Guide to Holy Week

SPRING 2026

Deep Roots. True Belonging. Abundant Grace.

Through Lent, we practiced words we refuse to let fade—prayers, promises, and scriptures we speak again because they continue to shape us. In Holy Week, that practice becomes the heart of our worship.

These are not new stories. They are the words the Church has carried for centuries; the words we return to when everything else falls away.

And so, in this most sacred week, we say them again.
We hear again the cry of Hosanna.
We listen again to Jesus kneeling at a table and speaking love into fragile hearts.
We stand again beneath the cross.
We wait again in the long silence of the tomb.
And we dare, once more, to speak resurrection into the darkness.

Holy Week is not about novelty. It is about faithfulness—about trusting that God still meets us in the same holy words, the same saving story, and the same living promise.

Palm Sunday & Bishop's Visitation

MARCH 29 | 7:45 AM | 9 AM | 11:15 AM

Assisting Bishop Chip Stokes will visit St. John's on Palm Sunday to lead us in worship and to confirm, receive, and reaffirm our youth and adult confirmands at both the 9 AM and 11:15 AM services.

We begin by speaking words the crowd once shouted in the streets: "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." As the familiar story of Christ's entry into Jerusalem and his Passion is read once more, we are invited to take our place in a story we already know—and still need to hear.

All Palm Sunday services will begin outdoors with the Liturgy of the Palms before we process into the church:
7:45 AM – Eve's Garden
9:00 & 11:15 AM – Call Street

Maundy Thursday

APRIL 2 | 6:30 PM

On this night, we return to Jesus' command to love one another. We listen again to the words spoken at the table. We watch again as Christ stoops to serve. The Church repeats this story every year because the command has not grown easier—and the need for it has not diminished.

All who wish may receive the gentle gift of foot washing, a sign of the love and servanthood Christ calls us to embody. After Communion, the altar is stripped bare, echoing his abandonment in the garden.

Gethsemane Watch

APRIL 2 - 3 | 8 PM - 12 PM

After the Maundy Thursday liturgy, the story continues. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus asked his disciples a simple thing: "Stay here and keep watch with me." Each year, the Church returns to that moment and hears those words again. And so we say yes again. All are invited to sign up for an hour long watch at: *saint-john.org/event/gethsemanewatch2026.*
A sheriff's deputy will be on the grounds throughout the night for safety.

Good Friday

APRIL 3 | 12:10 PM

We gather to hear the Passion according to the Gospel of John—a story so familiar that its words almost live in our bodies. Still, we speak them again. We linger with silence, prayer, and sorrow, trusting that even the hardest words of Scripture continue to carry God's mercy into the world. Communion is shared from the reserved Sacrament.

Stations of the Cross

APRIL 3 | 6:30 PM

This devotional liturgy invites us to walk with Jesus on the path to his crucifixion, pausing at each station to reflect on his faithfulness and love. At St. John's, the beauty of this service is deepened by music sung by the congregation and gorgeous choral reflections offered by the choir.

Great Vigil of Easter

APRIL 4 | 6:30 PM

In the deep of night, we listen once more to the long story of God's saving love. We hear again how light is spoken into darkness, how God calls a people into life, and how death is never the final word. This is the night when the Church gathers all its remembered stories and dares to believe them again.

This is the brightest jewel of Christian worship, the feast of feasts - this is the night when everything changes!

Easter Day

APRIL 5 | 7:45 AM | 9 AM | 11:15 AM

Easter Day bursts forth in joy as we celebrate the triumph of Christ's resurrection. Join us for one of our three festive morning services, filled with glorious music, radiant flowers, and the gladness of joyful gatherings. Rejoice—Christ is risen!

HOLY WEEK EASTER 2026

PALM SUNDAY & BISHOP'S VISITATION

Sunday, March 29

7:45 AM | 9 AM | 11:15 AM | ALL SERVICES BEGIN OUTSIDE

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, April 2

6:30 PM | LITURGY & FOOT WASHING

GETHSEMANE WATCH

Thursday, April 2 - Friday, April 3

8 PM - 12 PM | OVERNIGHT VIGIL IN THE CHAPEL

GOOD FRIDAY

Friday, April 3

12:10 PM

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, April 3

6:30 PM

EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 4

2 PM

THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Saturday, April 4

6:30 PM

EASTER DAY

Sunday, April 5

7:45 AM | 9 AM | 11:15 AM

= Livestreamed Services *= Childcare Provided* *= Incense Used*

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