

LENTEN SERVICE SCHEDULE 2026
St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
Lexington, MA

Saturday	Feb 14	Saturday of the Souls Divine Liturgy, 9 AM
Sunday	Feb 15	Meatfare Sunday
Saturday	Feb 21	Saturday of the Souls Orthros, 8 AM Divine Liturgy, 9 AM
Sunday	Feb 22	Cheesefare Sunday Forgiveness Vespers, following Divine Liturgy
Monday	Feb 23	Clean Monday: The First Day of Great Lent *NO SERVICES
Wednesday	Feb 25	Presanctified Divine Liturgy 6 PM
Friday	Feb 27	Salutations to the Theotokos 6 PM Followed by Lenten Potluck and Seminarian Talk
Saturday	Feb 28	*NO Saturday of the Souls
Monday	March 2	Great Compline 6 PM
Wednesday	March 4	Presanctified Liturgy 6 PM
Friday	March 6	Salutations to the Theotokos 6 PM Followed by Lenten Potluck and Seminarian Talk
Saturday	March 7	Retreat led by Fr. George Parsenios 9 AM to 3 PM St. George Antiochian Orthodox Church 55 Emmonsedale Rd, West Roxbury, MA 02132
Monday	March 9	Great Compline 6 PM
Wednesday	March 11	Presanctified Liturgy 6 PM
Friday	March 13	Salutations to the Theotokos 6 PM Followed by Lenten Potluck and Seminarian Talk
Monday	March 16	Great Compline 6 PM

Wednesday	March 18	Presanctified Liturgy 6 PM
Friday	March 20	Salutations to the Theotokos 6 PM Followed by Lenten Potluck and Seminarian Talk
Monday	March 23	Great Compline 6 PM
Tuesday	March 24	Vespers of the Annunciation in either Woburn or the Cathedral
Wednesday	March 25	Feast of the Annunciation Liturgy in either Woburn or the Cathedral **NO Evening PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY
Friday	March 27	Akathist to the Theotokos Followed by Lenten Potluck and Seminarian Talk
Monday	March 30	Great Compline 6 PM
Wednesday	April 1	***No Presanctified Liturgy
Saturday	April 4	Lazarus Saturday/Beginning of Holy Week

Lenten Services Explained

[COMPLINE \(Monday Evenings, 6PM\)](#)

Compline is a series of prayers that people offer sometimes privately, or in monasteries corporately, before retiring to bed. Great Compline is done only during Great Lent and is a series of Psalm readings and prayers of repentance. There is not much sensory input. There is very little chanting, very little movement, just stillness and the sound of one person reading. In the world these days we are overstimulated in our senses. Great Compline slows down our lives and brings more of a sense of peace.

[PRE-SANCTIFIED DIVINE LITURGY \(Wednesdays 6PM\)](#)

Because the central thing we do in the Orthodox Church is receive the Eucharist in the context of the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, because this is even more important when we are fasting, and because the Church wants to reflect a more somber tone during Great Lent, the Divine Liturgy of the Pre-Sanctified Gifts (or Pre-Sanctified Liturgy) came into use. This service is not a full Divine Liturgy. It is a Vesper service with Holy Communion appended to the end, using Holy Communion that was “pre-sanctified” the previous Sunday and saved until the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy. This affords us an opportunity to receive Holy Communion more frequently during Great Lent—Pre-Sanctified Liturgy is held on Wednesdays (and some church on Fridays as well) and is more solemn than our Sunday Divine Liturgy. The priest vests in purple or dark vestments, the lighting is usually dim, the service is at the end of the day so that we can retire to our homes in peace and not have to jump back into work.

SALUTATIONS (Fridays, 6PM)

On the first five Fridays of Great Lent, we offer a devotional service to her called the “Salutations”. Each of the first four Fridays, we read 6 stanzas of salutations and on the fifth Friday, we read all 24, in a service called the Akathist Hymn. These services of devotion to the Virgin Mary are actually not really Lenten services. They do not have a Lenten or penitential character to them. Most priests wear blue for them, instead of the more solemn purple and black. Most likely, these services are in Lent because the Feast of the Annunciation (March 25) falls in Lent and these services are placed in close proximity to that feast.

*Taken from the online Prayer Team by Fr. Stavros Akrotirianakis, St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church, Tampa, Florida