

REQUEST FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

[*Note to Parents:* While the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Atlanta is providing this form to notify your child(ren)'s school of his/her/their absence due to religious observances on Holy Friday, your child(ren)'s school may require other or different documentation, according to the individual school system's requirements.]

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN at _____ School:

Please excuse my child(ren):

STUDENT(s) _____

DATE(s) OF ABSENCE: _____ / _____ / _____
Month Date(s) Year

For a Religious Observance of Holy Friday before Easter (Pascha) in the Orthodox Church.

It is traditional for Orthodox Christian students to be absent from school on Holy Friday in order to attend Holy Friday religious services (the Royal Hours, Vespers of the Un-nailing of Christ from the Cross, and the Lamentations Service in the evening), as well as for religious retreats and educational opportunities provided by each parish Priest.

The reason for the different dates of Western (Catholic, Protestant, Episcopalian) Easter and Orthodox Easter (Pascha) is primarily because Orthodox Christians determine the date of Easter (Pascha) based on the Julian Calendar in use during the First Ecumenical Council of Nicea in 325 AD. Additionally, in keeping with the rule established by the Council of Nicea, the Orthodox Church holds to the tradition that Easter (Pascha) must always fall after the Jewish Passover, since the death, burial and Resurrection of Christ happened after the celebration of Passover. This year, the 350 million Orthodox Christians worldwide celebrate Easter (Pascha) on Sunday, April 19, 2009.

Thank you for your kind consideration and excusing of my parishioner(s) listed above.

(Priest's Acknowledgement and Signature)

(Date)

I am the Priest of the _____ Greek Orthodox Church

(Address, City, State, Zip)

(Telephone)

(Parent's Acknowledgement and Signature)

(Date)