



HOLY WEEK AT ST. JAMES

Almighty God, whose beloved Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption: Give us courage, we beseech thee, to take up our cross and follow him; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.
(Book of Common Prayer, page 201)

As we approach Holy Week, we invite you to participate in the unique worship services that mark this special season of our faith. This schedule shares a bit more about what to expect at each service and some of the liturgical practices that are of particular significance as we approach the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, March 24th | Worship Services at 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM | St. James Parish & Livestream

Palm Sunday marks not only Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, it marks our entry into Holy Week. At 8:00 a.m., we will commemorate Palm Sunday with our usual Rite I liturgy. This service will begin in the church as usual. Our 10:15 a.m. service will begin outside on the parish lawn for those who wish to participate in the Liturgy of the Palms and then the procession. All are invited to follow the cross into the church for the rest of the service. You may also begin the service seated in church if that is your preference. The 10:15 a.m. service will also include a special offering from our St. James Children's Choir.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Thursday, March 28 | Worship Service at 7:00 PM | St. James Parish & Live Stream

We will join together for worship and prayer at 7:00 p.m. on Maundy Thursday. The term "Maundy" is commonly believed to be derived from the Latin for Jesus' new command to love one another (mandatum novum). It is customary and fitting that the Maundy Thursday service includes the sacrament of foot washing. At its heart, foot washing is meant to remind us to follow in Jesus' example of humility and service of others. This service will be followed by the stripping of the altar. During the stripping of the altar, members of the congregation are invited to participate in removing all hangings and ornaments to the sacristy. This process symbolizes the beginning of Christ's walk in his Passion. Our friends at Holy Comforter in Colorado said it well: The stripping of the altar allows us to "see all the signs of God's presence which had filled our church slowly taken away. At the end, the church is bare, God seems absent, and we are left to walk alone with Christ the rest of the way to the cross. Therein, however, we find Christ's presence an inescapable comfort."

GOOD FRIDAY

*Friday, March 29th | Opportunities at 11:00 AM & 12:00 PM | Mt. Lebanon Chapel**

On Good Friday, we remember the crucifixion and death of Jesus. We will begin at 11:00 a.m. with Stations of the Cross. If you have never participated in the Stations of the Cross, this service follows Jesus' journey to the cross and each station has accompanying readings and prayers. The Stations will start just outside of Mt. Lebanon Chapel and move through the gardens surrounding the Chapel. This will be followed by the Good Friday Liturgy at 12:00 p.m. in the Chapel. You are welcome to attend only one or both.

**Please note that in the event of inclement weather, the Stations of the Cross and subsequent Good Friday Service will be relocated to St. James Parish's Downtown campus.*

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HOLY SATURDAY ~ THE GREAT VIGIL OF EASTER

Saturday, March 30th | Service at 8:00 PM | St. James Parish & Livestream

As its name implies, this service is the chief celebration of Easter; the cornerstone of all Christian liturgy and celebration. It engages all the senses in worship—sight, sound, smell (incense), taste, and touch. It is a service of darkness and light; of word and song; of prayer and action.

At twilight, we welcome the new fire of Easter and process that fire into the dark of the church. We hear the story of God's saving deeds throughout history by way of several readings. We renew our baptismal covenant together before we joyfully proclaim "Alleluia. Christ is risen!" To celebrate this most important moment of the year, we sing songs of praise, we hear the Good News of Easter preached, and then we come to the table to partake in the first Eucharist of Easter. If you have never participated in this particular service, you won't want to miss it!

EASTER DAY

Sunday, March 31st | Multiple Opportunities to Gather in Worship and Celebration | St. James Parish & Livestream

On Easter Sunday, we have many opportunities to worship, celebrate, and serve. One way to share the love of Jesus this Easter Day is through the delivery of Meals on Wheels. On the lawn, we'll be placing a cross and inviting each family to bring flowers. Let us decorate and share our joy with our neighbors.

- 6:30 AM - Tower Service - The Tower Service is a special offering of St. James Parish that traditionally occurs atop the bell tower (weather and number of attendees permitting) as we greet Easter Morning. We encourage attendees to dress warmly and casually, as the climb to the top of the tower requires crawling through small spaces.
- 8:00 AM - Holy Eucharist Rite I - Our 8:00 a.m. service follows the Rite I liturgy. With Rite I you'll find a more contemplative service with traditional language and limited use of music and hymns.
- 9:00 AM - Holy Eucharist Rite II - The 9:00 a.m. service is Rite II and features our adult choir along with more contemporary language. Wiggling, giggling, and sharing are welcome in all services, but the 9:00 is especially conducive to children and families.
- ~10:30 AM - The 9:00 service will be followed by our Parish Celebration and Easter Egg Hunt. Children age 2 and younger are invited to a special hunt in the Children's Chapel, while our older children, ages 3 through 5th Grade, are set to hunt in the Lee Parish Hall Multipurpose Room and Gymnasium.
- 11:15 AM - Holy Eucharist Rite II - The 11:15 a.m. service is Rite II and features our adult choir and brass, along with the readings for Easter Day.

FLOWERING THE CROSS

An Easter Day Tradition

All are invited to bring a blossom or two to place on the cross. This year, the cross will be placed on the parish lawn so that it may be shared with our neighbors and be a part of our parish celebration.



EASTER LILIES AND MUSIC

Honoring Our Loved Ones on Easter Day

Submit Names Through March 24th.

Honor someone special with Easter Lilies or Music this spring. Remember someone special this Easter by donating \$25 for Easter Lilies or music! Please complete the online form or call the church office to submit your names. It is one dedication per \$25 Donation, this form will need to be completed for each separate donation to help ensure we honor your requested person(s) correctly in the bulletin. Bulletin printing deadline is Sunday, March 24th. We'll continue to accept donations after that time however, the names may not appear in the bulletin. If you have any questions about the submission process or would like a physical name submission form, please reach out to communications@stjamesp.org.



You can find out more about each of these opportunities for worship, fellowship, and giving on our website: stjamesp.org/lent2024