

STRUCTURE OF GREAT LENT & PASCHAL SEASON

Preliminary Sundays

Publican & Pharisee (Fast-free week)
Prodigal Son
Last Judgement (Meatfare)
Expulsion of Adam & Eve
(Forgiveness/Cheese-fare)

Great Lent

Forgiveness Vespers

1st Sunday (Orthodoxy)
2nd Sunday (St Gregory Palamas)
3rd Sunday (Holy Cross)
4th Sunday (St John Climacus)
Thurs of Great Canon/Life St Mary Egypt
Sat of the Akathist (Fri eve.)
5th Sunday (St Mary of Egypt)

Great & Holy Week

Lazarus Saturday?
Palm Sunday
G&H Monday thru Thursday
G&H Friday
G&H Saturday

PASCHA

Bright Week (Fast-free week)

1st Sun after Pascha/Thomas Sunday/Antipascha
2nd Sun (Myrrhbearing Women)
3rd Sun (Paralytic)
4th Sun (Samaritan Woman)
5th Sun (Blind Man)

Ascension Thursday

6th Sun (Frs of the 1st Ecum. Council)

Pentecost (fast-free week)

1st Sun after Pentecost (All Saints)
2nd Sun (All Saints of North America)

Broad structure.

Preliminary Sundays || Post-Ascension
40 days Lent || 40 days Paschaltide
G&H Week || Bright Week
Pascha in the center

Fast-free weeks at beginning, middle, end.

How calculate 40 days in Great Lent?

6 wks Lent (6 wks x 7 days = 42 days)
- Forgiveness Sunday (start of 1st wk)
- Lazarus Saturday (end of last wk)
= 40 days Great Lent

How to tithe the year with fasting?

30 weekdays of G.L.
5 weekdays of G&H Week
G&H Saturday (semi-fast)
½ day Eve of Pascha = 36.5 days fasting

Bright Week = 1 continuous liturgical day

Proof: Thomas Sun commemorates the events of Pascha evening.

Pascha to Pentecost, 50 days.

7 wks x 7 days, a week of weeks = 49 days
50th day = begin the 8th week (|| 8th day), a new era

[Fr M's personal speculation:]

Lunar cycle & commemoration of women on new moons

G&H Saturday = 14 Nisan (full moon)

G&H Friday = 13 Nisan (N.B. Friday the 13th!)

Sat of Akathist 2 wks before, ∴ 1 Nisan (new moon)

Also,

Pascha ~ full moon

2 Sun before, ~new moon, St Mary of Egypt

2 Sun after, ~new moon, Myrrhbearing Women

Aside on the same theme in the calendar:

3 days of the new moon each month

3 wks btw Dormition (15 Aug) & Nativity of the Virgin (8 Sept)

Aside to the aside:

The Christian year/life of the Church || life of the Virgin