

# The Liturgical Year 2026-2027

## Saint John Orthodox Cathedral ♦ Eagle River, Alaska



| SERVICES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |         | FEASTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | FASTS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| <b>Nativity of the Mother of God</b><br>Sep 7, 6:15pm – Vesperal Divine Liturgy (Mon)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | SEP/OCT | <b>SEP 1 – BEGINNING OF THE NEW LITURGICAL YEAR</b><br><b>Sep 8* – NATIVITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD</b> (lv.12)<br><b>Sep 14* – ELEVATION OF THE CROSS</b> (lv.21)<br><br>Sep 24 – Martyrs of Alaska (Juvenaly the priest martyr & Peter the Aleut martyr)<br>Sep 25 – St. Sergius of Radonezh<br>Sep 26 – The Falling-asleep of St. John the Evangelist<br><br>Oct 6 – St. Innocent of Alaska (canonization)<br>Oct 9 – St. Tikhon, Patriarch of Moscow and Apostle to America (canonization)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Fasts Preceding Liturgies:</b><br>Any day the Liturgy is celebrated in the morning a total fast from all food and drink is kept from midnight until after the Liturgy. For evening Liturgies a total fast should be kept from noon until after the Liturgy.<br><br><b>Wednesdays and Fridays</b><br>Unless otherwise noted all Wednesdays and Fridays throughout the year are kept as fast days the same as a weekday during Lent.<br><br><b>Sep 14 – The Elevation of the Cross</b><br>This is a strict fast day and no food at all should be eaten until after the evening Liturgy, when a light, fasting meal is permitted. Oil and wine are permitted. ( <i>Note: When this Feast falls on Saturday or Sunday it is still a fast day kept in the same way as any Saturday or Sunday in Lent.</i> )                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Entrance of the Mother of God</b><br>Nov 20, 7:15pm – Great Vespers (Fri)<br>Nov 21, 9:15am Divine Liturgy (Sat)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |         | <i>Nov 7 – Commemoration of St. Raphael of Brooklyn (Sat. before Nov. 8)</i><br>Nov 9 – St. Olga of Kwethluk<br><br><b>Nov 21* – ENTRANCE OF THE MOTHER OF GOD INTO THE TEMPLE</b> (lv.25)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>Nov 15 – Dec 24 – Advent Fast</b><br>This fast is kept the same as Great Lent, except that fish, wine and oil may be eaten up to Dec. 20. On Dec. 20 begins the special “holy week” preceding Christmas when the fast should be strictened. ( <i>Although this fast traditionally begins on Nov 15, 40 days before Christmas, it is pastorally suggested that it may be kept most seriously beginning Dec. 1, when the liturgical texts for Advent begin to appear.</i> )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Advent Services</b><br>Dec 5, 7:15pm – Great Vespers - St. Nicholas (Sat)<br>Dec 12, 7:15pm – Akathist - St. Herman (Sat)<br>Dec 19, 7:15pm – Great Vespers - St. Ignatius (Sat)<br><b>Christmas Services</b><br>Dec 24, “Royal Hours” (Thu)<br>Dec 24, 6:15pm – Vesperal Liturgy (Basil) (Thu)<br>Dec 25, 9am – Matins / 10am – Divine Liturgy of St. John (Fri)                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | DEC     | Dec 6 – St. Nicholas the Wonderworker of Myra<br>Dec 13 – St. Herman of Alaska<br>Dec 20 – St. Ignatius of Antioch<br>Dec 20-24 – Forefeast of Christmas<br><br><b>Dec 25* – CHRISTMAS: Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ</b> (lv. 31)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Dec 24 – Christmas Eve</b><br>This is a fast day, and no food at all should be eaten until after the evening Liturgy, when a light, fasting meal is permitted. ( <i>Note: When Christmas Eve falls on Saturday or Sunday it is not a strict fast day but is kept as any weekday in Advent.</i> )<br><br><b>Dec 25 – Jan 4 – The Christmas Season</b><br><i>No fasting.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Epiphany Services</b><br>Jan 5, “Royal Hours” (Tue)<br>Jan 5, 7:15pm – Great Vespers (Tue)<br>Jan 6, 6:15pm – Great Blessing of Water and Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom (Wed)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | JAN     | Jan 1 – Circumcision of Our Lord Jesus Christ; St. Basil the Great<br>Jan 2-5 – Forefeast of Epiphany<br><b>Jan 6* – EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST</b> (lv. 14)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <b>Jan 5 – Eve of Epiphany</b><br>This is a fast day, and no food at all should be eaten until after the evening service, when a light, fasting meal is permitted. ( <i>Note: When Epiphany Eve falls on Saturday or Sunday it is not a strict fast day but is kept as any weekday in Advent.