

# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE FOR 2014

## KEEPING HOLY WEEK

For the Christian Church, the services of Holy Week are literally “crucial” (from the Latin, *crux*, meaning cross or hanging tree).

As an aid to the members of St. Mark’s, a special booklet entitled “**Keeping Holy Week**” has been prepared this year. Please take a copy home today and use it as an aid to understanding the history and significance of these services.

A brief recap of the services for the coming week is provided below:



## PALM/PASSION SUNDAY – Services @ 8 and 10 AM



Holy Week begins with Palm/Passion Sunday on Sunday, April 13. Both of the morning services will feature the blessing of palms and processions into the church, recalling Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem. Once inside, the tenor of the service changes, as we recall his betrayal and crucifixion in the reading of the Passion Gospel. (Members of the congregation take different parts in the reading of the Passion at both of the morning services.)

## MAUNDY THURSDAY – Agape Supper @ 6 PM

We’ll gather in the parish hall on Thursday evening to share a simple meal of the kinds of foods Jesus might have shared with his disciples — a bit of bread, some wine, along with dried fruits (and more!). It’s also an opportunity for us to enjoy a bit of fellowship together.

- It’s a potluck affair, so please bring something to share – pita bread, hummus, grapes, olives, fruit, cheese, wine or grape juice.
- And, if you’ve got something blooming in your garden, bring some flowers to decorate our tables.

## MAUNDY THURSDAY – Communion with foot-washing and stripping of altar @ 7:30 PM

After the informal meal in the parish hall, we will gather in the church sanctuary for a special service in which we remember the night when Jesus gathered his disciples together to celebrate Passover.

The proper liturgy for the day celebrates Jesus’ last gifts to us – a sacramental meal of bread and wine and a commandment to love one another as he loves us. In the course of that meal, Jesus showed us how to love by getting down on his knees in loving service.



Our service includes foot-washing, the poignant reminder of Jesus’ love and of his call to us to do the same.

The congregation will leave that night in silence and darkness. But the liturgy only pauses this night, resuming the next day as the congregation gathers again on Good Friday.

### GOOD FRIDAY – Stations of the Cross @ 12 PM

Each of the services on Good Friday invites a deeper reflection on Jesus' death on a cross.

The noon service follows the traditional "Stations of the Cross" – pausing at each of the 14 stations set into the walls of the church sanctuary to offer prayers and listen to the much-appreciated meditations of Michel Quoist.



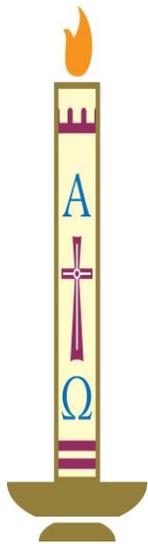
### GOOD FRIDAY – Labyrinth from 1 pm to 3 PM

After the service, the labyrinth will be set up in the sanctuary for those who wish to walk it.

### GOOD FRIDAY – Proper Liturgy @ 7:30 PM

Music accompanies the evening service, together with solemn collects and an opportunity to venerate the cross. We recall John's account of the passion (sung by members of our Choir) and join with Christians around the world, praying the ancient prayers of the Church that focus on the cross of Christ. Communion from reserved sacrament is to be shared, linking this evening's celebration with that from the night before. As on Maundy Thursday, the congregation leaves in silence on Friday ... impatient for the services of Easter.

### HOLY SATURDAY – Great Vigil of Easter @ 8 PM



The services of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, are really designed as one long service spread out over three days – the "Triduum." They find their completion at The Great Vigil of Easter, the most elaborate service of the year.

Rich with symbols — fire, darkness and light, baptism, music, story — the Great Vigil celebrates new life! Accordingly, this service is the preeminent occasion for the celebration of baptisms – or, in the absence of candidates for baptism, a renewal of our baptismal covenant. And then, at the appointed time, we will "find" the alleluias we hid away before our Ash Wednesday services ... and we will sing them out.

This service celebrates the end of Lent and the beginning of Easter. After all of this, a party must follow — a potluck affair in the parish that will be provided by those of us who have been observing Lent. (Perhaps you could bring something you gave up for Lent.)

### FEASTS OF THE RESURRECTION – Easter Sunday @ 8 and 10 AM

With full choir and brass on hand, both of our morning services will be celebrations of Easter joy ... as well as opportunities to welcome others who will make their pilgrimages to join us!

### MORE FEASTS OF THE RESURRECTION – Sundays in Easter @ 8 and 10 AM

Our celebration of Easter will continue for 50 days thereafter. We'll celebrate our patronal feast day, the Feast of St. Mark the Evangelist, on Sunday, April 27. And, in the following weeks, we will hear more of the stories of the early Church and ponder the mystery of the Resurrection in our lives today.