



## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST. GREGORY'S – 2023

Holy Week is the most action-packed and emotion-filled week in the entire liturgical year. To get the full flavor of Christ's Passion, as well as understand what this truly means for us, one really needs to experience each and every significant event of the week. And Easter, the feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord, is the most significant celebration of the Christian year. This year, we are providing the following Holy Week and Easter worship experiences.

All worship experiences will be in-person. With a few exceptions, all worship experiences will also be live streamed on the St. Gregory's Facebook page<sup>1</sup>.

### **PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 2<sup>ND</sup>**

**Palm Sunday Services at 8:00 am and 10:15 am** – We will commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with the blessing of the palms in the Columbarium Courtyard and have our own procession into the church. We will also hear the Passion Narrative from Matthew's Gospel, read in parts.

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**Joint Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 PM (at St. Thomas)** – We will commemorate Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples through the washing of feet and celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Following Eucharist, we will strip the altar in preparation for Good Friday.

**Vigil at the Altar of Repose (at St. Thomas)** – It is customary to keep watch between the end of the Maundy Thursday service and the start of Morning Prayer on Good Friday. The watch at the Altar of Repose at St. Thomas will be held from about 9:00 PM to 10:00 AM. Those wishing to participate should email Mother Sharon at [stlb47@verizon.net](mailto:stlb47@verizon.net) by Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Provide your name, contact information, and the time you'd like to watch. We will set up the schedule and provide contact information for the watchers in case of emergency. For safety's sake, it may be necessary to adjust the schedule if we don't have at least two people for each hour. Contact Mother Sharon if you have any questions.

### **GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7<sup>TH</sup>**

**Procession of Elements from St. Thomas to St. Gregory's and "Stations of the Crosswalk" at 12:00 Noon** – On Good Friday, the bread and wine that were consecrated on Maundy Thursday are processed from the Altar of Repose to the main altar for the Good Friday Communion. Since the Altar of Repose will be at St. Thomas and the Good Friday service will be done at St.

Gregory's, Mother Sharon, Father Michael, and whoever wishes to join us, will carry the consecrated elements from St. Thomas to St. Gregory's, beginning at 12:00 Noon. You are invited to be at St. Thomas at 12:00 Noon to see the procession off, to participate in the walk (or portion thereof), or be at St. Gregory's about 1:30 or 2:00 to see it arrive. In addition, this year we will stop at 14 stations along the way to do a short version of the Stations of the Cross.

**Joint Good Friday Service at 7:00 PM (at St. Gregory's)** – We will commemorate Christ's Passion and Crucifixion by hearing the Passion Narrative from John's Gospel, read in parts. We will also share Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.

## **HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 8<sup>TH</sup>**

**Liturgy of the Word at 9:30 AM** – We will commemorate the time between Jesus' Crucifixion and Resurrection with a simple service of Scripture and prayer in the Chapel.

**Great Vigil of Easter at 7:00 PM** – Traditionally, the major celebration of Easter occurs on Holy Saturday, just after sundown (which is actually 7:18 this year), with the Great Vigil of Easter. We will start with the lighting and blessing of the new fire in the Columbarium Courtyard. This will be followed by procession into the darkened church, Vigil readings, and then the celebration of the first Eucharist of Easter.

## **EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 9<sup>TH</sup>**

**Easter Services at 8:00 AM and 10:15 AM** — Our celebration of Easter continues on Easter Day! We will have two festive celebrations of our Lord's resurrection, with special music provided by our Choir.

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<sup>1</sup> Due to technical limitations, the opening processions for Palm Sunday and the Great Vigil of Easter will not be able to be live streamed. In addition, the watch at the Altar of Repose, the procession of the elements from St. Thomas to St. Gregory's, and the Holy Saturday Liturgy of the Word will not be live streamed. The joint Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be live streamed on both the St. Gregory's and St. Thomas of Canterbury Facebook pages.