</i> )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>The Meeting of Our Lord</b><br>Feb 1, 6:15pm – Vesperal Liturgy (Mon)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | FEB     | <b>Feb 2* – MEETING OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST</b> (lv. 9, or Friday before Soul Saturday, whichever is first)<br><i>Feb 14 – Sunday of the Canaanite Woman (or Zacchaeus) – 4 weeks before Lent</i><br><i>Feb 21 – Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee – 3 weeks before Lent</i><br><i>Feb 27 – Repose of St. Raphael of Brooklyn (commemorated in November)</i><br><i>Feb 28 – Sunday of the Prodigal Son – 2 weeks before Lent</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <i>Feb 22-27 – The Week following the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee</i><br><i>No fasting is permitted</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Saturday of Souls</b><br><i>Mar 5, 7:15pm – Vespers (Fri)</i><br><i>Mar 6, 9:15am – Divine Liturgy (Sat)</i><br><b>Special Lenten Services</b><br><i>Mar 14, 6:15pm – Forgiveness Sunday Vespers</i><br><i>Mondays in Lent, 7:15pm – Great Compline</i><br><i>Wednesdays in Lent, 6:15pm – Presanctified Liturgy</i><br><i>Fridays in Lent, 7:15pm – Akathist to the Mother of God</i><br><i>Sundays in Lent, 9:15am – Matins; 10am – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great</i><br><b>The Annunciation</b><br>Mar 24, 7:15pm – Great Vespers (Wed)<br>Mar 25, 6:15pm – Vesperal Liturgy (Thu) | MAR     | <i>Mar 6 – Saturday of Souls, Commemoration of the Departed Saturday before Meatfare</i><br><i>Mar 7 – Sunday of the Last Judgment (Meatfare) – 1 week before Lent</i><br><i>Mar 14 – Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare) – 7 weeks before Easter,</i><br><i>Mar 15 – Clean Monday – Great Lent begins – variable from Feb 15 thru Mar 21</i><br><i>Mar 21 – Orthodox Sunday (Pan-Orthodox Vespers) – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent</i><br><br><b>Mar 25* – ANNUNCIATION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD</b> (lv. 26)<br><br><i>Mar 28 – St. Gregory Palamas – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Lent</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <b>March 7-13 – “Meatfare Week”</b><br><i>Fasting from meat begins. Animal products permitted Wed and Fri.</i><br><br><b>March 15 - May 1 – Great Lent and Holy Week</b><br><i>Fast from meat, animal products, fish, wine and oil; and limit the number of meals and amount eaten.</i><br><i>Monday, Tuesday and Thursday in the 1<sup>st</sup> week are strict fast days, which traditionally means a total abstinence from all foods. (Some attempt should be made to keep these days somehow more strictly.)</i><br><i>Wednesday and Fridays a total fast should be kept from noon on, with an evening meal after the Presanctified Liturgy. (If no Presanctified Liturgy is celebrated on Friday, then the fast from noon on would not apply.)</i><br><i>Saturdays and Sundays during Lent oil and wine are permitted and the number of meals is not as strictly limited.</i><br><br><b>Mar 25 – The Annunciation</b><br><i>Fish, wine and oil are permitted.</i> |
| <b>Lazarus Saturday</b><br><i>April 23, 7:15pm – Compline (Fri)</i><br><i>April 24, 9:15am – Divine Liturgy of St. John (Sat)</i><br><b>Palm Sunday</b><br><i>April 24, 7:15pm – Great Vespers</i><br><i>April 25, 9am – Matins / 10am – Divine Liturgy of St. John</i><br><br><b>Holy Week Services</b><br><i>See Special Sheet</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | APR     | <i>Apr 4 – The Holy Cross – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Lent</i><br><i>Apr 11 – St. John Climacus – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</i><br><i>Apr 17 – Fifth Saturday in Lent, Akathist Hymn to the Mother of God</i><br><i>Apr 18 – St. Mary of Egypt – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent</i><br><i>Apr 24* – Lazarus Saturday – Saturday before Palm Sunday</i><br><b>Apr 25* – PALM SUNDAY: Entry of Our Lord into Jerusalem – Sunday before Easter</b><br><i>Apr 29 – May 4 Holy Week – Week between Palm Sunday and Easter</i><br>Apr 30 – St. James, the son of Zebedee and brother of St. John the Evangelist                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>PASCHA / EASTER</b><br><i>May 2, 4:00am – Rush Procession, Matins, and Divine Liturgy</i><br><i>May 2, 3:15pm – Agape Vespers</i><br><br><b>Feast of St. John the Evangelist</b><br>May 8, TBA (Sat)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | MAY     | <b>May 2* – PASCHA / EASTER: Resurrection of Our Lord – Variable from Apr 4 thru May 8</b> (lv. Wednesday before Ascension)<br><i>May 3 – May 8 Bright Week – Week following Easter</i><br>May 