

GUIDE TO HOLY WEEK



St. John's
Episcopal Church

SPRING 2024

Holy Week at St. John's

Together during Lent, we have made a pilgrimage of penitence, reflection, stillness, and prayer. That journey finds its culmination in Holy Week and Easter as we walk in lockstep with Jesus through the events that forever changed the world. This is sacred time at St. John's.

A journey through Holy Week is one that encompasses an entire spectrum of emotions. Our music and liturgy will invite you into moments of both prayerful listening and glorious participation.

Many at St. John's say that taking part in Holy Week has changed their lives. Easter means more when you've made the way of the cross with our Lord. Set this week aside as we experience the full story of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

The Triduum

A "triduum" is a period of three days leading to a feast day. The term is most frequently used for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday, the three days that conclude Holy Week and lead to Easter. The Easter Triduum is the holiest time of year in the Christian life.

Holy Week Services



Palm Sunday

March 24
8 & 10 AM

Weather permitting, the Palm Sunday service begins outdoors with the blessing of the palms. Remembering Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the congregation processes with joy into the church, waving palm fronds and singing, "Hosannah!"

This year, the 10 AM service will begin on Call Street, which will be closed for the morning. The 8 AM service will begin in the breezeway near the South transept. Once inside, the story of Jesus' passion is retold in narrative form, and the 10 AM choir will offer a special piece in response.



Maundy Thursday

March 28
6:30 PM

Maundy Thursday is one of the holiest nights of the year. On this night, Jesus washed his disciples' feet and shared the Last Supper before his arrest in the garden. During this moving service, we join with the disciples in those same acts, offering a gentle ceremony of foot washing for any who wish to receive it and sharing in the Eucharist. After Communion, the altar is stripped bare.

The word "maundy" comes from Latin for "mandate" or "commandment," as this is also the night on which Jesus gave his disciples the commandment to love one another.



Gethsemane Watch

March 28-29
8 PM - 12 PM

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus asked his disciples to pray with him in the Garden of Gethsemane, asking, "Could you not stay awake with me one hour?" (Matt. 26:40). Every year, we keep that same prayerful watch before the Blessed Sacrament in Carter Chapel. All are invited to sign up for an hour long watch at: saint-john.org/event/gethsemane-watch. A sheriff's deputy will be on the grounds throughout the night for safety.



Good Friday

March 29
12:10 PM

At the hour on which Jesus was crucified, we gather in the sanctuary to hear the Passion read from John's gospel, to venerate the cross of Christ, and to offer prayers of repentance for ourselves and the whole world. Communion is distributed from the reserve Sacrament.

Stations of the Cross

March 29
6:30 PM

Join in the ancient tradition of walking the "Way of the Cross," whereby we hear and participate in the events immediately surrounding the crucifixion of our Lord. The choir will offer musical reflections throughout this moving service.



Great Vigil of Easter

March 30
6:30 PM

The Great Vigil of Easter is the most important and joyful service of the entire year. Steeped in traditions reaching back to the earliest days of Christianity, we light the new Easter fire, recount the stories of God's saving deeds, baptize new converts to the faith, and celebrate the first Eucharist of Easter.

This is the brightest jewel of all Christian liturgy, the climax of the Christian year, the queen of feasts and seasons, and the crown of all our earthly worship. You do not want to miss it.



Easter Sunday

March 31
7:30, 9 & 11:15 AM

Easter Sunday is the feast of Christ's resurrection. As we extend our celebrations of the resurrected Lord, join us for one of our three morning services, filled with joyful music, flowers, and receptions.

HOLY WEEK



EASTER 2024

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 24

8 AM | 10 AM   | CALL ST. CLOSED

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 28

6:30 PM | LITURGY & FOOT WASHING  

GETHSEMANE WATCH

Thursday, March 28 - Friday, March 29

8 PM - 12 PM | OVERNIGHT VIGIL IN THE CHAPEL

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, March 29

12:10 PM 

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, March 29

6:30 PM 

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, March 30

2 PM

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Saturday, March 30

6:30 PM   

EASTER DAY

Sunday, March 31

7:30 AM | 9 AM   | 11:15 AM

 = Livestreamed Services

 = Childcare Provided

 = Incense Used

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SAINT-JOHN.ORG