

Chrism Mass

Each year during Holy Week, Bishop Love, along with the clergy of the Diocese, gather to renew their ordination vows. Holy Oils for use in healing and baptism are also blessed. All people in the Diocese are invited to attend this service at the Cathedral.

Maundy Thursday (*maundatum means commandment*)

On Maundy Thursday the liturgy commemorates the institution of the Lord's Supper on the night before Jesus died. At the Last Supper Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and gave them a new Commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you." Members of the congregation may choose to have their feet washed, or to wash another's, at the Maundy Thursday service as a reminder to all of us that Christ calls us to a life of humble service.

After the Last Supper, Jesus took his disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. There he asked them to stay awake with him one hour and pray. This was a time of deep sorrow and turmoil for Jesus, which he faced alone as all of his disciples fell asleep. After our liturgy, and until midnight, the **Maundy Thursday Watch** before the Holy Sacrament will take place at the Side Altar of the Church. A sign-up sheet for ½ hour or hour-long shifts is in the entryway of the Church. This our chance to watch and pray with Jesus and to share in some small way in his suffering.

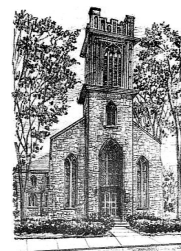
Good Friday

Good Friday is a solemn time to remember Jesus' death. This is the second day of special observance for which fasting is recommended. There is no celebration of Communion from Maundy Thursday until the Easter Vigil on late Saturday or early Sunday. However, at St. John's, we receive Communion from the bread and wine consecrated on Maundy Thursday at an early morning service which ends the period of watching with our Lord. The final communion service marks the beginning of our entrance into the darkness of the three days, or Triduum, of Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.

The Easter Vigil

Considered the most meaningful and beautiful service of the church year, it is also one of the most ancient. This service is appropriate from after sunset on Holy Saturday until sunrise Easter morning. This was the traditional time of baptism in the early centuries of Christianity. The service begins in darkness and a new fire is lit, from which the Christ candle is then ignited. The candle signifies the light of Christ coming into the world anew at the resurrection. The candle remains lit for services during the Easter season, and is then only lit for services of baptism and for funerals. The Vigil Service ends the season of Lent and begins the joy of the Easter season.

St. John's Episcopal Church Lent and Holy Week 2013



1 N. Market Street
Johnstown, New York
(518) 762-9210
Visit our website:
www.stjohnsjohnstown.org

What is Lent?

The word 'lent' probably comes from the Old English word 'lencten', a reference to the lengthening days of springtime. Lent is a season of preparation leading up to Easter, and is observed as a special time of self-examination and penitence for the forty days before Easter. Lent is a time for concentration on spiritual values and priorities, and is not a time for self-punishment.

Throughout Lent, the worship services of the church take on a simpler tone, appropriate to this season. The color purple is used, which is a sign of penitence. Banners are removed from the church. Crosses showing the risen Christ are veiled. The word "Alleluia" is not used in the words of the liturgy or hymns. These practices help the worshipping community to mark this season of renewal as a special time in the church year.

Observing Lent

The custom is to mark the season of Lent by giving up some things and taking on others. Both can serve to mark the season as a holy time of preparation.

Some examples of things people give up for Lent include sweets, meat, or habitual behaviors. In most cases, giving up something for Lent is made more meaningful by using the money or time for another purpose. For example, meal times on fast days could be spent in prayer. Or when giving up meat, the extra money that would go to purchase meat can be donated to a group, such as World Vision, which works to end hunger worldwide.

Some added disciplines during Lent can be daily Bible reading, times of prayer, or taking a course of study related in some way to spirituality.

Note that the season of Lent is forty days, not including the six Sundays. This is because Sundays are celebrations of Jesus' resurrection and are always an appropriate day to lessen the restrictions of Lent if you choose.

Lent is an especially appropriate time for the sacrament of reconciliation. While confession to a priest is not required to receive God's forgiveness, it can be profoundly meaningful. Reconciliation can be arranged with Mother Laurie or with another priest if desired.

The Special Days and Services of Lent

Shrove Tuesday

This is actually the day before Lent begins. The day is named for the "shriving" or confessing that was traditional on this day before beginning Lent. This day is also known as Mardi Gras, or "Fat Tuesday," because it was a time for eating the things from which one would abstain during Lent. Pancake suppers are traditional as they use up some of the rich or sweet ingredients not used during Lent.