7 – St. Alexis Toth of Wilkes-Barre<br>May 8 - St. John the Evangelist – Commemoration of the Miracle at His Gravesite<br><i>May 9 – Thomas Sunday – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pascha</i><br><i>May 16 – Myrrhbearers – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pascha</i><br><i>May 23 – Paralytic – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pascha</i><br><i>May 26 – Mid-Pentecost – Wednesday half-way between Pascha and Pentecost</i><br><i>May 30 – Samaritan Woman – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pascha</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>May 3 - 8 – Bright Week (&amp; Paschal Season)</b><br><i>During the Pascha season fasting is not required from Easter to Ascension. During the rest of the season from Ascension to Pentecost wine and oil are permitted on Wednesdays and Fridays.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>The Ascension of Our Lord</b><br><i>June 9, 6:15pm – Vesperal Divine Liturgy (Wed)</i><br><br><b>Special Pentecost Services</b><br><i>June 20, 6:15pm – Special Pentecost “Kneeling” Vespers (Sun)</i><br><br><b>Sts. Peter and Paul</b><br>Jun 28, 6:15pm – Vesperal Liturgy (Mon)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | JUN/JUL | Jun 4 – Sts. Mary and Martha<br><i>Jun 6 – Blind Man – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pascha</i><br><b>Jun 10* – ASCENSION OF OUR LORD – Thursday, 40 days after Pascha / Easter</b> (lv. Friday before Pentecost)<br><i>Jun 13 – Fathers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Ecumenical Council – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pascha</i><br><i>Jun 19 – Saturday of Souls, Commemoration of the Departed – Saturday before Pentecost</i><br><b>Jun 20 – PENTECOST: Descent of the Holy Spirit – 50 days after Pascha / Easter</b> (lv. Saturday before All Saints)<br><i>Jun 20-26 – Pentecost Week – Week following Pentecost, no fasting</i><br>Jun 24 – The Nativity of St. John the Baptist (lv. 25)<br><i>Jun 27 – All Saints Sunday – Sunday following Pentecost</i><br>Jun 29* – Sts. Peter and Paul (lv. 30)<br>Jul 2 – St. John Maximovitch, Archbishop of Shanghai and San Francisco<br><i>Jul 4 – Saints of North America &amp; Antioch – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost</i><br>Jul 18 – St. Elizabeth the New Martyr<br>Jul 26 – St. Yakov Netsvetov, Enlightener & Baptizer of the Native Peoples of Alaska | <b>Jun 24-28 – Pentecost Week</b><br><i>No fasting.</i><br><br><b>The “Apostles’ Fast”</b><br><i>This fasting season varies in length because it extends from the Sunday following Pentecost up to the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29, from which it derives its name.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>The Transfiguration</b><br>Aug 5, 6:15pm – Vesperal Liturgy (Thu)<br><br><b>The Falling-Asleep of the Mother of God</b><br>Aug 14, 7:15pm – Great Vespers (Sat)<br>Aug 15, 9:15am – Matins/Divine Liturgy (Sun)<br><br><b>Beheading of St. John, the Baptist</b><br>Aug 28, 7:15pm – Great Vespers (Sat)<br>Aug 29, 9:15am – Matins/Divine Liturgy (Sun)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | AUG     | <b>Aug 6* – TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD</b> (lv. 13)<br>Aug 9 – St. Herman of Alaska, Anniversary of Canonization (Pilgrimage to Spruce Island, Aug 7-9)<br><br><b>Aug 15* – FALLING-ASLEEP OF THE MOTHER OF GOD</b> (lv. 23)<br><br>Aug 29* – The Beheading of St. John the Baptist (lv. 30)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>Aug 1-14 – The “Dormition” Fast</b><br>This fast is kept the same as Great Lent, except that fish, wine, and oil may be eaten on Aug 6, the Feast of the Transfiguration. Liturgy on the 15 <sup>th</sup> ends the fast.<br><br><b>Aug 29 – The Beheading of John the Baptist</b><br>This day is traditionally kept as a strict fast day in honor and memory of John the Baptist. No food at all should be eaten until after the evening Liturgy, when a light fasting meal is permitted. Oil and wine are permitted. ( <i>Note: When this Feast falls on Saturday or Sunday it is still a fast day kept in the same way as any Saturday or Sunday in Lent. Also, in some places it has become the custom not to eat on plates on this day.</i> )                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

Key: ALL CAPS = Great Feast      \* Special Divine Liturgy      *Italics* = Movable Feast      Smaller Type = Secondary Feast Days      (lv.) = Leavetaking of Feast

REGULAR SERVICES: (*Subject to Change. Also see schedule in Sunday Bulletin or on the website stjohنالaska.org*)  
Saturday, 7:15pm – Great Vespers ♦ Sunday, 9am – Matins / Orthros ♦ Sunday, 10am – Divine Liturgy