Stages in the Journey to Pascha 2017

+ Stage One: Pre-Lent (10 weeks before Pascha, February 5)

1st Week — Publican and the Pharisee (Lk. 18:10-14; fast-free)

2nd Week — Prodigal Son (Lk. 15:11-32)
Memorial Saturday (all faithful departed)

3rd Week — Last Judgment (Matt. 25:31-46)
- Meatfare – last day for meats, meat products, & fish

4th Sunday — Expulsion of Adam from Paradise (Matt. 6:14-21)
- Cheesefare – last day for cheese, eggs, milk, & dairy
- Also called Forgiveness Sunday – Vespers (colors change to dark) concluding with the Rite of Mutual Forgiveness in the evening

+ Stage Two: Great Lent (40 days; 7 weeks before Pascha, February 27)

1st Week — Monday-Thursday: Compline & Great Canon of St. Andrew
Wednesday & Friday: Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts*
Saturday: St. Theodore the Recruit & miracle of boiled wheat
First Sunday: Triumph of Orthodoxy/Restoration of Icons (Jn. 1:43-51)^

2nd Week — Wednesday & Friday: Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
Saturday: Memorial Liturgy
Second Sunday: St. Gregory Palamas (Mk. 2:1-12; Jn. 10:9-16)

3rd Week — Wednesday & Friday: Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
Saturday: Memorial Liturgy
Third Sunday: Veneration of the Cross (Mk. 8:34-9:1)

4th Week — Wednesday: Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
Friday: Vigil of the Annunciation
Saturday: Feast of the Annunciation *[this year, March 25]*
Fourth Sunday: St. John of the Ladder (Gk., *Klimakos*; Mk. 9:17-31; Lk. 1:24-38) *[this year, the Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel]*

5th Week — Tuesday & Thursday: Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts
Wednesday: Matins & Great Canon of St. Andrew
Saturday: Matins & Akathist to the Theotokos
Fifth Sunday: St. Mary of Egypt (Mk. 10:32-45; Lk. 7:36-50)

6th Week — Wednesday & Friday: Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts (Lent ends)

+ Stage Three: Holy Week (week before Pascha, April 8-15)

Saturday	Matins & Divine Liturgy (Raising of Lazarus) Vigil of Palm Sunday (Vespers, Litia, and Matins)
Sunday	Divine Liturgy: Entrance of Christ into Jerusalem Bridegroom Matins of Monday
Monday	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts & Bridegroom Matins of Tuesday
Tuesday	Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts & Bridegroom Matins of Wednesday
Wednesday	final Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts Service of Holy Unction
Thursday	Matins Vesperal° Liturgy of St. Basil (institution of Lord's Supper) Matins of Holy Friday (12 Passion Gospels)
Friday	Royal Hours Great Vespers & carrying-out of Gravecloth Matins of Holy Saturday (Lamentations & procession)
Saturday	Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil (beginning of Paschal Vigil; colors changed to white)

+ Pascha: The Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ (April 16)

Sunday	Midnight Office (Nocturns) & procession Matins Divine Liturgy Paschal Vespers & Resurrection Gospels procession

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* *The Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts* is unique to the weekdays of Lent; it is the service of Vespers plus prayers for reception of Holy Communion which was sanctified on the previous Sunday and kept on the Altar in a special container. Prior to reception of the Presanctified Body and Blood of Christ, we fast from food and drink at least from noon.
^ On the Sundays of Lent, the *Liturgy of St. Basil the Great* is served instead of the usual Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom which is still served on Saturdays.
° *Vesperal* means "of the evening," that is, beginning with the service of Vespers.