



## HOLY THEOPHANY ORTHODOX CHURCH “

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” Matthew 28:19

“The Church is a hospital, and not a courtroom, for souls. She does not condemn on behalf of sins, but grants remission of sins. Nothing is so joyous in our life as the thanksgiving that we experience in the Church. In the Church, the joyful sustain their joy. In the Church, those worried acquire merriment, and those saddened, joy. In the Church, the troubled find relief, and the heavy-laden, rest.” ~St John Chrysostom

Location of Services: Holy Theophany Church, N2107 State Road 67, Walworth, WI 53184

*Christ is Risen!  
Truly He is Risen!*



*Hristos a Inviat!  
Adeverat a Inviat!*



*Hristos Anesti!  
Alithos Anesti!*



*Hristos Voskrese!  
Vo Istinu Voskrese!*

### Schedule of Services for May 2023

[All services (except Reader's Vespers) will be live-streamed unless otherwise noted.

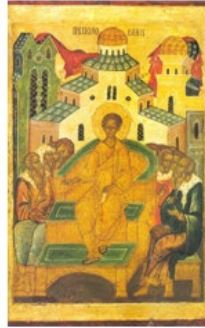
Hours for Sunday Liturgy start at 9:40 AM.]

- Saturday, May 6, 2023, 5:00 PM - Reader's Vespers
- Sunday, May 7, 2023, 10:00 AM - 4th Sunday of Pascha - Paralytic - Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
- Tuesday, May 9, 2023, 5:30 PM - Vespers Liturgy - Midfeast of Pentecost
- Saturday, May 13, 2023, 5:00 PM - Reader's Vespers
- Sunday, May 14, 2023, 10:00 AM - 5th Sunday of Pascha - Samaritan Woman - Mother's Day - Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
- Saturday, May 20, 2023, 5:00 PM - Reader's Vespers
- Sunday, May 21, 2023, 10:00 AM - 6th Sunday of Pascha - Blindman - service of General Confession followed by Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
- Wednesday, May 24, 2023, 5:30 PM - Vespers Liturgy – Ascension of the Lord
- Saturday, May 27, 2023, 5:00 PM - Reader's Vespers
- Sunday, May 28, 2023, 7th Sunday of Pascha - Holy Fathers of First Ecumenical Council - 9:30 AM - Baptism Lucas Fazio followed by Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom
- Saturday, June 3, 2023, 5:00 PM - Great Vespers with Litya
- Sunday, June 4, 2023, 10:00 AM - Pentecost - followed by Vespers of Pentecost

At the Agape Vespers of Pascha, we read the Gospel in ten languages: English, Greek, Latin, French, Italian, German, Spanish, Japanese, Russian, and Romanian. Fr Thomas Fitzgerald (GOARCH) wrote: “Orthodox Worship has always been celebrated in the language of the people. There is no official or universal liturgical language. Often, two or more languages are used in the Services to accommodate the needs of the congregation. Throughout the world, services are celebrated in more than twenty languages...” Languages, of course, reflect the culture of a people. The Agape Vespers always reminds us to celebrate the cultural and ethnic diversity of our faith which is united in its services and the traditions of the Church. Always be mindful of and thankful for that diversity; but never give privilege to the language and culture of your faith over others.



Sunday of the Paralytic



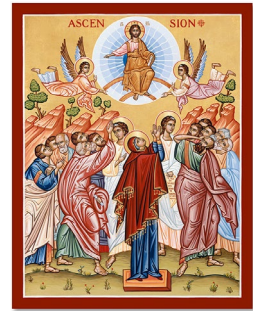
Midfeast of Pentecost



Sunday of Samaritan Woman



Sunday of the Blind Man



Ascension of the Lord

Three Sundays of Pascha are devoted to the healing ministry of Christ: the Sundays of the Paralytic, the Samaritan Woman, and the Blind Man. They bracket the Midfeast of Pentecost when we look back to the Resurrection and forward to the Feast of Pentecost – the Descent of the Holy Spirit. In each of these events, Christ takes the initiative to approach individuals and offer healing both physical and spiritual even though they are at the margins of society: the paralytic who lies by the pool of Bethesda for thirty-eight years ignored by those around him (John 5:1-15); the Samaritan woman, for whom Jews had great animosity and who comes to the well to draw water at the heat of day rather than with the other women in the morning (John 4:5-42); and the man born blind who has been reduced to living as a beggar (John 9:1-32). The events of these Sundays look back to the Resurrection because they remind us that Christ's suffering, death and resurrection are an extension and fulfillment of the compassion and love of his healing ministry while He lived among us.

Yet after His resurrection, He ascends into heaven. Matthew (28.17) notes that even some of the disciples had doubts or perplexities about Christ after His Resurrection. In contrast to the Theotokos, the Apostles are portrayed in the Icon for the Ascension in a state of some disarray. So, for all of those who were healed by and drawn into a communion with Christ during His life, what happens when He departs? Will they be abandoned or only “gain access” to Christ at a distance? Christ himself gives the answer when He meets the Samaritan woman: “But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” (John 4.23-24). The Spirit is the Comforter whom Christ promised to the disciples but only if He departed from this earth (John 16:7). The Holy Spirit unites the Theotokos, the disciples and all of us in the Body of Christ (the Church). As St John Chrysostom writes: “The Church is a hospital for souls. She does not condemn on behalf of sins, but grants remission of sins. In the Church, the joyful sustain their joy. In the Church, those worried acquire merriment, and those saddened, joy. In the Church, the troubled find relief, and the heavy-laden, rest.” In the Church, we are graced with the sacraments which are made possible through the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit. The aim of this: to draw us, everyone, into deification: the complete fullness of our lives united with God at the general resurrection. Indeed, even those who have departed their life in Christ are now drawn into a “place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sighing, and sorrow have fled away.” (Orthodox Funeral Service)

**Thanks for service to Holy Theophany Church in April 2023!** *Cleaning the Church and Parish Hall:* Filitsa Amirsakis, Olga Buranicz, Mary Kanelos; Pres. Anastasia; Christopher Thies; *Prospora Bread:* Filitsa Amirsakis, Mary Kanelos; *Music/chanting:* Adela Fazio, Maria, David, & Sofia Klesmith, Kristy Danna, and everyone participating in community singing during our services; *Stewardship:* Thanks to everyone who provides financial support for us; *Reading including Agape Vespers:* Pres. Eileen, Christopher Thies, Damian Constantinescu, Maria Condos, Kristy Danna, Renee Cerney, Giovanna Danna; David, Maria, Isabella, and Sofia Klesmith; Vali, Gina, and Naomi Raicu; *Service in the sanctuary:* David Klesmith and Christopher Thies; *Setting up for services (distributing material, etc.):* Mary Kanelos, Pres. Eileen and Pres. Anastasia, Lamont Prospect; *Attendance Report:* Bessie Mantes; *Coffee Hour:* Maria & David Klesmith, Mary Kanelos, Filitsa Amirsakis, Kristy Danna, Bessie Mantes, Maria Condos and everyone who provides food or beverages; *Outside repairs/cleanup:* David Klesmith, Christopher Thies. *Donating Eggs:* Janette Zopp. *Donating Dyes:* Pres. Anastasia, Fr. George; *Dying Eggs:* Christopher, David, Maria, Sofia, Pres. Anastasia, Fr. George; *Donating Flowers, Decorating Epitaphion and Church:* Renee Cerny; *Making Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday:* Maria and Sofia Klesmith, Filitsa Amirsakis, LaMont Prospect, Georgia Athans, Pres. Eileen. Sincere apologies if we over-looked anyone.

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