

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

<b>Monday, March 26, 2018</b>	<b>12:15pm</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist II</b>
<b>Tuesday, March 27, 2018</b>	<b>12:15pm</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist II</b>
<b>Wednesday, March 28, 2018</b>	<b>12:15 pm</b>	<b>Holy Eucharist II</b>
<b>Thursday, March 29, 2018</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>	<b>Maundy Thursday Liturgy</b>
<i>Washing of Feet and Stripping of the Altar</i>		
<b>Friday, March 30, 2018</b>	<b>12:15 pm</b>	
	<i>Stations of the Cross with Homily</i>	
	<b>7:00 pm</b>	<b>Good Friday Liturgy</b>
	<i>Liturgy of the Day with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament</i>	
<b>Saturday, March 31, 2018</b>	<b>10:30 am</b>	<b>Holy Saturday Liturgy</b>
	<b>8:00 pm</b>	<b>The Great Vigil of Easter</b>
	<i>Lighting of the new fire</i>	
	<i>Stories of our salvation</i>	
	<i>The First Eucharist of Easter</i>	
	<i>Festive Celebration in the Cary Montague Room</i>	
<b>Sunday, April 1, 2018</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Easter Day</b>
	<i>Holy Eucharist II</i>	
	<i>Flowering of the Cross</i>	
	<i>Easter Egg Hunt</i>	



## NOTES FOR HOLY WEEK

The time from Palm Sunday to Easter is the very heart and soul of the Christian faith. That Sunday-to-Saturday is called “Holy Week,” since it is during those days that we enter the events that accomplished our salvation. *Above all others, this is the time when Christians are to be most faithful in responding to God through worship.*

These services come to us from the practices of the earliest Christians. The liturgies form a sacred journey, by which we prepare ourselves for the greatest of all celebrations: Easter. Indeed, these several services are actually one protracted liturgy, and for full meaning we must go from start to finish. We cannot truly know the surpassing joy of Easter without taking part in those shattering events that led to Christ’s death and burial.

Holy Week is a real “roller-coaster,” and is emotionally draining (which is just how it should be!). It is a time when – mystically – you become part of what happened during those last fateful days of Jesus’ earthly life. From that, you will come to experience more meaningfully your sharing in His Resurrection.

## PALM SUNDAY

**March 25, 2018**

**Holy Eucharist 10:00 am**

The Church’s preferred name for this day is “Sunday of the Passion.” Yet it is universally called Palm Sunday. Of course, it is both. The liturgy runs the course of those extremes: from the triumphant, clamorous pageantry of the Liturgy of the Palms to the numbing Gospel account of Jesus’ passion and crucifixion.

For the procession with palms at 10:00 am, we open with “intentional chaos,” as noisy and messy as we can make it! We conclude with a silent procession out of the church – pondering what we have heard and what lies before us in these holy days ahead.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

**March 29, 2018**

**Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm**

This is the night when Jesus gave the very first Holy Communion. But our remembrance of that event is not only “historically” oriented; it is essential for the personal Christian experience of the present. Jesus said to “do this” to bring Him into our midst.

This liturgy’s form is that of a usual Eucharist, though the context is re-set: as Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, first gives us the Holy Communion and His new commandment – to love one another as He loves us. After that, our Lord was wrenched by His agony in the garden, and then betrayed and arrested.

The liturgy concludes quite dramatically with the ritual stripping of the altar and sanctuary area – a very graphic reminder of the stark and brutal reality of Jesus’ suffering.

### THE ALTAR OF THE WATCH

*THROUGHOUT THURSDAY NIGHT & UNTIL NOON FRIDAY*

Immediately following the Maundy Thursday Eucharist, we will begin the “watch.” For many people, this tradition is one of the most intensely personal experiences in Holy Week devotion.

Leaving the Upper Room, Jesus began a night of agony in the garden of Gethsemane. There He asked His disciples, “Can you not keep watch with me for just one hour?”

It has long been customary for the faithful to respond to Jesus’ question by spending a “holy hour” in prayer and meditation between the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. We will sign up for one-hour slots to keep vigil throughout the night, and on Good Friday. *We need to have each hour covered by at least one parishioner!*

*Please sign up in the Narthex from Palm Sunday onwards. If you cannot spend an entire hour, simply come and spend what time you can.*

## GOOD FRIDAY

**March 30, 2018**

**Liturgy of the Word 7:00 pm  
with Communion from the Reserved Sacrament**

This liturgy focuses on the Crucifixion through Scripture, hymns, and the prayers of the day. With black draping before us in a church stripped bare, we are led by the word into the mystery of Christ’s suffering and death. Nonetheless, we are reminded that our focus on the Crucifixion is not to be separated from the Resurrection.

A unique time is realized as a large rough-hewn wooden cross is brought to the altar, and the people may come forward for personal devotions before the cross, such as kneeling or genuflecting, brief prayer, or simply touching it. Then we will all share in corporate devotions. This is a time of focused reverence for what the Cross means, and thanksgiving for what Jesus accomplished on His Cross for us.

Finally, we make our communion from the reserved Sacrament of the night before (brought from the Altar of the Watch). Consider that there is no more appropriate day to receive the Body and Blood of Christ than on the day He gave Himself to the Cross for you.

## HOLY SATURDAY

March 31, 2018

Liturgy of the Word  
10:30 am

You might think of this day as “Christ in the tomb.” This brief service of prayer and meditation (about 30 min.) marks the mourning of Jesus’ disciples by His tomb. Something of the character of this day is known from the fact that no Eucharist is celebrated anywhere in the world on Holy Saturday. It is a very dark time psychologically and emotionally, wrapped in the stillness of the Disciples’ grief. And yet, beyond that, it is a day of waiting and preparation, casting all hope on the promises of God. As we ourselves enter the desolation of those who mourn the death and burial of Jesus – seemingly final – we are best prepared to feel, at the very deepest level, the joy and wonder of Easter, when Resurrection shatters the darkness.

## EASTER EVE THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

March 31, 2018

8:00 pm

This truly magnificent service is the very cornerstone of *all* Christian worship. Moreover, it lays strong claim to being the most beautiful of all liturgies. The Great Vigil is the most ancient liturgy we have, dating from the early 100’s. In its overt mysticism, the Vigil’s ancient origin is very evident. Such is the stature of the Easter Vigil that it is said to be the only liturgy the Church actually offers, and all other services of worship simply participate (like “subsets”) in its single reality.

The liturgy is both the watch for and the first celebration of Christ’s Resurrection. We are told in Scripture that Jesus was raised between sunset and sunrise Saturday/Sunday. This is why the Vigil must be held after sundown but before Easter morning’s light.

We begin outside. A fire is kindled and blessed, from which the Paschal candle is lighted. The congregation processes solemnly and quietly into the dark church, and the people’s hand candles are lit from the Paschal candle. The ancient Easter hymn, the “Exsultet” (a most beautiful chant) is then sung (solo—by a deacon, priest, or cantor). Several readings follow, recounting the history of God’s saving presence with His people; we respond to each reading with a psalm or canticle. Then we move into Baptism (this is THE principal occasion of the year for baptisms!) Following that, the lights of the Church are brought up with the shouts of Easter’s resurrection message. The organ plays an extended fanfare (the first time it has been heard) and we move most joyfully into the first Eucharist of Easter.