



**Coptic Orthodox Church**  
Somerset County, NJ

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Served by:  
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To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is in regards to requests made for an excused absence in observation of Holy Paschal Week 2024.

According to the Rites of the Coptic Orthodox Church, daily services start from the Eve of Palm Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, through Easter Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

Generally, these daily services include prayer services at dawn, morning, afternoon, and evenings, extending from 6AM to 9PM, or, some days, even later. There are a couple of services that week which are held overnight – such as the Apocalypse Vigil, which starts the evening of Great Friday and continues until sunrise on Bright Saturday as well as the Feast of the Resurrection (Easter) services which begin Saturday night and continue into Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

It is with great pride that we preserve these ancient practices, but more importantly, their purpose and design is meant to provide necessary spiritual benefit during such high holy days.

Respectfully yours,  
Fr. Antonious Tanious