

Holy Week Points to Ponder taken from Daily Lives, Miracles, and Wisdom of the Saints & Fasting Calendar published by the Orthodox Calendar Company reprinted with permission.

Palm Sunday

Who did not meet the Lord when He triumphantly entered Jerusalem as a king; and who did not cry out then, Hosanna to the son for David! (Matt. 21:15)? But only four days passed, and the same crowd cried with the same tongues, *Crucify Him, crucify Him!* (John 19:6). An amazing change! But why should we be surprised? Do we not do the very same thing when, upon receiving the Holy Mysteries of the Body and Blood of the Lord, we barely leave the church forgetting everything—both our reverence and God’s mercy toward us? We give ourselves over as before to self-pleasing deeds—at first small and then also large. Perhaps even before four days have passed.

St. Theophan the Recluse

Monday

Remembrance of Jesus’ passion will heal your soul of resentment, by making it ashamed of itself when it remembers the patience of the Lord.

St. John Climacus

Tuesday

Beware of measuring fasting by abstaining from food. Those who abstain from food but behave badly are likened to a devil who, although he does not eat anything, doesn’t stop sinning.

St. Basil the Great

Wednesday

Whoever you are, whatever we are, wherever we have come to be, even at the very edge of the abyss, we must never let go of the moving image of the prodigal son’s reception into the embrace of the father, who hugs him tightly and showers him with kisses. Let our final fall be into the arms of our Most-compassionate heavenly Father...

+Monk Moses of Mt. Athos

Holy Thursday

Let us now strive more, my children, and the benefits will be great. No one finds Grace without toil. If the farmer does not farm his field, he will not see the results. When our fasting coexists, is strengthened and is encompassed with prayer, with contemplation, with watchfulness, with church attendance, with Confession, with Holy communion, with good works and charity giving, then is fulfilled the beauty of the soul’s preparation for the reception of Holy Week. Then we feel the Holy and Honorable Passion of Christ more profoundly, because our hearts will soften, and they will alter and recognize how boundless the Love of God is for man. Then the Holy Resurrection will be alive within us with great strength, we will feast in a divinely fitting manner and celebrate together with the angels the Holy Pascha.

Elder Ephraim of Arizona

Good Friday

It is love that shows who is the true shepherd, for by reason of love the Great Shepherd was crucified.

St. John Climacus

Holy Saturday

Although all of the New Testament saints are also blessed in heaven, they await an even more perfect bliss in the age to come, with a new heaven and new earth, when God will be all in all.

St. Theophan the Recluse