Ash Wednesday

The first day of Lent is marked with a special liturgy. The theme for the day, though not for all of Lent, is that we stand as sinners condemned to die, but for God's grace. This is symbolized by the imposition of ashes on the forehead, with the words, "You are dust and to dust you shall return." In the Old Testament ashes were a sign of penitence (feeling regretful at offenses) and mourning. Ash Wednesday is one of two days of special observance (the other being Good Friday) for which fasting is recommended. While this usually refers going without food for the entire day, this practice is not practical for all persons, including, but not limited to, diabetics. Use your own discretion in determining how you can best observe this day.

The Way of the Cross

The tradition began as a 'pilgrimage' for remembering and commemorating 14 incidents, or stations, leading up to the death of Jesus, from Pilate's house to being placed in the tomb. They are used for the service called the Way of the Cross, which visits each station in turn with a brief reading, response, collect and on some occasions, a meditation. This is particularly appropriate for Good Friday and all the Fridays in Lent.

Refreshment Sunday/Mothering Sunday

The fourth Sunday of Lent has long been observed as a day for completely relaxing the disciplines of Lent. Also known as Mothering Sunday, this was the first recognized Mother's Day and is still a traditional day for remembering mothers in the United Kingdom.

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday occurs on the Sunday before Easter Sunday, and signals the upcoming end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week. The day reenacts the spreading of palms and clothing in Jesus' path as He entered Jerusalem prior to His crucifixion (see Matthew 21:7-9). At St. John's, weather permitting, we take our palms and process throughout our neighborhood to relive Jesus' journey.

Holy Week

March 24—March 31, 2013



Palm Sunday: March 24 Processional Eucharist 8:00 a.m.
Processional Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

Palm Sunday Regional Choir Concert: March 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Monday in Holy Week: March 25 Chrism Mass
at Cathedral of All Saints, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday in Holy Week: March 26 Eucharist 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday in Holy Week: March 27 Eucharist 12:05 p.m.
Contemplative Prayer/Quiet Time 6:00 p.m.
Candlelight Compline 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday: March 28 Seder Meal 5:30 p.m.
Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.
Followed by the Holy Watch until midnight in the church

Good Friday: March 29 Mass of the Pre-Sanctified 7:00 a.m.
Stations of the Cross Noon
Veneration of the Cross 7:00 p.m.

The Great Vigil of Easter: March 30th

March 30th, 7:30 p.m.

*We will again be joined by St. Ann's and Good Shepherd
Congregations and Clergy*

Easter Day: March 31st

Festival Eucharist
8:00 a.m.

Festival Eucharist
10:00 a.m.

Easter Egg Hunt
11:30 a.m.



As always, we ask you to invite others to these
special services and events.

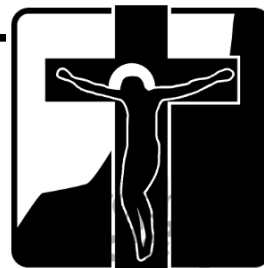
Ash Wednesday: February 13th

Holy Eucharist and imposition of ashes
7:00 a.m.
12:05 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

Way of the Cross: Every Friday during Lent at 6:30 pm;
Palm Sunday following the 10 am service.
Good Friday at noon

Christ in the Passover: Tuesday, March 12th at 6:30 pm
A presentation by Jews for Jesus

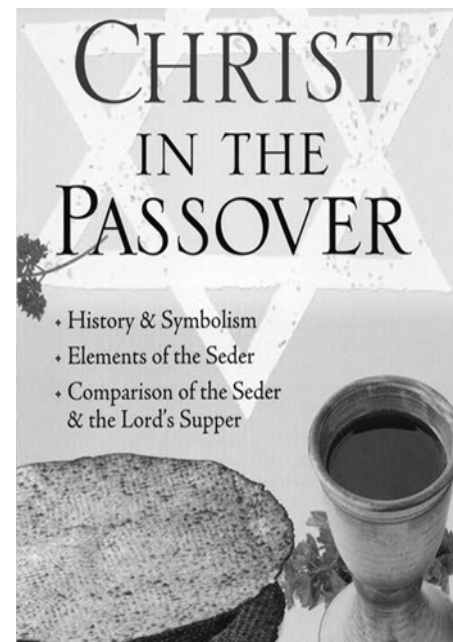
Palm Sunday concert at St. John's: March 24th at 7 pm
Join us as choir members from around the region sing
together under the direction of Dr. Robert Hallenbeck.



The Way of the Cross: A Pilgrimage with Jesus

Friday Evenings
at 6:30 pm

Begins February 15th, also
on February 22, and
March 1, 8, 15, 22
Palm Sunday, March 24,
after the 10 am service
Good Friday, March 29
at Noon



- History & Symbolism
- Elements of the Seder
- Comparison of the Seder
& the Lord's Supper

Tuesday, March 12th at 6:30 pm
Speaker will be Karl deSouza from
Jews for Jesus