection Matins that evening. Please reach out to me (outreach@apostlethomas.org) if you can help.

Below is the schedule for the upcoming services during Holy Week and Pascha 2021.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone together again!

Divine Services for Holy Week 2021

St Thomas the Apostle Orthodox Church, Waldorf, MD



24 April: Lazarus Saturday Open to everyone

9:00am – Divine Liturgy – Resurrection of Lazarus, Friend of Christ



25 April: Palm Sunday Group 3 Inside – All others outside

8:45am – Matins & Divine Liturgy – Entry into Jerusalem

1:30pm – Bridegroom Matins



28 April: Holy Wednesday Open to everyone – first come seating

7:00pm – Holy Unction



29 April: Holy Thursday Open to everyone – first come seating

8:00am – Vespers Liturgy Last Supper – Institution of the Eucharist

7:00pm – Twelve Passion Gospels



30 April: Good Friday Open to everyone – first come seating

8:00am – Royal Hours

8:00pm – Burial Service



1 May: Holy Saturday Open to everyone – first come seating

9:00am – Divine Liturgy – Harrowing of Hell

9:00pm – Resurrection Matins



2 May: Great & Holy Pascha Sunday Group 1 Inside – All others outside

8:30am – Divine Liturgy – Christ is Risen!

*All are welcome to attend all Holy Week services. For Palm Sunday and Pascha, church doors will be open and chairs will be available outside if you are not in the assigned group for that day to maintain social distancing. You can call Carol Vallandingham if any spots inside are available. **If it is your assigned Sunday and you will not be attending, please let Carol know so someone else can have that spot!***